



Pilladi and Lingo at an Eagles game.

Photos of Paolo Pilladi and Greg Lingo on set by Andrea Cipriani Mecchi

## CRABS IN A BUCKET

*Local filmmakers bring colorful characters to life*

BY JANE ROSER

**Y**ou might be inclined to think a film called *Crabs in a Bucket* would be a documentary about a seafood restaurant, but rest assured, it's definitely not. Crab mentality is defined by the idea that one crab placed into a bucket will claw its way out, but a bunch of crabs will pull the escapee back in, ensuring their collective demise. The basic idea is, 'If I can't have it, then neither can you.'

The indie comedy from Cornell Ventures, Future Proof Films, JARS Production and Goodie Goodie Productions stars Jeremy Piven as Mick, a wealthy, ambitious real estate developer who returns to his childhood Philadelphia stomping grounds after his mother's death to discover he's the new owner of the family pub, which his boss is determined to tear down.

FILM

Does Mick follow the money or save his neighborhood? Filmed predominately in Bayonne, New Jersey, *Crabs in a Bucket* is directed and written by Paolo Pilladi and co-written/executive produced by entrepreneur Greg Lingo. This is Lingo's first foray into film. He grew up in Upper Darby and started writing the story several years ago with his friends Billy Reilly and Michael Baughan.

"It wasn't until after I left the area that I realized just how uniquely rich the people and personalities were." They used actual characters, events and places as an initial inspiration, which then morphed as the screenplay was adapted to film. Pilladi is from Overbrook, just across from where Lingo grew up, so the colorful story resonated with him given their shared upbringing and

similar network of friends.

The movie also stars film icon Bruce Dern (*Once Upon A Time in Hollywood*), Taryn Manning (*Orange is the New Black*), Jamie Kennedy (*Malibu's Most Wanted*), Cathy Moriarty (*Raging Bull*), Jack McGee (*The Fighter*), Zach McGowan (*Shameless*) and Cheri Oteri (*Saturday Night Live*). Working with Dern was definitely a highlight for everyone involved.

"We were so fortunate to have him," Lingo says. "Unbeknownst to us, Bruce knew Upper Darby well. He used to golf at Cobbs Creek while he was a student at the University of Pennsylvania." The filmmakers praise their entire cast for exceeding their wildest expectations. "Coming from all different walks of life, the cast immediately connected to the notion of that inherent jealousy and admiration we all feel for our friends who are striving for more," Lingo says. "We love our friends and want the best for them, but we also don't want them to leave us behind."

"Our producers deserve a ton of credit for assembling this cast," Pilladi says. "They all have a broad range of comedic chops, some with legendary improv skills. Being able to give them the freedom to make the words their own and allowing certain scenes to transform into something greater was a blessing for this film."

Filming wrapped in October and is currently in post-production. They're nearing a picture lock, Pilladi says, then move on to color correction, sound design and score. Lingo hopes to complete the film by April and says that Philadelphians can look forward to a local screening. **PRH**

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