

Idea of March



A political thriller set in the Detroit area starring George Clooney as a charismatic presidential candidate who gets a crash course in dirty politics on the campaign trail

Politics, corruption and betrayal

Featuring an all-star cast!

**George Clooney, Ryan Gosling, Marisa Tomei,
Philip Seymour Hoffman, and Paul Giamatti.**

The central character is Stephen Meyers (Ryan Gosling), who, as a press secretary, is required to basically lie as a living. He works for Pennsylvania Governor Mike Morris (George Clooney), an idealistic liberal.

A tangled web is weaved when a fling develops between young intern Molly Stearns (Evan Rachel Wood) and the press secretary. Dirty personal secrets are revealed that could destroy political careers. Ida Horowicz (Marisa Tomei), is the hard hitting *New York Times* reporter who is hungry for a scandalous story.

The movie was filmed in Michigan and Ohio. Visit the movie locations in Michigan where *Ides of March* was filmed, hear the behind the scenes stories of the filming and visit the same places where some of the big stars enjoyed their free time in Michigan.



Cliff Bells

2030 Park Avenue, Detroit

Cliff Bells is the nightclub where character Stephen Myers (Ryan Gosling) and his boss, Paul Zara (Philip Seymour Hoffman), discuss presidential candidate, Mike Morris's (George Clooney) chances with journalist Ida Horowicz (Marisa Tomei) in the nightclub Ninth and Vine.

Oh, if only these walls could talk...Steeped in history, Cliff Bells is one of Detroit's oldest and best jazz clubs! The interior of this 1935 historic club is wood paneled and features lavish art deco. Known for classic drinks and exceptional jazz music, Cliff Bells is a top gathering spot in downtown Detroit. Don't miss it!



Campaign Headquarters Building

1263 Griswold Street Detroit

In the movie, *Ides of March*, the campaign headquarters is referred to as being located in Cincinnati, Ohio. But it was actually located in a building in downtown Detroit.

This is where presidential nominee, Mike Morris, parked his presidential campaign bus. In the movie, all the windows in the building were covered with posters of Clooney's face (as Morris).

Private Home

271 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills

In this film scene, Zara visits Senator Thompson (Jeffrey Wright) to see if he can count on his support. This beautiful private home, built in 1949, has six bedrooms and eight baths. It sits on over four acres in this upscale neighborhood.

Historic Dearborn Inn

20301 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn

In the scene filmed here, Mike Morris debates the death penalty with talk show host Charlie Rose in the Alexandria Ballroom of the Dearborn Inn.

Henry Ford had this historic hotel built as the world's first airport hotel. The red brick, colonial Georgian-style hotel opened in July 1931. The Dearborn Inn was built on 23 acres across from what was the Ford Airport. Henry Ford used many of his own design ideas for hotel.

The Alexandria Ballroom was based on a room Henry Ford had seen in Alexandria, Virginia. Henry and Clara's love for dancing

made the ballroom a centerpiece of the new hotel. Be sure to dine at Edison's, one of the hotel's finest restaurants named after Henry Ford's good friend, Thomas Edison. Guests will love the décor and large arched windows overlooking the beautiful grounds. Not to be missed and located just across the street from the Dearborn Inn is the world's largest history attraction, The Henry Ford.

Power Center for the Performing Arts

121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor

The campaign event being held by Governor Morris at Kent State University is really the Power Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor.

Founded in 1880, the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater & Dance is one of the finest performing arts schools in the U.S. The Power Center offers extraordinary performance opportunities all year long.



Studio Center

23689 Industrial Park Drive, Farmington Hills

A Grace & Wild soundstage was home to the airplane set used for a scene where George Clooney and Ryan Gosling take a very bumpy flight.

The studio is where a flying version of iconic auto dealer Mel Farr was created in 1997 for TV commercials.

On a side note: this is the same place where video specialists worked for the police to improve the quality of a tape of the 1994 attack of figure skater Nancy Kerrigan in Detroit.

