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5 QUESTIONS WITH ... JOE DOUGHRITY

## Cass Tech alumnus wants to film Detroit

### Mayors Young, Kilpatrick could be movie subjects

BY SHARON GITTLEMAN • FREE PRESS SPECIAL WRITER • APRIL 13, 2008

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Detroiters are no strangers to the big screen.

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Actors, writers, producers and directors have trekked from Motown to Hollywood for decades.

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer and director Francis Ford Coppola are just two of the famous folks from Detroit who have found success in the movie industry.

Joe Doughrity plans to join that roster.

Area residents had the opportunity to see his short film "Akira's Hip Hop Shop" when it recently screened at the University of Michigan.

"It's a romantic comedy about a Japanese guy who hooks up with a black woman," said Doughrity, 38, a Cass Tech graduate who now makes his home in Los Angeles. "The relationship survives the pressure from their family and friends."

"Akira" is being expanded into a feature-length film, he said.

Doughrity said he dreams of making movies set in Detroit. He's in the process of returning to Michigan, where his family lives, including his mom, a resident



ASEugenio

Cass Tech grad Joe Doughrity wants to make movies in Detroit.

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of Southfield.

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, a classmate at Cass Tech, could one day see his life story on screen, said Doughrity.

"I'd love to make a movie about him," said Doughrity.

**QUESTION: Is making a movie as glamorous as it seems?**

**ANSWER:** No. Making a movie is hard work -- 18-hour days. But it's work you love. In Detroit, I was surrounded by people who didn't like their jobs. They made \$25 an hour putting doors on a Mustang. I said I wanted to enjoy what I do.

**Q: Why do you want to make movies in Detroit?**

**A:** Nearly every script I've ever written, with the exception of "Akira," is about Detroit. I'd love to do the Coleman Young story and a movie about Cass Tech. I have 10 movies in mind about Detroit.

**Q: Is there a spot in Detroit you think would be a good setting for a film?**

**A:** The whole urban area. I love the giant tire over I-94. I don't know what I would do with it. I think there are many untapped resources. Michigan, with its diverse geography, there's a lot of territory to be explored -- Campus Martius, downtown, Wayne State.

**Q: What have you missed most living in L.A.?**

**A:** Coney islands and White Castles and good corned beef. I miss my family.

**Q: What's the greatest pleasure you've experienced working as a movie producer or writer?**

**A:** Having it all come together and seeing an audience react. When an audience is moved and applauds.

In your voice

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