

The Heckler

Oh no, not another Cubs movie: 'Ballhawks' the film

Saturday, May 1, 2010 - It's honest-to-god narrated by Bill Murray

It's tough to determine if there have been more movies about World War II or the Chicago Cubs. At least while watching the war movies, you know there's an end in sight. And with yet another Cubs movie set to debut at the end of May, the Lovable Loser film total is growing by one.

This movie is about the least likely of subjects: the famed Ballhawks. We've all seen them hanging out on Waveland or Sheffield staring into space waiting for another Sammy Sosa, Glenallen Hill or Adam Dunn tater to come flying their direction at about 150 MPH. Well, now there's a movie about them. And it's narrated by Bill Murray. Seriously.



A lot of people rag on the Ballhawks. They say they've got no lives. That they're adults doing something that should be reserved for kids. Well, in the 11 years I've been regularly going to games at Wrigley and nearly eight that I've been running The Heckler, they've always seemed cool to me. And they seem to dig The Heckler (lord knows they have the time to read it). Plus, I'm constantly amazed at their ability to run down a screaming homer that they only see for approximately half a second.

I'll admit that at first blush I was a little bitter to see they got a film. I've learned first-hand that trying to break into the Chicago media landscape is really tough, particularly when you're focusing on a heavily saturated niche like the Cubs. Anytime someone does something cool or mainstream, the tendency is to be salty about it (it's something I'm trying to get over). I thought about this particular project for a couple minutes and decided to support this film rather than ignore or trash it. The trailer looks pretty good. [Watch it at ballhawks.com.](#)

Unlike others who have made movies relating to the Cubs, it's not like the Ballhawks are just shameless publicity hounds. (I do love they've created their own brand. "Ballhawks." Perfect.) They're crazy, make no mistake about it, but I don't think they're not in it for the attention. They're just a group of guys who for some reason decided to devote the better part of their lives to doing something you can't really do at most

any other professional stadium in America. And like many other things that make Wrigley great, the Ballhawks exist nowhere else in the country, perhaps the world. Now they've got their own film to prove it.

I have no idea who funded this film, how they got Bill Murray to narrate it or if anyone is expecting to make a penny from its distribution. But I do know it looks intriguing in ways many other Cubs films don't. And I know it's playing four dates at the Siskel Film Center over Memorial Day weekend. I'm going to see it and suggest you do the same. [**Get tickets at Ticketmaster for just \\$10.**](#)

By Brad Zibung, founder and editor in chief