

RESTAURANTS + BARS

The story continues with 'Detroit: The City of Chefs II' documentary



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The stories of Michigan's award-winning and hard-working chefs continues with the second installment of "Detroit: City of Chefs" series from chef and film maker Keith Famie.

The 100-minute film will show Sept. 10 at the Emagine Theatre in Novi following a food tasting experience by students from Schoolcraft College and Oakland Community College culinary arts programs.



Director and producer Keith Famie interviews Joe Muer Jr. at Joe Muer Seafood in Bloomfield Hills. *Detroit: The City of Chefs*

While the first "Detroit: City of Chefs" film explored the history of chefs and restaurants in the city starting in the 1960s up until modern day, this chapter delves into the competitive spirit of our culinary elite.

"Part of being a Detroit chef is there's a required grit," says Mabel Gray chef James Rigato in the film. "There's this expectation if you're going to get in this industry, you've got to have a little bit of gravel in your teeth."

Through interviews with area chefs and culinary instructors, the second portion of Famie's documentary explains the importance and impact of institutions like the James Beard Awards, the Culinary Olympics and the Certified Master Chef program.

"Competition isn't for everybody. It's not for every chef; it's not for every student. It takes a particular person to want to do it," said chef Drew Sayes of Schoolcraft College in the film. "It takes a lot of dedication. You have to be very driven, very focused."

The screening on Sept. 10 at Emagine Novi, 44425 W. 12 Mile, kicks off with a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by the film at 7 or 7:15 p.m., depending on the theater. Tickets, \$30, include the film, a printed program and pre-show reception with food. Purchase at emagine-entertainment.com/movies/detroit-the-city-of-chefs-ii.

"Detroit: City of Chefs II" will air on television locally sometime in December.

Up next is "Detroit: City of Chefs III," which focuses on veganism, vegetarianism and the state's agricultural bounty. That chapter is coming in 2026.