

Final 'Basis of Decision' movie shoot set to roll in New York City

Contributions to Petoskey grad's film still needed

In late November, Erich Rettstadt, a 2007 graduate of Petoskey High School, is set to direct the final scenes of his original film, "Basis of Decision," at the 3,500-square-foot New York University Todman Soundstage. Last spring, Rettstadt brought an international cast and crew to Petoskey for a two week film shoot. That shoot engaged aspiring Northern Michigan actors, dancers, singers and production assistants.



Rettstadt

"Basis of Decision" is a 1950s-style, original short musical about high school debate that follows two students through state finals competition. It is an homage to the films of directors such

as Stanley Donen and Vincente Minnelli. In order to achieve the feel of a Golden Age musical, the movie is being shot on 35mm film and the original soundtrack recorded by the New York University Symphony Orchestra.

Subsequent to the Northern Michigan shoot, another scene in "Basis of Decision" was filmed in August in New York City. That segment of the movie depicts the state final debate competition round and was filmed in the 1,100 seat auditorium of Health Professions High School, which is located in the East Village neighborhood of Manhattan.

Forty-five cast and crew members worked on the three-day shoot including actor Matt Bondy, a 1999 graduate of Petoskey High School. Bondy was cast as a state final round judge. Both Bondy (drama) and Rettstadt (film and television production and dra-



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"Basis of Decision" film cast and crew members prepare for a take.

matic literature) are graduates of the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU.

Since the summer shoot, all of the 35mm footage has been developed at Technicolor in New York, one of the country's top post-production companies. Footage from the film is available for viewing at the movie's website: www.basisofdecision.com.

About one third of the film remains to be shot and funded. The remaining scenes take place entirely on a soundstage and portray an instrumental ballet a la "Broadway Melody" in "Singin' in the Rain" and the final number in "An American in Paris."

"Every aspect of my film has been most challenging — from carrying out a 50-plus cast and crew shoot in Northern Michi-

gan to shooting on 35mm film, to facilitating the development and live recording of original music and lyrics, to fundraising, just to name a few," said Rettstadt. "This is a film I've dreamed of making since I was a young child attending musical theater and watching musicals on the big screen. It has been a huge undertaking about which I remain extremely passionate and to which I remain extremely dedicated."

Rettstadt is in need of financial assistance to complete the film. The production has partnered with the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation to create a "Basis of Decision" film fund to receive tax-deductible donations. Contributions to the film can be made to the foundation directly or via

PayPal on the movie website.

Upon completion in early 2012, "Basis of Decision" will be submitted to a wide variety of national and international film festivals providing significant exposure to everyone attached to the film as well as to Northern Michigan.

"I remain most grateful to the Northern Michigan community for their continuing support of 'Basis of Decision' as we come down the home stretch of the production," said Rettstadt.

While completing "Basis of Decision," Rettstadt is serving as an executive intern at the Atlantic Theatre Company in New York City.

Rettstadt is the son of Charlie Rettstadt and Tina DeMoore of Petoskey.