The University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign

Roger Ebert’s Film Festival

April 19-23, 2017

2017

Nate Kohn: Festival Director
Chaz Ebert: Co-Founder and Producer

The College of Media at Illinois presents

www.ebertfest.com
THE COLLEGE OF MEDIA AT ILLINOIS PRESENTS...

ROGER EBERT’S
FILM FESTIVAL

Feberfest 2017

April 19–23, 2017

Chaz Ebert, Co-Founder, Producer, and Host
Nate Kohn, Festival Director
Casey Ludwig, Assistant Director

More information about the festival can be found at www.ebertfest.com
**MISSION**

Founded by the late Roger Ebert, University of Illinois Journalism graduate and a Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic, Roger Ebert’s Film Festival takes place in Urbana-Champaign each April for a week, hosted by Chaz Ebert. The festival presents 12 films representing a cross-section of important cinematic works overlooked by audiences, critics and distributors. The films are screened in the 1,500-seat Virginia Theatre, a restored movie palace built in the 1920s. A portion of the festival’s income goes toward on-going renovations at the theatre. The festival brings together the films’ producers, writers, actors and directors to help showcase their work. A filmmaker or scholar introduces each film, and each screening is followed by a substantive on-stage Q&A discussion among filmmakers, critics and the audience. In addition to the screenings, the festival hosts a number of academic panel discussions featuring filmmaker guests, scholars and students.

The mission of Roger Ebert’s Film Festival is to praise films, genres and formats that have been overlooked. Entries include films without distributors, independent and studio films that did not win wide audiences, formats such as 70mm and overlooked genres such as the documentary. We work to keep the festival small enough so that a sense of community can develop among the audience, the filmmakers, the guests, students and scholars. Roger Ebert’s Film Festival is a special event of the College of Media at the University of Illinois.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**Panel Discussions**

Filmmakers, scholars, journalists and the public gather for panel discussions on topics related to the film industry. The intent of the panels is to bring together practitioners and theorists in lively debate in order to reexamine and spotlight such issue-related areas as film directing, distribution strategies, the state of film criticism, technology, ethnicity and gender.

**Volunteers**

The festival would not exist without the help of many dedicated volunteers. Volunteer opportunities include:

**HOST**

A host is assigned to a festival guest (director, writer, producer, actor) to provide transportation during the festival.

**THEATRE TEAM—VIRGINIA THEATRE**

Ushering, working concessions, pass holder and registration, VIP/press registration and check in, crowd control and merchandise sales.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

Help with distribution of posters, running errands, stuffing envelopes, copying, etc.

*If you would like to become a volunteer or need additional information, please contact:*

**Casey Ludwig**

College of Media
102 Gregory Hall
810 S. Wright St.
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 300-1375 or
ludwig2@illinois.edu
The community of festival sponsors is vital to the success of Roger Ebert’s Film Festival. Sponsor contributions account for approximately 50 percent of the festival’s operating budget. The festival is a non-profit 501(c)(3) event of the College of Media at the University of Illinois.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

UIF/Ebertfest

and send to:

Casey Ludwig
College of Media
102 Gregory Hall
810 S. Wright St.
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 300-1375 or
ludwig2@illinois.edu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsorship Level</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Film Circle $25,000+</strong></td>
<td>Sponsor of one film, 10 VIP passes to all screenings, 4 Festival passes to all screenings, Mentions in all social media platforms, Display inside Virginia Theatre, 1 full page ad in Festival program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diamond $10,000+</strong></td>
<td>8 VIP passes to all screenings, Mentions in all social media platforms, Display inside Virginia Theatre, 1 full page ad in Festival program</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Platinum $5,000+</strong></td>
<td>4 VIP passes to all screenings, Display inside Virginia Theatre, 1 full page ad in Festival program</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gold $2,500+</strong></td>
<td>3 VIP passes to all screenings, 1/2 page ad in Festival program</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Silver $1,500+</strong></td>
<td>2 VIP passes to all screenings, 1/4 page ad in Festival program</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Patron $750+</strong></td>
<td>2 Festival passes to all screenings, Invitation to Gala Opening</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friend $500+</strong></td>
<td>1 Festival pass to all screenings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate $250+</strong></td>
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**Gifts In Kind**

Please contact Casey Ludwig at ludwig2@illinois.edu to discuss a custom built benefit package for in-kind gifts.

