

THE TRIBUNE

# Arts & Entertainment

## Playing God awful



### Screen Scene

Stuart Green

screen after his role runs its course, he's going to have to either take remedial acting lessons or pick his parts more carefully.

In *Playing God*, his first film since the above-average television series became a runaway hit, Duchovny is painfully awful as Eugene Sands, a prescription drug-addicted ex-doctor who gets hooked up with a crime lord named Raymond Blossom (Timothy Hutton) after saving one of his henchmen.

Blossom hires Sands as a sort of freelance personal surgeon to tend to all of his war-wounded thugs.

But Sands, who is reluctant at first to take the assignment, ends up falling for the criminal lifestyle and Blossom's voluptuous moll (Angelina Jolie).

Things quickly start going against him when the FBI convinces him to be their rat in exchange for overlooking his non-prescribed use of potent pharmaceuticals. And when Blossom finds out, all hell breaks loose.

Directed by British newcomer Andy Wilson, *Playing God* is as overwrought and tired as crime pictures come. Its look and tone are reminiscent of a poor man's Simpson/Bruckheimer (*48 Hrs.*) film without the benefit of at least competent editing.

Duchovny's wooden acting style may work for his role as the brooding Fox Mulder, but it simply flattens this film. He's not alone, however. Hutton is equally uninteresting.

If X-Files star David Duchovny hopes to make his mark on the big

But it's not entirely their fault. Mark Haskell Smith's script is rife with cops and robbers clichés and juvenile one-liners that are meant to be funny but aren't.

*Playing God* is a failure on many levels and it may take divine intervention for Duchovny's career to recover from it.

### BOOGIE NIGHTS HAS ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

There are two things you need to know about *Boogie Nights*:

1) With its graphic depiction of the porn industry circa 1977-1983 and criminal violence, it's not for everyone.

2) Notwithstanding its subject matters, it's one of the best films this year.

Writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson's (*Hard Eight*) sprawling, two-and-a-half-hour ensemble epic is both a nostalgic ode to the disco era and a horrible reminder of the excesses of the time.

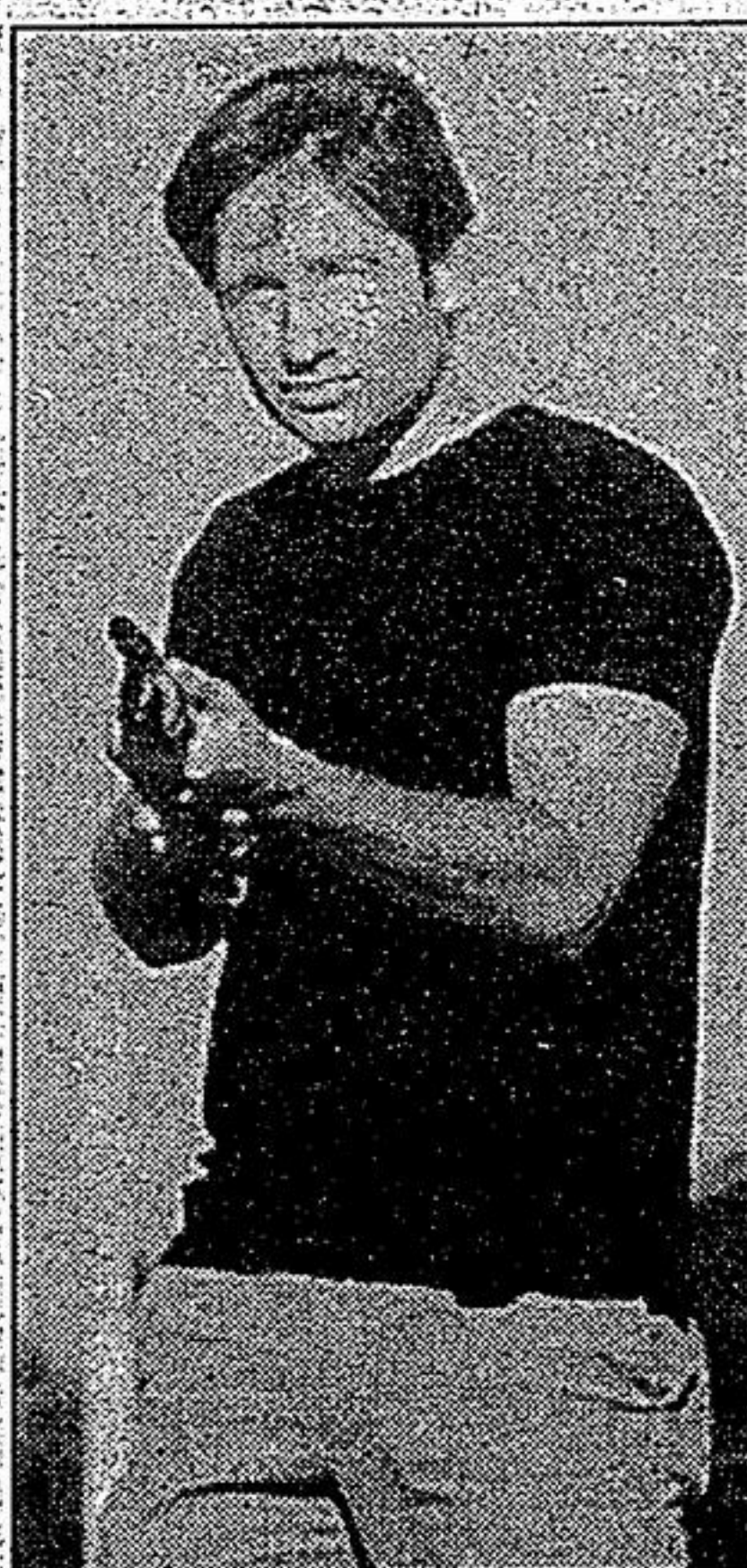
Mark Wahlberg stars as Eddie Adams, an extremely well-endowed up and coming porno actor who is taken under the wing of industry mogul Jack Horner (Burt Reynolds) and his "family" and shown the tricks of the trade.

