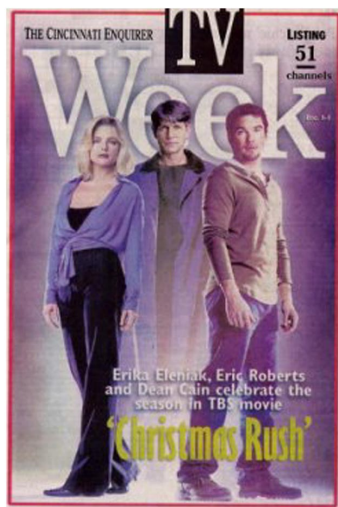


The Cincinnati Enquirer TV Week

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Cover story

'Christmas' is a 'Rush'

Action never stops in TBS film about a holiday heist at the mall

By Mike Hughes

Covered four times

Just before the made-for-TV film *Christmas Rush* begins, TBS might want to screen a warning. It could say: "Last chance to shop for the season's best gifts."

Rush (8 and 10 p.m. Sun.)

With its raucous action, involving a late-night, Christmas Eve heist at a shopping mall, the new film is an oldie but not a newie.

"I love the action," Mr. Cain says. "I was one of the most fun films I've done."

Ordinary training

He is accustomed to creditable action from his look

back at Princeton, he set a national record with 12 interceptions in one season. He also played guard for the Buffalo Bills

and was named MVP of the 1970 season.

Christmas Rush offers him the chance to be a

hero again. In one brief scene, he battles the

largest of villains.

"It's a big thing, dude," Mr. Cain says.

He was a team man. He

they made him an actor.

The two men headed to an actual shopping mall in

Whitby, Canada.

"When the mall would

close, he'd be there at 7

p.m., he'd be over. Mr.

Cain says, "We broke up

on that night. I couldn't

believe it. Then someone

would come in.

This is not your usual

Christmas Eve. Veterans

will make the mall a

director Charles Carter has

seen *Die Hard* a few times.



With Erika Eleniak, Eric Roberts and Dean Cain, *Christmas Rush* is about holiday heist.

roughed up before the holidays in *Christmas Rush*.

The film starts with Mr.

Cain in a situation that

leaves him suspended

from his job. He's

with Erika Eleniak, who

him to try something

the movie is about.

One night, she's the last

person out of the mall

store where she works.

The movie, presenting a

magical, takes her

back. They don't have her

back in the mall to

pick her up.

The holiday culture

one of it from Mr. Rob-

erts' character. He's a

businessman, trying to

save a bad operation he

has.

"He's a good man, he's

a nice man, he's a good

man."

"I'm just a person who

grow older. He says, "You

don't know... I have a

much bigger basket of ac-

company."

He and his wife, Ellen,

have been married for 10

years. He has a daughter,

two stepdaughters and a do-

ctor for some work over

happ."

King of Queens and really

crisp. "Mr. Roberts

says, "I asked you about it

could be up to some

roles."

The reason, he landed

on the film, is that

he's a character, playing an

actor. He's a

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[Traduction française/ French translation](#)
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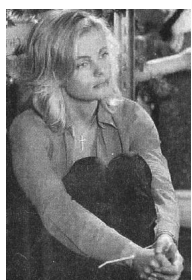
'Christmas' is a 'Rush'

Action never stops in TBS film about a holiday heist at the mall

- By Mike Hughes
Gannett News Service

Just before the made-for-TV film *Christmas Rush* begins, TBS might want to screen a warning. It could say : "Last chance to blink for the next two hours."

Rush (8 and 10 p.m Sunday, TBS) has non-stop action, involving a late-night, Christmastime heist ina shopping mall. On one side are thieves led by Eric Roberts ; on the other is an off-duty cop, played by Dean Cain.



Gridiron training

He is accustomed to real-life action from his football days as a defensive back. At Princeton, he set a national record with 12 interceptions in one season. He also played pro ball for the Buffalo Bills until an injury stopped his gridiron career.

Christmas Rush offers hints of the days when he would collide with bigger and beefier people. In one brutal scene, he battles the largest of the villains.

