

Actor will stand trial for allegedly stabbing ex-girlfriend

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Actor Shelley Malil, left, during a preliminary hearing in the Vista courtroom of San Diego County Superior Court to determine if he should stand trial for the attempted murder on August 10, 2008, of his former girlfriend, Kendra Beebe. Malil, who played the character Haziz in the movie "The 40 Year Old Virgin," is accused of stabbing Beebe 23-times. - Howard Lipin/San Diego Union-Tribune

VISTA – A Los Angeles actor will stand trial for allegedly stabbing his former girlfriend more than 20 times, a judge ruled at a preliminary hearing Wednesday.

Shelley Malil, 44, of Sherman Oaks, is charged with premeditated attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and residential burglary for the Aug. 10 attack at Kendra Beebe's San Marcos home.

Malil, best known for a supporting role as Haziz in the film, "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," faces a maximum sentence of life in prison with a possibility of parole if convicted. He remains in Vista jail on \$3 million bail.

Dr. Thomas Velky testified that Beebe suffered 23 stab wounds. One just missed an artery in her throat and another caused a lung to collapse, he said.

Musician David Maldonado testified he had arrived at Beebe's home about 8:30 p.m. About 15 minutes later, he said, Malil walked into Beebe's backyard and leaned in like he was hugging or kissing her.

“It was very immediate, and she started squirming and yelling for help,” Maldonado said.

Maldonado said he took a knife from Malil, cutting his own hand in the scuffle. He threw the knife over a fence, he said, and went inside to call 911. Maldonado didn't know the address, he said, so he drove a few blocks to tell the operator the street names.

A detective testified the knife used in the stabbing had a similar label to those found in Malil's kitchen. Prosecutors allege Malil obtained a second knife from Beebe's kitchen and continued the attack before neighbors Charlton Lee and Alexandra Baquero-Lee intervened on her front porch.

Baquero-Lee testified she heard Beebe scream, “He's trying to kill me.” She said her husband, Charlton Lee, asked Malil to put down the knife, and he did, and she went in the house to check on Beebe's two children.

Sandi Sharp, an investigator with the District Attorney's Office, testified that Beebe, who wasn't in court, reported that she had dated Malil on and off for about a year before the attack.

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