

Joe Hallenbeck and Jimmy Dix have only two things in common. Aside from trying to solve the murder of a

young woman, both men are looking for vindication. Joe (Bruce Willis) is a former Secret Service agent who was framed by a corrupt politician, and Jimmy (Damon Wayans) was banned from football for gambling on games and shaving points to support a drug habit.

The Last Boy Scout, a complex tale of extortion, blackmail, politics and violence, marks Bruce Willis's return to high-impact action in the *Die Hard* vein. For Damon Wayans (*Earth Girls are Easy*), it affords him the opportunity to step away from his hilarious characterizations on TV's *In Living Color* to tackle his biggest movie role yet.

Of course the focus of the film is Willis, whose own story reads like some action-adventure melodrama. The oldest of four children, Willis grew up in New Jersey. Acting helped him to cultivate his sharp wit and lethal charm. That charm landed him small acting parts while he supported himself as one of the most popular harmonica-playing bartenders in New York City.

Shortly after losing a role in *Desperately Seeking Susan*, the smirking, wise-cracking Willis beat out 3,000 applicants for the part of the smirking, wise-cracking David Addison in *Moonlighting*. The popular television show made Willis a star, a sex symbol and fair game for the tabloids.

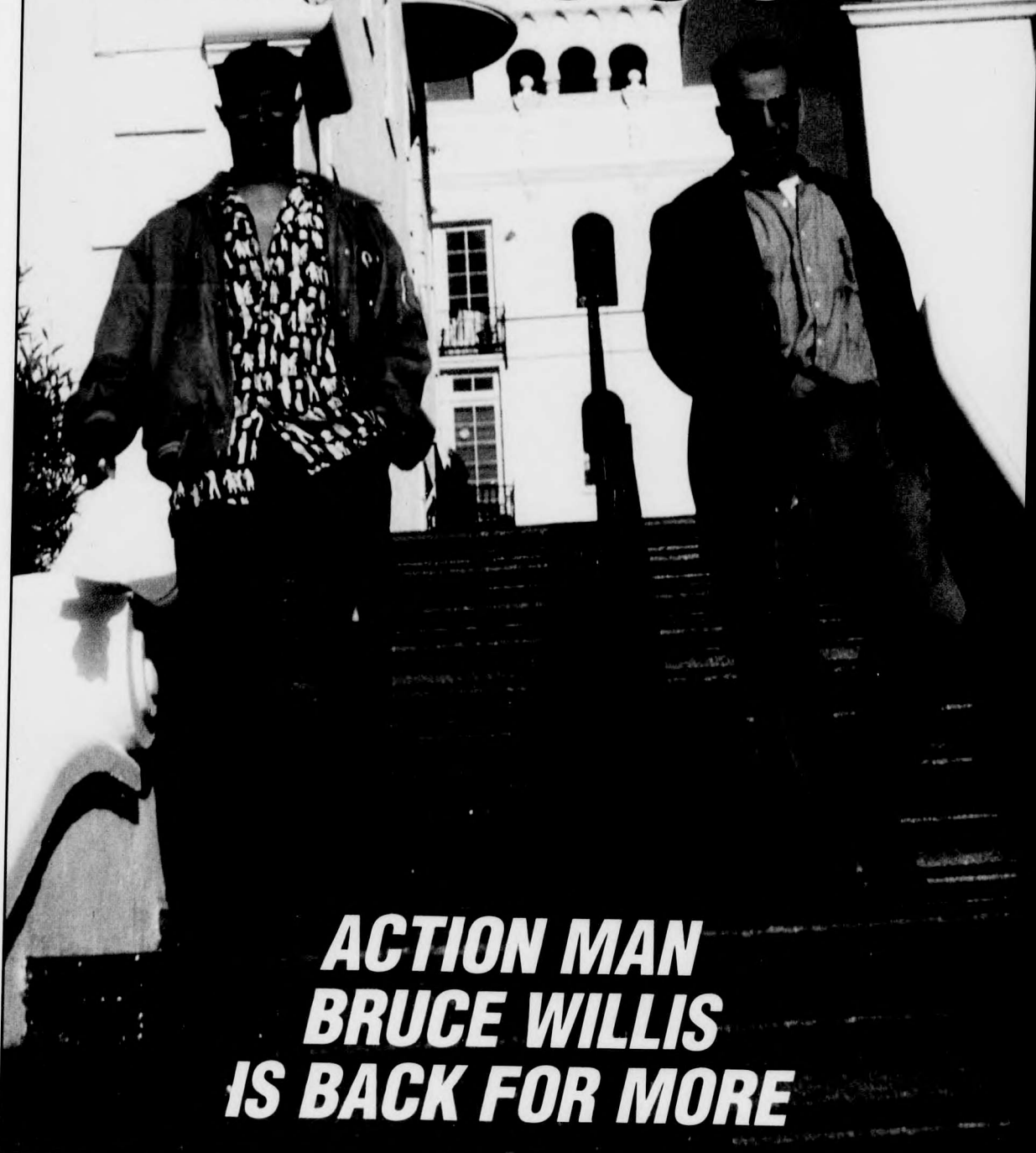
It's no small irony that years later, Willis would play an unethical tabloid reporter who almost destroys a life in *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. For a brief shining moment, Willis enjoyed his revenge on the poisoned pens that had dogged him almost since his success began.

Die Hard proved to audiences that Willis could not be dismissed as just another TV star who failed to make the transition to the big screen. Norman Jewison's *In Country* revealed Willis's considerable acting talents playing an anguished Vietnam vet.

A busy working actor, Willis (who also appears in *Billy Bathgate*) is currently vying for the much-sought-after lead in the big-screen version of the stage musical *City of Angels*. Other projects include a screenplay he is writing called *The Color Line* and an appearance in the campy movie-within-the-movie from *The Player*, which features a huge cast of celebrities playing themselves. Willis gallantly parodies his *Die Hard* image by busting through a wall to rescue fair maiden Julia Roberts from execution.

But perhaps Willis's most successful projects to date include his two children and his marriage to Demi Moore (*The Butcher's Wife*,

THE LAST BOY SCOUT



**ACTION MAN
BRUCE WILLIS
IS BACK FOR MORE**

In this complex tale of extortion, politics and violence, an ex-jock (Damon Wayans, left) and a former Secret Service agent (Bruce Willis) team up to solve a murder.

Ghost). He met Moore at the premiere of *Stakeout*, which starred her former fiancé Emilio Estevez. Demi's grandmother had warned her to avoid Willis because she had read about his debauched ways in the supermarket tabloids. But Demi wasn't put off and the happy couple

married four months later.

Last summer, Moore and Willis were the subjects of the most interesting magazine covers in recent memory. Demi's beautiful pregnant figure graced the August edition of *Vanity Fair*. A month later, *Spy* magazine flaunted an equally

lovely and pregnant Bruce Willis on its cover. It was proof that, next to having a good lawyer, the best ways to battle the tabloids are with success and a sense of humor.

— Tom Jokic