Nick's Country Oven

511 West 14 Mile Road, Clawson

In the movie, *Ides of March*, Myers drives Molly to the (fictitious) Oakley Women's Clinic of Cincinnati, which was really filmed at 14 Mile Road in Clawson, just north of Detroit. Afterwards, as Molly waits for him at the nearby Nick's Country Oven, Myers, unfortunately, never shows up.

This local eatery was voted the best family-friendly restaurant in the area.

Firebird Tavern

419 Monroe Street, Detroit

Myers has a clandestine meeting with Morris in the darkened kitchen of Marilyn's restaurant. In this scene, Myers arranges a secret meeting with presidential hopeful, Mike Morris, and forces him to dump Zara.

This popular club, formerly known as Marilyn's On Monroe, is the new Firebird Tavern and is in the heart of lively

Greektown. The tavern just opened after renovation of the 120-year-old building. Originally constructed in the 1880s, the spot first operated as a saloon, then an auto upholstery shop, local café, and barber shop. The historic woodwork, stained glass, and exposed brick has all been restored.

The main bar features more than 40 beer offerings with a focus on Michigan brews. The tavern also has great selection of specialty cocktails and wines. This is a great stop before or after local sporting events.

Christ Church Cranbrook
470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills

The West Virginia church where Molly's funeral is held is actually Christ Church Cranbrook in the upscale neighborhood of Bloomfield Hills. George Clooney visited this church at least three times before finally deciding this was the church to be featured in the film for the funeral scenes.

This church was the brainchild of newspaper magnate George G. Booth and his wife, Ellen. In 1904, the Booths bought a 175-acre farm in Bloomfield Hills and built their home, Cranbrook House. They later built an elementary school in the early 1920s.

This magnificent church was completed in 1928. Note the beautiful sculpture on the exterior of the church, "The Dawn Men." Notice a belfry that displays a cross and the figures of Mary, "the Mother of Our Lord," and John, "the Beloved Disciple." There is a bronze bell in the belfry with words inscribed: "Rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them that weep." Many of the sculptures on the exterior of the church were awarded the gold medal for sculpture at the 1929 exhibition of the Architectural League of New York.



PHOTO: PEGGY DAHLBERG

ATTRACTIONS

The Big House
1000 South State Street, Ann Arbor

The Big House is the football stadium for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

It is the largest college-owned stadium in the nation, the second largest stadium in the world, and the 34th largest sports venue. Guided tours are available that feature access to the locker rooms and press box.



PHOTO: ANN ARBOR CVB

Kerrytown
Ann Arbor

Kerrytown is a historic district in Ann Arbor. It is known for its brick streets, diverse array of shops, and vibrant culture. You'll love it here. www.kerrytown.org

Cranbrook House and Gardens
380 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills

Cranbrook House was designed in 1908 for the founders of Cranbrook, George Booth and Ellen Scripps Booth, and served as their family home for 40 years. The estate is now the centerpiece of the Cranbrook Educational Community campus, a National Historic Landmark.

Designed in the English Arts-and-Crafts-style, Cranbrook House is the oldest surviving manor home in metro Detroit. The house showcases handcrafted furniture, tapestries, tiles, stained and leaded glass from all over the world. Step inside for a tour of this magnificent estate.



PHOTO: CIRCLE MICHIGAN

DETROIT CASINOS

Three large casinos are featured in downtown Detroit. Each has first-class hotel accommodations.

MGM Casino

1777 Third Avenue, Detroit

Greektown Casino

555 East Lafayette Street, Detroit

MotorCity Casino Hotel

2901 Grand River Avenue, Detroit

Play dice. Play cards. Play hooky from the outside world. When you step into MotorCity Casino, you enter a world that's been fine-tuned for action. Neon lights, music, excitement and at least six dining options are offered here with the hot spot, Soundboard, for nightclub entertainment.

Somerset Collection

2800 West Big Beaver Road, Troy

Shop til you drop! Somerset Collection is an upscale, luxury mall with more than 180 specialty stores. From high end shopping to unique boutiques, Somerset satisfies an array of shopping needs.



