

# Detroit Free Press

DINING

## Documentary on Detroit chefs premieres: Where to watch



**Susan Selasky**

Detroit Free Press

A history of Detroit chefs and culinary scene chronicled on film will be front and center on the big screen as the highly anticipated, "Detroit: The City of Chefs," premieres.

On Monday, the documentary film detailing decades of Detroit's culinary heritage and landscape, premieres at the Emagine Theatre in Novi, 44425 West 12 Mile Road.

The film from Keith Famie, a local filmmaker and chef, has showing times on Monday at 7:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. General admissions tickets are \$20 each.

Famie's 1 hour, 35-minute documentary film chronicles and is a deep look into the Detroit's culinary world through interviews with notable metro Detroit chefs, restaurants and the hospitality industry. The documentary covers several decades starting from the 1950s and 1960s to the present day.



The late restaurateur Joe Muer Jr., in the documentary "Detroit: The City of Chefs." *Provided By Keith Famie*

The film includes interviews with prominent metro Detroit restaurateurs, including the late Joe Muer Jr. of Joe Muer restaurants and Joe Vicari of the Joe Vicari Restaurant Group with two dozen restaurants under its umbrella including the Andiamo group of restaurants.

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Keith Famie (L) Certified Master Chef Jeff Gabriel, Certified Master Chef Shawn Loving, Certified Master Chef Dan HugelierT appear in the documentary "Detroit: The City of Chefs. *Provided By Keith Famie*

Featured in the film are longtime and prominent chefs including Brian Polcyn, Shawn Loving and Paul Grosz.

"I've been wanting to tell this story for 20 years," Famie told the Free Press in 2023 announcing the film production. "These were the guys that were the hot chefs in the '80s and '90s."

Those interviewed for the film include both past and present culinarians. They are some of Detroit's most recognizable chefs who molded metro Detroit's culinary scene decades ago as well chefs and restaurant owners who are shaping it today.

Many of those chefs worked with and learned from well-known European chefs like Milos Cihelka from Czechoslovakia, French-Canadian chef Douglas Grech, known as Chef Duglass, and Yvonne Gill, who hailed from New Zealand, Famie said. Cihelka is known as the "godfather of chefs" in metro Detroit and is responsible for creating and founding in 1970 the Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Association, a professional organization for chefs.



Chef Milos Cihelka is considered the godfather of Detroit chefs and is featured in the documentary "Detroit: The City of Chefs." *Provided By Keith Famie*

The film also highlights the role and impact of metro Detroit's culinary arts schools including Schoolcraft College with its many master chef instructors, the culinary arts programs at Oakland Community College and Macomb Community College.

Those attending the event can stroll through a special "Chef Alley" setup that features and highlights local culinary companies and you can meet many well-known chefs featured in the film and authors including Brian Polcyn, Jimmy Schmidt, Kelli Lewton and Mary Brady who will be signing copies of their books.

And if you can't make the film at Emagine in Novi, the film airs Thursday at 9 p.m. on Detroit PBS.