

BLACK RAIN



MICHAEL DOUGLAS IS BACK

After he won his best actor Oscar last year, Michael Douglas took a break. It wasn't a long one – and it certainly came as no surprise to those who know and respect him as one of the hardest working (and not coincidentally, most successful) men in Hollywood.

After all, the son of veteran Kirk Douglas has been working hard for 20 years and deserves the break, after proving he could make it on his own.

And as he climbed to the top of the heap – not just as an Academy-honored actor for last year's *Wall Street* but as a producer and major box office drawing card as well – he kept promising it to himself and to those around him.

"After I get a movie ready to go, I won't spend as much time on the day-to-day process" he said to one-time associate Charles Ashman in an interview last year.

"I'm really pretty lazy" he confessed. "I'd like to just kick back and read, play tennis and be Cameron's father" (the only child of his marriage to Diandra Lucker, whom he met in 1977 and married 60 days later). "I really like helping

with homework and going to bed early so I can be up to have breakfast with him.

"My career used to come first but now with a good marriage, the family must come first."

First and foremost, perhaps – but in moviemaking, as in life, it's well-nigh impossible to keep a good man down.

Which accounts, in small part, for the fact that a single year after winning his first acting Oscar (he collected the best picture Oscar in 1976 as co-producer of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*) Douglas has enjoyed his holiday and is now firmly back at work – at least in the acting mode.

And ironically *Black Rain* – as his latest project is titled – brings him full circle, back to the legal-eagle style of character that started him on his climb to fame on *The Streets of San Francisco*, opposite Karl Malden.

But just as Douglas' horizons have expanded behind the scenes (where he's racked up impressive credits as a producer), so have the horizons in which he moves in this movie.

Instead of confining himself to the admittedly-lovely streets of the city on the Bay, this time out he moves from the teeming streets of New York to the exotic boulevards of Osaka, Japan.

Cast as Nick Conklin, a detective with the NYPD, it is Douglas' mission to hand deliver a Japanese killer to his counterparts in the Land of the Rising Sun.

But the duo make it only as far as the Osaka airport before Conklin's ward gives him the slip – and the script assumes shadings of international thrills and intrigue as Douglas teams with Ken Takakura to recapture the criminal.

Takakura is a Japanese star whose hometown box office draw rivals Douglas' world-wide success with *Romancing the Stone* and its sequel, *Jewel of the Nile*.

Douglas is limiting his work this time to the acting side of the camera but producers Stanley R. Jaffe and Sherry Lansing (with such diverse films as *Racing With the Moon* and *The Accused*, not to mention Douglas' tour de force in *Fatal Attraction* to their credit) are not about to trust a star of this magnitude to someone who might paint him against a dull gray background. Kate Capshaw (*Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*) and Andy Garcia (*The Untouchables*) round out the cast – under the direction of *Alien's* Ridley Scott – a mix that promises pure magic.

Hope you enjoyed your holiday, Michael, but there are thousands of fans ready to welcome you home.

Black Rain is set to be released this summer.

— John Coulbourn

