



# Rocky Carroll... Says People Need to Get Real

by Sibylla Nash

In this day and age, with the Cirque de O.J. playing daily, instant heroes are made by being in the right place at the right time. You know the public's

are, find out something about them, it's like marrying the first person you see," says Carroll. "Just because someone "runs fast, jumps high or has an eight-octave range, doesn't mean they're a good person," he maintains, "they're just good at what they do."

"It's like what President Clinton said, and I happen to agree with, I take personal responsibility for the projects that I'm in," says Carroll, who wouldn't do a movie he wouldn't want to see or take his kids to (if he had any).

"I think people in this business fool themselves... [when they] say that they don't have any impact on what other people do. Especially like the young brothers and sisters that I meet who watch television and go to the movies and all that other stuff, they are directly affected. Their behavior is affected by the stuff that they see on television or the movies they go to," he adds.

lust for idols has sunk to an all-time low when over 5,000 fans show up at a mall to get autographs from Kato Kaelin (of all people). Someone explain that to me, please....

Actor Rocky Carroll suggests that the public be more discerning when choosing role models. "I think one of the things that can be done is that we can't be so quick to start patting people on the back and presenting them with awards, awards for ignorant behavior," says Carroll.

The 32-year-old actor is probably most recognized for the role of the smooth talking-womanizing-gambling-addicted, good-looking younger brother of Roc Emerson, on FOX TV's "Roc", a role he stepped into only a week before the pilot was shot.

"When I was doing Roc it was amazing how many letters I would get from people saying 'we want you to speak here, here and there, you being a role model this and that,'" says Carroll, "I guess being on t.v. once a week makes you a role model?" he asks.

So who were his role models while growing up? As the youngest of seven born in Ohio, he admits he was influenced by movies and television. But his role models were his parents. Why? "Because no superstars were available to help me with my homework or talk with me about my problems. My parents were the clear-cut winners. I tell kids all the time to call Michael Jordan during the day and see what happens," answers Carroll.

The public has long since been infatuated with television stars, movie stars, and musicians, alive or dead. "We get caught up in the images of some people. Some of the worst people I've ever met are people in this business and some of the greatest people I've ever met are also in this business. Because they're in the public eye, people assume that they're good and decent people. We can't be too quick to roll out the red carpet just because you turn on the t.v. and you go 'That's a role model. I want him to speak at my graduation.' Now come on. Find out who they

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