## 'Bats' star talks about fear, filming the latest thriller

written by John Logan, is set in a sleepy Texas town where unexplained bat attacks have caused several gristy deaths. At night littchoock had a knack for spooking his audience.

In 1963 he unveiled "The Birds, "giving audiences a fright as our feathered friends sought amore substantial prey than just innects and berries.

The film remains just one among a dozen classic tales portarying humans as vulnerable prey for animals. Perhaps it just makes for good film-making—especially around the spookiest time of year. Whatever the case, Director John Morneau aims for that same natural reaction with Flats." Schelded for release Friday, Oct. 22, the story,

A Selica and Ciliffhanger. On the film of the story of the story.

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But The film and the form of the story of the story

O&E: Are you a fan of ocary mortes?

Loon: If it's really scary, Usually it's hard to find movies that are ly it's hard to find movies that are saily scary. Today you have Stigmata\* and 'The Sinth Mave an inherent fear of bats about hat providing than scary).

O&E: Do you have a fear of the save an inherent fear of bats about hat one such an imals, particularly around Halloween?

Leon: 'I don't really watch horor fon video). That's smething that really should be a big-screen experience. We have a sound system and a screen that's so much

BY JON KATZ SPECIAL WRITER

'Superstar' has few clever moments

better. That can make a scene care the hell out of you."

O&E: What was most difficult of the hell out of you. "

O&E: What did you like most about your character?

Leon: "I'm pretty much all night in very remote locations, mountains, fields in Utah. It wasn't a lot of fun." O&E: What did you like most about your character?
Leon: "I'm pretty much the voice of the audience. If the audience is audience. I'm already running. I'm the one that says let's get out of here.
O&E: You're character must provide some comic relief as well?
Leon: "Most definitely. You'll

well? Leon: "Most definitely. You'll definitely get a few chuckles."

Look for Leon in Bats," opening this weekend, and his future pro-jects like NBC's upcoming drama about the early years of rock 'n roll "The Big Beat Heat." He'll portray the role of Jackie Wilson.

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been kissed, except by the trees and stop signs she uses as boy surrogates. Her one prayer: "send someone for me to make out

YOU'VE got to hand it to Lorne Michaels. The "Saturday Night Live" producer just keeps flinging them out there, those five-minute sketches that have no business being full-length features, and hoping to somehow come up with another "flues Brothera" or "Wayne's World." Perhaps the best thing that can be said about "Superstar," the latest big screen udeptation of an SNL character, is that it's a notch above "Stuart Emalley Saves His Family," A Night at the Roxbury and "It's Pat." surrogates, tier one prayer, send someone for me to make out with."

Not content to accept her place on the lowest rung in school, she sets her sights on St. Monica's handsomest guy and best dancer, Sky (SNL cohort Will Ferrell). Standing in her way is the school's pretiest girl, the utterly vapid Evian (Elaine Hendrix). Typical line from the film: Mary Katherine telling Evian to "go take a drink of yourself."

Mary Katherine realizes that the only way to get her man is to become a "superstar" by winning the big talent contest and a trip to Hollywood. Is anyone still wondering how it turns out?

"Superstar" boldly steals what so many other school films have done before. There are obvious and repeated references to "Carrie" and "Fame" (the score was written by "Fame" composer Michael Gore). More subtle bits are pulled right out of "Animal House" and "The Breakfast Club."

The film's very few clever momeats are all contained in Mary Katherine's funtasies. One

of them, an elaborate re-creation of the hanger scene from "Armageddon," is the kind of thing SNL does best, but it's the only movie parody we get. Instead, they play a key scene from "Carrie" perfectly straight, missing a tremendous opportunity to use the medium. It's unforgivable laziness from screenwriter Steven Wayne Korpen.

Shannon and Ferrell are first-rate sketch artists, this generation's Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca. They have also done well for themselves in recent non-SNL motion pictures (Ferrell in 'Dick,' Shannon in 'Analyze This').

"Superstar' will keep their career plans on hold while they find fresher scripts.

And if it's not too late, Lorne Michaels might do everyone a favor and scrub his plans to bring Mike Myers to the screen as Dieter, the avant-garde German host of 'Sprockets.' Wed sooner take 82 minutes of Toonces, the Driving Cat.

Jon Katz of Rochester writes about movies and theater for the Observer & Eccentric Newspa-

