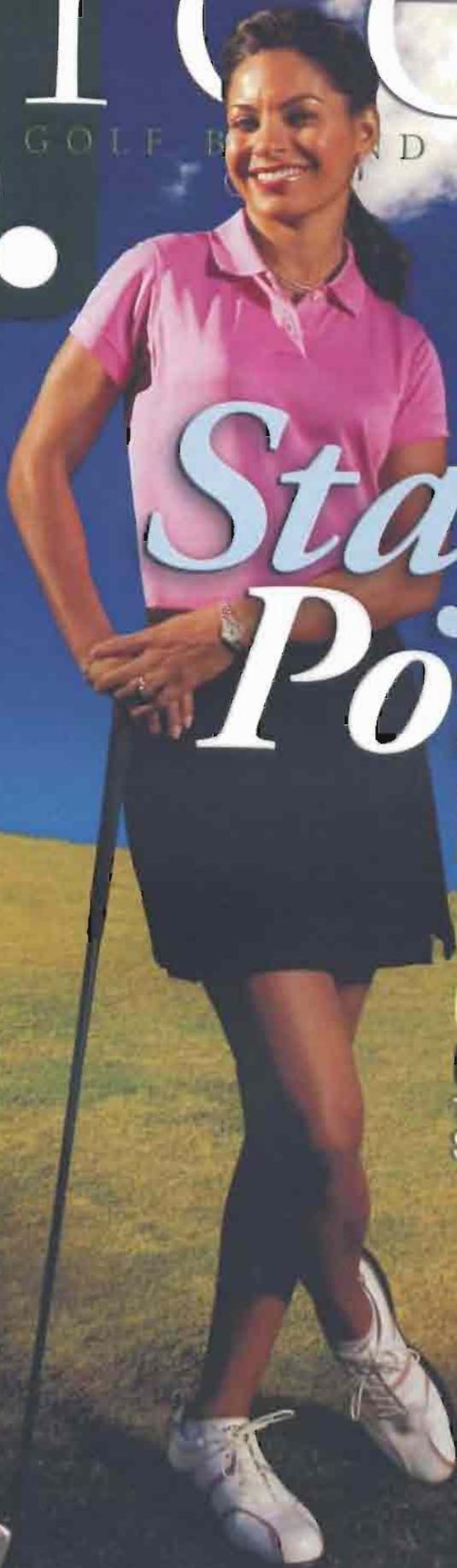


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the green

GOLF BEYOND THE LINKS



SENSATIONAL
STYLES FOR THE
SPRING
SEASON

GREAT
ESCAPES
BARCELONA | SAN DIEGO

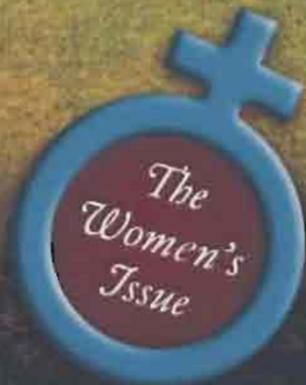
BLACK STAR
RISING
50

YEARS AFTER GHANA'S
COLONIAL EMANCIPATION

Staying Power

SALLI RICHARDSON'S
BALANCING ACT

GRAPES
ON THE CAPE
THE AROMATIC HARVEST OF
SOUTH AFRICA'S VINEYARDS



COVER STORY

50 Straight Talk From Tinsel Town

Despite her successes, Richardson, like almost every African-American trying to make it in Hollywood, is frustrated by the dearth of quality roles and opportunities for Blacks, particularly Black women. "Once more of us are creating projects then more prime roles will go to actors of color. Simple as that. Hopefully, people in Hollywood will notice how well a show is doing, how well it is being perceived by viewers and others in the industry. That will allow more of us to write great things and not just minstrel shows."