It follows his rise to the top of the industry and his rapid decline in the years that follow as drugs and his ego get the best of him.

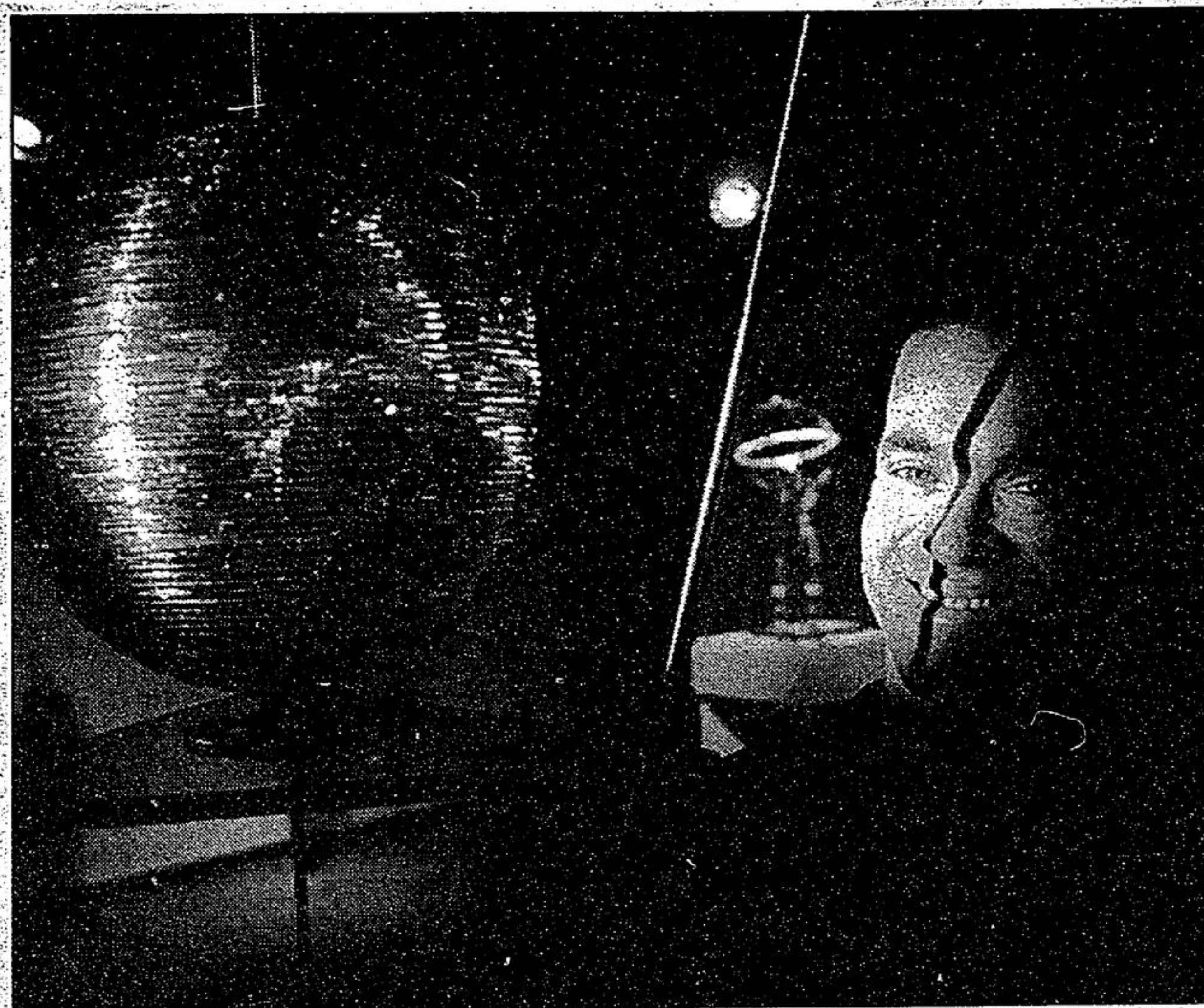
But *Boogie Nights* is not just a docudrama about the porn industry or an adult film masquerading as art, it's a finely-crafted work that's funny, shocking, ironic and always riveting.

