

## 'Gibsonburg' - First Look

by Tim McMahon

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NORTH BALTIMORE -- This summer we took you onto the set of 'Gibsonburg', a film based on the Golden Bears baseball team's miraculous state championship run in 2005. On Saturday, roughly 30 people at the Virginia Theater in North Baltimore got the first look at a rough cut of the film.

The majority of those in attendance ranged in age from 16-22 years old, the film's target audience, with students compiled from the University of Findlay, BGSU and North Baltimore high school. The critics signed a confidentiality agreement and filled out an evaluation form which asked questions such as 'What was your favorite scene, why?' and 'Did you identify with any of the characters?'

Production for the film began in June and wrapped in August. While the final product is still in the works, director Bob Mahaffey plans on having it ready early next year just in time for entry into the Tribeca Film Festival. After that the plan is to enter it into the Toronto and Sundance film festivals, and a summer release date is targeted. Mahaffey feels he has all the right ingredients for a compelling film.

"When you look at the three key elements of putting together a film...you have the story, you have the acting and then what you also need is the cinematography and I do feel that those three elements of this film...we have something in the making that won't be only Hollywood caliber but will be award winning caliber," Mahaffey said.

Not only is the film based on a local team but plenty of people involved are from northwest Ohio including Mahaffey himself, a graduate of Elmwood high school. Both John Kimble (director of photography) and Casey Smith (cinematographer) are graduates of Maumee Valley Country Day School. They also both attended Savannah School of Art and Design.

One of the stars of the film, Lili Reinhart, can be seen on the November 30th episode of 'Law & Order' on WNWO.

This screening was the first of 10 sessions that Mahaffey will have in the area.