

## ● REALLY BIG SHOW

# Sex and the City

## Miranda and the M.D.



Some viewers are rooting for Steve, but Miranda (Cynthia Nixon) only has eyes for Robert Leeds (Blair Underwood). HBO

By Michael Giltz

AS "Sex and the City" approaches its series finale, HBO is going all out and bringing on superstar boyfriends for the series' lovably naughty New Yorkers. With Mikhail Baryshnikov still on the horizon to dance Carrie (Sarah Jessica Parker) into the sunset, viewers can look forward this week to seeing David Duchovny as Carrie's high school sweetheart and Blair Underwood as Robert Leeds, a suave sports doctor who woos Miranda (Cynthia Nixon).

But doesn't Miranda already have sweet, schlubby Steve (David Eigenberg) waiting in the wings? After all, they do have a son, the carrot-topped Brady. "I know Steve has his fans and his detractors," says Nixon, with a laugh. "But I think Blair Underwood is a very welcome addition."

Her nanny may be disapproving (she's on Steve's side), but the handsome doctor is certainly a positive change of pace for Miranda, who's endured what is arguably the most outrageous collection of bad dates in television history (the man from *Weight Watchers* who wanted to kiss her after oral sex took the cake).

For Underwood, a four-episode stint on

"Sex and the City" is the latest sign that an actor best remembered for the 80s hit "L.A. Law" is back in the spotlight, even if his job is confusing sometimes to his kids.

"My kids haven't seen a lot of what daddy does. And they won't be watching 'Sex and the City,' believe me," says Underwood, who is married and has three children, the eldest of which is six years old. "They came down to the set the other day. I told them, 'This is Cynthia and she's playing daddy's girlfriend.' They just thought that was the silliest, funniest, wildest thing."

"Then when they saw the picture in *The Post* [of Underwood and Nixon in a romantic pose], they said, 'Is that your girlfriend?' I said, 'No. Mommy is daddy's girlfriend.' They said, 'No, Mommy's your wife!' I said, 'She's daddy's girlfriend, too. She better be.'"

For Nixon, finally getting a sexy romance — not to mention the two consecutive Emmy nominations she has received — is proof of how far the character has come.

"To me, the turning point was season two when Miranda bought her apartment," says Nixon, who has two children of her own and is in a 15-year relationship. "She had to deal with the idea that

I'm a single woman and I'm buying an apartment by myself. Does this mean I'm going to live alone all my life? Am I going to die alone like the woman who lived in the apartment before me and they didn't find her for days? She had a panic attack about the enormity of this, of taking a big life step alone."

Nixon never had her own panic attacks about acting. She had an early break with 1980's "Little Darlings," the saucy movie starring Tatum O'Neal (another recent "SATC" guest) that showed teenage girls thought about sex just as much as teenage boys. After that, she was primarily a stage actress, racking up prestigious credits such as "Hurlyburly," "The Real Thing," and "Angels in America."

Now Nixon is nearing the finish line for the biggest hit of her career. "It's awful," she says. "Nobody [on the show] really wants to think about it. We've had a good run and we're all very pleased that we're going out on a high note. At a certain point you want to move on, but it's [been] such a great job. I'm trying to be in denial but it is hard. One sees those episodes ticking off and one knows very well how many there are left."

**SEX AND THE CITY**  
Sunday, 9 p.m., HBO