

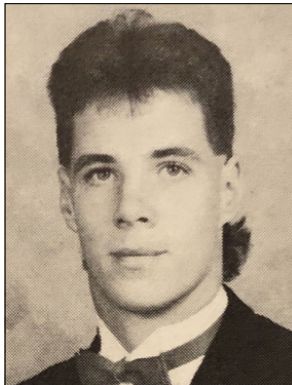


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**“We always laughed about the crazy things that happened to us and the characters we knew, while growing up in eastern Delco and we decided to get all our vibrant memories down on paper.”**

— Greg Lingo on looking back with two of his lifelong friends from the old neighborhood, Billy Reilly and Mike Baughan

“Last Call,” a comedy about growing up in Upper Darby in the ‘70s and ‘80s, will be released March 19.



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Greg Lingo in his Upper Darby High School yearbook photo.

ENTERTAINMENT

# LOOKING BACK



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The Delaware County connected actors and crew of “Last Call” are pictured with the 50 extras from Delaware County who showed up to play the bar patrons in one of the film scenes.

## Indie comedy spotlights lessons learned growing up in U.D.

**By Peg DeGrassa**  
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**RADNOR »** After graduating Upper Darby High School in 1990, successful real estate developer Greg Lingo said he couldn’t wait to get out of Delco and experience the world. When he went off to

college, he thought he’d never look back or come back.

Fast forward three decades and Lingo not only found himself living and working in Delaware County, but looking at the place with totally different eyes. He’s now ready to share the treasured experiences of his youth in a film that focuses on the life lessons and the lifelong friendships

that he forged while growing up in Upper Darby.

“Last Call” is set to be released by IFC Films on March 19 and will be available for viewing On Demand, iTunes, Amazon and Pay Per View, as well as select theatres in the Philadelphia, L.A., N.Y. and Chicago markets. Co-written by Lingo and

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Actors Bruce Dern and Jeremy Piven star in "Last Call," a comedy film about lasting friendships and realizing that hometown roots are sometimes life's greatest and most precious gifts.

## Looking

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director Paolo Pilladi, the comedy stars Jeremy Piven ("Entourage") along with film icon Bruce Dern ("Nebraska," "Once Upon A Time in Hollywood"), Taryn Manning, ("Orange is the New Black"), Jamie Kennedy ("Malibu's Most Wanted"), Cathy Moriarty ("Raging Bull"), Jack McGee ("The Fighter"), Zach McGowan ("Shameless") and Cheri Oteri ("Saturday Night Live"). Other actors include Royce Johnson, Garry Pastore, and Jason Richter. The film is produced by Lingo as executive producer, along with DJ Dodd, Ante Novakovic and Rob Simmons.

The story line features a successful real estate developer, Mick (Piven), who returns home to his offbeat blue-collar Irish neighborhood in the shadows of Philadelphia for a funeral. He is obligated to stay to ensure his parents' ailing family business gets back on course. Amidst all of this, he grows closer to his childhood crush (Manning) who is also back in town, while enduring the constant ridicule from his old home-



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Executive Producer Greg Lingo, right, talks to actor Royce Johnson on the set of "Last Call."

town crew. As Mick begins to reconnect with the neighborhood he grew up in, he finds himself at a crossroads when forced to either raze or resurrect the family bar.

Lingo was introduced to Pilladi by a friend of a friend. He knew he was the perfect script writer to partner with for the job because Pilladi grew up in the Overbrook section of Philadelphia, only a hop, skip and jump from Upper Darby, so he understood the characters and the neighborhood.

Paolo and Lingo took the original story and developed it into a script and started working with a New York-based production team, with Pilladi as director. Originally called "Crabs in a Bucket," the film was later renamed.



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Domenica and Paolo Pilladi with Valerie and Greg Lingo at the "Last Call" wrap party.



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Comedian Jamie Kennedy, who graduated Monsignor Bonner High School in 1988, is one of the stars in the indie comedy "Last Call."

Before Lingo and Palladi wrote and polished the script, Lingo said he sat down with two of his lifelong friends from the old neighborhood, Billy Reilly and Mike Baughan, and together the three pals wrote the comedic story of the life and times of their boyhood, bringing the colorful characters and the unique setting to life.

"Over ten years ago, the three of us sat down and recorded some of the really funny memories we had of growing up in Upper Darby," Lingo, a resident of Radnor who is president and owner of Rockwell Custom in Media, chuckled. "We always laughed about the crazy things that happened to us and the characters we knew, while

growing up in eastern Delco and we decided to get all our vibrant memories down on paper."

Although the story is about life in Delaware County, most of the filming was done in Bayonne, N.J., where the tax credits are better and there was easier access to the Jersey shore where some of the film's scenes take place. The crew even recreated an Irish bar there to resemble the West Chester Pike iconic Callahan's and Cawley's.

"Bayonne is very similar in size and stature to Upper Darby," explained Lingo. "It's gritty and the people are down to earth like in Delco. Also, by keeping things close to New York, we were able to keep production costs down."

A few of "Last Call's" clips were

shot in Upper Darby and Center City Philadelphia so local viewers should keep a sharp eye out for the iconic 69th Street sign and the 30th Street bridge.

Upper Darby was renamed the fictional "Darby Heights," which Lingo said is based on the Upper Darby-Clifton Heights area. Some of the scenes take place in a faux bar they named Callahan's Tavern, which is modeled after the real deal on West Chester Pike in Upper Darby. Lingo said when they prepared to shoot the film, he brought its producers to Upper Darby so they could experience the ambience of Callahan's and Cawley's Tavern in Upper Darby. He wanted to give them a true feel for the local residents and the neighborhood. He also took them to the "Crabs and Dabs" night at Trophy Tavern in Drexel Hill.

The indie film is full of Delco characters and Delco connections, as well as many Delaware County born and bred actors, including Monsignor Bonner graduates Johnny Donohue, Jamie Kennedy, and Rob Hnelski; Archbishop Prendergast grad Cheri Oteri; Friends Central grad Peter Patrikios; and Cardinal O'Hara alum Pete Postiglione.

"Adding all this local talent made the film more authentic," Lingo shared.

Although Lingo was the original investor in the film, as the level of talent increased, more investors came on board. He said that although Last Call is his first-ever foray into film, it likely will not be his last.

Even though Last Call spotlights Lingo and his friends' experiences of growing up in Delaware County, Lingo said the storyline set in the fictitious "Darby Heights," a blue-collar, Philadelphia suburb, is universal and will appeal to film watchers across the nation.

Before receiving his undergraduate degree in engineering from Cornell and an MBA from Villanova University, Lingo was a product of Upper Darby School District schools. He attended Bywood Elementary, then Highland Park, Beverly Hills Middle School, and Upper Darby High School.

He remembers, as a young boy, jumping on his bike, throwing his baseball glove on the handlebars,

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