

Spitfire sets table for 'Deadly Feasts'

By **MICHAEL FLEMING**

Spitfire Pictures has optioned Richard Rhodes' nonfiction book "Deadly Feasts" to use as the basis for a thriller to be written by "Glory Road" scribe Christopher Cleveland.

"Deadly Feasts" will be produced by Spitfire partners Guy East and Nigel Sinclair. Cleveland will exec produce with Howard Blum.

Rhodes, the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer of "The Making of the Atomic Bomb," wrote about scientific sleuths attempting to discover the cause of mad cow disease, a brain disease that proved similar to a fatal virus seen in tribes in New Guinea in the 1950s. The common thread turned out to be cannibalism: The tribes engaged in it, and the cattle got fed ground-up animal parts.

Spitfire and Cleveland are using the science to craft a cautionary tale in the style of 1970s paranoid thrillers like "The China Syndrome" and "The Parallax View."

"This is a real-life thriller set in today's America," Sinclair said.

Spitfire's in pre-production on Sarah Michelle Gellar starrer "Addicted." Spitfire's also in production on rock docu "My Generation: Who's Still Who." That pic follows Spitfire's 2005 documentary "No Direction Home: Bob Dylan," directed by Martin Scorsese.