**Questions?**

Contact Casey Ludwig at ludwig2@illinois.edu or 217-300-1375.

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**Additional Promotional Benefits**

Benefits listed below are in addition to the sponsorship level benefits (listed on the left).

**Enhanced Promotional Benefits**

Ebertfest sponsors Silver Level and above receive the following additional benefits:
- Reserved seating in Virginia Theatre
- Invitation to Gala Opening
- Invitation to Mid-Festival Party
- Invitation to Post-Festival Reception
- Lunch in Green Room with Chaz & film guests
- Dinner in Green Room with Chaz & film guests
- Logo on festival website
- Logo in festival program
- Logo projected at all screenings

**General Promotional Benefits**

All Ebertfest sponsors receive promotional benefits including the following:
- Name on festival poster
- Name in festival program
- Name on festival website
- Name in local newspaper ads
Guests
Lily Keber
Oliver Stone
Patton Oswalt
Spike Lee
Steve James
Ted Hope
Alan Polsky
Andrew Harvey
Chazz Palminteri
Erica Ramis
Godfrey Cheshire
Heloise Godet
Jason Brett
Jason Segel
Javier Braier
Johan Carlsson
Jon Kilik
Julieta Zylberberg
Leonard Maltin
Noah Lomax
Seymour Bernstein
Trevor Albert
Andrew Miano
Andrew Young
Angelica Jade Bastién
Brian Tallerico
Chen Alon
Christine Swanson
Chuck Koplinski
Darrien Gipson
Father Michael Pfleger
Gil L. Robertson
Guillermo del Toro
Heather McIntosh
Jana Monji
Kasi Lemmons
Marcina Hale
Mark Dujsik
Matt Fagerholm
Michael Phillips
Michael Polish
Nancy Allen
Nick Allen
Nicole Bernardi-Reis
Paul Weitz
Rebecca Parrish
Renee Baker
Shawn Edwards
Sheila O’Malley
Stephen Apkon
Sulaiman Khatib
Susan Wloszczyna
Roger Ebert became the film critic of the Chicago Sun-Times in 1967 and remained for forty-six years until his death on April 4, 2013. He was the first film critic to receive the Pulitzer Prize in 1975, and is the only film critic with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He was named honorary life member of the Directors Guild of America; and an honorary member of the Society of Cinematographers. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Screenwriters Guild and received honorary degrees from the American Film Institute, the Art Institute of Chicago School of Film, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. In 2001 he received the highest honor bestowed by the State of Illinois, the Order of Lincoln.

In 1975 Roger and Gene Siskel invented a new genre of television with their movie review show, Sneak Previews. It later became Siskel & Ebert. After Siskel’s death the show became Ebert & Roeper, with Richard Roeper. Later Roger produced, Ebert Presents At The Movies with two new hosts. He was a lecturer on Film for the University of Chicago Enrichment Program from 1970 until 2006, an adjunct professor in the Department of Journalism at the University of Illinois and recorded shot-by-shot commentaries for the DVDs of “Citizen Kane,” “Casablanca,” “Floating Weeds” and “Dark City.” Ebert has published over 20 books.

In 1999, Roger and his wife Chaz launched “Roger Ebert’s Overlooked Film Festival (Ebertfest),” an annual event presented every April in the historic Virginia Theatre in his hometown of Champaign-Urbana, IL.

“As film exhibition in North America crowds itself ever more narrowly into predictable commercial fodder for an undemanding audience, we applaud those brave, free spirits who still hold faith with the unlimited potential of the cinema.”

