

MEMORABLE MOMENTS
Dixie Chick Natalie Maines was just one of 2003's Pop Scene newsmakers. George Varga looks back, as does Anne Marie Welsh in Theater Scene / **F2, F4**



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THE SAN DIEGO
UNION-TRIBUNE

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"Well, my mom gave me this idea — when someone says a bad word they have to give me 50 cents but if it's the f-word, then it's \$1," says Jenna, who is just as plucky offscreen. "(Director) Ron Howard gave me \$20 from the beginning so that it would pay for all that he might do later. But he had a little change left — around \$6, I think."

Jenna raked in \$200 although Tommy Lee Jones "really didn't like the whole thing" and she had to corner Aaron Eckhart at the movie's premiere to pay his overdue \$8 swearing bill. "I had to charge him interest," she grins.

But enough shoptalk. Jenna, who is also a medal-winning amateur figure skater and student council president at her public school, has brought along a 10-year-old friend, Isabel "Izzy" Navarro, who lives in her same apartment complex in the San Fernando Valley. They want to discuss their "spy club."

"My dad gave us 'The Case of the Dusty Car,'" says Jenna, her hazel eyes opened wide and her long blond hair braided in pigtails. She turns secret-agent serious. A dirty vehicle was parked in their building's underground garage, and "we were trying to figure out how long it was there and who it belonged to. But then we went down to investigate one day and the car was gone."

"Someone drove away with our case!" Izzy exclaims.

Jenna, who is casually dressed in a black T-shirt and camouflage-print pants and sits away from mom Debbie for the interview (dad Mike is a Delta Airlines pilot) seems amazingly unaffected for a child actor whose face is plastered on billboards and print ads with Academy Award winner Jones and Oscar nominee Blanchett. And "The Missing" is her third movie released this year: she was also in "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star" with David Spade and "The Hunted" with Jones.

Some film reviewers called her a scene-

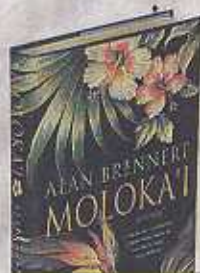
SEE Boyd, F8



Jenna Boyd, the scrappy 10-year-old in "The Missing," is a kid who loves Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, Tara Lipinski and American Girl Dolls. Carol Kwon / Copley News Service

Throw the book at 'em

More authors are finding publicists to pitch their wares



By Arthur Salm, BOOKS EDITOR

Alan Brennert should have been flying high. An Emmy Award-winning screenwriter for "L.A. Law," he also wrote episodes of "China Beach" and the 1980s "Twilight Zone." His first novel, "Molokai," had just been published, and he had interviews and appearances lined up around the country.

But just a few days earlier, in his first TV interview for the book, he more or less melted down. So, on a bright day in mid-October he walked into a small office just off Melrose in Los Angeles, the HQ of literary publicist Kim Dower, aka Kim from L.A. In a small, quavering voice, which sounded only half put-on, Brennert squeaked, "Help me." He had come to the right place. Kim can help him.

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Actually, Brennert is one of the lucky ones: "Molokai" is getting support from his publisher, St. Martin's Press, and attention from the media. A more typical author story goes like this:



Book publicist Kim Dower coaches author Alan Brennert on how best to get his message across.

Years of work. Then rejection, rejection, rejection — until, finally, acceptance: A literary agent agrees to take on the book. After an agonizing wait, punctuated by still more rejection, comes the phone call the writer has been waiting for since about age 11.

His book has been sold. It will be published. He will be An Author,

forever shorn of that nagging modifier "Aspiring."

The no-longer-aspiring author spends the following months doing exciting, authorlike stuff such as proofreading galleys, fantasizing about Oprah appearances, e-mailing an update to his high school

SEE Publicists, F7