



KINGPIN

Family Values

Two-time Emmy Award-winning executive producer/writer David Mills (“The Corner,” “ER,” “NYPD Blue” and “Homicide: Life on the Street”) has created NBC’s gritty new series “Kingpin.” In this stylized drama, the struggles and machinations of a powerful Mexican drug-trafficking family are displayed in graphic detail as they face challenges from both the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and from the dangerous underworld in which they reside.

Yancey Arias (“The Time Machine”) stars as Stanford-educated Miguel Cadena, a savvy businessman who has risen to the threshold of supremacy in his family’s illegal drug cartel as power begins to pass from one generation to the next. Behind the opulent façade of the Cadenas’ lifestyle of private jets, yachts and villas stands a massive drug-dealing operation that produces immense quantities of illegal narcotics despite the ongoing family infighting.

Also starring in “Kingpin” are Sheryl Lee (“L.A. Doctors,” “Twin Peaks”) as Marlene, Miguel’s beautiful American

wife, who as a lawyer works to protect the family business from government intervention and who shares her husband’s proclivity for ruthless cunning; Ruben Carbajal as Joey, the couple’s 8-year-old son whom they attempt to shelter from their dangerous lifestyle; Bobby Cannavale (NBC’s “Third Watch”) as Chato, Miguel’s ambitious and brutal yet loyal brother; Angela Alvarado Rosa (“Boss of Bosses”) as Delia Flores, a DEA agent ardently fighting to thwart drug dealers wherever she finds them; Brian Benben (“Dream On”) as Dr. Heywood Klein, a successful plastic surgeon who is conflicted over his role in the Cadenas’ North American operations; and Shay Roundtree (“Drumline”) as Junie Gatling, one of Klein’s go-to men in the trenches of the drug trade.

“Kingpin” is produced by NBC Studios and Spelling Television, Inc. Aaron Spelling and E. Duke Vincent are executive producers along with two-time Emmy winner David Mills (“The Corner,” NBC’s “ER”). Dan Sackheim is co-executive producer. Allen Coulter (“The Sopranos”) directs the pilot episode from a script by Mills.



Yancey Arias

Yancey Arias stars in “Kingpin” as Miguel Cadena, a man struggling to gain and maintain power in his family-run drug cartel.

Born and raised in New York City, Arias has a breadth of experience on stage, screen and television. He was last seen in the science fiction adventure “The Time Machine,” which also starred Guy Pearce and Jeremy Irons. Other feature credits include leading roles in “Destination Unknown” by director Nestor Miranda (Best Independent Feature winner at the 1997 Hamptons Film Festival) and “Home Invaders,” directed by Greg Wilson and executive produced by Spike Lee.

Arias also has performed lead roles in two Broadway productions. He starred as Thuy in “Miss Saigon” for six years of its decade-long engagement in New York and appeared opposite Toni Collette, Mandy Patinkin and Eartha Kitt in “The Wild Party.”

Television credits include guest-starring roles in NBC’s “Law & Order” and “Law & Order: SVU,” as well as in “The Sopranos,” “NYPD Blue,” “Charmed,” “New York Undercover” and “JAG.” Arias also played the lead role of Officer Soltero Bravo in the television movie “Blade Squad.”

Currently, Arias resides in Los Angeles. His birthday is June 27.



Brian Benben

Brian Benben stars in "Kingpin" as Dr. Heywood Klein, a Texas-based plastic surgeon who moonlights as a stateside distributor for the illegal drugs produced by the Cadena drug cartel.

Born in Winchester, Virginia, Benben is fondly remembered for his starring role in the cable series "Dream On" as Martin Tupper, a book editor who responds to daily anxieties and absurdities by conjuring up hilariously apt clips from vintage films and television. His recent credits include roles in television productions of Christopher Durang's "Sister Mary Explains It All" with Diane Keaton and Martha Coolidge's "The Flamingo Rising" with William Hurt.

Having begun performing in off-off-Broadway productions at the age of 17, Benben made his television debut in the early 1980s in the crime series "The Gangster Chronicles." That role was followed by a variety of movie, television and stage roles including the Broadway production of "Slab Boys" opposite Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon and Val Kilmer and a lead role on the television series "Kay O'Brien." In 1998, he starred in and co-executive produced the network series "The Brian Benben Show." His feature film credits include "Clean and Sober" with Michael Keaton, "Radioland Murders," "Mortal Sins" and "Gangster Wars."

Benben is married to actress Madeleine Stowe. The couple resides in Los Angeles with their children. His birthday is June 18.



Bobby Cannavale

A native of Union City, New Jersey, Bobby Cannavale brings varied film and stage experience to his role as Chato Cadena, a strong-willed member of a Mexican drug cartel family in the NBC drama "Kingpin."

Cannavale most recently appeared as a regular in "Ally McBeal" and "100 Centre Street," having received critical praise for his portrayal of slain paramedic Bobby Caffey in the NBC series "Third Watch" in its first two seasons. And this January, he will be seen in a recurring role on "Oz."

