

# the Monitor

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The Garden Court Condominiums provided the backdrop for Katrina Carson's video, filmed by Darren Brown.

## Courting The Film Industry

### Local Building Gets In On The 'Action'

Fast becoming a national filmmaking center, attracting film projects from Hollywood and around the country, the Detroit area has long been the site of a great deal of local film and video production.

Last week, Southfield native and up-and-coming hip hop artist Katrina Carson filmed her debut music video at the historic Garden Court Condominium building on E. Jefferson Ave. at Joseph Campau in all-day shoots on March 14 and 15.

Nearly 40 local actors and actresses were on hand to perform in the production for Carson's new self-written single "Beautiful," a follow-up to her recording, "You," which has been played on WJLB-FM 98.

In addition to her work with P. Diddy, Ne-Yo and J. Holiday, Carson has opened shows for Al Hudson and One Way, the Contours, the O'Jays and performed on stage with the Whispers and Howard Hewitt. She

currently hosts a Southfield cable TV talk show called "Kids on the Move," and serves as CEO of HipHopera Entertainment.

"There is not much else to say, other than this is one of the most exciting times of my life. To see my lyrics become a reality is nothing less than amazing," said Carson. "I think we've captured the message of 'Beautiful.' We found a truly beautiful setting at Garden Court and an ensemble of performers who were beautiful — both inside and out."

The music video was shot by Detroit's Darren Brown of Dirty Mitten Films, a full-service production company specializing in feature length projects, as well as short film and music video productions.

While Brown has been making videos for years, his official debut film in 2006, "Project 313," was met with much acclaim. Brown recently was nominated for Best Director at the Detroit Rap Awards.

The Garden Court Condominiums was designed by famed architect Albert Kahn, but this is not the first time the brick and limestone structure

has appeared on film. Garden Court also served as the exterior of Martin Lawrence's home during the 1980s on the popular television show "Martin."

"Our company is committed to Michigan and its growth sectors. The rapid expansion of the film industry is certainly encouraging for the region's economy," said Andrew V. Farbman, president of Farbman Group and representative for Garden Court Condominiums. "We are thrilled that we were able to open our doors and be part of the activity. Garden Court is an important example of the fine architecture that abounds in downtown Detroit and we hope this opportunity will encourage other filmmakers to take a closer look at this area."

Offering panoramic views of the Detroit River, the elegant Garden Court building retains much of its 1915 charm, featuring landscaped grounds, classic hardwood floors, 10-foot ceilings, wood-burning fireplaces and detailed moldings, plus an array of modern conveniences.