"His is a big, strong dude," Mr. Cain marvels. "He was a stunt man, but they made him an actor."

The two men battled in an actual shopping mall in Winnipeg, Canada.

"When the mall would close for business at 7 p.m., we took over," Mr. Cain says. "We broke up so much glass, I couldn't believe it. Then someone would sweep it up."

This is not your usual Christmas tale. Viewers will realize that writer-director Charles Carner has seen *Die Hard* a few times.

The film starts with Mr. Cain in a shootout that leaves him suspended from his police job. His wife (Erika Eleniak) wants him to try something safe, like store security.

One night, she's the last person out of the mall store where she works. The thieves, preparing a megaheist, take her hostage. They don't know her husband is in the mall to pick her up.

The brutality follows, none of it from Mr. Roberts's character. He's a gentleman bandit, trying to finance a vital operation for his son.

"He's a good man, he's a nice man, he's a cool character," Mr. Roberts says. He's also a crook and actors savor such contrasts. "I love going from A to Z," Mr. Roberts says.

Some moviegoers still have Mr. Roberts' stuck at "Z". They assume he'll always play the edgy guy.

"It's just that everyone remembers *Star 80*," Mr. Roberts says.

It's difficult to forget his scary brilliance in that 1983 film, playing the guy who loved and killed *Playboy*

centerfold Dorothy Stratten.

Mr. Roberts, 46, is the older brother of Julia Roberts and once was considered an edgy sort in real life, too. That has changed.

"I'm just a person who grew older," he says. "You slow down... I have a bigger basket of acceptance."

He and his wife, Eliza, have been married for 10 years. He has a daughter, two stepchildren and a desire for some work near home.

"I did a guest shot on *King of Queens* and really enjoyed it," Mr. Roberts says. "I asked my agent if I could be up for some roles."

This season, he landed supporting duty on *Less Than Perfect*, playing an anchorman the show's main character (Sara Rue) idolizes.

TV Transition

Mr. Cain, 36, already had the TV-series experience, from *Lois & Clark : The New Adventures of Superman*

easier duty of hosting *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. In his new life, he has the *Ripley*

you've Got to Believe It or Not! (8 p.m. Wednesday, TBS) and doing film roles.

That gives him plenty of time for an outdoor life. He's been accustomed to that since his days living in a mobile home park in California.

"I'd go outdoors all the time," Mr. Cain recalls. "There were tons of families, tons of kids. It was an ideal way to grow up."

As his adoptive stepfather (director Christopher Cain) made career progress, the family moved to Malibu. Mr. Cain went on to Princeton where he dated Brooke Shields and intercepted those passes.

When his pro football career ended, Mr. Cain trimmed from 215 to 185 pounds. It helps to be lean, when you're in a nonstop Christmas Rush.

Le sprint de Noël

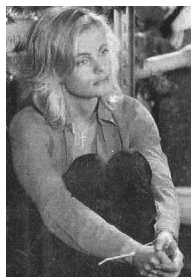
L'action ne s'arrête jamais dans un film de TBS ayant pour thème un vol dans un centre commercial

- Par Mike Hughes
Gannett News Service

Juste avant que le téléfilm *Christmas Rush* ne commence, TBS devrait émettre un avertissement.

Ça pourrait dire : "C'est votre dernière chance de cligner les yeux pour les deux prochaines heures."

Rush (diffusé à 20 h et 22h dimanche, à TBS) offre de l'action mur-à-mur, impliquant un vol de banque de nuit dans un centre commercial la veille de Noël. D'un côté, il y a les voleurs dirigés par Eric Roberts et de l'autre, il y a un policier suspendu, joué par Dean Cain.



Entraînement à vif

Il est habitué à l'action de la vraie vie, depuis ses premiers jours de football en tant que quart défensif. À Princeton, il a établi un record national avec 12 interceptions en une saison. Il a aussi joué au football chez les Bills de Buffalo jusqu'à ce qu'une blessure au genou vienne stopper sa carrière.

