



COURTESY PHOTO

**Portraying judges** in a screen shot from the opening scenes of "State Debate" are Northern Michigan actors (from left) Carol Deschermeier, Chris Koury and Bev Holden. Deschermeier and Holden were mentors to Erich Rettstadt, the director/writer of "State Debate," during their tenure as the producer/choreographer and director, respectively, of the Petoskey Public Schools' Elementary Enrichment plays.

# Musical filmed in Petoskey receives national recognition

## 'State Debate' wins Cine Golden Eagle Award

"State Debate," an original musical written and directed by 2007 Petoskey High School graduate Erich Rettstadt has been selected to receive a CINE Golden Eagle Award. The film is one of 10 student films nationwide recognized at [www.cine.org](http://www.cine.org) where a new clip of the movie is currently available.

A substantial portion of "State Debate" (working title, "Basis of Decision") was shot in Northern Michigan during the spring of 2011.

Since 1957, CINE, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious film, television, video and media arts nonprofit organizations, has recognized the work of outstanding filmmakers, videographers, producers, directors and other craftspeople in the film, television and new media industry. The CINE Golden

Eagle Award acknowledges high quality production in a variety of categories for professional, independent and student filmmakers. Each year, hundreds of jurors nationwide participate in semi-annual screenings of nearly 1,000 entries in 32 categories. A Golden Eagle Award-winning production must "demonstrate an overall excellence that separates it from productions similar in content, genre or style."

Many renowned filmmakers have received the CINE Golden Eagle Award, and for some — such as Ken Burns and Steven Spielberg — it was their first major award. Other notable recipients include Ron Howard, Mike Nichols, George Lucas, Mel Brooks, Spike Lee and Martin Scorsese. For members of the film and television industry, the CINE Golden Eagle Award is an acknowledgment of excellence and validation by their peers.



Rettstadt

CINE Golden Eagle winners from the spring and fall competitions during a calendar year automatically become nominees for a CINE Special Jury Award in their particular category. "State Debate" is nominated in the comedy category. All Cine award winners will be recognized at the CINE annual Awards Gala in Washington, D.C., during the spring of 2013.

"This recognition is a tribute to the talent and efforts of the 250-plus cast and crew members of 'State Debate' and the tremendous support provided by many members of the Northern Michigan community for which I remain genuinely grateful," said Rettstadt.

The executive producers of "State Debate" are Northern Michigan residents Jeanie and Murray Kilgour.

Rettstadt will be submitting "State Debate" to various festivals and competitions worldwide over the next two years. An updated film website is currently under construction at [www.statdebathemusical.com](http://www.statdebathemusical.com).