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RICHARDSON



STRAIGHT
TALK
FROM
TOWN

TALK TINSEL

By Roy S. Johnson

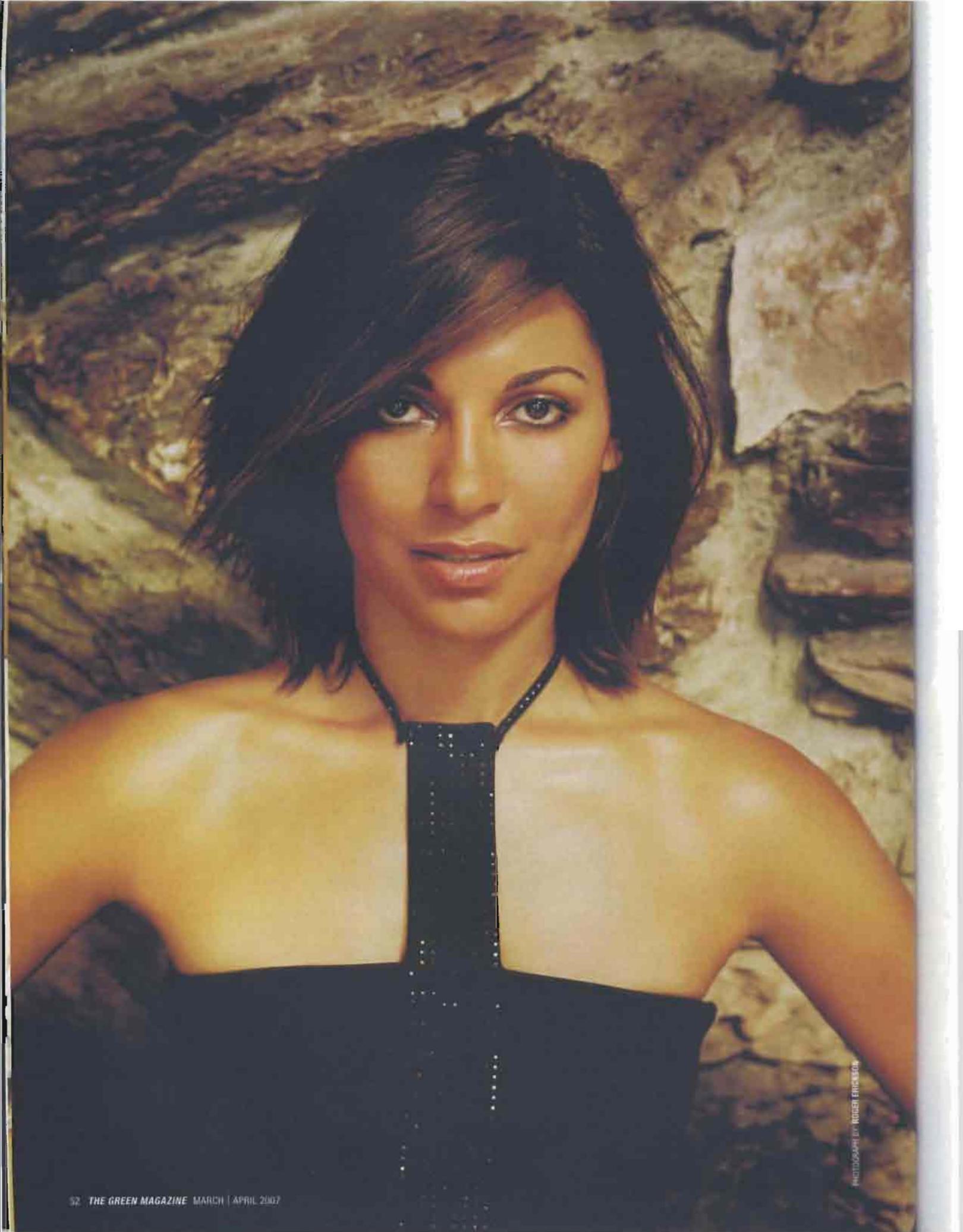
A CTRESS

SALLI RICHARDSON is one of

the hardest working women in Hollywood. Right now, however, her task has nothing to do with a film or television project. "Sweetie, can you give mommy just a few minutes?" she is saying at the other end of the telephone line, where two-year-old Parker Richardson Whitfield is being every bit a two-year-old. Silence ensues and Richardson takes a deep breath of motherly satisfaction. "Yes," she says, "she is playing the role to the fullest." Little wonder, considering her pedigree.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROGER ERICKSON