– Roger Ebert
**Chaz Ebert**

Chaz Ebert is the CEO of the Ebert Companies, including Ebert Digital LLC, which publishes the movie review website, Rogerebert.com. She produced “Ebert Presents At The Movies.”

Mrs. Ebert hosts The Roger Ebert Film Festival (Ebertfest) at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign. And for over twenty years has attended and participated in film festivals such as Cannes, Toronto, Sundance, Chicago, Hawaii, Venice, The Floating Film Festival, South Africa, Karlovy Vary and many others, serving as the president of the IMAX jury at the Hawaii International Film Festival, writing official program notes for the Telluride Film Festival, and reporting by both print and video from the Cannes Film Festival.

Previously, as a civil rights attorney, she was named Lawyer of the Year by the Constitutional Rights Foundation.

Her civic and community passions include an interest in programs for women and children with an emphasis on education and the arts.

Mrs. Ebert is a Life Trustee of the Art Institute and currently serves on the boards of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, After School Matters, and The Tree of Life Foundation of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

**Nate Kohn**

Dr. Nathaniel Kohn is a professor at the University of Georgia, Associate Director of the George Foster Peabody Awards, festival director of Roger Ebert’s Film Festival, director of Grady College’s low residency MFA program in screenwriting, and director of the University of Georgia’s Cannes Film Festival Study Abroad Program. Dr. Kohn produced *Zulu Dawn* starring Burt Lancaster and Peter O’Toole; the independent feature *Somebodies*, which premiered at Sundance (2006); *Rain*, the Bahamas’ first indigenous feature which premiered at Toronto (2007) and on Showtime (2010); the feature film *Bottleworld* (2010); he was Executive Producer on the BET television series *Somebodies* (2008); he was Producer on the feature length documentary *Bayou Maharajah* that premiered at the SXSW Festival (2013); and he was Executive Producer on the Pivot TV, a division of Participant Media, telecast of *The 73rd Annual Peabody Awards* (2014) and *The 74th Annual Peabody Awards* (2015). He has served on juries and mentored screenwriters at the Atlanta, Hawaii, Kerala, and Bahamas International Film Festivals. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and of the book *Pursuing Hollywood: Seduction, Obsession, Dread* (AltaMira Press, 2006).
**PREVIOUS FILMS**

**Ebertfest 1999**
- Dance Me to My Song
- A Tale of Autumn
- Surrender Dorothy
- Hamsun
- Maborosi
- Battleship Potemkin
- Household Saints
- Shiloh
- Thirteen
- Tron

**Ebertfest 2000**
- Sidewalk Stories
- Grave of the Fireflies
- American Movie
- Legacy
- The Terrorist
- The Castle
- A Woman’s Tale
- Children of Heaven
- The Last Laugh
- Dark City
- Oklahoma
- Deja Vu

**Ebertfest 2001**
- Everyone Says I Love You
- Girl On the Bridge
- Jesus’ Son
- The King of Masks
- Maryam
- Nosferatu
- On the Ropes
- Panic
- Songs from the Second Floor
- A Simple Plan
- Such A Long Journey
- 3 Women
- 2001: A Space Odyssey
- Stanley Kubrick: A Life in Pictures

**Ebertfest 2002**
- Patton
- Innocence
- Grand Canyon
- Diamond Men
- Paperhouse
- Hyenes
- A Soldier’s Daughter Never Cries
- Kwik Stop
- Metropolis
- Two Women
- George Washington
- Say Amen, Somebody
- Wonder Boys

**Ebertfest 2003**
- The Right Stuff
- Stone Reader
- The Grey Automobile
- Your Friends and Neighbors
- Blood and Wine
- Medium Cool
- What’s Cooking?
- The Black Pirate
- L.627
- The Golden Age of Silent Comedy
- Shall We Dance?
- Charlotte Sometimes
- 13 Conversations About One Thing
- Singin’ in the Rain

