

TV

Crews and costar Tyler James Williams on the set of their hit show.

## WE'RE FEELING... TERRY CREWS

As Julius on *Everybody Hates Chris*, Crews can pinch a penny. But in real life he's stacking chips. The star of this month's comical *Balls of Fury* breaks down his Hollywood hustle



**ESSENCE:** You've been married to your college sweetheart, Rebecca, for more than 17 years and have five kids. What did she say when you told her you wanted to act?

**Terry Crews:** While we were dating, she played in a production of *Dreamgirls* while I worked backstage, just singing all the songs...“faking my way to the top!” She knows I'm a honey-baked, slow-roasted ham, so she told me to go for it.

**ESSENCE:** Which of your characters is most like you? We're praying it's not the one from *White Chicks*.

**T.C.:** Julius is the closest to me, ever. I'm not that cheap, but I understand where he's coming from. When I was broke, we ate a lot of Hamburger Helper. My wife's ring was in and out of hock so much I built a relationship with the pawnbroker.

**ESSENCE:** You landed in Hollywood a decade ago, so you've got to have some outrageous stories. Do tell.

**T.C.:** Okay, okay, but I hope nobody gets offended. Last July I took the family to Eddie Murphy's house for a kid's party. By 7 o'clock it went from Disneyland to Freaknik, and we grabbed the kids out of the pool. I just hope he'll have me over again after this story runs!

—R.R.R.

