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of the bar at the same establishment, ending up in each other's arms.
Dating ensues, but just when Marc starts falling for Jane she lands a part in a road show and leaves town to tour for a year. Upon Jane's return, she and Marc meet again at the lounge to ignite the spark they once had.

Local crew

As it so happens, Cicchini wasn't the only Detroit to work on the film. The cast and crew hail from suburbs near and far.
Writer, director, and editor Mike Andrews, graduated from Birmingham Brother Rice. In a brazen attempt to strike it rich, Andrews went on America's favorite game show, Jeopardy and won \$20,500 and a houseboat trip on Lake Mendocino. He did miss a baseball question that prevented him from going on to be the four-day champion. After accepting his winnings, he decided to put it to good use on *Fear and Loathing*, a version of his movie he'd originally entitled *The Bar* (it is his film producing and directing debut).
Then there is Lisa Locicero (who plays Jane), a former student of Grosse Pointe South

High School. Locicero most recently appeared in Nora Ephron's *Lucky Numbers* with John Travolta and Lisa Kudrow, and attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York.

The director of photography on *Fear and Loathing*, Bruce Sherman, attended Redford High School. His numerous credits include *Homeless*, directed by Dennis Hopper, for which he has just acted as director of photography, and for Richard Rush's *The Sinister Saga of the Stuntman*. His other credits include *Roger and Me*, *Chameleon Street* (an award-winner at Sundance), *The Price of Water*, and about thirty other films.

Is it any wonder Cicchini feels most comfortable among hometown folk? He claims it's the only profound element in his otherwise wacky comedy, and, truth be told, wasn't by design.

"We chose Lisa because she won the part; we chose Bruce because he was the best guy for the movie," he says. "I was not by design." Maybe there's something to that: Salt-of-the-earth Midwestern folk mysteriously congruent in the bastion of entertainment that is Holly-

wood.
The Cicchini family does have deep roots that run deep. Cicchini was raised in Redford and his parents now reside in Bloomfield Hills.

He graduated from Bishop Borgese High School, attended Central Michigan University and then Wayne State where he achieved his B.F.A. and where, he says, he "got seriously involved in acting" although the school didn't have a theater major then.

Armed with his undergraduate degree, Cicchini did what all good actors do: He moved to New York to achieve his M.F.A. from New York University. He feels fortunate to have gotten into NYU, where he says he "studied acting very seriously." Tinsel town was the inevitable next stop. The Cicchinis now live in Beverly Hills (California, that is).

His resume

All the hard work has certainly paid off. The entertainment credits on Cicchini's resume run off the page: *The Godfather III* (his first big role), *The Watcher*, with Keanu Reeves; *Primary Colors*, in which he played Jimmy Ozio, a role loosely based

on Andrew Cuomo; *A Civil Action* with John Travolta; *The Deep End of the Ocean*; *The Sure Hand of God*, an independent film shot last summer to be released this year, and the John Frankenheimer-directed film *Path to War*, which aired on HBO in April. Other film credits include *The Don's Analyst* and *Lighter*. Television film credits include *Mission of the Shark*, *Jonathan the Boy Nobody Wanted*, and *The Elian Gonzalez Story*. He has had guest-starring roles on some of the most-watched shows on television: *The Guardian*, *E.R.*, *N.Y.P.D. Blue*, *Frasier*, *Providence*, and *Law and Order*.

"I am basically a character actor but sometimes I play more straight-laced or leading man-type roles," Cicchini says. "Joe Galfrano in *Path to War* was a very bright, sensitive and somewhat button-downed character who was straight-laced—but a chain smoker." His recent character on *CBS The Guardian* was a very motivated, by the book, federal prosecutor.

But it was his role in *Godfather III* that makes Cicchini swoon.

"It was the break that led me

to where I could really make a living as an actor. It felt like the top of the world to me at the time. Just great drama and great memories."

Despite the production of *Fear and Loathing*, Cicchini considers himself an actor first and a director second. As a director, he has one short film to his credit and has only made one previous attempt as a producer. He used to be associate artistic director of The Hudson Guild Theatre Company through which he met Mike Andrews (the company produced a couple of Andrews' one-act plays). It was about a year after Cicchini left the company that Andrews contacted him to take on the film version of *The Bar*.

But *Fear and Loathing* didn't come about in a heartbeat, taking about a year all told to produce.

At the start they did, of course, hope to sell the film but that was not the primary goal.

"Our goals were to make a

good, enjoyable movie for everyone from about age 16 on up," Cicchini said, "to make a quality entertaining movie on a very small budget, and to come up with a product that we could use to engender other projects."

Those other projects are already in the works: "We're developing another romantic comedy about the nature of physical attraction between men and women."

Last Christmas, Cicchini proudly showed *Fear and Loathing* to friends and family at the Beverly Hills Country Club. He was proud to be able to show the film to those most close to him. In the future, he'd love to use the Detroit area as a backdrop for more work in the future.

"I have this dream of doing a number of films shot in Detroit. I think it's a really unique city—a tragic city, and a deeply misunderstood place. I would love to give back to the community someday."

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