

MILFORD DENTIST CREATES INSPIRATIONAL VIDEO DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

*BY ISABELLE BOUSQUETTE FOR
MEDIANEWS GROUP*

COVID-19 has sparked an artistic movement. Street murals honor essential workers. Photographers document deserted cityscapes. A recent Banksy mural depicts a child playing with a nurse doll as if it's a superhero. And Spike Lee's short film "New York New York" showcases a city united against a terrible crisis.

In some ways, what Spike Lee did for New York is comparable to what Milford dentist William Huszti did for metro Detroit. He's created a short film that symbolizes the drama and resilience of the Detroit area during the COVID pandemic.

Huszti's five-minute short "Detroit Landmarks: Inspiration" is a love letter to the architecture of various houses of worship in his area. The soaring views of these beautiful places of spiritual comfort has become a symbol of hope and inspiration during the pandemic.

Using a video camera and a drone, he filmed breathtaking aerial views of St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield, Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills and others.

Huszti started filming with his two daughters after his father died from COVID-19 early in the pandemic. Those first weeks in March and April were difficult, and Huszti says his family was "in a contemplative mood." That's why he wanted to come together with his family to "make something beautiful."

"We thought it would be a good opportunity to express ourselves and have some positive project," he says.

The first thing he filmed was the gold roof of St. John's Armenian Church. It was a landmark Huszti had driven by "a million times," back when he and his wife were just study partners at University of Detroit Mercy, both pursuing dentistry.

He admired it before he and his wife were married — a week after their U-D Mercy graduation — before their two daughters were born, and before they set up their own dental practice in Milford. During this unsettling time of illness and death, he says, was the perfect time to capture it on film.

"The thing about the churches and the synagogues in general (is) they're so dramatic, and I think it really reflected the way we felt at the time, too," Huszti says, "There's so much energy and, really, in the end a lot of living, a lot of celebration — how many weddings I'm sure these buildings have seen, and funerals, too. It just felt like a really appropriate thing to video."

Many people agreed. One viewer commented on the video, and its inclusion of the Kirk in the Hills church in Bloomfield Hills. "I grew up in Michigan and still consider it home," Ruth Fruehauf wrote. "This brought tears to my eyes of fond memories and the beauty of the Kirk, my childhood church. Thank you very much."

Another, D. Derderian, wrote, "Thank you for giving me some beautiful new perspectives of my church that we never really get to see while standing on the ground."

Now that Michigan is in the phases of reopening, Huszti has returned to his dental practice. Does he see any similarities between dental work and filmmaking?

"They're both very detail oriented, that's for sure," he says. "On the other hand, it's kind of fun to step out of the office, and do something that's a little bit more creative."

"Detroit Landmarks: Inspiration" is dedicated to the memory of Huszti's father and to his daughter, Sophia, who recently graduated from high school.
