

Barbara Walters vs. Diane Sawyer: Battle of the Network Newsmagazines

US

THE ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE
NUMBER 180 JANUARY 1993 \$2.50 US \$2.75 CANADA

Tom Cruise

On Good Men,
Better Women and
Becoming the Best

THE US INTERVIEW
Eddie Murphy
'I Never Sold Out'

Neneh
Does the
Hip-Hop

TOM LEE
JUN 93
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HOL*RROLL 92

Being chosen by 'US' as one of the MOST TALENTED STARS of tomorrow could be considered a NERVE-RACKING experience. After all, our PAST CHOICES have included WESLEY SNIPES, ANNABELLA SCIORRA and BRAD PITT. It is a Lot to Live up to, No? Well, yes, but this year's MODELS are up to the CHALLENGE.

MARISA Tomei

She was Lisa Bonet's college roommate on *A Different World* and a mafia princess in the abysmal *Oscar*, but with her scene-stealing performance as Joe Pesci's sassy, auto-savvy fiancée in *My Cousin Vinny*, Marisa Tomei became a Hollywood contender. Since then, the twentysomething actress — who used her Brooklyn heritage to great advantage in *Vinny* — has worked virtually nonstop, completing starring roles in no less than three films: *Chaplin*, *Untamed Heart* and *Equinox*. Tomei: "I think this past year was well-rounded because I got to do theater and film, and I met my boyfriend. My whole year was fabulous. It's really weird. People recognize me at airports more than anywhere else. It's very, very strange. But it's pretty good, because then I don't feel like I'm traveling alone." — Carol Dittbrenner



Denis Leary

He blasts do-gooders who want to save the dolphins, rips politically correct musicians like Sting, extols the virtues of red meat and *loooves* to smoke. This is rock & roll comedy, a world that Leary, 35, rules. Next year, he's got four film roles (a bad guy in *Gunmen*, an ex-baseball player in *Sandlot*, a gang leader in *Judgment Night* and a smarmy lounge singer in *National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1*). Two words about his future: Really big. Leary: "It's been a very good year. Everything took off — the MTV spots, then the Nike thing, then the movies. So it's been ridiculous. And I feel confident that those [movie] roles show my ability to act, that I'm not gonna be the 'two words' guy in the movies. But who knows if people will see them, OK? By this time next year, people will be going, 'Oh, that guy is good,' or, 'Jesus, I thought he sucked in the first movie. The second movie I thought, He can't suck any worse than this. But then the *third* movie! —' [laughs]. You never know, right?" — Lauren David Peden



Brendan Fraser

The smartest way to insure longevity in the acting biz? Mix commerce with art and, above all, show your diversity. Fraser, 24, had it covered with a one-two punch that left everyone gasping, "Who is that guy?" His sweet performance as the ultimate prehistoric Valley Boy was the high point of the lowbrow *Encino Man*, and a turn as *School Ties*' outsider in a world of WASP preppies gave him credibility. Next, he stars in Percy Adlon's (*Bagdad Cafe*) comedy *Younger and Younger*. Fraser: "I got into film because I needed to make some money — that's one reason. Another reason is because, hopefully, it will afford me the opportunity to call my own shots. You know, I would *love* to work onstage in New York. [But] I see so many actors who I don't believe one word that comes out of their mouth. So my advice would be *study*, and I say that because I did and I'm glad I did." — Debi Cohen