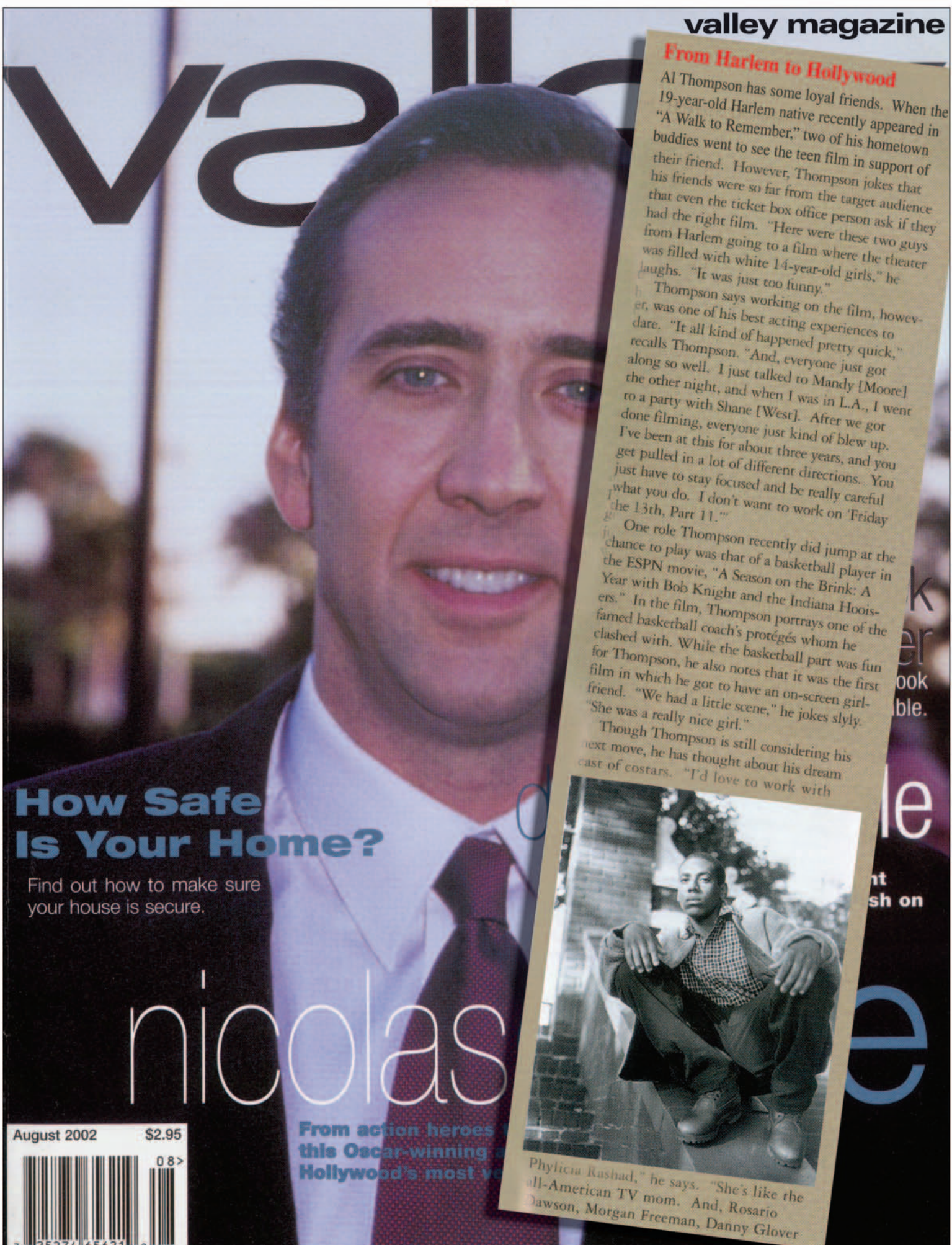


valley



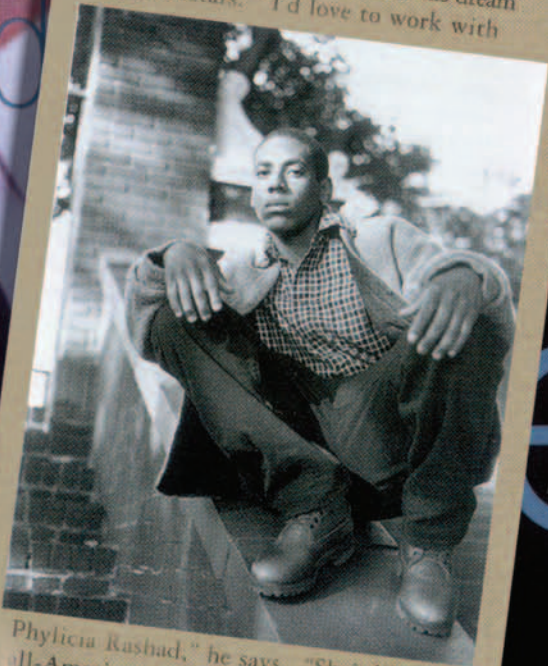
From Harlem to Hollywood

Al Thompson has some loyal friends. When the 19-year-old Harlem native recently appeared in "A Walk to Remember," two of his hometown buddies went to see the teen film in support of their friend. However, Thompson jokes that his friends were so far from the target audience that even the ticket box office person ask if they had the right film. "Here were these two guys from Harlem going to a film where the theater was filled with white 14-year-old girls," he laughs. "It was just too funny."

Thompson says working on the film, however, was one of his best acting experiences to date. "It all kind of happened pretty quick," recalls Thompson. "And, everyone just got along so well. I just talked to Mandy [Moore] the other night, and when I was in L.A., I went to a party with Shane [West]. After we got done filming, everyone just kind of blew up. I've been at this for about three years, and you get pulled in a lot of different directions. You just have to stay focused and be really careful what you do. I don't want to work on 'Friday the 13th, Part 11.'"

One role Thompson recently did jump at the chance to play was that of a basketball player in the ESPN movie, "A Season on the Brink: A Year with Bob Knight and the Indiana Hoosiers." In the film, Thompson portrays one of the famed basketball coach's protégés whom he clashed with. While the basketball part was fun for Thompson, he also notes that it was the first film in which he got to have an on-screen girlfriend. "We had a little scene," he jokes slyly. "She was a really nice girl."

Though Thompson is still considering his next move, he has thought about his dream cast of costars. "I'd love to work with



Phylicia Rashad," he says. "She's like the all-American TV mom. And, Rosario Dawson, Morgan Freeman, Danny Glover

How Safe Is Your Home?

Find out how to make sure your house is secure.

nicolas

From action heroes to this Oscar-winning Hollywood's most ve

August 2002 \$2.95
08>
7 25274 65621 9