



COURTESY PHOTO

Actors rehearse the "bright lights, big city" scene during the "Basis of Decision" New York City soundstage shoot.

# Petoskey grad's film, 'Basis of Decision' awarded Hexter Filmmaker Grant

## Title to be changed to 'State Debate'

"Basis of Decision," an original musical written and directed by Erich Rettstadt, a 2007 graduate of Petoskey High School and 2011 graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, has been awarded the Russell Hexter Filmmaker Grant.



Rettstadt

Each year, a panel of writers, directors, cinematographers and other independent film professionals select one or more graduating students at NYU to receive the grant, which supports completion of advanced production films. Rettstadt was chosen as the sole recipient this year. The judging panel wrote that his movie "shows great talent, style and ability ... it's a great film."

After 20 shoot days, more than 250 cast and crew members, more than 25,000 feet of film and thousands of miles traveled across the country, "Basis of Decision," has now officially completed principal

photography.

The film was shot in Northern Michigan over 10 days in March and April 2011 followed by a three-day auditorium shoot in August at the 1,100 seat auditorium of the Health Professions High School located in the East Village neighborhood of Manhattan.

The final shoot was undertaken last November at New York University's Todman Center Soundstage. During eight days on the soundstage, the cast and crew shot six completely different and equally complicated scene set-ups in the style of the instrumental ballet scenes in classic movie musicals such as "Singin' in the Rain" and "An American in Paris."

"Basis of Decision" is now in post-production after the balance of the 35mm footage was developed at Technicolor. Editing, sound-mixing and publicity artwork are currently under way. As part of the post-production process, the working title, "Basis of Decision," will be changed to "State Debate" for the film's release and festival submissions.

The film has been entered in New York University's First Run Festival in New York City for its first public showing and judging in late March and will subsequently be submitted to a variety of film

festivals.

Rettstadt was also the recipient of a Panavision New Filmmaker Grant allowing him the use of a 35mm Panavision camera for the duration of his shoot.

"I'm so excited to share the movie with audiences in New York and Petoskey," said Rettstadt. "After months of hard work and the help of countless individuals, we're so close to being ready for the big screen. Many of my professors have asked me where the movie was shot, commenting on the beauty of the film's primary location — I proudly proclaim it to be my hometown."

The film remains in need of financial support to complete post-production efforts. A "Basis of Decision Film Fund" has been established at the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation to receive tax deductible donations. Contributions to the film can be made to the foundation directly at 616 Petoskey St., Suite 300 in Petoskey or via PayPal on the movie's website at [www.basisofdecision.com](http://www.basisofdecision.com).

After completion of "State Debate," Rettstadt heads to New Delhi and Himachal Pradesh, India, to script supervise "M Cream," an independent feature film of Agniputra Films.