

THE BARBECUE...

Award-winning KTLA entertainment journalist Sam Rubin is an institution for many Southern Californians who've come to rely on his insightful broadcast coverage of Hollywood. But the millions who have seen his witty delivery and in-depth coverage on TV might not know just how much grit – that's right, grit – makes up the full Sam Rubin package.



With Mel Gibson set to make a big return to the screen on May 7 in *Edge of Darkness*, it was Rubin who pushed Gibson to explain how he felt about being disliked by some for his drunken slurs aimed at a Jewish cop in 2006 as he was being arrested on a DUI. The sometimes-charming, sometimes-biting Rubin wanted an answer from the mega-millionaire actor and director of *The Passion of the Christ* – and neither side backed down.

The surprisingly tense exchange unfolded like this:

Rubin: "Some people will welcome you back, some will say you should never come back."

Gibson: "Why?"

Rubin: "Because of what happened before."

Gibson: "What happened before?"

Rubin: "The remarks that were attributed to you."

Gibson: "The remarks that were attributed to me that I didn't necessarily make!"

Rubin's interview went big on the Internet, just another reminder that this film industry expert, experienced reporter, and frequent awards-show host not only has access to top Hollywood talent and studio executives, but doesn't play the role of best pal when hard questions are needed.

And let's be honest, who didn't want to cheer a few months ago when Rubin, his eyes glittering with mischief and irritation, and his wildly expressive eyebrows raised, looked into the camera and called provocateur blogger Perez Hilton a "talentless dope"?

While a lot of entertainment broadcasters toil in obscurity in towns like Portland and Boston, Rubin caught the eye of Hollywood early on from his perch in Los Angeles. He's been tapped nearly 30 times to play "himself" as the IMDb describes it in his definitive bio, starting with a cameo in Wes Craven's *New Nightmare* in 1994 and more recently as a KTLA reporter in *Fantastic Four* in 2005.

He looks great in a tux, and the ladies love this blue-eyed, cherub-faced father of two daughters who donates time to help the cause of multiple sclerosis. His good-guy persona and his encyclopedic knowledge of the TV and film industries are probably what make him such a natural

choice as host of the *Critics Choice Awards Red Carpet Premiere* and of the nationally syndicated *Live From The Academy Awards* for Tribune Entertainment.

But it's his hard work that has really paid off, earning him a Golden Mike Award for Best Entertainment Reporter from the Radio & Television News Association and, as part of the *KTLA Morning News* team, an Associated Press Television-Radio Award for Best News Broadcast.

At the National Entertainment Journalism Awards on April 22, the Los Angeles Press Club is delighted to add to his stack of achievements our own special recognition of his enviable, and well-earned, career.



JESSICA HOLMES

Sam Rubin roaster Jessica Holmes is an anchor for *KTLA Morning News at 9*, and reports traffic and news from KTLA HD Telecopter on various occasions.

Holmes joined KTLA/CW in November 2005 as weathercaster for the station's "*rime News*," after winning *The Audition* —a reality show-like competition held during *Morning News*.

Holmes began her television career in 1999. She interned at Nickelodeon and began co-hosting the award-winning *Slimetime Live*, six months later.

In 2003, she hosted the Outdoor Life Network's *Bragging Rights*, a reality game show series where male contestants competed in outdoor sports challenges.



STEPHEN MAZUR

Ruben roaster Stephen Mazur is a screenwriter and WGA member who, as an instructor with UCLA Extension in 2005, won the Outstanding Instructor Award in Screenwriting.

Collaborating with Paul Guay, Mazur has co-written feature films *Liar, Liar*, starring Jim Carrey, *The Little Rascals* and *Heartbreakers*. He also wrote the teleplays, *The Crooked E: The Unshredded Truth*

about Enron for CBS and *Wedding Wars* with John Stamos and Eric Dane for A&E.

Mazur uses a favorite film, *Big*, as an example to his writing class. "My goal is to help each student develop a story that is not only funny, but is also real, heartfelt, and emotional."