

'SNL' alum pumped about role

Watch out Hollywood — Kevin Nealon will sell you out for a quick buck

By ERIKA GONZALEZ
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Kevin Nealon once strutted around a "Saturday Night Live" set in a heavily padded sweat suit, threatening (along with Dana Carvey) to "pump you up."

These days, TV audiences recognize Nealon more for portraying a guy who'd rather lift a bong than dumbbells.

On Showtime's hit comedy, "Weeds," Nealon plays Doug Wilson, a seemingly straitlaced accountant who's nearly always stoned.

He talks about the show and his soon-to-be fatherhood.

Q: Doug Wilson sure loves getting high, but sometimes he seems clueless about where and when to indulge his habit. Are you more of a savvy stoner?

A: I never really smoked pot. I would go to a lot of concerts growing up and get that secondhand smoke that was prevalent, and you would kinda get high from that.

I think Doug is like a kid. He is always trying to choose between what he wants and the right thing to do, and he usually ends up choosing what he wants. But he's a good accountant.



AP PHOTO
Kevin Nealon and his wife, Susan Yeagley, arrive at the Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles. Nealon stars in Showtime's "Weeds."

Q: What was the worst stand-up gig you've ever done?

A: Probably opening for the Pointer Sisters one New Year's Eve. They added an extra show, but they didn't let me know it would be for \$20,000-or-more losers (people who had lost money gambling) and they

also gave them noisemakers.

Before I went out, the guy backstage said, "Do your normal amount of time — so about 20 minutes." But about two minutes in, it sounded like a flock of geese invaded the room.

After eight minutes I walked off, and the Pointer Sisters weren't even close to being ready to go on.

Q: You won your table on Bravo's "Celebrity Poker Showdown" and hosted "Poker Royale: The WPPA Championship." What's the secret to mastering a good poker face?

A: I think it's thinking about other things, like car accidents. It's the same things you think about when you're having sex. You want something that's going to take you out of the moment.

Q: What does Mr. Subliminal think of your impending fatherhood?

A: I think it's going to be great to have the baby finally and get our lives back to normal. (Crazy.)

Q: You showed up on a list of celebrities who had been illegally wiretapped by indicted Hollywood private investigator Anthony Pellicano. Whose phone would you wiretap?

A: Wow, that's a good question. Maybe Hillary Clinton, just because I want to find out what she's got up her sleeve. Maybe I'd wiretap Paris Hilton.

That way, I could figure out where she could be next and tip off the paparazzi and make some extra cash.

AT THE MOVIES

'BECAUSE I SAID SO'

Diane Keaton overacts as an overbearing mother who wants to find a husband for one of her three daughters (Mandy Moore).

Hackneyed material and occasional lapses in taste make for a very lame comedy. Moore's character winds up juggling two suitors (Tom Everett Scott and Gabriel Macht) in a movie that lacks any real sweetness.

Rated: PG-13. Sexual content including dialogue, some mature thematic material and partial nudity

'DREAMGIRLS'

Full of strong performances and outsize musical energy, "Dreamgirls" has all the makings of a big-time holiday hit, and it deserves to become one. As you may know from all the pre-movie hype, Jennifer Hudson is the movie's great discovery.

Hudson, an "American Idol" contestant who didn't win, delivers a knock-

out blow as Effie White, the initial lead singer of a group called The Dreamettes.

Her rendition of "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" — a heart-wrenching, show-stopper of a tune — has "bring down the house" written all over it.

Rated: PG-13, for language, some sexuality and drug content

'LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA'

The companion piece to Clint Eastwood's "Flags of Our Fathers" stands as the superior movie, telling the story of this historic battle through the sad, knowing eyes of the Japanese.

Filled with a powerful sense of impending doom, the film shows the devastation from the perspective of a small group of soldiers who never saw the bigger picture, but saw plenty of shocking sights.

Rated: R

TAKE IT HOME ON CD

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah (Clap Your Hands Say Yeah)

SOME LOUD THUNDER

It's hard to be on the fence about Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, but it's easy to see both sides.

The uber-indie Brooklyn/Philadelphia band self-released its way into a blog-driven Internet buzz with its 2005 debut, which was lauded for its inventive and distinct sound.

Yet CYHSY is about as refreshing as a chemical peel, with self-consciously lo-fi arrangements offering a frustrating backdrop to Alec Ounsworth's astoundingly nasal, off-key vocals.

CYHSY is now self-releasing its follow-up, the jarring *Some Loud Thunder* that won't win over the group's bashers but should solidify support among its fan base.

Some Loud Thunder gets better with repeated listens, but what doesn't?

If the CYHSY connection doesn't come easily, then it probably isn't worth developing.

k-os (Virgin)

ATLANTIS — HYMNS FOR DISCO

Canada's k-os is overwhelmingly rambunctious on *Atlantis — Hymns for Disco*, but his intensity is more uplifting than off-putting.

The performer (whose name is reputedly taken from the expression "knowledge of self," though "chaos" is a good fit) is a magnetic vocalist, a thoughtful lyricist and a mad scientist of a producer.

At the root of it all he's a rapper (who also sings), and his music is hip-hop. However, that's a tiny root on *Atlantis*, surrounded by so many layers that the release is uncategorizable, unless "hodgepodge" is a genre.

Atlantis is tattered around the edges: It isn't all good, it doesn't all fit together.

Yet his relentlessly frenetic style is filled with enough life-affirming hooks and infectious energy to keep his listeners hanging on.

• Killer

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

police inspector Popil (Dominic West) even before he moves to Paris to attend medical school. Once the young man starts using his nightmares as the launch pad for revenge, Popil's interest in him grows.

If director Peter Webber ("Girl With a Pearl Earring") had cast Bigfoot in the role of Hannibal, viewers might be inclined to root against the budding serial killer. But Ulliel ("A Very Long Engagement") has youth and incredible beauty on his side, so he's able to get away with murder and more without alienating the audience.

Which is not to say that Ulliel can't act; he morphs convincingly into a recognizable version of the future Hannibal, and his complicated relationship with his aunt is poignant. While both the aunt and the cop acknowledge the horrific nature of his actions, they can't help but muster sympathy for him.

Gong and West hold up their

end of the aesthetic bargain and bring resonance to the brief descriptions of their wartime sufferings. Rhys Ifans provides contrast to Hannibal's evil with an even viler character named Grutas.

The movie gets off track occasionally, as when Hannibal's aunt teaches him kendo (what is this, "Kill Bill"?) or near misses feel contrived. And the cookery

lessons are less than subtle.

Yet "Hannibal Rising" is better than most would have expected. Webber does a great job of blending the drama and pathos of Hannibal's experiences with his descent into obsession and taste for blood.

While it inevitably will be compared with the other Lecter films, "Hannibal Rising" earns its own place.

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All events are free unless cost is listed.

Friday, February 9
3 p.m., Two-piano recital featuring FC faculty member Claudia Bossard and FC alumnus Greg Sanders '98, Chapel.

Saturday, February 10
3 p.m., FC Women's Basketball vs. College of Mount St. Joseph, Spurlock Center Gymnasium. Admission: Adults \$3, High School/College Students \$2, Middle School Students/Younger Free.

Wednesday, February 14
7:30 p.m., FC Men's Basketball vs. Defiance College, Spurlock Center Gymnasium. Admission: Adults \$3, High School/College Students \$2, Middle School Students/Younger Free.

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WHITE ELEPHANT

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To register: Call the GCC office at 881-9336 by Feb. 9. GCC is located at the corner of Worthsville & Averitt Roads, just 2 miles west of Hwy. 31 in Greenwood.