

FILM FROM 1A

and music as it intertwines rock and roll, horror, and a bit of 1960s "Beach Blanket Bingo" into one feature-length movie, said producer Arma Benoit.

Benoit is a commercial and music video producer in Atlanta whose clients include NASCAR and hip hop artist Outkast.

"It's fun," Benoit said of the movie in the making. "If you ever saw a 1960s movie, you'd want to see it."

Edwards, writer and director of "Stomp! Shout! Scream!" is a former Bradenton resident and Manatee High School graduate. Edwards lives in Atlanta and edits the animated series, "Aqua Teen Hunger Force," part of Cartoon Network's late-night program block called Adult Swim.

He's also worked with Turner Broadcasting, editing programs on TNT, TBS, Turner Classic Movies and Cartoon Network.

"Jay is incredibly talented," Lieberman said. "He has a very definite vision."

Edwards' "Stomp! Shout! Scream!" script evolved from his love of old '60s beach films, "B" horror movies and cinematography. The script took nine months to write and has been a dream come true for Edwards.

"There was never a doubt I would do the movie," he said. "If I don't have creative outlet, the rest of life doesn't work."

Benoit, who has produced several short, impromptu films with Edwards, said she wasn't sure the script would have what it takes to be more than a weekend project.

"Jay and I used to make movies for fun," Benoit said

from a rented island beach house on Sycamore Street. "Any excuse to drink beer and have a good laugh."

But Benoit saw potential in Edwards' recent script.

"I read it and it was hilarious," she said.

The movie is set in 1966 on the East Coast and features an all-girl rock band that gets caught in a small coastal town when their car breaks down. The fabled Florida Everglades Skunk Ape monster provides the horror when it goes on a killing rampage.

Edwards named all of the movies' characters after his grandparents. He chose elements for the movie from his childhood. The villain — the mysterious, mythological Skunk Ape — came from a fishing trip in the Everglades with his father.

Edwards brings other local landmarks into the movie as well. Part of the filming was

at Egmont Key, Treasure Island, Coquina Beach and, of course, Anna Maria Island. Edwards' film includes a scene in which the Skunk Ape just escapes capture in old Fort Dade on Egmont Key.

The movie's cast is mostly Atlanta theater talent with the exception of Adrian Roberts, who plays Officer Tillis, a law officer in pursuit of the film's killer. Roberts played Butch in Francis Ford Coppola's 1997 film adaptation of John Grisham's novel, *The Rainmaker*, starring Danny DeVito and Matt Damon.

Jonathan Green, who plays the leading role of John Patterson — the love of lead actress Theodora, aka Claire Bronson in "Stomp! Shout! Scream!" — said the script is phenomenal.

"I think it has a real chance at cult-classic status," Green said.