

10 Homegrown filmmaker on brink of big time

BY DEREK JOHNSON
For Community Life

Remember the name Jon Doscher, because he is set to make his mark on the entertainment industry.

Doscher, a 1989 graduate of Pascack Hills High School, is now an actor and producer with his own production company, Starline Films, based in Upper Saddle River and New York City. The company, owned by Doscher and his

partner Kevin Leckner, has five full time employees and five interns.

His first taste of producing was with a feature film *Remedy*, a film in which he also acted. It is to be released nationwide on March 29 at Blockbuster and Hollywood Video and is also available at amazon.com.

"Being a producer is challenging", says Doscher, "because film is a creative process that is difficult to control."

He and his partner Christian

Maelen shot the film in 27 days in Montvale, Saddle River, and NYC. Locally, he used a dentist's office in Montvale to shoot scenes and availed himself of home-grown talent such as former Woodcliff Lake mayor, Josephine Higgins, who can be seen driving an ambulance in the film.

Doscher's acting career began at Pascack Hills H.S., where he appeared in plays and talent shows. "High school was an internship for Hollywood. It's

cliquey, and you have to decide who you are and who you want to be associated with. When I was there I felt that I always had to be 'on' because the group of people I hung out with were very interesting and entertaining. We were always trying to amuse each other."

Doscher views Northern Jersey as a breeding ground for cavaliers in the film business. "It has a pace of living that is demanding and productive, a sense of competition that builds success.

While his basic skills may have

developed at Pascack Hills, his associates today are the ones who are helping him move forward.

Frank Vincent plays a featured role in *Remedy*. (Vincent Pastore and Ace Frehley of the band Kiss also appear in the film.) Raised in Jersey City, Vincent is one of the most recognizable character actors in Mafioso films. He appeared in *Raging Bull*, *Goodfellas*, *Casino*, and is in his second season of *The Sopranos*. When asked about

SEE REMEDY, PAGE 70

REMEDY

FROM PAGE 10

Doscher in a telephone interview last week, he said, "Jon is a sweetheart, very professional. He has great potential for an acting career, a true sense of camaraderie and respect for other people."

Doscher's father was a third generation ironworker who worked on the World Trade Center. Doscher considered following his father's footsteps, but he had a drive and determination that led him elsewhere.

After dropping out of college, Doscher developed two successful businesses as a contractor and magazine publisher. It was through his contracting company that he met Danny Aiello, who gave him timely advice and guidance. "I was studying acting at Strassberg in New York City, and Danny told me to leave the school and go on auditions."

The advice paid off as Doscher landed the role of FBI "Agent Clark" in *This Thing of Ours* starring James Caan. It was on the set of this film that he met Christian Maelen, Frank Vincent, and others who helped propel his career.

Doscher now has his sights set on his next feature film, *4Chosen*, based on the 1998 shootings of four New York youths pulled over

on the NJ Turnpike. The incident blew open a massive racial profiling investigation serving as a catalyst in contemporary civil rights advocacy. Starline Films staff, headed up by Paul Wood, Jr., is also producing a documentary about the incident.

Doscher feels that *4Chosen* "has the potential to affect millions of mainstream audiences", so he is assembling a powerful production team. Angelo Pizzo, who wrote and produced *Hoosiers* and *Rudy*, is tentatively set to rewrite Doscher's script. David Anspaugh, also of *Hoosiers* and *Rudy* fame, is tentatively set to direct the film. "I couldn't be more excited at the prospect of working with these professionals to help bring a positive resolution to this real life tragedy".

Through a mixture of ambition, hard-work and talent, Doscher is making his way in a most competitive field. His advice to others with a dream similar to his, "Be passionate and persistent. The key is to get out there. If you want to be an actor, get on a movie set, even as a background actor. Leave your ego at the door and good things will happen."

To learn more about Jon Doscher, go to jondoscher.com.
To learn more about *Remedy*, visit remedythemovie.com.



PHOTO BY DEREK JOHNSON

Producer Jon Doscher is seen in his Woodcliff Lake office displaying a poster for his first, soon- to-be-released film, *Remedy*.

COMMUNITY LIFE
MARCH 23RD 2005