

Mitchell fits humor into horror

Otero Profile

BY JOHN BEAR
STAFF WRITER

Film maker Max Mitchell said he likes writing about controversial topics.

His upcoming feature, "Horror in the Wind," follows two research scientists who invent a pest control technique that inadvertently turns everyone on Earth gay.

"Everyone wakes up one morning and the shoe is on the other foot," he said. "Bigoted heterosexuals are now bigoted homosexuals and they pass all kinds of oppressive anti-heterosexual legislation."

He said the film is based on actual scientific research involving the use of pheromones on insects.

The different pheromones, he said, confuse the bugs and prevent them from mating. So

while the concept seems far out and inconceivable, in reality, it isn't.

Mitchell hails from Canada. He has also called New York City and Los Angeles home. In May he set up shop in Otero County — High Rolls, to be exact. He said he looks forward to making "lots of movies" in New Mexico. He said comedy is his medium of choice.

Originally a playwright, Mitchell has gradually moved toward making movies.

His plays have been produced for stage in New York, Los Angeles and Florida. Life Support is published in "The Best American Short Plays" of '94-'95 alongside plays by Steve Martin and David Mamet.

He has acted on stage and co-founded the "off off Broadway" 500 theater row located on New York's infamous 42nd Street. He has also been a two-time finalist in the Writer's Film Project and received an Edward Albee Artist's Fellowship.

So far, Mitchell has written directed and produced one feature length film, "Get Your Stuff," based on his play of the same name. According to his Web site, revisionfilms.com, the film finds "two foster kids from hell" being placed in the home of a Beverly Hill's gay couple.

Needless to say, hijinx ensue.

Dick Weber of Tularosa, Mitchell's friend and sometime partner in crime, said "Get Your Stuff" is currently playing in Thailand. Weber is also involved with the upcoming production of "Horror in the Wind."

According to the filming schedule, the screenplay should be finished by November with casting beginning in mid-December. He said casting is usually reserved to just a few months before filming because a lot can change.

"There's no point in casting too early. People can get fat, get thin, get tan," he said. "A whole lot can change."

Actual filming won't begin until April and will take about four weeks to complete.

Mitchell said the film will be shot in High Rolls, Tularosa and Alamogordo. The finished product — ready for promotion and submission to film festivals — should be ready by July.

Mitchell said he has an \$80 million production in the works right now, something he calls a "major studio picture," a comedy.

"We have a producer attached," he said. "We're waiting for the funding to come through."