Meadowbrook

350 Estate Drive, Rochester

Tour a national historic landmark. Meadowbrook is the historic home built by Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of automotive pioneer, John Dodge. It is the largest and most elaborate home in the Midwest.



PHOTO: CIRCLE MICHIGAN

Edsel and Eleanor Ford House

1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores

Head over to the serene lakeside estate of Edsel and Eleanor Ford. Built in 1929, this 60-room mansion is nestled among 86 acres of magnificent gardens.



PHOTO: CIRCLE MICHIGAN

The Henry Ford

20800 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn

The world's largest indoor/outdoor history attraction and a national historic landmark! The 12-acre museum showcases a massive collection of artifacts and exhibits that celebrate America's ingenuity and innovation.



PHOTO: CIRCLE MICHIGAN

A must see is Greenfield Village, an outdoor history park and a part of the Henry Ford complex. Be sure to visit another national historic landmark, the Ford Rouge Factory. Witness the newest Ford truck being built at one of the most environmentally factories in the world.



DID YOU KNOW?

***Ides of March* was nominated for an Oscar at the Academy Awards for best writing of a screen play and nominated for a Golden Globe for Ryan Gosling Best Actor in a Motion Picture Drama. Another Golden Globe Award for George Clooney for Best Director and Best Writing for a Screenplay.**

You never know who you might see at Giovanni's Ristorante in Detroit. While in town, George Clooney, Ryan Gosling, Grant Heslov, and Paul Giamatti made themselves at home...eating, laughing and horsing around with the owners and staff. After his visit, Giamatti commented on his stay in Detroit: "I went to a great Italian place called Giovanni's. Amazing pasta...fantastic woman who owned the place."

If you go, be sure to check out the seating chart as you enter the dining room to see where your favorite celebrity dined. Visit the restroom for a language lesson and take a peek at the "Walk of Fame" hallway. Other Hollywood stars have dined at this hidden gem as well: Barbara and Frank Sinatra, together with Martha and William Clay Ford, hosted a private dinner party in the Speak Easy room. It was a top secret affair...and after dinner Mr. Sinatra told the owner, "This is great Italian food!"

Danny DeVito and Jack Nicholson called on Giovanni's to cater dinner while they were in town shooting the movie *Hoffa*. When the cast of "American Idol" were in town, Ryan Seacrest, Paula Abdul, Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson came in for dinner. Pat Benatar, Celine Dion, Red Skelton, Paul Newman, John Travolta and Michael Bolton all dined at this iconic restaurant. If you want a chance to get a glimpse of the stars...come to Giovanni's. It's located at 330 South Oakwood Boulevard in Detroit.

Several other local faces can be spotted in the movie, including Detroit musician Bob Mervak, who can be seen singing "We'll Meet Again" in a scene at Cliff Bells, a Detroit jazz club. Mervak, who spent three days on the set, played a rented \$70,000 range Steinway for a scene involving Gosling, Hoffman, who plays

Gosling's boss on the campaign, and Tomei, who plays a reporter.

Bob Mervak describes Clooney's directing style as "pretty chill" and says the director wanted everything subdued for the performance. At one point, as they talked music, Clooney modestly dropped a name. "He said, 'I don't know if you're familiar with my aunt, Rosemary Clooney,'" Mervak recalls.

Detroit and Ann Arbor both played big roles in providing locations for the speeches, rallies and office meetings in the political drama. With three University of Michigan buildings used as sets, hundreds of U-M students wound up being extras.

In addition to Cliff Bells, the production filmed in downtown Detroit at the Colony Club, inside of the Detroit Welcome Center and at the Gem Theatre's kitchen.

This is the third film Clooney has worked on in metro Detroit—he filmed scenes here for 1998's *Out of Sight* and 2009's *Up in the Air*. He didn't talk to local media during filming of *Ides*, but those who met him say he was charming and down-to-earth.

When filming was completed, George Clooney and fellow producers stopped in at the Apex Bar in Detroit, a spot where John Lee Hooker (known around the world as the "King of the Boogie") used to play.

Members of the cast were spotted all over the city of Detroit. Several actors stopped at the hipster watering hole, Café D'Mongo's. It's at 1439 Griswold Street in Detroit.

