

# New sitcom has character from Hills



Fran and Von Washington (left) of Southfield portray friends of the bride's father. Here, they are in the wedding reception scene with Tom Ryan and Annette Sinclair.

By Kevin Brown  
Staff writer

Bill Cosby, Michael J. Fox, Sam and Diane . . . and Peter Carey?

Carey, a Troy resident and former afternoon DJ at WNIC-FM, is one of the stars of the Channel 4-produced sitcom "Hamtramck," which premieres at 9:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14. "It's in a great line-up," Carey says. That's because the premiere of the locally shown sitcom, starring Detroit-area actors, is scheduled to follow the top-rated NBC Thursday night lineup.

According to a WDIV-TV press release heralding the show, "It is an entertaining situation comedy made in and about Detroit with the high quality standards of a network production."

Carey auditioned after a Southfield modeling agency he works for sent photos and a resume. "I sat down and read the script and it made me laugh out loud, and I don't laugh at everything," Carey recalled.

The show's humor is loaded with Detroit-area references. "If anybody from outside saw it, it would go right over their heads," Carey said. Carey, 30, left WNIC in 1985 to seek work as an actor. Since then, he's acted in commercials and done voice-overs.

WHILE CAREY has received offers for work in Los Angeles, he says, "I'd like to stick around here because things are going so well."

Depending on the show's ratings Thursday, Carey said three more episodes may be filmed. The cast — which includes ex-Tiger Dave Rozema, DJ Tom Ryan and actress Annette Sinclair (she's engaged to Bob Seger) — has appeared in one episode so far.

Carey is cast as Russell Bradford from Farmington Hills. He marries Marian Hamlin of Hamtramck (Sinclair) in the opening episode.

Fran and Von Washington of Southfield, an experienced husband and wife acting team, portray Esther and Art Cunningham, friends of the bride's father.

Of his character, Carey says, "I think they're trying to combine a yuppie-executive type."

To point out the show's humor,

Carey recalls the wedding scene.

"They're trying to contrast the east and west side, the suburbs. There's one scene at the wedding where her family is doing the Hokee Pokee. And my family's from the west side; used to sit-down dinners. They're just horrified."

ROZEMA PLAYS Walter, Marian's high-school sweetheart who has trouble coping with her marriage to the suburban yuppie.

"He threatens to beat me up, which is what you're supposed to do if you're from the east side and someone marries your high school sweetheart," Carey jokes.

In another scene, Marian's father, played by Ryan, talks about his son-in-law.

"He describes me as a Farmington Hills guy who 'drives a car I can't pronounce, from a country that hates us, and drinks wine,'" Carey says.

Carey grew up in Bloomfield Hills, earned a degree at Michigan State University and returned to the Detroit area to work in radio.

Similar to the character he plays, Carey said that when he was growing up, "I didn't have any friends from the east side."

"But when you're in radio or any media you really get to know the town."

And the town may get to know Carey better, come Thursday.

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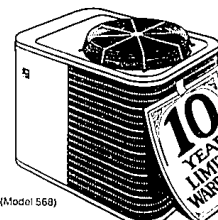
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