

# Contest delivers Hollywood ending for NHS grad

By BRIANA MATUSZKO

**NORTHAMPTON** — Mariah Swanson, a recent graduate of Northampton High School, enjoyed a weekend stay last month in Los Angeles, courtesy of a radio auction contest won by her mother.

Her mother, Megan O'Brien, won an all-expenses-paid trip to Los Angeles for the days of June 5-7 to see the premiere of "Batman Begins," starring Christian Bale and Katie Holmes. The contest was run by WTIC 96.5-FM in Hartford.

The trip for two was a graduation present for Swanson, 18. Her graduation party, planned for the day after

graduation, had to be postponed to accommodate the trip.

Swanson and her mother were flown out to The Four Seasons in Beverly Hills, where they stayed in a junior suite and were supplied with a chauffeured car to and from events.

They were privy to star treatments such as a spa day, as well as dinner at one of the restaurants in the hotel, where they saw actor Liam Neeson and

comedians Dave Chappelle and Chris Tucker. "I got so starstruck!" said Swanson, who comments that even during her short stay, she saw many celebrities.

The premiere took place June 6 at the famous Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood, known for its sidewalk of stars bearing the names of famous entertainers. It was an exciting night for the pair.

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— Mariah Swanson

They walked down the red carpet — not once but twice, because of confusing directions, Swanson said.

"Everyone was screaming, but when we walked out of the car. They were disappointed because we weren't anyone famous!" Swanson said.

Part of the package included passes to the after-opening party, where they both danced with Morgan Freeman and his family.

After reflecting on a short weekend, Swanson said of it: "This was an amazing treat to be able to get away with just my mom and to experience something so unexpected. I never thought we would take part in something like this."