

Slater blossoms in "Bed of Roses" role

Life Is "Bed Of Roses" These Days For Christian Slater

By Ian Spelling
College Press Service

Soon enough, there will be no escaping Christian Slater.

The enigmatic star of "Heathers," "Pump Up the Volume," and "Robin Hood" has been rather busy of late. Currently, he can be seen as the king of plants in the romantic drama, "Bed of Roses," and later this spring, in the high-stakes action film, "Broken Arrow."

Slater, chatting as he smokes a stogie during a conversation at a Manhattan hotel, comes across much like many of his characters. He's bright but cagey, talkative but elusive. But considering the fact that it's been a while since the New York-born and -bred actor has faced the press, one can be thankful that he's talking at all.

In "Bed of Roses," which was shot on the streets of New York, Slater plays a floral shop owner who sees a damsel in distress,

comes to her emotional rescue and then falls in love with her, her being Mary Stuart Masterson. The actor, who is all of 26, reports that the film reaffirmed his belief in the notion that even in this competitive, men-and-women working era, people can still be romantic.

"I think people are capable of romance. I think of myself as a pretty romantic person," he says, smiling the kind of sly smile one might expect from a guy who has dated actresses Samantha Mathis, Kim Walker and Patricia Arquette, as well as a model Christy Turlington.

"I always want the best to turn out no matter what the situation is, or no matter how ugly things get. I always want the most romantic thing to happen, too. I'm an optimist."

While it may take a kiss from the movie gods for a film as sweet and simple as "Roses" to arise from box-office obscurity, big things are expected of "Broken Arrow," which pits Slater against John Travolta. "It's an action movie about two

fighter pilots who were buddies," he explains. "John turns bad, and I have to stop him."

Travolta's character threatens America with a nuclear weapon he has stolen, while Slater's guy is the voice of reason. "I'm the good guy," he says. "It's kind of interesting how all of this stuff happened. 'Bed of Roses' and 'Broken Arrow' are definitely two very different films and roles. I don't know if I did that intentionally or not, but I'm happy about it. It's important to stay versatile."

Slater says he doesn't concern himself too much with making hit movies, and his track record bears him out. His flop list, like many actor's, runs long and includes "Gleaming the Cube," "The Wizard" and "Mobsters." Even though "Pump Up the Volume" and "Heathers" are among his most popular films, they're more cult favorites than money makers. His biggest hit remains "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," in which he, not to mention Alan Rickman and Morgan Freeman, stole Kevin

Costner's thunder. The film earned \$300 million worldwide.

"I never really worry about the success of a movie. I've never gone into anything thinking, 'I hope this does really well,'" he notes. "Of course, I want people to see the movies, but so far I've just done movies where I related to the character and enjoyed the script. I haven't even thought about who was directing them or who was in them. In the future, I'll pay more attention to those things and the other elements involved. But, in the past, I just hadn't been too concerned about all that."

Slater doesn't seem to worry about much at all, which probably accounts for a good portion of his appeal as an actor and a public personality. In the past few years, Slater has made a splash in the tabloids for his romantic and gun-toting exploits. He denies that he's dating "Friends" star Courtney Cox. His favorite star is, not surprisingly, Harrison Ford, another guy who acts in film after film but tends to keep his private life as private

as possible. Even the tabloids do not unnerve Slater, who loves nothing more than to read them at every opportunity.

OK, so what's the best thing he's ever read about himself? Slater cracks up, then peers into the air as he contemplates his answer. "What's the best thing I've read? That I'm hung like a horse!" he says, grinning like a Cheshire cat. "That was good. I was very happy."

It was a girl I went out with who was saying that about me, and I was really happy to hear that."

As "Bed of Roses" and "Broken Arrow" head into theaters, Slater will be at home in L.A. Contemplating career moves. There's no next project ready to shoot, but after having directed "Museum of Love," a short-subject film for Showtime, don't be surprised if Slater tries his hand at bringing a small feature-length film to the screen.