Christmas Rush permet d'entrevoir les jours où il se frottait aux plus grands et plus costauds que lui. Dans une scène brutale, il se bat avec le plus grand des méchants.

"Il est très grand et très fort," s'émerveille M. Cain. "Il était un cascadeur, mais ils ont fait de lui un acteur."

Les deux hommes se sont battus dans un véritable commercial à Winnipeg, Canada.

"Quand le centre commercial fermait ses portes à 19h, c'était à nous de jouer," dit M. Cain.

"Nous avons brisé tellement de verre, je n'arrivais pas à y croire. Puis quelqu'un venait tout

balayer et nettoyer."

Ce n'est pas un conte de Noël typique. Les téléspectateurs réaliseront que le scripteur-directeur Charles Carner a vu Piège de cristal quelques fois. Le film commence avec M. Cain dans une fusillade qui le laissera suspendu de ses fonctions de policier. Sa femme (Erika Eleniak) veut qu'il se trouve un boulot plus sécuritaire, comme agent de sécurité de centre commercial.

Un soir, elle est la dernière personne à sortir du centre commercial où elle travaille. Les voleurs, préparant un méga-vol de billets, la prennent en otage. Ils ne savent pas que son mari est là aussi pour aller la chercher.

La violence s'ensuit, mais aucune de la part du personnage de M. Roberts. C'est un gentleman cambrieur, qui essaie de financer une opération vitale pour son fils.

"C'est un homme bon, gentil et très plaisant à jouer," dit M. Roberts. C'est aussi un escroc et les acteurs adorent ces contrastes. "J'adore passer du blanc au noir," dit M. Roberts.

Certains férus de cinéma se rappellent encore M. Roberts comme personnage "noir". Ils assument qu'il va toujours jouer le type ambitieux.

"C'est simplement que tous se rappellent le film Star 80," répondit M. Roberts.

Il est difficile d'oublier sa prestation brillante et effrayante dans ce film de 1983, où il tenait le rôle du type qui avait aimé et tué la beauté de Playboy Dorothy Stratten.

M. Roberts, 46 ans, est le frère aîné de Julia Roberts et fut déjà considéré comme vivant un mode de vie dangereux dans la vraie vie. Mais ça a changé.

"Je suis simplement une personne qui s'est assagi avec l'âge," dit-il. "On ralentit... J'ai plus la capacité d'accepter les événements qu'avant."

Lui et sa femme, Eliza, sont mariés depuis 10 ans. Il a une fille, deux beaux-enfants et le désir de travailler près de la maison.

"J'ai déjà tourné un épisode de Un gars du Queens et j'ai vraiment apprécié l'expérience," déclare M. Roberts. "J'ai demandé à mon agent si je pouvais jouer d'autres rôles comme celui-là."

Cette saison, il a obtenu un rôle de soutien dans Less Than Perfect, campant le rôle d'un lecteur de nouvelles que le personnage principal de la série (Sara Rue) idolâtre.

Transition télévisuelle

M. Cain, 36 ans, a déjà l'expérience de la télévision, venant de Lois & Clark : les Nouvelles Aventures de Superman. Dans sa nouvelle vie, il a le devoir plus facile d'être l'hôte de la série Ripley's Believe It or Not ! (20h, les mercredis, à TBS) et de jouer dans des films.

Ça lui donne beaucoup de temps pour mener une vie à l'extérieur des plateaux de tournage. Il a été habitué à cela dès son jeune âge, quand il vivait dans un parc de maisons mobiles en Californie. "J'étais toujours dehors," se rappelle M. Cain. "Il y avait des tonnes de familles, des tonnes d'enfants. C'était l'endroit idéal pour grandir."

Alors que son beau-père adoptif (le directeur Christopher Cain) faisait des progrès dans sa carrière, la famille déménagea à Malibu. M. Cain est ensuite parti pour Princeton où il a fréquenté Brooke Shields et a intercepté les passes mentionnées plus haut.

Quand sa carrière de football professionnel s'est terminée, M. Cain a perdu du poids, de 98 à 85 kg. □ Ça aide toujours d'être mince, surtout si vous êtes dans un "rush" de Noël continu.