



Proclamation

- WHEREAS, a century of cinema has taught us that the hours we spend in a shared darkness, gazing at moving images on a silver screen, can empower us to see our world – and ourselves – in a new, more meaningful light; and
- WHEREAS, insightful and eloquent critics can lead us to find beauty, philosophy and connection in works of art, and can guide us to works that we might otherwise overlook or ignore; and
- WHEREAS, from his earliest years as a writer for *The Daily Illini*, Urbana native Roger Ebert has guided, informed and challenged Illinois moviegoers, championing films of every genre that lesser critics have ignored or demeaned; and
- WHEREAS, since 1967, when he began serving as film critic for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Roger Ebert has shared his love and encyclopedic knowledge of film with millions of devoted readers worldwide, bringing wit, stylistic elegance, energy, and unfeigned joy to films as diverse as *American Beauty*, *The Night of the Living Dead*, and *Apocalypse Now*; and
- WHEREAS, in 1975, Roger Ebert became the first film critic ever to win the Pulitzer Prize, and in the same year brought his Illinois-bred critical sensibility to television viewers with a new weekly public television show, *Sneak Previews*, co-hosted by Chicago Tribune film critic Gene Siskel; and
- WHEREAS, *Sneak Previews* and its commercial television successors, *At the Movies with Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert* and *Siskel & Ebert & The Movies*, won two thumbs up from millions of viewers and brought Chicago worldwide attention as a vital center of film criticism; and
- WHEREAS, in the past few years, Roger Ebert has shown extraordinary grace and unflagging courage in the face of serious illness, continuing to write with passion, strength, and confidence about film, about life, and about the essential connections between the two; and
- WHEREAS, since 1999, Roger Ebert has made use of his iconic status as a film critic to bring new audiences to overlooked or disregarded films through Roger Ebert's Film Festival, better known as Ebertfest, a world-renowned film festival that brings actors, producers, directors, writers and film lovers together inside the historic Virginia Theatre in Champaign; and
- WHEREAS, Roger Ebert and his wife and partner, Chaz, provide a great service to the art of the cinema and the people of Illinois through their continuing commitment to Ebertfest in Champaign; and
- WHEREAS, the 12th Annual Ebertfest begins on April 21, 2010:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 21, 2010, as **EBERTFEST DAY** in Illinois, in recognition of the festival's success in building new, enthusiastic audiences for overlooked films, and of festival founder Roger Ebert's limitless love of cinema and his continuing, matchless contributions to journalism, to film, and to the cultural heritage of our nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-FIRST *day of* APRIL, *in*
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
TEN, *and of the State of Illinois*
the one hundred and NINETY-SECOND

Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR