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Musician Frank Rogala holds up a sign in Los Angeles to draw attention to his band, NC-17.

## Film tells history of band from Mackinaw

■ 'Won't Anybody Listen' chronicles rock band NC-17 when it struggled to make it in California

By STEFANIE MURRAY  
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TRaverse CITY — If few in southern California would listen to Frank Rogala and his band NC-17 the first time, what are the chances they will be heard the second time around?

Considerably better. This time Rogala and his band aren't begging for record-label attention; instead, they're telling their story as victims of the southern California music machine.

"Won't Anybody Listen" is a feature-length documentary that chronicles the lives of Mackinaw City natives Frank and Vince Rogala over a period of seven years, during a time when their rock band, NC-17, was struggling to make it in California.

The project was a joint venture between Vince, Frank and filmmaker Dov Kelemer, who began shooting the film when he was 20 years old.

At 16, Kelemer began producing and directing a local cable show that featured bands from the southern California area. In 1992 NC-17 was featured on his show, and after spending time with the band and helping them make their first music video on a \$300 budget, Kelemer decided it was

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## Band from Mackinaw tells story on film

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time to make a movie.

"After shooting video for a live album we recorded, Dov said, 'Hey, we have enough stuff to make a movie here,'" Frank Rogala said, speaking from the studio in Los Angeles where the final version of the movie and score are being mixed. "He thought all the stuff that was happening to us, good and bad, was interesting."

The first cut of the movie was four hours long and was "all over the place," Rogala said.

"We realized like a laser beam we had to narrow our focus and decide what the movie was going to be about," he said. "That's when everything began."

Being followed by a camera crew during some of the best and worst moments of their lives wasn't easy for either brother. Frank Rogala recalled several times when he wasn't looking forward to the camera crew's presence.

"It was fun at first," he said. "But then my wife was like, 'They are not coming this weekend!' She had just washed the floors and



Vince Rogala of Cheboygan is part of a documentary about the struggles of making it as a band in southern California.

said she didn't want the camera crew stomping through the house."

After a while, brother Vince got a little tired of the cameras and began to tease Kelemer, telling him he had to become a film finisher, not a filmmaker.

Everything the band went

through over the last seven years was taped and logged, from bookings to live shows to IRS audits.

"When you watch the final version, you have no idea how much time it took to make it," Frank Rogala said.

Vince and Frank grew up in northern Michigan and began

their first band, EXUDE, in Mackinaw City in 1978. Two years later, the Rogalas signed their first record deal and moved to Los Angeles. Their first record debuted on the independent record charts at No. 2 and remained in the International Top 200 for five years.

The brothers started NC-17 in 1990 with six members, including original EXUDE member Robin Canada, Ron Perron, Chuck Hohn and Robert Aviles.

Vince Rogala is now living in Cheboygan, where he owns East-West Productions, producing promotional videos for vacation spots. Frank Rogala is putting the finishing touches on the film and new NC-17 albums in Los Angeles.

The movie premieres Aug. 4 at the Charlie Chaplin Theater in Hollywood. NC-17 plans to release two new albums, one to coincide with the movie premiere in early August.

On the Web:  
[www.nc17music.com](http://www.nc17music.com)  
[www.anybodylisten.com](http://www.anybodylisten.com)