

## Michigan Every Day By Patrick Sullivan and Carole Eberly

Oct. 23, 1959

*Sam Raimi born in Royal Oak*

Sam Raimi used his love of the Three Stooges and an 8mm camera to launch a career that would make him one of the most successful directors in Hollywood.

Born in Royal Oak on Oct. 23, 1959, Raimi began making movies at an early age with good friends Bruce Campbell, who would go on to become an actor, and Robert Tapert, who would become a producer, writer and director. Raimi left Michigan State University to make *Evil Dead*, produced after he and his friends made a short film that raised approximately \$350,000 for the feature length movie.

*Evil Dead* did not interest U.S. distributors until Raimi took the film to Europe, where the low-budget horror film was a hit. When the movie was finally released in the U.S. to good reviews and strong box office sales, Raimi was on his way.

The Three Stooges influence was evident in the follow up/remake of *Evil Dead*, *Evil Dead II*, which featured more dark humor, slapstick comedy and basically told the same story as the first movie with a larger budget. Raimi went on to direct *Darkman* and *Army of Darkness*, a sequel in the *Evil Dead* series that was for fantasy than horror and went on to become a cult film. Raimi strayed from his trademark horror films in the middle of the 1990's, becoming a mainstream Hollywood director, making the western *The Quick and the Dead*, a thriller called *A Simple Plan* and *For the love of the game*, a baseball movie. In 2002, he released *Spider-Man*, followed by two more films in the franchise, which cemented Raimi's name among directors who mad blockbuster Hollywood movies.