<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Change purse</p> <p>5 Small shoot</p> <p>10 Equivalent</p> <p>14 The Bard's river</p> <p>15 Rub out</p> <p>16 Banyan, e.g.</p> <p>17 Country</p> <p>18 Poison</p> <p>19 Kind of number</p> <p>20 Curiosity</p> <p>22 Regular date</p> <p>24 Part of the family</p> <p>25 Covered colonnade</p> <p>26 Except</p> <p>28 Spectators</p> <p>33 Aftwart</p> <p>35 Long, long time</p> <p>36 West of Murray</p> <p>37 Entranceway</p> <p>38 Commonplace</p> <p>40 Muses' number</p> <p>41 DeLuise</p> <p>42 Cleaning cloth</p> <p>43 Enthroned</p>	<p>14</p> <p>17</p> <p>20</p> <p>23</p> <p>26</p> <p>29</p> <p>32</p> <p>35</p> <p>38</p> <p>41</p> <p>44</p> <p>47</p> <p>50</p> <p>53</p> <p>56</p> <p>59</p>	<p>15</p> <p>18</p> <p>21</p> <p>24</p> <p>27</p> <p>30</p> <p>33</p> <p>36</p> <p>39</p> <p>42</p> <p>45</p> <p>48</p> <p>51</p> <p>54</p> <p>57</p> <p>60</p> <p>63</p> <p>66</p> <p>69</p>	<p>45 Twinkling brightness</p> <p>49 Stratagem</p> <p>50 Tops</p> <p>51 Plant part</p> <p>53 Spa</p> <p>56 Most fuddled</p> <p>60 Thug</p> <p>61 Explode</p> <p>63 Fingerprint, e.g.</p> <p>64 "Woe—f"</p> <p>65 Man of rank</p> <p>66 Burrows and Vigoda</p> <p>67 —do-well</p> <p>68 Woolen fabric</p> <p>69 Allows</p>	<p>9 Lapidary items</p> <p>10 Stripe</p> <p>11 Field</p> <p>12 Fermented honey drink</p> <p>13 Wriggling</p> <p>21 Regrets</p> <p>23 Overly</p> <p>25 Opening for coins</p> <p>26 Go quickly</p> <p>27 Bouquet</p> <p>29 Whirny</p> <p>30 Gives off</p> <p>31 Hindu queen</p> <p>32 Farming need</p> <p>33 Does sums</p> <p>34 Severe</p> <p>39 Craze</p> <p>40 Pertaining to ships</p> <p>44 Love god</p> <p>46 L.A. player</p> <p>47 Actor Chaney</p> <p>48 Hit in baseball</p> <p>52 Chose</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Painter Salvador</p> <p>2 Pavlov or Landl</p> <p>3 Neighbor of N. Dak.</p> <p>4 Attempt</p> <p>5 Playing card</p> <p>6 Direction in music</p> <p>7 Declaim</p> <p>8 Equal: prof.</p>	<p>53 Leg part</p> <p>54 Affection</p> <p>55 Georgia city</p> <p>56 Toothpaste holder</p> <p>57 River in Germany</p> <p>58 Fat</p> <p>59 Hardy name</p> <p>62 Quarrel</p>	
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Broken Arrow

by Sarah Melchiorre
Collegian Staff

I really wanted to like "Broken Arrow." It stars John Travolta and Christian Slater in an action adventure movie.

The action sequences were amazing but the chemistry between the cast lacked something. Humor was laced throughout the film but the acting as a whole was terrible.

Vic Deakins (Travolta) tries to kill his flying partner Riley Hale (Slater) in a B-3 Stealth bomber crash. Deakins and Hale were really good friends before the incident occurred.

Deakins plans to steal the two nuclear bombs on board. However, the two bombs are missing after the crash. The search is then on to recover the lost nuclear weapon. A broken arrow is what a nuclear

weapon that is lost is called.

Hale meets up with a Utah park ranger, Terry Carmichael (Samantha Mathis). Together they throw a wrench into Deakins plans.

The role of Carmichael was meant to be a strong woman's role but Mathis butchers the role. It becomes an obsolete role that is totally unbelievable. Slater gives a lackluster performance. Travolta is the only saving grace. He plays the nut role very well.

John Woo directed "Broken Arrow." He is known for directing "Hard Target", starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. He proves his talent in action scenes once again.

Basically, if you like action and don't pay attention to action skills go see this movie. If you want to see something worthwhile, rent a movie.



Broken Arrow: John Travolta as Vic Deakins and Christian Slater as Riley Hale are top Stealth bomber pilots- and close friends- who are about to become engaged in a no-holds-barred race against time and each other to recover a lost nuclear weapon.