

Hot List

10 shows with buzz



starring
Rick Gonzalez,
Missy Peregrym,
Tyler Labine,
Bret Harrison,
Ray Wise (pictured),
Valarie Rae Miller
*Premieres Tuesday,
9/25, 9/8c, The CW*

8 Imagine turning 21, only to learn that the drinking you'll be doing will come from the Devil's cup. That's the premise of CW's *Reaper*. The charmingly offbeat new comedy follows Sam (Bret Harrison), a slacker whose milestone celebration is interrupted by the discovery that his par-

ents sold his soul to Satan (Ray Wise) before he was born. El Diablo makes Sam an offer he literally can't refuse: work as Satan's own personal bounty hunter, capturing Hell's escapees and sending them back home. Helping Sam with the dirty job is Sock (Tyler Labine), his wisecracking best bud and coworker

at a Home Depot-esque megastore. We sat down with the Devil and his protégé to talk about their unlikely bond, the allure of the dark side and birthday cuddles.

Let's start with the obvious: Why would the Devil choose a slacker like Sam to be his bounty hunter?

Bret Harrison: Maybe the Devil thinks, "Well, this guy doesn't have anything better to do, so why not?" [Laughs] And I might be an experiment of sorts.

Ray Wise: He's my Eliza Doolittle. It's fun to shape and mold him and see what happens. And Sam and his friends are a trip to watch. I think the Devil is

amused by these strange little monkeys called "human beings."
Are you anything like your characters?

Harrison: If there's anything I relate to most, it's Sam's friendship with Sock. You know the friends you have where everybody's like, "Why are you still friends with *that* guy?" I'm loyal.

I'm always like, "He's a good guy. There's a good heart there."

Wise: Am I anything like the Devil? [Smiles] I don't really have an answer, except when I walked into the audition, everybody said, "*That's* the Devil!"

Maybe they'd seen you on *Twin Peaks*?

Wise: That may have influ-

enced them. Leland Palmer delved into the dark side. Now *this* is the king of all dark sides.

Harrison: In Ray's career, he makes his way up the evil ladder one job after another. He's now at the top.

The Devil seems to want to help Sam out, or is that all part of his evil master plan?

Wise: Oh, I think there's almost a father-son relationship there.

Harrison: I think the Devil's marinating me, getting me ready, 'cause sooner or later, he's gonna throw me in the deep end.

Wise: And we haven't really explored yet the magnitude of the Devil's anger.

Harrison: Which you're dying to do. [Laughs]

What are you enjoying most about working together?

Harrison: Ray's done so many movies over the years, and not a lot of people have a career that sustains as long as that.

Wise: I have shoes older than this guy, but Bret's very cool. He's a joy.

Sam got a helluva bad 21st-birthday present. What was your worst?

Harrison: When I was a kid, my favorite animal was a pink flamingo. My dad means well, but he *still* gets me pink flamingos. This year, he got me this little pink flamingo night-light.

Wise: I've had a lot of birthdays, so it's hard to recall the worst. But my best are always those that come with hugs, kisses and somebody saying they love me.

Harrison: Ray, we're gonna cuddle on your birthday. And it's gonna be good.
—*Shawna Malcom*