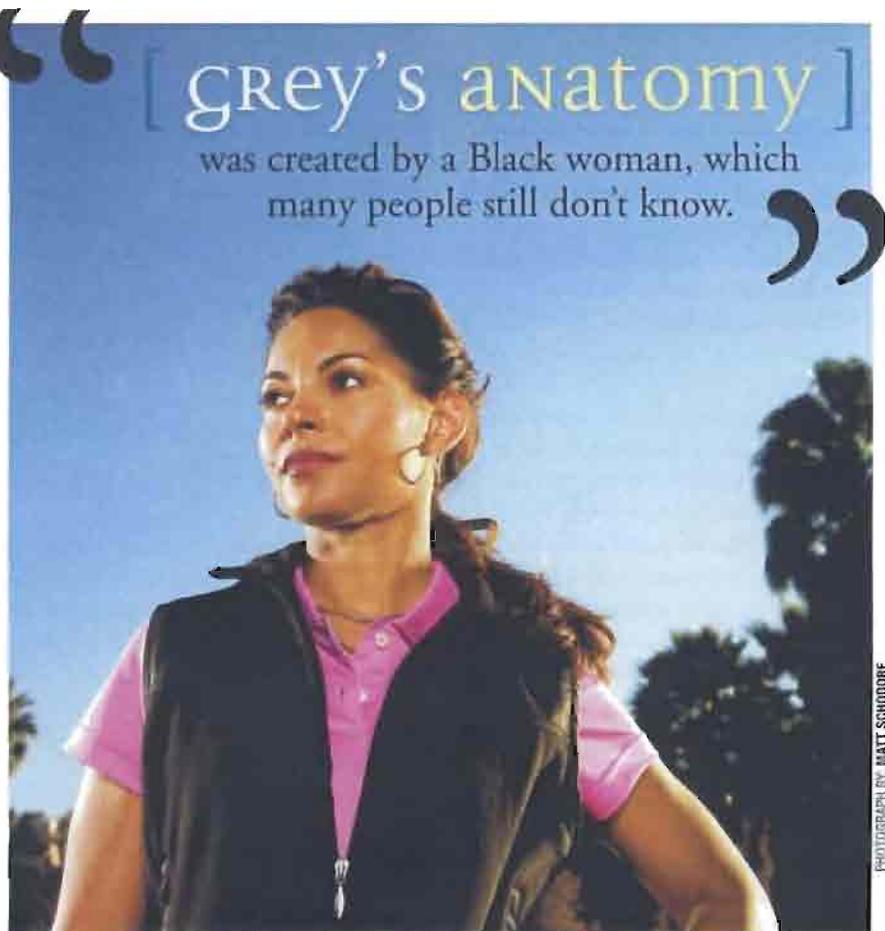
PHOTOGRAPH BY ROGER ENRICKSON

Since a 1991 film debut ("Up Against the Wall"), Richardson has appeared in numerous films (including "Posse," "A Low Down Dirty Shame," "Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid," "The Antwone Fisher Story" and "Biker Boyz") and television shows ("CSI: Miami," "New York Undercover," "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," "Family Law," "NYPD Blue," "Silk Stalkings," and others). Her husband is actor Dondre Whitfield, whose credits include "Ghost Whisperer," "Girlfriends," "Secret Agent Man" and even a few episodes of "The Cosby Show." Currently, Richardson plays Department of Defense agent Allison Blake in the Sci-Fi network series "Eureka," which was renewed for a second season. In 2007, she'll co-star with megastar Will Smith in "I Am Legend," a re-make of Charlton Heston's sci-fi thriller "Omega Man."

