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Movie about iconic Gaslight Cafe will be filmed in Pittsburgh

Film about New York City's Gaslight Cafe will be shot in Pittsburgh in the spring.

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Clinton Clegg, frontman for soul-rock band The Commonheart, will be among the Pittsburgh-centric cast in "116 MacDougal," a film about the iconic Gaslight Cafe in Greenwich Village.

The movie, which tells the story of the club that played host to Van Ronk, Bob Dylan, Allen Ginsberg, Peter, Paul & Mary and many others in the '60s, will be shot in Pittsburgh in the spring.

It will be directed by actor David Castro ("Relentless"), who will play Dylan manager Albert Grossman, and Donna D'Errico, who starred in the "Baywatch" TV series in the '90s, will co-produce and play the lead, an embittered mafia wife.

"It's an interesting story that was never told before," says co-producer Lynda Schneider. "That a man from Dormont, John Mitchell, opened the Gaslight Cafe, which launched the careers of Bob Dylan and so many others."

Also co-producing is screenwriter Vincent Restauri, a Pittsburgh lawyer who has written his first script, and his girlfriend Cynthia Savitt, the Pittsburgh-based niece of the late Mitchell.

Among the other Pittsburgh actors are Adrienne Wehr as German actress Marlene Dietrich and Lisa Ann Goldsmith as Mary Travers.

Mr. Clegg said he got the role on the recommendation of Pittsburgh native Nevin James, who is playing an 18-year-old Dylan in the film.

Asked if he was familiar with Van Ronk, Mr. Clegg said, "I am now. But I was not. Needless to say, I've been boning up."

Where the mob element comes in, said Ms. Schneider, is that "the mafia was into the protection business and John Mitchell refused to pay the protection money."

Mitchell opened the Gaslight Cafe in 1958 during the beat era as a place for poetry readings and sold it in 1961, before many of its stars arrived on the scene. It closed in 1971 and is now a tapas bar called The Up & Up.

The movie, which is being funded through private investment, will be shot at 3 Rivers Studios in March or April.

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