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Making 'Doughboys'

By Billy Gil

Louis Lombardi is an actor, director and screenwriter who next month will appear as the villain Phobos in *The Spirit*, Frank Miller's (writer of 300) directorial debut and big-screen adaptation of the newspaper strip by Will Eisner. For now, Lombardi has another project to talk about: *Doughboys* (see review, page 24), the second film he's written (along with Evan Jacobs), directed and starred in, coming to DVD Nov. 18 from MTI Home Video, at \$24.95.

Doughboys is the story of two brothers who own a bakery in the Bronx, left to them by their late father. Frank (Gaetano Iacono) is older, more mature and pretty much runs the show, while Lou (Lombardi) struggles with a gambling problem — one that almost sinks the small New York business.

"I wrote the script almost 12 years ago," Lombardi explained. "It's based on true events from when I grew up."

But the script started out with a pizzeria instead of a bakery. While doing a morning show, Lombardi came across

the bakery that would come to be the bakery in the film. Lombardi said he couldn't pass up what he saw as a movie set come to life. Luckily for him, the bakery was on board, and everything fell into place — demolition was needed for a key scene in the film, for example, and the business happened to need renovations anyway.

The film has been a festival favorite, winning best picture at the Kent Film Festival and audience choice awards at the Staten Island and Westchester County film festivals.

"Ten years after I wrote it, [the film] was financed and shot in two and a half months," Lombardi said. "That's why I try to tell people in this business, you never quit."

The *Doughboys* DVD includes interviews, including with Vincent Pastore ("The Sopranos"), who plays the boys' father in the film and is a longtime friend of Lombardi. Additionally behind-the-scenes footage is available on www.doughboysthemovie.com and www.myspace.com/doughboysthemovie.