Despite her successes, Richardson, like almost every African-American trying to make it in Hollywood, is frustrated by the dearth of quality roles and opportunities for Blacks, particularly Black women. That's why Richardson and her husband are leveraging their visibility and relationships in the industry to diversify their endeavors. Richardson is launching an acne treatment skin-care line this year designed for people of color. Whitfield co-founded (along with baseball star Kenny Lofton and actor Brett Elde) a production and post-production company.

Richardson and Whitfield have been married since September 2002, after being a much-talked-about Hollywood couple for many years. Whitfield, 37, was a golfer when the two began dating, but Richardson didn't pick up the sport until she accepted an invitation to a celebrity golf event in Jamaica. She's been hooked on the sport ever since. Her game has taken her from the courses near her home in Encino, California to others throughout the world.

ON THE DAY WE SPOKE, Richardson had just arrived in her Chicago hometown to celebrate Christmas with her family. She's a former high-school tennis player and has fond memories of beginning her acting career at the Kuumba Workshop in the so-called Second City. Richardson and her three siblings—all brothers—are an ethnic menagerie. Her mother, Marcia Harris, is African American and Cherokee, while her father, Duell Richardson, is of Irish and Italian descent. Despite the mixture, Richardson says she was never confused about who she is. "To me," she says. "I was a Black woman and that was how I felt comfortable."



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT SCHODORF

RJ The list of your television and film projects is quite long.

SR Honestly, I think that's what I'm proudest of. A lot of people may do huge projects and then not work for a year. The [trick] of the game is just to keep building your resume and doing different things. And I'm happy about being able to do that. At times, I do get frustrated about the lack of major, quality projects for Black actors but I do work.

Sometimes I feel like if my husband and I were white in this business, with some of the projects we've done, we would be huge. But African Americans only get two or three [of their number] that can get to the top. That's frustrating. I've actually been lucky because a lot of the roles I get, especially the television projects, have been written for white women. Because of my reputation for doing good work in the industry, I am called in for those kinds of roles now. Producers will say, 'Sure, we'll see Salli.' When it came down to the end of the casting for the role in my current series I was the only Black actress they saw, and I happened to get the job. The producers never made any mention of the color of the character. They just liked me for the job.

RJ Recent years have seen a slight change in casting in Hollywood—emphasis on slight—especially in films. More often on television, you'll occasionally see a Black actor or actress portraying a character that is, for all intent, race neutral. Is that a real change worth noting?

SR It's a change for me. But I would never say that it's gotten that much better for Black actresses. It's still really hard out here for actors of color. Really hard. For a lot people I work with who are great actors, work is sparse right now.

RJ One multi-ethnic hit that has gained a lot of attention and accolades is "Grey's Anatomy." How does its success impact the prospects for actresses of color, if at all?

SR It was created by a Black woman [Shonda Rhimes], which many people still don't know. That's the real change, the one that could be most vital and potentially the most impactful. When more of us are creating projects, then more prime roles will go to

actors of color. Simple as that. Hopefully people in Hollywood will notice how well a show is doing and how well it is being perceived by viewers and others in the industry. That will allow more of us to write great things and not just minstrel shows.

RJ

How did working with Will Smith come about?

SR

There was another project we were trying to do together, but it did not work out at the time. He's been looking out for me. I have no idea why but I really appreciate it. He finally found a job that worked for my schedule, and it turned out to be a \$150 million film. I did have to go in and audition, but I feel like Will had my back on it. It is sometimes about whom you know. Knowing someone will only get you in the door, but it will not get you the job. When they call you in to audition, especially when you're called in because they know you, you have to go in and deliver. You have to be fabulous. Knowing people will only come into play for your benefit if you're fabulous. Take nothing for granted and leave it all out there, no matter how much you've done before.

RJ

There seem to be a few Black and Latino actors and actresses who are leveraging their on-screen success into other areas of the business. They're becoming producers, directors and taking on other roles behind the camera.

