

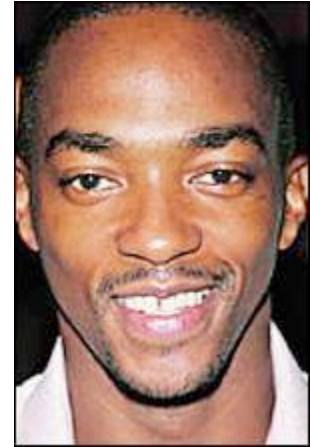
JOHN SMYNTEK'S: UDM campus gets role in movie

August 27, 2006

The movie "Crossover" opens nationwide Friday, and if you think it looks as if parts were shot at the University of Detroit Mercy and other local sites, you win the Sunday Names & Faces brand-new Wowser Award. (Sorry, there is no prize.)

The UDM McNichols campus served as the location for four scenes, reports UDM media factotum **Gary Lichtman**. Former Detroiter **Preston Whitmore II** directed the basketball saga, which stars **Anthony Mackie** ("Million Dollar Baby"), **Wayne Brady** and **Wesley Jonathan** ("What I Like About You").

The plot: A naturally talented basketball player, Noah Cruise (Jonathan), is determined to become a doctor by using his basketball scholarship to UCLA rather than succumb to the lure of former sports agent Vaughn (Brady) and go for the NBA. His best friend, Tech (Mackie), the buddy who took the fall for him and did time for an assault charge, has less lofty ambitions: He wants to get his GED and win an underground street ball game.



Anthony Mackie: Best pal

The new interiors of UDM's Business College -- the Commerce & Finance Building and the library -- are used in the film as well as exterior shots of the Health Professions facility.

University of Detroit Mercy is actually identified in one scene as the school where Noah is studying to get into UCLA medical school. Filmmakers even constructed a large outdoor sign with the UDM logo that reads "UDM College of Health Professions."

One of the rooms in the Commerce & Finance Building featured 18 students in white lab coats studying anatomy with a very realistic cadaver on a metal gurney.

"Crossover" also features 30 paid extras from campus (students and a couple of staff for shots in the film).

Lichtman and fellow UDM employee **Lucious Broom** had small walk-on roles.

Sexy or not

Donatella Versace sounds off on men, fashion and reinventing Versace in the September Details magazine:

On metrosexuals vs. machosexuals:

"I think men know to seduce women though words and conversation and nice gestures. That's much sexier than when a man uses muscle."

On men who act like jerks: "That can be sexy to women with no education, maybe. But with

somebody who's well-educated, it's not sexy at all."

Briefly

Airing: Today at 6 p.m. on "Somewhere in Time," (WMUZ-FM, 103.5) a salute to the 1940s radio show "Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street." The program featured jazz and satirical commentary. It was dedicated to the three Bs: barrelhouse, boogie-woogie and the blues. **Tom Wilson** and **Alison Harris** host. Then at 9:05 p.m. on WJR-AM (760), **Jack Krasula's** "Anything Is Possible" features golfer-turned-Christian writer **Wally Armstrong**.

*Compiled from various news sources by **JOHN SMYNTEK** at 313-222-5169 and jsmyntek@freepress.com. Hear him Fridays at about 7:40 a.m. on WJR-AM (760 and wjr.com) on "The Paul W. Smith Program."*

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