



Although better known as a rap star, Queen Latifah brings her acting talents to the cast of *Juice*.

You have to have a certain confidence of personality to call yourself a queen. And confidence is one thing rap star

Queen Latifah — who costars with Omar Epps in the new film *Juice* — possesses in abundance.

There are recurrent themes in Queen Latifah's music: elevating the self-esteem of women and demanding respect from men. As she explained in *Rolling Stone* magazine: "We're living in an age when people need to talk. They don't communicate. You've got kids dropping out of high school because you're not talking to them on their level."

Queen Latifah (the latter part of her name was given to her by a Muslim cousin who says Latifah means "delicate and sensitive" in Arabic) was actually born Dana Owens in Newark, N.J. She got involved with rap music in high school and, at 19, submitted a demo tape to Tommy Boy Records in New York City. Before the year was out, they had released "All Hail the Queen."

The single was a huge success. It was nominated for a Grammy

award, and Queen Latifah was voted best female rapper by *Rolling Stone's* 1990 readers' poll.

And things are going just as well in 1991 for Queen Latifah. Her new album *Nature of a Sista* is hotter than hot right now. In fact, she's in such demand that Hollywood has even rapped on her door. Acting was Latifah's hobby in high school and she made her big-screen debut in Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*. She recently appeared on NBC-TV's *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, and can now be seen in *Juice*.

The story of four young men coming of age on the streets of Harlem, *Juice* marks the feature directorial debut of Ernest Dickerson — Spike Lee's award-winning cinematographer. The plot focuses on Q, a talented DJ torn between his dreams of a future beyond the neighborhood and his loyalty to his friends, who break the law to gain "juice" or respect on the streets.

Queen Latifah is an integral part of the talented cast of newcomers that includes Khalil Kain and Jermaine Hopkins.

Juice opens in theatres across Canada in January.

— Jane Hawtin



WAYNE'S WORLD

For many fans of NBC-TV's *Saturday Night Live*, the show just isn't complete until they hear the scream

of the out-of-tune electric guitar that marks the opening of the "Wayne's World" segment.

Excellent teenager Wayne Campbell (played by suburban Toronto native Mike Myers) hosts a late-night talk show from his basement on a community-access channel in Aurora, Ill. Along with best-friend Garth (Dana Carvey), the cohosts "party on," entertaining their audience with everything from their own Oscar picks (*Steel Magnolias* ... "Chick movie — forget it") to the latest in cool-speak ("I have seen the schvinkter and it is Garth").

The film version, which is also

called *Wayne's World* ("No way! ... Way!"), takes the partying dudes out of the basement. Audiences will actually be allowed to see the upstairs of Wayne's house and the rest of the town of Aurora.

The movie features many familiar faces. Rob Lowe costars as a TV executive who sees network potential in Wayne and Garth's show. Lara Flynn Boyle (*Twin Peaks*) appears as Wayne's former girlfriend, and Donna Dixon plays a donut shop waitress and the girl of Garth's dreams.

Myers, 28, who also cowrote the screenplay, first started doing a Wayne-type character during a stint at Second City in Toronto. He says "Wayne is based on about five guys, one of whom is me." Myers brought the character to *Saturday Night Live* in 1989 when he was hired as a writer and occasional



Partying dudes Garth (Dana Carvey, left) and Wayne (Mike Myers) take their late-night talk show to the big screen.

cast-member. On the strength of Wayne and other characters he created, Myers soon became a regular on the series.

According to Wayne and Garth themselves, *Wayne's World* "will prove to be the most socially significant film of this decade ... NOT!"

Party on, guys.

Wayne's World opens in theatres across Canada this spring.

— Laurie Hibberd