SR

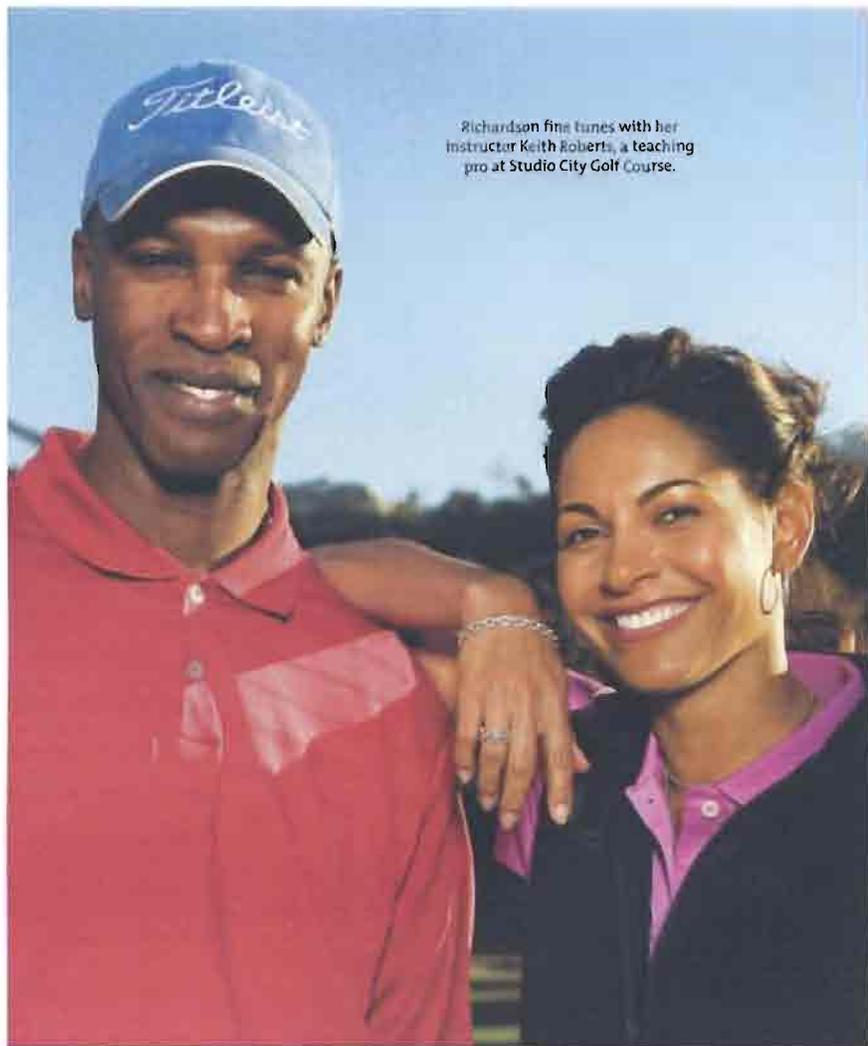
There are a few people like Will who are doing it. It's the only way to get quality projects done. Huge mega stars start producing and making things themselves. Will and [his wife] Jada are trying to get pilots done and shows on the air. That is where the real money is.

RJ

You and Dondre have ventures going as well.

SR

Dondre has a post-production company called FilmPool. It does everything a film needs after the shoot—editing, color translation, et cetera. He's also producing some reality films, which are very popular and can make a lot of money. He'll produce, shoot and edit the films then sell them directly to the film distributors. As for myself, two girlfriends



Richardson fine tunes with her instructor Keith Roberts, a teaching pro at Studio City Golf Course.

PHOTOGRAPH BY: MATT SCHROEDER

and I have partnered to produce a beauty care line. We've been working on the idea for years. It's the first line for problem skin, like acne, but produced strictly for people of color, and it will launch in 2007. Now, it's not just the girls who are worried about their skin. African-American and Latino boys want to be pretty and perfect, too. But most don't even know how to start taking care of their skin. We'll market it with infomercials, just like a lot of other skin-care products, and it'll be available by Internet at savibeauty.com. Our next line will be an anti-aging cream for people of color. My girlfriend came to me with the opportunity, and I thought about it for a long time. It's hard to do unless you have people willing to back you. I'm really excited about it.

