

MAY 8, 2000

# People

weekly

## Michael Palin's Hemingway Adventure

PBS (Wed., May 3 and 10, 9 p.m. ET)

It would be a stretch to describe Michael Palin as Papa's spiritual son. In this four-hour travelogue tracing the steps of Ernest Hemingway, the Monty Python alumnus cheerfully proves he's no match for the macho writer at hunting, fishing, boxing, etc. But like Palin's witty 1995 novel *Hemingway's Chair*, the TV tour combines a genuine regard for the author's work and spirit with a healthy irreverence toward his legend. Add Palin's personal charm (evidenced in previous PBS travel specials like *Pole to Pole*) and you're in for a most enjoyable journey.

Among our stops on the Hemingway trail are the Oak Park, Ill., birthplace; the north Michigan woods; the homes in Key West and Cuba; the Paris and Venice haunts; the Green Hills of Africa; and the last retreat in Idaho. A few jokes fall flat and not every path has a payoff, but it's worth the trip to see Palin browse in an all-American gun shop, duck-hunt in vain with an Italian nobleman or hang out at Sloppy Joe's bar amid the annual insanity of the Papa look-alike contest. And a new tie-in book of the same title enhances the *Hemingway Adventure's* literary value. **Bottom Line:** Moveable feast



Michael Palin looks semi-Hemingway-esque among the Masai of Kenya.