NEWYORKPOST

25 CENTS

LATE CITY FINAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008 / Snow and rain at times in the afternoon, 41 / Weather: Page 28 ★★ www.nypost.com

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Mho's afraid of Tom

Brady now?

Girlie man limps home

SEE PAGES 4-5



Tuesdays: Complete list of tryouts for reality shows in our area

Wednesdays: Get the latest "American Idol" chatter

Thursdays: Gunn play from "Project Runway" on the recap blog

'Hustle' and flow

Real con-artists unleashed on NY

LINDA STASI TV Critic



"The Real Hustle" Tonight at 10 & 10:30 on TruTV * * 1/2

XPOSING the hustle while working the hustle isn't exactly a new concept to reality TV, but "The Real Hustle," TruTV's new show, is still an en-tertaining way to spend a half hour - and you might actually learn a thing or two.

The concept of the show is that three good-looking Gen Xers, who are experts (well sort of) at pulling off cons, pull off cons and scams on average Joes to show how easy it is for any of us to get our identities stolen. Although TruTV is supposed to be totally different from its old name, Court TV, this show isn't all that different from an old Court TV show, "The Takedown."

The team consists of Apollo Robbins, a pickpocket expert/ personal security authority, Ryan Oakes, a sleight-of-hand and psy-chology "specialist," and Dani Marco, an actress. While Dani has never stolen anyone's identity or picked a pocket before being hired for the show, Apollo comes to the gig honestly - or dishonestly. His dad is a minister but his two brothers were pickpockets.

Ryan is a University of Pennsylvania grad in psychology and has been a magician since he was 10

Tonight's premiere (there are two episodes) open with an ATM scam that is truly horrifying.

Apollo slips a fake slot-inserter thing, which contains a micro camera over the real slot-inserter thing on a free-standing ATM which enables the cons to read anyone's information.

In the second ATM card theft, Apollo sits at an outside café right next to the ATM machine. He quickly spots which card a customer is using while Dani, using crutches, falls next to the machine causing the "mark" to reach down to help. Then he switches his matching Citi card with the mark's and cleans out her account as soon as she leaves.

In another, Dani, posing as a waitress, places a hidden creditcard scanner on various parts of her clothing (boot, apron, back pocket) and secretly scans cus-tomers' cards right in front of them. This, of course, adds to the tension, but it raises the question of why she'd bother scanning the cards in front of the customers at the table. After all, the server always takes the credit card and brings it inside, anyway. It makes no sense.

The one that lost me, though, is the one in which Apollo and Ryan pose as maintenance men at an upscale NYC hotel and go into a guest's room, where hidden cam-eras have been placed, and pro-ceed to rob her blind. Of course



they give everything back, but meanwhile, the woman has been in, what she thinks, is the privacy of a hotel room but has, in fact, been watched and recorded by a hidden camera. Hello? I'd be on the phone with the cops —first to

report a robbery and then to have the hotel manager and the producers of the show arrested for invasion of privacy. I mean, it is a hotel room — not a public place. People have been indicted for

Avoid the scams by knowing them

THE Real Hustle" aims to let you in on some of the nastiest scams around - most of which are tied in some manner to identity theft.

Among the top scams exposed:

- A fellow in an outdoor café gives his credit card to someone he believes to be a waiter. Then the real waiter comes along to collect the bill. D'oh!
- A women staying at a hotel allows "maintenance workers" into her room, some distract her, while other steal her valuables.
- A waitress keeps a credit card scanner hidden under her dress, strapped to her leg. When her customers pay with plastic, she swipes their account numbers.
- Fake security guards steal jewelry in broad daylight, right out from under jewelry store employees, by confiscating the merchandise as "evidence."
- Fake ATMs are rigged to steal cash-card info and pass it on to thieves.

— Don Kaplan

Talk Show GUESTS

TODAY

JAN ADAMS — Larry King Live, 12:00 MID, (CNN) 437781

CLAY AIKEN — The View, 11:00 A.M., CH. 7 55938

JULIE BENZ — The View, 11:00 A.M., CH. 7 55938

DIABLO CODY — Late Show With David Letterman, 11:35 P.M., CH. 2 9206551

JOHN EDWARDS - Late Show With David Let-terion, 11:35 P.M. CH. 2926551

SELENA GOMEZ — Ellen DeGeneres Show 11:00 A.M., CH. 4 62880

MICHAEL KORS - Regis and Kelly, 9:00 A.M.,

RICKI LAKE — Rachael Ray, 10:00 A.M., CH. 7 35174

KELLIE PICKLER — Ellen DeGeneres Show, 11:00 A.M., CH. 4 62880

CATHERINE OWENS - Tavis Smiley, 12:00 MID,

RINGO STARR — Regis and Kelly, 9:00 A.M., CH. 7 94984

JARED WEISS - Tyra Banks, 5:00 P.M., CH. 9

CHRISTINE KING FARRIS — Tavis Smiley, 1:00 P.M., CH. 13 12342

JULIE BENZ — The View, 11:00 A.M., CH. 7 79149 DOUGLAS FRANTZ — Tavis Smiley, 12:00 MID, CH. 13 76101

CARL BERNSTEIN — Tavis Smiley, 12:00 MID, CH. 13 98908

TOM BROKAW — The View, 11:00 A.M., CH. 7 79149

TED DANSON - Rachael Ray, 10:00 A.M., CH. 7

WILLIAM DOYLE — Montel Williams, 10:00 A.M., CH. 5 64217

EMME - Montel Williams, 10:00 A.M., CH. 5

DOUGLAS FRANTZ — Tavis Smiley, 1:00 P.M., CH. 13 18101

SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR — Regis and Kelly, 9:00 A.M., CH. 7 16781

DAVID GROTTO — Montel Williams, 10:00 A.M., CH. 5 64217

BRET MICHAELS — Regis and Kelly, 9:00 A.M., CH. 7 16781

BRIGITTE NIELSEN - Tyra Banks, 12:00 NOON, CH. 9 48217

CATHERINE OWENS - Tavis Smiley, 1:00 P.M., CH. 13 18101

DR. DREW PINSKY - Tyra Banks, 12:00 NOON,

CH. 9 48217

ERIKA SCHWARTZ A.M., CH. 5 64217 Montel Williams, 10:00

JEFFREY TAMBOR - Tavis Smiley, 12:00 MID

from his dream in the sur-

Shows they're Glaad about

HE biggest gay organization in the country loves "Ugly Betty" and "Desperate and Housewives."

The two dramas were among several yesterday that snagged nominations for this year's GLAAD Media Awards.

Special prizes will go to "My So Called Life" actor Wilson Cruz, MTV entertainment boss Brian Graden, and the creator of

"The L Word," Ilene Chaiken.

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