

## **Melfa Helps his Client Luis Tiant**

Byline: Nancy Sheehan – Worcester Telegram and Gazette – 2009

Financial adviser Victor J. Melfa Jr. of Westboro really goes the extra mile for his clients. First, he helps them with money matters and then, if they have a compelling story to tell, he goes out and lines up movie makers such as the storied Farrelly Brothers, Oscar winner Chris Cooper and other major talents and makes a documentary film about them that draws kudos from critics. OK. He's only done that once - so far - and the film's subject is Luis Tiant.

The 105-minute film follows the Red Sox pitching icon as he returns to his native Cuba for the first time since the gate closed behind the island nation's expatriates after the botched Bay of Pigs Invasion, 1961, an unsuccessful invasion of Cuba by Cuban exiles, supported by the U.S. government. On Apr. 17, 1961, an armed force of about 1,500 Cuban exiles landed in the Bahía de Cochinos (Bay of Pigs) on the south coast of Cuba. in 1961. He was 67 when he stood on Cuban soil for the first time since leaving at age 20 for a trip he thought would last only a few months.

The Farrellys are the executive producers, Emmy award-winner Jon Hock wrote and directed the film; Cooper narrates and Melfa serves as co-producer. While baseball is a central character, including appearances from Carl Yastrzemski and Carlton Fisk, you don't have to be a fan to enjoy the film. "It really plays more like a drama or human interest story the way Jon directs things and tells the story," Melfa said. "It's been getting great reviews on the festival circuit, and we're really happy with the movie."

Melfa also was executive producer of "Freedom Park," a successful independent film by Worcester-based Artigo/Ajemian Productions. Still, he considers movie making a hobby and professional number-crunching his main line of work. Once in a while, the two intersect. "We try to help our clients in any way possible, and Luis' story is just unbelievably compelling, so we just felt we wanted to get it out and tell the world," he said.

Any other movies in Melfa's future? "This wasn't supposed to be in my future, because it isn't my livelihood," he said. "But it's certainly at least a good hobby, so we'll see. I actually have another client that has another compelling story, so who knows? Maybe that will be the next one." We will stay tuned to the Melfa Movie Channel.

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