



# Vada's search leads to self-discovery in 'My Girl 2'

In "My Girl," in the open-ended stillness of a Pennsylvania summer, movie audiences were introduced to a precocious 11-year-old named Vada Sultenfuss. The summer of 1972 was a summer of long, hot, dreamy days — the kind of days that could lull you into believing that things would go on like this forever.

But for Vada Sultenfuss, the summer of 1972 turned out to be a season of irrevocable change: her first kiss, learning to share her father with another woman and learning to face the painful loss of her best friend.

## Enter our contest

Tell us about one of life's most cherished moments — your first kiss — to enter our "My Girl 2" contest.

The first 10 entries will receive movie posters from "My Girl 2." The best three entries will win plaid flannel boxer shorts with "My Girl 2" embroidered on the leg — they're really cute.

Write down your memories, 100 words or less, and send them to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Attention: Keely Wygonik, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Call (313) 591-7279 to fax entries.

Deadline for entries is Thursday, Feb. 24. The three winning stories will be printed on our movie page on Thursday, March 3.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at (313) 953-2105.



Journey: Nick (Austin O'Brien) and Vada (Anna Chlumsky) share a discovery in their search for the truth about Vada's mother, in "My Girl 2," a Columbia Pictures Release.

## PREVIEW

two weeks before they were married, and she died shortly after Vada was born. All Harry can show Vada is the faint stain on the living room floor where her mother's Halloween pumpkin exploded under the Christmas tree.

With Shelley's help, Vada persuades Harry to let her visit her Uncle Phil (Richard Masur) in Los Angeles over spring break. Perhaps there, on her mother's home turf, she can fill in the details of her mother's sketchy portrait.

On her arrival in the City of An-

gels, a dubious Vada meets her reluctant "tour guide," Nick (Austin O'Brien), who has been coerced into service by her Uncle Phil and his girlfriend Rose (Christine Ebersole). Despite their initial dislike for each other, Vada and Nick embark on a trail of scattered clues that Vada hopes will lead them to her mother's identity.

Their wanderings take them to such Los Angeles landmarks as Hollywood Boulevard, Grauman's Chinese Theatre, the La Brea Tarpits and the backlot of a major motion picture studio.

In pursuit of clues that can reveal her mother's identity, Vada

will also learn more about own place in her evolving family; about first love; about making a mark and about the challenge of following a dream.

Columbia Pictures presents an Imagine Entertainment Production, "My Girl 2," the sequel to the film that has earned more than \$120 million in worldwide box-office receipts. The film is directed by Howard Zieff and produced by Brian Cramer.

Three years after the exhaustive national casting search that

led to Anna Chlumsky's discovery, the spirited 13-year-old returns to the role that made her America's sweetheart. Anna, like her character Vada, has evolved into a budding beauty with the beguiling blue eyes and radiant smile that charmed audiences in the original "My Girl."

Coming off of the enormous success of the first film (due, in part, to the pairing of Anna Chlumsky and Macaulay Culkin), the filmmakers were met with the challenge of creating and casting

a role of a young man who would be an interesting match for Vada in the sequel.

Columbia Pictures did not have to look any farther than their summer action-adventure film, "Last Action Hero," to find young Austin O'Brien to fill the role of Nick. The character of Nick is a striking contrast to Vada — the L.A.-raised, independent son of Uncle Phil's girlfriend facing off against the equally independent daughter of Madison, Pennsylvania's only undertaker.

# Boy cashes in with 'Blank Check'

When 11-year-old Preston Waters (Brian Bonsall) rusty old 3-speed bicycle is accidentally run over by a shiny new Jaguar driven by a crook named Quigley (Miguel Ferrer), his prized possession is instantly reduced to a useless heap of twisted metal.

However, the settlement for damages is about to take Preston on the most fun-filled ride of his life as Quigley, a criminal involved in a money-laundering scheme, quickly dashes off a check to pay for the bike, but in his haste neglects to fill in the

## PREVIEW

amount in "Blank Check," a Walt Disney Pictures presentation opening Friday at metro Detroit movie theaters.

The fool and his money are soon parted when Preston sees the oversight and boldly fills in the amount: \$1 million.

Now, Preston embarks on the wildest spending spree ever, buying everything he ever dreamed of owning and living the high life

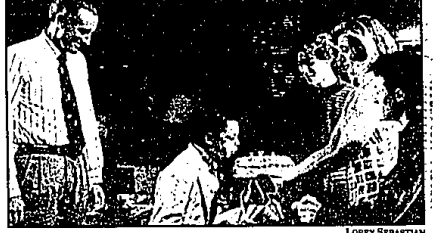
that most people just imagine. With a sack full of cash, he hires a personal chauffeur (Rick Ducommun), buys a great house and throws himself an enormous 12th birthday bash.

But the party's over when the FBI, Quigley and his thugs descend as uninvited guests, and Preston discovers the hardest thing about having a million dollars is trying to hold on to it.