**Ebertfest 2004**
- Lawrence of Arabia
- Tarnation
- The Son
- Once Upon a Time...When We Were Colored
- Tully
- The General
- The Scapegoat
- El Norte
- My Dog Skip
- Gates of Heaven
- People I Know
- Invincible
- Louie Bluie
- Sweet Old Song

**Ebertfest 2005**
- Playtime
- Murderball
- The Saddest Music in the World with the Heart of the World
- After Dark, My Sweet
- Yesterday
- The Phantom of the Opera
- Baadassss!
- The Secret of Roan Inish
- Primer
- Map of the Human Heart
- Me and You and Everyone We Know
- Taal

**Ebertfest 2006**
- My Fair Lady
- Man Push Cart
- Duane Hopwood
- Spartan
- Somebodies
- The Eagle
- Ripley’s Game
- Millions
- Claire Dolan
- Junebug
- Bad Santa
- U-Carmen eKhayelitsha

**Ebertfest 2007**
- Gattaca
- The Weather Man
- Moolaade
- Perfume: The Story of a Murderer
- Sadie Thompson
- Come Early Morning
- La Dolce Vita
- Freddie Mercury, the Untold Story
- Holes
- Man of Flowers
- Stroszek
- Searching for the Wrong-Eyed Jesus
- Beyond the Valley of the Dolls
Ebertfest 2008
Hamlet
Delirious
Yes
Canvas
Citizen Cohl: The Untold Story
Shotgun Stories
Underworld
The Real Dirt on Farmer John
Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters
Hulk
The Band’s Visit
Housekeeping
The Cell
Romance and Cigarettes

Ebertfest 2009
Woodstock
My Winnipeg
Chop Shop
Trouble the Water
Begging Naked
The Last Command
Frozen River
The Fall
Sita Sings the Blues
Nothing But the Truth
Let the Right One In
Baraka

Ebertfest 2010
Pink Floyd The Wall
You, the Living
Munyurangabo
The New Age
Apocalypse Now Redux
Departures
Man with a Movie Camera
Syndecdoche, New York
I Capture the Castle
Vincent: A Life in Color
Trucker
Barfly
Song Sung Blue

Ebertfest 2011
Metropolis
Natural Selection
Umberto D
My Dog Tulip
Tiny Furniture
45365
Me and Orson Welles
Only You
A Small Act
Life, Above All
Leaves of Grass
I Am Love
Louder Than a Bomb

Ebertfest 2012
Joe Versus the Volcano
The Truth About Beauty & Blogs
Phunny Business: A Black Comedy
Big Fan
Kinyarwanda
Terri
On Borrowed Time
Wild and Weird
A Separation
Higher Ground
Patang (The Kite)
Take Shelter
Citizen Kane

Ebertfest 2013
Days of Heaven
Vincent: The Life and Death of Vincent Van Gogh
In the Family
Bernie
Oslo, August 31st
The Ballad of Narayama
Julia
Blancanieves
Kumaré
Escape From Tomorrow
The Spectacular Now
Not Yet Begun to Fight

Ebertfest 2014
Life Itself
Museum Hours
Short Term 12
Young Adult
Capote
Do the Right Thing
Wadjda
A Simple Life
Goodbye Solo
Born on the Fourth of July
Bayou Maharajah

Ebertfest 2015
Goodbye to Language
A Pigeon Sat on a Branch
Reflecting on Existence
Moving Midway
The End of the Tour
Girlhood
The Son of the Sheik
A Bronx Tale
Wild Tales
Ida
The Motel Life
99 Homes
Seymour: An Introduction

Ebertfest 2016
Crimson Peak
Grandma
Northfork
The Third Man
Disturbing the Peace
L’inhumaine
Eve’s Bayou
Force of Destiny
Radical Grace
Love & Mercy
Blow Out
Body and Soul
Looking Back through the Years