With 'Tainted,' local filmmaker is out for blood



ADAM MONAGANA Mention.

Like most processional video clerks, Scan Farley considered himself something of an expert on movies. He had written film reviews since high school and knew what he liked and what he didn't.

"Tainted" screens
8 p.m. and 10
p.m. Monday
May 18 at the
Star John R
Theatre on John
R near 14 Mile
Road in Madison Heights.
Call (248) 5852070 for information.

Then, last summer, Farley started kicking around the idea of making a movie with a fellow Suncoast Video employee. Loss than a year later, the 22-year-old filmmaker is premiering his debut feature, "Tainted." at the Star John R in Madison Heights. Farley prefers to call his \$40,000 movie a "dark comedy thriller," rather than a horror movie. In it, three video clerks, on their way to a movie in Southfield, encounter a coven of vampires.

Shot in 16 millimeter last Shot in 16 millimeter last Crimewave. Its yutan store specimener and October, the movie uses several familiate and later at Suncoast, hapired Detroit-area locales: hospitals, gas stations, private residences, along with Thomas Video in lim were inspired by real customers in our lim were inspired by real customers.

Clawson, and City Club in Detroit.

"Around here, people aren't as used to seoing a movie being shot, so they're a little more coperative, Farley said. It's a simple case of supply and demand. There are maybe three people at a time filming in betroit where there are 30,000 in LA. in New York.

Farley, who lives in Warren, began his movie career in 1985 at the age of eight, with a small part in the Sam Raimi-directed Crimowave." His video store jobs, first at Warren's Video zore jobs first at Warren's Video

billed third on the poster, he aid.
Part of Monday's \$5 ticke price will support the Hoenselan ALS Clinic at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Farley's father, Mike, died last year after a prolenged battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Scienceis, commonly known as Lou Gehrigs Diseass. Disease.
From there, "Tainted" will tour
the film festival circuit while

BY JOHN MONAGHAN SPECIAL WRITER

Action: Dusan Cechvala (Alex, left) and Jason Bouer (Slain) in a scene from "Tainted."

Farley and company shop it around to studies (New Line, Fox, and Tri-Mark have already expressed interest). There will also be another screening June 1 at the Magie Bag in Ferndale.

"To me, Tainted' will always be 'at it objectively."

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THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION

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to-face with the President of the United States (Mor-; gan Free-man) in "Deep Impact."

Action

thriller: Tea

Leoni finds.

herself face

Call me callous, but I was begging for that comet to make contact long before schedule in Thep Impacts. I considered it a mercy killing, putting out of their misery characters so one-dimensional that they made the Earthquake' cast look Oscar-worthy in comparison.

There's the rub with disaster movies: The back story is never all as compelling as the dovastation promised in the trallers. After all, mayhem — not whether or not scrappy newspaper reporter Tea Leoni reconciles with her father — is what we came to see.

'Deep Impact' crash lands

reporter 18a Leoni reconcilers with her father – is what we came to see.

And for about 10 minutes or so, "Deep Impact" does deliver. When that great tidal wave sweeps over the skyscrapers of Manhattan, we know we're witnessing something Irwin Allen couldn't have concotted in his most vivid fever dream. Wide-eyed Elijah Wood is on routine astronomy outing when he first sees the fire in the sky. He snaps a picture and sends it to a scientist (Charlie Martin Smith), who promptly rolls over his jeep and dies before he can tell the authorities.

The important plot develop-

al lottery which will send a milion regular folks under 50 (along with some hand-picked experts like news reporters and military personnel) to begin life anew in underground caves.

There's presumably something for everyone in 'Deep Impact.' Older audionces should relate to the Robert Duvali character, a John Glen-style astronaut brought along on the space mission for his first-hand experience with lunar landings. His younger crew mates consider him little more than a PR gesture.

