

# Local man pens life about growing up in Upper Darby into a Hollywood movie

Continued from Page 1

colorful people in and around it," Lingo said in a phone interview from his home in Wayne. "I really wanted to go with comedy that had a baseline centered around the people I met growing up (there) as well as incorporate the neighborhood as a character."

The film, picked up by the Independent

The story follows a man who returns to his hometown due to a "family emergency and is forced to stay when presented with a huge real estate opportunity" – a likely scenario for Lingo who is professionally a real estate developer.

"Once he got back, he realized that his friends and the neighborhood really were the best part of his life," said



A scene in the movie captures actors hanging out in a combination of two popular bars in Upper Darby. They are (from left) **Rob Cuthill, Jonny Donahue, and Bruce Dern.**



A New Jersey bar was transformed to recreate the likes of two local Delaware County bars for a film written by a former Upper Darby Township man. The film, "Darby Heights," follows the journey of a man who returns to his hometown and reminded of the love he once had for the town.

Film Company (IFC), cast stars including Jeremy Piven, Taryn Manning, Bruce Dern, Zach McGowan, Jason Richter, Jamie Kennedy, and others.

the now 48 year-old. "The comedy is trying to explain this group of friends, but also is celebrating their friendship.

While much of the



Delaware County residents **Greg Lingo (left) and Pete Postiglione (right)** snapped a shot of themselves during production of the upcoming comedy, "Darby Heights." Postiglione, who lives in Springfield, plays the character "Jonesy" in the movie.

film was produced in New Jersey – primarily due to economic reasons – Lingo said a Jersey Shore bar was recreated to be reminiscent of local Upper Darby bars Callahan's and Cawley's. In the bar scenes, Upper Darby High School varsity letters, Beverly Hills Middle School athletic letters and a Monsignor Bonner High School football jacket could be seen – much like the inside of the original establishments.

Lingo, who worked with some of his hometown friends during production of the film, said while none of the characters are based on specific people, they encompass a combination of "personalities" of those around him.

"You won't be able to watch it and say, 'Oh, I know what that guy is,' but people are going to identify with the themes (of the film)," Lingo said. "People are going to relate to it. It will be transferable outside of just Delaware County and Philly – that similar longing for home and the fact that the best friendships are those formed before you turn 13 really. Those themes

will translate well to the broader audience."

Lingo graduated from Upper Darby High School in 1990, received his BS in Engineering at Cornell University and earned an MBA from Villanova University. He lives in Wayne with his wife and three daughters. He said his

family supported him from the beginning and despite taking on a task completely opposite of his career, knew this was something he "had to get off my chest."

"(I said) I'm just going to go for it," Lingo said. "I think we were all elated when the IFC film got done because we

knew it was going to be a national release and IFC has a tremendous record. We thought it was a tremendous marriage with our story and the distributor."

Lingo said the experience has been great and he credits the entire production team for the project's success. He said one of the things he truly hopes viewers glean from the film is the idea of community and not forgetting about your past.

"My most memorable parts of (Upper Darby) is that we were raised by the neighborhood as much as we were raised by our parents," Lingo said. "It was parents of our friends and our friends that teamed up together as we were growing up that got us prepared for the next stage in life. What's unique about Upper Darby is that there's a work ethic and community bond that was created – at least for me, anyway and I hope that comes across in the movie."

The film is set to be released in March in theaters and digitally through OnDemand, iTunes, and other platforms.



Hollywood actor and producer **Jamie Kennedy (left)** and Delaware County resident **George Lingo (right)** on the set of an upcoming movie loosely based on Lingo's life in Upper Darby. Kennedy can relate; he's also an Upper Darby native and plays the character, "Whitey" in the movie."