Along with his television roles, Cannavale has also appeared in feature films including "Gloria" with Sharon Stone, "The Bone Collector" with Angelina Jolie, "Night Falls on Manhattan," and Kevin Costner's "The Postman." He will soon be seen in the movie "The Devil and Daniel Webster" with Anthony Hopkins and Alec Baldwin, as well as "The Guru" with

Heather Graham.

With stage credits including Paul Rudnick's "The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told" at the Williamstown Theatre Festival and the world premiere of Lanford Wilson's "Virgil Is Still the Frog Boy" at the Bay Street Theatre, Cannavale counts his role in the Feydeau farce "A Flea in Her Ear" at the Roundabout Theatre as one of his favorites. He also performed in the world premiere of "The Young Man and the World" at the Circle in the Square Theatre in New York.

Cannavale's favorite role, however, is as father to his son. Cannavale and his family live in New York. His birthday is May 3.



Sheryl Lee

Sheryl Lee portrays Marlene Cadena, wife of the heir-apparent to a massive drug fortune, and a powerful force in her own right, in NBC's "Kingpin." Lee gained early fame in her role as Laura Palmer in David Lynch's long-running cult hit series "Twin Peaks." She also worked with the director in "Wild at Heart" and the "Twin Peaks" prequel, "Fire Walk With Me."

In 1995, Lee was honored with the Spirit of Sundance Award at the Sundance Film Festival for her body of work in independent films, including roles in Kurt Vonnegut's "Mother Night" with Nick Nolte, "Bliss" with Terrence Stamp, Mark Medoff's "Homage" and "Backbeat." Her other movie credits include "Children on Their Birthdays," based on a short story by Truman Capote, "John Carpenter's Vampires" and "This World, Then the Fireworks." Her television credits include the films "Hitched," "David," "Follow the River," "Loves, Lies and Murder" and the series "L.A. Doctors."

On stage, Lee played opposite Al Pacino in "Salome" for the Circle in the Square in New York, and also appeared in "Love Letters" in Los Angeles.

Born in Augsburg, Germany and raised in Boulder, Colorado, Lee attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, the North Carolina School of Arts, and the National Conservatory Theater in Denver. She currently resides in Los Angeles. Her birthday is April 22.



Angela Alvarado Rosa

Angela Alvarado Rosa stars in "Kingpin" as DEA Agent Delia Flores, a committed agent fighting a never-ending battle against the drug trade. The character appeals to her because "Flores is a strong individual who trusts her instincts...being a DEA agent isn't just her job, it's her life."

Alvarado Rosa recently appeared in the feature film "Showtime" starring Robert De Niro and Eddie Murphy. Her other motion picture credits include "D-Tox" starring Sylvester Stallone, James Brooks' "I'll Do Anything," "Judgment Night" and "Salsa." Other credits include the television films "Boss of Bosses," in which she starred with Chazz Palminteri, "Shadowhunter," in which she appeared opposite Scott Glenn and Benjamin Bratt, "Desert's Edge" written and directed by Rob Lowe, "Hollywood Confidential" starring Edward James Olmos, "Point of Origin," "Shadowhunter" and "Daughters of Privilege."

Born in Puerto Rico, Alvarado Rosa and her seven siblings (four brothers, three sisters) divided their time between Puerto Rico and New Jersey during their youth. Modeling assignments helped her pay college tuition at Hunter College in New York and led to acting opportunities.

Alvarado Rosa's hobbies include photography, horseback riding and tae kwan do. She is married to Robert Rosa, who co-wrote the hit single "La Vida Loca" for Ricky Martin. The couple and their children live in Los Angeles. Her birthday is June 7.



Shay Roundtree

A native of Augusta, Georgia, newcomer Shay Roundtree portrays Junie Gatling, a deceptively ruthless small-time drug dealer in Texas with ties to the larger drug distribution system of the Cadena cartel.

In Georgia, Roundtree began his formal training as an actor at the Augusta Mini Theatre under the direction of Tyrone Butler and Judith Simon-Butler. After graduating high school in 1996, he furthered his dramatic studies at Clark Atlanta University where he worked closely with three professors, Carol Mitchell-Leon, Joan J.W. Lewis and Whitman Mayo, best known as Grady from the hit show "Sanford and Son."

While still attending college, Roundtree made his screen debut in the recently released feature "Drumline," starring with Orlando Jones and Zoe Saldana. That role, along with a television commercial appearance, ensured his standing as a professional actor by qualifying him to join the Screen Actors Guild.

After three years at Clark Atlanta University, Roundtree decided to pursue his acting career full time. Last summer, he got into his 1987 Nissan Maxima (with 258,000 miles on it) and drove himself to Los Angeles to follow his dream. Just three months later, after quickly catching the attention of an agent, he auditioned and won the role of Junie Gatling on NBC's "Kingpin."

Roundtree currently resides in Los Angeles. His birthday is November 23.

