

CLINT EASTWOOD AND CHARLIE SHEEN ARE PARTNERS IN FIGHTING CRIME

Clint Eastwood's semi-silent again. After his tour de force as the voluble John Huston character in *White Hunter, Black Heart*, he's back to being the strong man of few words that audiences around the world know and love.

In *The Rookie*, which he also directed, he's Nick Pulovski, a veteran detective who's never made a major bust. He's teamed with David Ackerman (Charlie Sheen), a raw rookie who's never been on a major case. They are wary of each other, but bound by the truism that a cop's best weapon isn't his gun, it's his partner. A pair of car thieves (Raul Julia and Sonia Braga), miffed that Pulovski and Ackerman have broken up their operation, kidnap Pulovski, and his young partner must save his life.

Charlie Sheen started acting at the age of nine, although he really wanted to be a professional baseball player. Then at 13, he spent eight months in the Philippines while his father, actor Martin Sheen, was filming *Apocalypse Now*. "Being exposed to that environment at that age," says Sheen, "made me realize there was more to life than just baseball." He was then bitten by the acting bug and has since zoomed to stardom in such films as *Platoon* and *Wall Street*. He has costarred twice (*Young Guns* and *Men at Work*) with his brother Emilio Estevez.

Eastwood didn't have the advantage of a family acting tradition. He was born in San



Detective Nick Pulovski (Clint Eastwood, left) gets up close and personal with one of his kidnapers (Sonia Braga).

THE ROOKIE

Francisco in 1930 and grew up as a child of the Depression, trailing his father along the dusty roads of the West Coast as he searched for work. Young Clint had to take his

schooling where he could get it and attended 10 schools in 10 years. When he graduated, he worked as a lumberjack in Oregon, served in the army and then entered Los Angeles City College to study business administration under the G.I. Bill.

He became intrigued with acting and worked as a gas-station attendant and fire fighter to pay the rent while he made the often-frustrating rounds of agents and studios. His first screen test won him a contract — at \$75 a week — but he spent the next few years appearing in films that were distinctly undistinguished.

A perceptive casting agent signed him for the TV series *Rawhide* and he spent eight years in the role. But he got his big break when Italian director Sergio Leone whisked him to Europe to make the low-budget *A Fistful of Dollars*, the first installment in Leone's spaghetti-western trilogy.

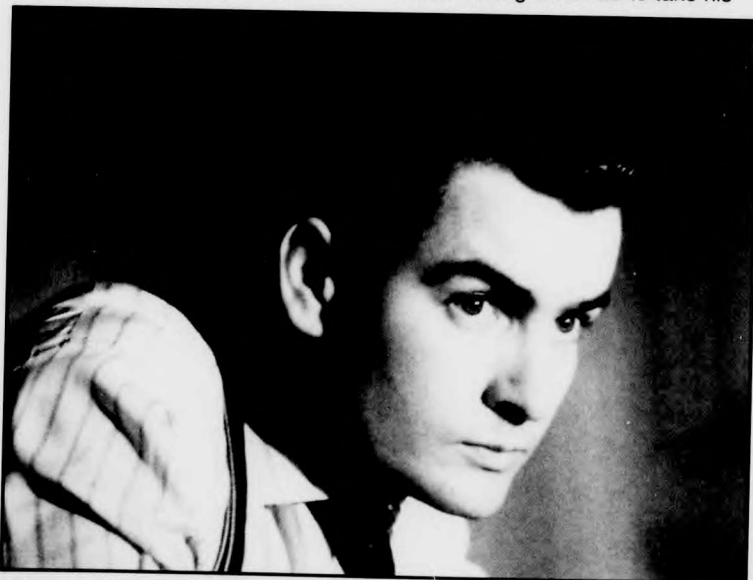
Eastwood was so popular that his salary tripled in the second film of the series, *For a Few Dollars*

More. Then came *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, and the rest is history.

His impact as the cool, laconic, tight-lipped outsider, always defending the underdog, brought him the clout he needed to form his own production company, Malpaso (a Spanish word meaning "bad step," which is how his manager had described Eastwood's role in *A Fistful of Dollars*). Eastwood has since produced his own movies and directed 14 of them, including such varied projects as *Play Misty for Me*, the 1971 thriller, and *Bird*, the acclaimed biography of jazz great Charlie Parker.

As Gerald Pratley, former director of the Ontario Film Institute, points out, "Eastwood as a director has made films which have point and purpose to them. He uses the system with honesty and a sense of integrity to make studio films aimed at a large audience, but which still relate to social concerns."

— Pearl Sheffy Gefen



The first big case for rookie David Ackerman (Charlie Sheen) turns out to be saving his abducted partner's life.