RJ

How long have you been playing golf and how did you pick up the game?

SR

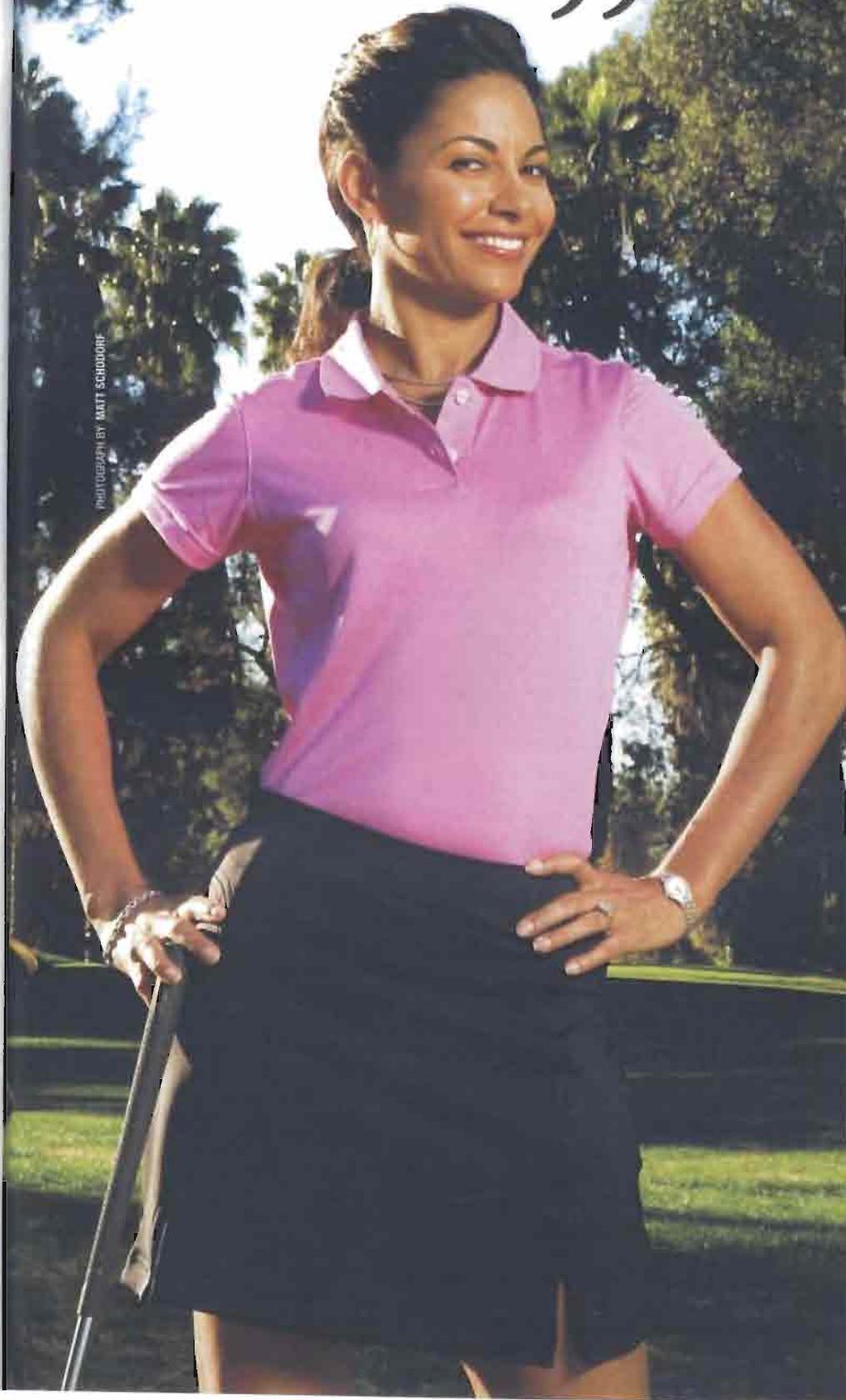
I've been playing for 10 years now. It all began when an organizer of a celebrity tournament