Also starring Karen Duffy, Tone Lee and Michael Lerner, "Blank Check" is directed by Rupert Wainwright from a screen-

play written by Blake Snyder and Colby Carr. The producers are Craig Baumgarten and Gary Adelson. Hilary Wayne and Blake Snyder are executive producers. Buena Vista Pictures is the distributor.

"Preston starts out as kind of a nerd," said Brian Bonsall. "Nobody likes him because he's shy. But then he gets a blank check and becomes the coolest kid around, and everyone else is jealous. In the end, he finds out he's really an OK person and does know how to make friends."



Birthday boy: After a week of reckless spending, Preston (Brian Bonsall) center, is once again flat broke and an ordinary member of his family.

## UPCOMING MOVIES

There's something for everyone at the movies. Here's a list of what's in the wings:  
—Opening Friday, Feb. 11:

- "The Getaway" — A couple pulls off a major robbery and discovers the crime itself is the easiest part compared to the getaway.
- "Car 54, Where Are You?" — An action-comedy inspired by the 1960s television series.
- "I'll Do Anything" — A romantic comedy set in Hollywood about an unemployed actor who's unexpectedly forced to take responsibility for his 6-year-old daughter.
- "Gunmen" — An action-thriller about an eccentric Bulgarian smuggler and a New York City tough who reluctantly team up and head for the Amazon in search of a \$400 million treasure.
- "My Father the Hero" — Madcap comedy of errors has a love-struck teenage girl passing off her unknowing father as her lover in order to impress the boy of her dreams.
- "Romeo Is Bleeding" — A conviving New York cop is employed by the mob and has an obsessive

- afterward. Stars Alec Baldwin, Kim Basinger, Michael Madsen and James Woods.
- Opening Friday, Feb. 18:  
■ "On Deadly Ground" — An oil rig worker who joins forces with an Inuit activist in opposition to his former employer's rapacious drilling program finds himself in a battle for survival.
- "Blue Chips" — A collegiate basketball coach whose career is

- in jeopardy is forced to recruit "blue chip" players in order to turn his life around. Stars Nick Nolte, Shaquille O'Neal, Mary McDonnell and Ed O'Neill.
- "Reality Bites" — Funny irreverent take on love and life for post-Baby Boomers in the 1990s. Stars Winona Ryder, Ethan Hawke, Ben Stiller, Janeane Garofalo, and Steve Zahn.
- Opening Friday, Feb. 25:  
■ "You So Crazy" — A one man

- stand up comedy show starring Martin Lawrence, star of the hit Fox series "Martin."
- Opening Friday, March 4:  
■ "With Honors" — The true story of Harvard University students who befriend a homeless man.
- Opening Friday, March 11:  
■ "Guarding Tess" — Tess is the beloved former first lady who is running her secret service detail

- ragged. Tired of being at the mercy of her imperious will, one young agent squares off with her in a class of wits as unrelenting as it is hilarious.
- Opening Wednesday, March 30:  
■ "Thumbelina" — Animated feature based on the beloved Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale about a tiny girl "no bigger than your thumb," and her adventures as she follows her heart.

## Tell us what you think

Share your comments about any newly released movies with your friends and neighbors on our movie page.

Did you see any of these movies? Let us know what you thought.

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**PEEL TO PEEL**

If you've seen a new movie lately, either good or bad, we want to hear from you.

Call Keely Wygonik, Entertainment editor, 953-2105, to comment on newly released movies. If you reach her voice mail, leave your comments, name, city and day-time phone number. To fax comments, dial 591-2279. Or write: Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

**DAN AYKROYD JAMIE LEE CURTIS ANNA CHLUMSKY AUSTIN O'BRIEN**

**My Girl is back... just in time to be your Valentine!**

**starts friday, february 11th**

AMC AMERICANA WEST	AMC BEL AIR	AMC EASTLAND
AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHEAST CITY	AMC STARKING CTR.
GCC CANTON CINEMA	GCC NOVI TOWN CTR.	QUO VADIS
SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR	SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR	SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR TAYLOR
STAR WINCHESTER	OAKLAND	WEST RIVER

**"A TICKET FOR GOOD FUN. IF YOU LOVED 'HOME ALONE' YOU'LL LOVE 'BLANK CHECK'."**

—Joanna Langfield, THE MOVIE MINUTE

When Preston Waters sees an opportunity, he takes it. And now he's made himself a millionaire.

**Disney's Blank Check**

**STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

AMC ABBEY II	AMC AMERICAN WEST	AMC BEL AIR
AMC EASTLAND	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHEAST CITY
AMC STARKING CTR.	AMC WOODLAND	AMC WOODLAND
SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR	SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR	SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR TAYLOR
STAR WINCHESTER	OAKLAND	WEST RIVER

## Order your paczki early

Don't waste time standing in line on Paczki Day, Tuesday, Feb. 16! Order your paczki early.

For a list of bakeries in your hometown, call 1-800-967-5904 from a Touch-Tone phone, request item number 1216 to receive the list by fax. Have your

Mastercard or Visa ready for the \$2.95 charge.

To receive a copy by mail, send check for \$2.95 to Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., Livonia, MI 48150. For more information, call (313) 953-2105.

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