Anderson's choice of stars is one of the best pieces of casting in a film this year with every member of the ensemble making the most of their roles.

*Boogie Nights* is stunning sophomore effort from a filmmaker who's proving himself a force to be reckoned with.



David Duchovny plays God as drug-addict doctor who takes on some under-the-operating-table work after losing his medical licence.



GOING GLOBAL: Glass sculptor Francis Muscat poses with his work Globe Series #2 RY Interior Landscape (glass, mixed media) at the Latham Gallery. Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## A stellar display of art

Sunderland-area artist Francis Muscat has turned the Latham Gallery in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library into another Galaxy.

His exhibition called Spontaneous Circularities: Recent Work by Francis Muscat, which opened on Oct. 5, features a series of glass works suspended throughout the gallery to create the effect of bodies in space. The work continues Muscat's interest in structure, the environment and the versatility of glass as an artistic medium.

Muscat, whose studio is a highlight on the annual Uxbridge Celebration of the Arts Studio Tour, explained that this exhibition deals with his "sculptural exploration of the sphere." In doing so, he created a series of "planets," a new solar system.

"In many cases I have built up layers of glass so that the evocative edges form the planet's sur-

face, while the transparency of the glass hints at a mysterious interior geography," he said.

Some of the works are animated by motors and the resulting movement introduces another dimension to the work by playing motion of the "frozen state" of the glass.

In addition to the planets, the artist has included several wrapped works, glass sculptures wrapped with wire, thread or cord, which also create an interplay between the surface and the glass core.

Muscat has been working with glass for a number of years. Earlier this year, his work was included in an exhibition at Waterloo's renowned Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, as well as being well received at the Toronto Outdoor Art Show at Nathan Phillips Square.

For more information contact the gallery at 640-2395.

## Push playing the Town Crier Friday night

### FULLERTON'S

Oct. 23: All the hits with Tony Pierre. Oct. 24-25: Grant Fullerton performs. Fullerton's motto Good Food Music and Friends. Thursday new Trivia with Martyn Allmand starting at 7 p.m.

### THE TOWN CRIER RESTAURANT & PUB

Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Linda Kroon hosts the new Pub Quiz. You'll find live entertainment every Friday and Saturday. Party with the band Push



the Friday night, and again next Friday for Halloween. Top class food prepared by chefs George and James, with daily specials. Beautiful English breakfasts served Friday, Saturday

and Sunday 8-12. 6298 Main St., 642-6937.

### JUGHEAD'S DINER

Enjoy the sounds of the '50s from your own jukebox while sitting in a diner booth. Friendly staff, good food, good times. 6242 Main St., 642-9511.

### FATHER'S STEAKHOUSE AND PUB

This Saturday Father's features The Blackboard Blues Band, a 12-piece R & B band. On Halloween night next Friday, it's a dress-up party and dance with everybody's favorite DJ

Bobby Boogie. Prizes for the best costume. 8515 McCowan Rd., Markham, 294-0134.

### CANTABILE CHORALE OF YORK

Presenting an afternoon with Schubert & Brahms this Sunday at 3 p.m., Thornhill United Church, adults \$12, seniors and children under 12 \$10. Call 508-4726

To promote your event in Spotlight, fax the details to (905) 294-1538, mail to 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, L3P 1M3, or e-mail to econsun@istar.ca.

## Chapters invites you to enjoy these exciting OCTOBER EVENTS

Saturday, October 25th.  
 Sunday, October 26th.

Curious George  
 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

What is that curious monkey up to now? He's coming to Chapters and there's sure to be lots of fun and adventure for all.

Saturday, October 25th.

Nurse: Hear You, Hear Me.  
 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

A timely discussion by author Lilian Pymchuck R.N., about the experiences of nurses across Canada.

Saturday, October 25th.

Free Jazz  
 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Where you can go to hear the greatest jazz in the world? The Blue Note, Bourbon Street, Birdland, Top of the Senator or ..... Chapters in Markham!

Sunday, October 26th.

A Complete Waste of Time  
 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Join author Mark Ellwood for an informative and beneficial presentation on the subject of time management.



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