George Clooney particularly loved the features of the high ceilings in the Christ Church Cranbrook. Clooney thought it was extremely beautiful and loved the country setting it was in. George Clooney commented how lovely it was that the children of the parish were at the church in their own programs while church services were being held.

Clooney was asked what he thought of filming *Ides of March* in Michigan. Exclaimed Clooney, "We loved it there. First of all, Ann Arbor is an amazing city. We got there on St. Patrick's Day, and everyone was drinking green beer, and everyone was screwed up. And I was like, 'Oh, this town was made for me.' We loved shooting on the campus there. We loved shooting in Detroit and in Ann Arbor. When you go to Detroit, you see a town that's just resilient, that's just fighting to win again. There's an energy to cities like that. And just watching a city fight to get back on its feet, and watching the inner strength of a city like that, is just tremendous."

The filming of *Ides of March* brought an excitement, a synergy, to the community and parishioners of the church in Bloomfield Hills. During filming, it so happened the church was trying to raise money for one of their outreach projects. The producers of the film needed more extras for the funeral scene at the church; George Clooney wanted the church to be full for the shoot. The production staff had hired about 100 extras but needed 400. A lightbulb went on with the church staff and they decided as part of their church fundraiser, to auction off pew seats to their own church members which would allow them to be "an extra" in the film. The extra seats sold out and the church raised nearly \$12,000 to be put back into the community.

Ryan Gosling sat in one of the church pews for the funeral scene. George Clooney was a gentleman and talked and joked with local fans and parishioners. Between takes, Clooney walked up to the casket placed at the front of the church for the movie, knocked on the top of it and quipped: "Anybody in there?"

It took just one full day to film the church scene—new landscaping, signage and plantings were inserted to the exterior of the church. The next day, everything was returned to its previous condition.

The church's "hospitality center" was used to feed extras, parishioners, film crew and the big stars. The production staff used the hospitality center for catering a second time during the filming of the mansion scenes in Bloomfield Hills.

Although the church in the film was supposed to be a Catholic church, Christ Church is really an Episcopal church. George Clooney needed altar boys, which traditional Catholic services provide. So the Episcopal Church used several young boys from their church to pose as the altar boys in the film. Even the church's own rector had a part in *Ides of March*, as a priest! Talk about an impostor!

Extras and parishioners for the church scenes were told to dress in dark clothing and not too casual. Everyone was staged at the Kingsley Inn for inspection by the film crew before shooting could begin at the church. Extra clothing and accessories were on hand and provided by the production team. A few purses were switched out between the extras, some had scarfs added, and blazers were added to others.

Ryan Gosling brought his dog with him to Michigan. After filming on the campus of University of Michigan one day, Gosling returned to his on-site trailer to pick up his dog...no one knows where he went with his personal pet... maybe he just wanted to get his dog some much needed exercise? Gosling was also spotted shopping for groceries at Whole Foods Market in Ann Arbor.

The movie received nearly \$5 million in Michigan film incentives and it was expected to generate about \$12.5 million in spending in the state.

George Clooney joked and bantered with extras involved in the scenes shot on campus at U-M in Ann Arbor. Clooney mentioned the dinner he had at Ann Arbor's Pacific Rim and joked with the extras about the rivalry between U-M and Ohio State.

Now this is really cool—while filming, many of the crew members were wearing Detroit branded logo wear: Tigers t-shirts, Kid Rock logos, and "Made in Detroit" hoodies.



The Michigan Film and Digital Media Office (MFDMO) was created in 1979 to assist and attract incoming production companies and to promote the growth of Michigan's indigenous industry. Since its inception, the MFDMO commissioner has been responsible for implementing a program that lives within the parameters of Michigan law and works to ensure the program runs efficiently and effectively. Today, the MFDMO is working diligently to guarantee the film and digital media program accomplishes key results of private investment and workforce development by encouraging high wages, high-tech jobs and talent retention.

*Ides of March tour is the sole property of the Michigan Film & Digital Media Office.
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