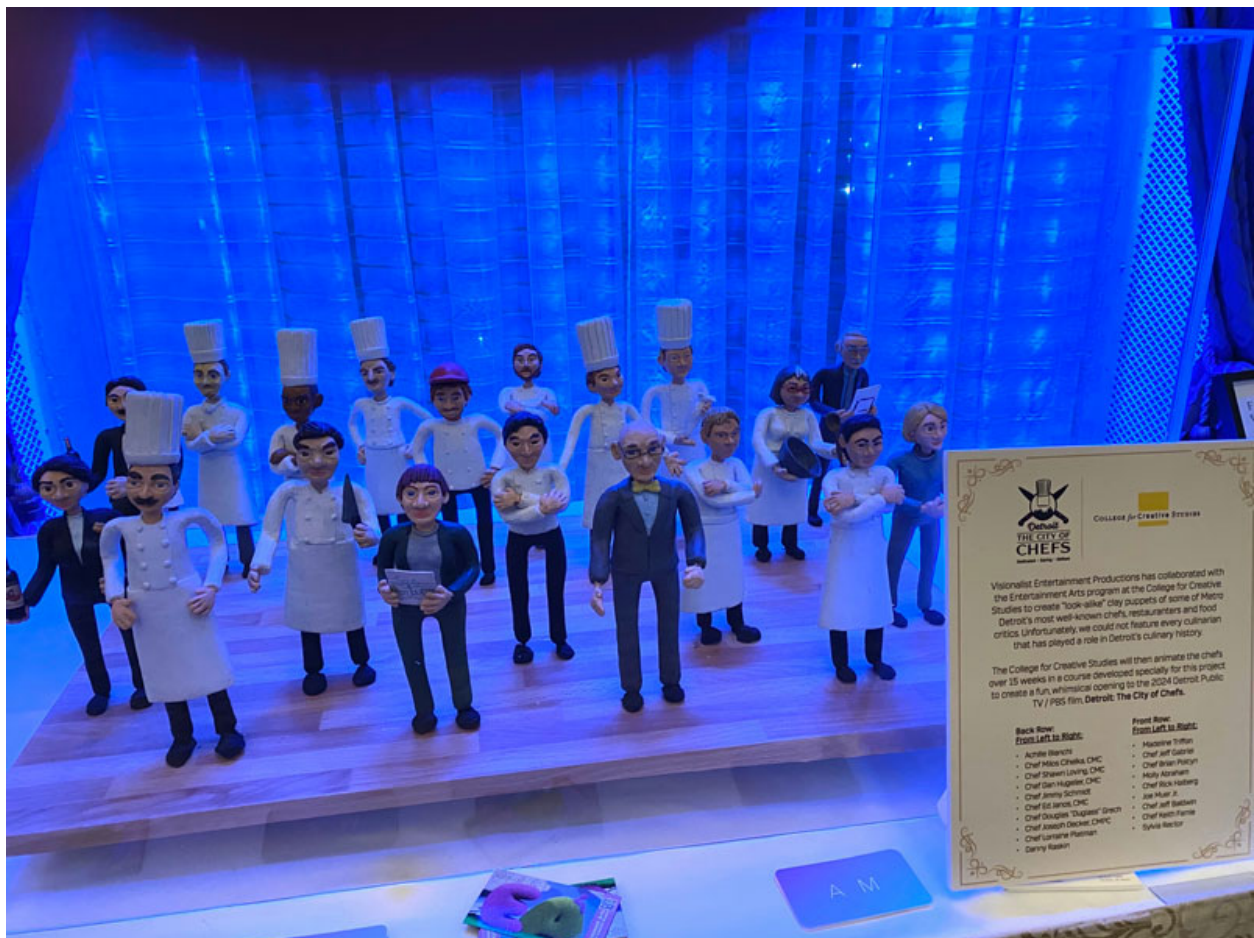


DBusiness Daily Update: CCS, Schoolcraft College Joining Production of 'Detroit: The City of Chefs' Documentary

By Tim Keenan and RJ King - January 29, 2024



Twenty clay puppets created by CCS student Alexandra Martinescul will be featured in stop-motion animation in "Detroit: The City of Chefs." // Photo by R.J. King

CCS, Schoolcraft College Joining Production of ‘Detroit: The City of Chefs’ Documentary

Twenty clay puppets created by College for Creative Studies student Alexandra Martinescul will be featured in stop-motion animation in “Detroit: The City of Chefs,” a documentary by Wixom filmmaker Keith Famie and his Visionalist Entertainment Productions team.

The film, which will debut on Detroit Public Television/PBS this fall, highlights the rich culinary history of metro Detroit and showcases Detroit’s great chefs, its restaurants, and the hospitality industry.

The clay figures are look-alikes of some of Detroit’s best-known chefs and will be used in a custom-created studio set at CCS to be animated with stop-motion.

CCS in Detroit has dedicated a 15-week semester from January to May 2024 to creating an animated story that will open and close the 90-minute film. Adjunct professor of stop-motion Kevin Coyle and chair and associate professor for entertainment arts at CCS, David Gazdowicz, say they are fully behind the project.

The stop-motion animation is a collaborative effort with the team at Schoolcraft College Culinary Arts Department’s Certified Master Pastry Chef Joe Decker and Certified Executive Pastry Chef Heather Moore. These two chefs will be putting together a three-tiered cake that honors Detroit’s culinary heritage. Viewers will see the chefs putting this together, as well as pretending to create the miniature look-alikes that they will then place on the cake.

As the chefs leave to go home, the clay puppets come to life through stop motion and break into a song created by the sounds that they make with small kitchen utensils in a fun, whimsical way. This piece will end with a chocolate display piece with the title of the film, “Detroit: The City of Chefs” ... Dedicated, Daring, Defiant.

The faculty helping with this project from Schoolcraft College are Program Coordinator and Chef Chris Misiak, Professor and Department Chair Jeremy Salo, and Associate Professor of Animation Josh Harrell. CGT faculty and Salo, in collaboration with the Sound Recording Technology Department, is working on creating the musical score.

Famie and his crew will be at Schoolcraft College today to embark on the first stages of this journey with the Schoolcraft College staff and the students with a recording session to record the sounds of kitchen utensils.

Filming with Decker and Moore will take place at 5 p.m. on Feb. 8. Once that filming is complete, the set then goes to CCS for the duration of the animation process.

For more information on the film, visit detroitcityofchefs.com.