

# New SNL comedy surprisingly funny, fresh

ANGIE DASCHEL  
A&E Editor

When I first heard that Saturday Night Live was making another two-hour movie from a five-minute skit, I thought, wow, five minutes will be funny, the remaining hour and 55 minutes will be a painful attempt at humor. I was pleasantly surprised however, when *Superstar*, the new movie starring Molly Shannon as Mary Katherine Gallagher, was actually entertaining the entire length of the film.

For those of you who don't watch SNL because it's not as funny as it used to be (you're wrong, it's actually gotten better in the last few years,) I'll fill you in on the character of Mary Catherine Gallagher. A girl of many talents, one of which is reciting monologues from made-for-TV movies, Mary has a hard time fitting in at her Catholic high school. She wants to be involved in everything, yet she is so strange that most people think she is either gross or totally demented— she usually doesn't care.

In *Superstar*, Mary sets out to accomplish two goals: to be kissed (not just any kiss; she wants to lock lips with the football stud Sky, played by

SNL's Will Ferrell;) and to become a superstar. Every night Mary prays to God (who happens to also be played by Ferrell) to grant her these two wishes.

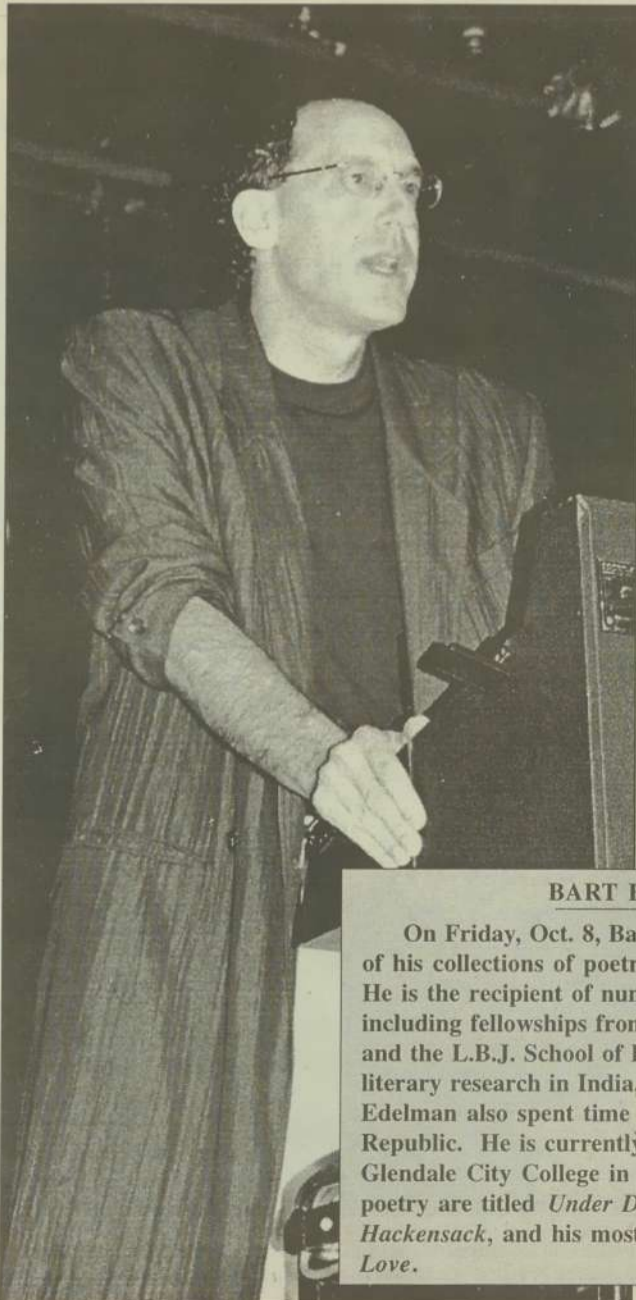
Mary decides the only way to superstardom is to enter a talent contest sponsored by Catholic Teen magazine, because the top prize is a trip to Hollywood to star as an "extra in a movie with positive moral values." She enters the contest, chaos ensues, and Mary's world is turned upside down.

*Superstar* is very funny from beginning to end, especially the scenes in which Mary gets friendly with a tree. Now don't get me wrong, this movie will not be competing against *American Beauty* for Best Picture at the Academy Awards, but it does make you laugh. Shannon is allowed to expand Mary's character, which makes the movie ten times funnier than the skit on SNL. As an added bonus, this movie contains one of the best girl-fights in the history of cinema.

Also, check out the cars in this film. Every automobile is a brand new Volkswagen Beetle. Don't ask why, just go along with it and you will enjoy this surprisingly good comedy from SNL Studios.



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**BART EDELMAN**

On Friday, Oct. 8, Bart Edelman read from three of his collections of poetry at McLoughlin Theater. He is the recipient of numerous awards and grants, including fellowships from the U.S. Dept. of Education and the L.B.J. School of Public Affairs to conduct literary research in India, Egypt, Nigeria and Poland. Edelman also spent time teaching in the Czech Republic. He is currently a professor of English at Glendale City College in Glendale, CA. His books of poetry are titled *Under Damaris' Dress*, *Crossing the Hackensack*, and his most recent, *The Alphabet of Love*.

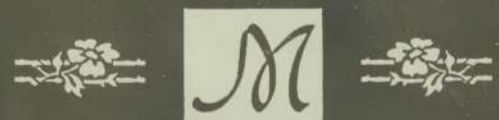
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▶ **Cenizas**  
A bilingual musical about love and smoke  
Wed. Oct. 13  
12 p.m. at McLoughlin Theater  
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◀ **The MAiZE**  
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