Kids, I suppose, will appreciate the hokey premise that the teenage Wood must marry his high school sweetheart so that the cave join him in the caves. Just don't tell me it's a coincidence that the girl, Leelee Sobieski, looks just like a junior version of 'Twister's' Helen Hunt.

Morgan Freeman plays the tell the authorities.

The important plot development, like most of "Deep Impact," goes nowhere fast. The information still reaches the President (Morgan Freeman), who announces to a stunned America that the dust kicked up by the city-sized comet will mean the end of civilization as we know it.

version of "twisters" Heten Hunt. Morgan Freeman plays the President and he pulls the role off with his usual effortless authority. He elicits genuine rev-erence when he tells the world that, we have probably lost the fight, but we can prevail and

rebuild. Couldn't he run-for office in 2000 instead of Al Gore? ...
What bugged me most about 'Deep Impact' was how seriously director Mimi Leder ('The Peacemaker') took all this hokum. Even 'Independence Day '(which may well have been made by robesly poked fun at its own portentousness, realizing that it was nothing more than a B-movie with A-grade special effects.
"Deep Impact' isn't bad enough to make it a guilty pleasure nor good enough to make you believe for a second. It's a 90-minute countdown to some truly awsome effects, including a shot of the Statue of Liberty almost worth the price of admission.
The worst part: we have to sit

sion.

The worst part: we have to sit through the whole thing again when "Armageddon," a second big moteor movie, lands later this summer.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments To leave John a voice mail message, dial (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.

know it. His Plan A: Send a rocket ship manned with nukes to blow the thing up, or at least send it off course. Plan B: Call for a nation-SCREEN SCENE

Main (at 11 Mile Rend), Royal Oak. Call (248) 542-0180 for information. (\$6.50; \$4 stu-dents/seniors and matinees; \$3

information. (\$6.50; \$4 students/soniors and matinees; \$3 twilight)

"The Butcher Boy" (Ireland-1998). The movies of Neal Jordan ("Interview with the Vampire" and "The Crying Game") leave me as fascinated as they do cold. Expect the same here as social and emotional forces turn a young boy into a killer.

"The Big One" (USA-1998). The latest from Flint boy-madegood Michael Moore ("Roger and Me") shot during his recent book tour. Along the way he confronts corporations who continue to downsize to the dotriment of employees averywhere.

"The Spanish Prisoner" (USA-1998). Campbell Scott plays a young businessman who devolops a dangerous relationship with a mysterious tycoon (Steve Martin). Expect plenty of fascinating verbal interplay in this latest film written and directed by David Mamet ("Glengarry Glen Ross").

"Two Girls and a Guy" (USA-1997). Shot in real time, this examination of a love triangle stars Robort Downey, Jr., Heather Grabam, and Natasha Gregson Wagner. Directed by Jemes 'Ithech."

James Tebach:

Maple Art Theatre — Maple
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er talkfest from writer/director
Henry Jaglom, this time about
the strange relationably that can
sometimes develop between
strangers. Victoria Foyt co-wrote
and stars with Stephen Dillane
and Vanesan Redgrave.
"Men With Guns" (USA997). John Sayles' latest, filmed
in Mexico, about a doctor from
the big city who sets out discover
what happened to his students
who he sent out into the poores
parts of the South-American jungles.
Redford Theutra - 17360
Lahaer, Redford. Call (313) 52-556
That Midnight Kiss" (USA1949). 8 pm. Friday, May 16: 2
pm. and 8 pm. Saturday, May
16 (organ overture begins a half
hour before show time). Mario
Lanza was hailed as the new
Caruso in his screen debut as a
singing truck driver. He falls for
a Philade'bhia heiress (Kathrya
Grayson) who wants to be an
opera singer in this lighter-timair MGM musical.

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"The Stranger" (USA-1947).
7 pm. Friday, May 16. Orson
Welles, in an attempt to show
MKO that he could make a conventional thriller, directed and
scarped Nazi hiding out as a cellego professor in a small New
England town.