

'Fools Rush In' brings true-life romance to the big screen

By Carol Cling
Review-Journal

6-2-96

Silver-screen romances have silver-lining endings, no matter how many clouds roll by.

"Fools Rush In," for example.

A made-in-Vegas love story about a rich Eastern WASP and a Latina casino worker who fall in love, get married and get pregnant — but not necessarily in that order — "Fools" is inspired by the relationship of producer Doug Draizin and co-producer Anna-Maria Davis, a Las Vegas native who grew up in Boulder City.

Yet their real-life tale has a far more bitter-sweet ending than the one featured in "Fools Rush In," which is scheduled to wrap up more than a month of location shooting in Southern Nevada this week.

That's because the movie hearkens back to happier times for Draizin and Davis, whose professional collaboration continues despite a recent divorce.

"We have a great relationship and three beautiful kids," notes Draizin, who also served as a producer on the spoofy "Spy Hard," currently in release.

(The kids — 11-year-old Ryan, 9-year-old Amelia and Regina, who will be 6 in July — have been in Southern Nevada with their parents since pre-production began in March, attending local schools, spending time with Davis' family and appearing as extras in the movie.)

"Making 'Spy Hard' was a lot of fun,"

Draizin says. "But there's not one ounce of reality in it. Any time reality snuck into the movie, we got rid of it. But this is 100 percent, U.S. real."

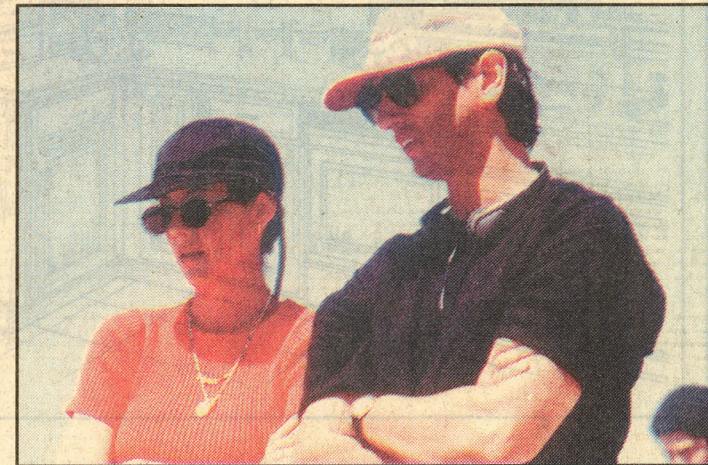
And, as such, more than a little poignant to watch, as scenes from Draizin and Davis' collective past find their way onto film.

"It's a little weird," agrees Davis in a separate interview on the set of the movie, as stars Matthew Perry (TV's "Friends") and Salma Hayek ("Desperado") shoot a smoochy morning-after-the-wedding-night scene in a Caesars Palace luxury suite overlooking the Strip.

"Certain times I have to walk away," Davis acknowledges. "It's very emotional in some places."

Being back on her home turf in Southern Nevada heightens the emotional impact,

Please see MOVIE/5J



Producers Anna-Maria Davis, left, and Doug Draizin watch the filming of "Fools Rush In," at Valley of Fire State Park. The movie was inspired by their own love relationship.

