

## Milford college student will be spending spring break in Hollywood, thanks to his Internet spoof, 'The BC'

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01/30/2006



Jessica Colavita, left, Sean Hanlon, Father Don MacMillan, Joe Sabia of Milford, Sherwood Tondorf, Ryan Farnan, Nicolle Buckley star in "The BC," an Internet spoof of Fox's young-adult soap opera "The OC" that's shot at Boston College.

It's hard to know who's generating the bigger buzz in Beantown these days, Tom Brady or Joe Sabia.

Sure, Brady took the New England Patriots to the playoffs this year, but Sabia landed his Boston College buddies in Newsweek, Boston Magazine, a Boston TV station and, soon, the CBS Evening News.

And come spring break, this kid from Milford is going out to Hollywood — all thanks to "The BC," Sabia's Internet spoof of TV's soapy drama "The OC."

"It's a phenomenon. We've got 100 people showing up to a casting call tonight," says Sabia, a 22-year-old political science and economics major who graduated from Joseph A. Foran High School in 2002. "We've had more than a dozen requests to advertise campus activities on the show."

"The BC," co-produced by Sabia and fellow student Sherwood Tondorf, is the fictional story of Woody Atryan, a young man recently expelled from Boston University, who gets a second chance at academic life at Boston College. Tondorf portrays Woody and Sabia plays Seth Lohan, a carefree BC student who takes Woody under his wing.

Episodes are written, filmed and directed by BC students, then posted online at [www.the-bc.com](http://www.the-bc.com). The site has had more than 100,000 viewers in a little over three months.

In its tone, "The BC" hews close to the look and themes of "The OC," a Fox network drama set in Orange County, California. "The OC" is primarily a hit with teenage and young-adult viewers, including many college students.

"This started as a simple trailer based on a pun," Sabia explains. "We mirrored every single shot from

an 'OC' trailer. A lot of students absolutely love that show. They love all the cheesy romance and drama."

But instead of fast cars and West Coast beaches, "The BC" offers dormitory life and dining hall intrigue in the Northeast. It also trades on the rivalry between Boston College and Boston University.

Most telling of all, "The BC" features a star turn by real-life campus official Fr. Don MacMillan, a Jesuit priest who portrays himself on the show.

"I told him, 'Father Don, I'm looking for a priest to fill this very minor role,'" Sabia recalls. "So he did it. Then we discovered that people really respond to a priest being funny on camera. Having him talk about Usher or rap culture really connected him with young people."

Others are watching, too.

Sabia and Tondorf began getting calls from Boston radio stations, TV outlets and print journalists, as well as national news organizations. Newsweek has mentioned the show, and "The CBS Evening News" sent out a film crew to spend a day with the show's creators.

Sabia's parents, Don and Nora Sabia of Milford, are keeping tabs on every bit of notoriety.

"We're amazed by it," Nora Sabia says. "It's snowballed into this huge thing. What I'm impressed with is that he's getting actual professors, coaches and Jesuits to do this."

In addition to episodes of "The BC," the show's Web site also features weekly commercial parodies. This Wednesday, Sabia says, a commercial featuring Tim Russert of "Meet the Press" will debut on the site.

All of this attention has not escaped the notice of the creative team at "The OC," out in California. "We originally thought we'd get sued," Sabia says. "But since we didn't know what we were doing, we went ahead with it. The thing is, we later got word from a producer of 'The OC' that he loved what we're doing. He even sent us some merchandise."

Now Sabia is ready to take his success to the next level. During an upcoming break from school, he and Tondorf plan to make the rounds in Los Angeles to explore jobs in the TV industry.

"I think I've found sort of a calling," Sabia says. "It would be stupid not to give this a shot in real life."

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