in Jamaica asked me if I played golf. I was [already] an athlete, so I said, 'Yeah, sure.' I'd never been to Jamaica. When I got there and saw how serious folk were, I asked, 'Do I really have to play?' They were like, 'Uh, yeah. That's why we paid for you to come down here.' So I took a lesson that day and on the following day played nine holes. Amazingly, I won the women's low-net competition. I had a lot of help from my caddie, an old Jamaican who worked with me while we were playing. It was like having a second lesson. I had just started dating Dondre at the time, who was already a big golfer and excited about me playing. Soon after that trip I got my first set of clubs and it was on.

I didn't play for a long time after I had my daughter, but I've been back for about seven months now. Before I started again, I went back to my instructor so I wouldn't be doing weird stuff with my swing. Dondre and I went to Hawaii recently and played every day. That tested my nerves. I was all over the place—mostly because I missed so much time playing. My swing suddenly disappeared, and in Hawaii, you lose balls in the ocean.

“ My instructor
thinks I should be able to get
[**my HANDICAP**]
into single-digits, if I
keep working hard—and
stop thinking. ”

PHOTOGRAPH BY MITT SCHRODNER



I hit the lava stone with one shot and I was done. But I'm hooked. Love the game. I shoot in the high 80s- low 90s. One day in Hawaii I shot 90, but primarily because on the last two holes, I got completely ridiculous. I hadn't had a double-bogey all day. So I was thinking, 'Well, if I shoot par, bogey, bogey going in, I'll shoot 85.' Suddenly I got a double, then a triple. It was just so crazy. My instructor thinks I should be able to get [my handicap] into single-digits, if I keep working hard—and stop thinking.

GOLF WILL TELL YOU WHAT KIND of person you are. I always record my real score, not a score after taking mulligans all over the course. I have to be honest. When I get an eight, I take an eight. When you cheat you're only cheating yourself. I can't play with people who cheat.

RJ

What impact has Parker had upon your life? Has it made you re-think your career aspirations?

SR

Dondre and I have always wanted children. She's made us start hustling and doing other things outside of simply acting. Now, it's not just about us getting new stuff, it's about leaving a legacy for our child. Everything's about her. I used to get a break at work and take a nap. We have long days and I did everything I could to keep my energy right. Now, I jump in the car and run home for two hours in order to spend time with her. No nap time for mommy. I have to learn how to do both—be a great actress and a great mommy. It's hard to juggle, hard for actors because we're sometimes working 16-hour days. Right now I'm one of the leads of ["Eureka,"] and trying to juggle both is draining. You have to find all the time needed to be a good mom. There's nothing more important than her. After she was born, I was home with her every day and took her everywhere I went. She got a good base and is now very secure. When I leave she knows I'm coming [back] home.

RJ

Has having a child helped you focus on some of your charitable efforts?

SR

Absolutely. It's something I want to do more of, and it'll likely be in the area of fighting sickle cell, one of the most widespread diseases among Blacks. My best friend's daughter has it,

so I've seen how painfully it can affect a child. Sabah is 11. We've been filming her life as a sickle cell child so we can document what she has to go through. When things are good, she's perfectly fine but when they're not your heart sinks. I'm not sure yet what we're going to do with the footage, but when I do launch my foundation, I know her story will be invaluable in persuading people to give.

01

What's next?

02

I play it by ear and take it as it comes. I'll do films I'm interested in; that's the plan. I'd love the opportunity to do a Broadway play, especially in a role that allows me to shape it as an actress. In film, not a lot of it is in your control. I don't care what others tell you; it ain't your choice. You don't get to pick and choose and say, "Himm, I think I want to do this kind of movie this year." Not happening. Not for us. Or at least not for all except a very, very few. And that's a shame because there are too many great stories left to tell and many talented Black actors and actresses eager and able to tell them. ♡

PHOTOGRAPH BY: MATT SCHROEDER



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT SCHROEDER

