

Alternative Cinema to screen film with local connections

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Alfred University's Alternative Cinema Club will screen "Drawing with Chalk," a feature film written and produced by Hornell native Todd Giglio and his fellow Fredonia State alumnus Christopher Springer, at 8 p.m. Saturday (Feb. 7) in Nevins Auditorium, Powell Campus Center, on the AU campus. There will be a moderated discussion after the film, which will include questions from the audience. The movie is open to the public, free of charge. Giglio, who was born in Hornell and graduated from Canisteo High School, and Springer describe "Drawing with Chalk" as a "mid-life coming of age story about two best friends trying to revive a failed music career. While one is afraid they may be too old for an industry that thrives on youth, the other struggles to keep the dream alive while maintaining his responsibilities to his wife and young son." "Drawing with Chalk" was filmed locally at locations in Hornell, Arkport and Canisteo. It features area actors Mark Smith, who is a librarian at Scholes Library of Ceramics at AU, and Tim Berardi, as well as several AU students and other area residents as extras. Giglio, who is a director, actor and musician, and Springer met and became friends while attending Fredonia State as theater majors. After graduation, they went to New York City to pursue acting careers. Giglio married first and had a son, then Springer married Giglio's wife's sister. Both families settled into suburban life in Westchester County. As Giglio explains, the idea for "Drawing with Chalk" arose one evening when he and Springer were discussing the imagery in one of Giglio's songs, "Nowhere," and how it would make a great music video. "Right from the beginning [we] knew it had to be filmed upstate in order to capture the true essence of small town life and bring these real lives to the big screen," Giglio said. The 122-minute film is being submitted to many prestigious film festivals, including Tribeca, SXSW, London Independent, Los Angeles International and Seattle Film Festival. "The film trailer has been getting great buzz (including a potential relationship with another film company for future features) on the Internet and even one of the songs from the all-original soundtrack has been getting airplay on local radio in the Southern Tier," Giglio said. Giglio and Springer wrote and produced the film for approximately \$116,000, mostly funded by the filmmakers and their families. It was shot between October, 2007, and June, 2008. "Shooting a low-budget has inherent difficulties but with the great cooperation of the local businesses and residents, the film shoot went off without a hitch," he said. For more information about the film: www.drawingchalkpictures.com... more about Alfred University: www.alfred.edu