EBERT FEST
APRIL 10-13 2019
VIRGINIA THEATER • CHAMPAIGN IL
and...ACTION!
The goals of Roger Ebert’s Film Festival are many, but they begin with praising films, genres and formats that have been overlooked, and with educating audiences to better understand and appreciate serious motion pictures made by diverse filmmakers from around the world. Roger Ebert thought film was incalculably valuable as an “empathy machine, allowing audience members to better understand the world and to become more compassionate, tolerant citizens.” Roger’s festival shows films that celebrate the human condition, promote tolerance, and take audiences into worlds they have never seen before. The festival allows the participants to inhabit diverse experiences: we choose films without distributors, independent and studio films that did not win wide audiences, rare formats such as 70mm, overlooked genres such as the documentary, as well as celebrated films that have become revitalized by current affairs or historical perspective. We then work to ensure that a sense of community can develop among the audience, the filmmakers, the guests, students, and scholars. Ebertfest’s goal is to create empathy and community through the screening of films that transcends the festival.

Roger Ebert’s Film Festival is a special event of the College of Media at the University of Illinois.

OUR MISSION

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Chaz Ebert: Co-Founder, Producer, and Host
Nate Kohn: Director
Andrew Hall: Coordinator

More information about the festival can be found at:

www.ebertfest.com
AND...ACTION

ENGAGEMENT

Hosted by Chaz Ebert, the festival presents 12 films in the 1,500-seat Virginia Theatre, a restored movie palace built in the 1920s. The festival brings together the films’ producers, writers, actors, and directors to help showcase their work in only one venue, so all participants enjoy the developing dialogue around a carefully curated program. 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.

INQUIRY

The festival hosts a number of academic panels and lectures featuring filmmaker guests, scholars, and students on topics related to the film industry. The panels are free and open to the public and 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, and ethnicity and gender in the industry.

COMMUNITY

Visit Champaign notes the sizeable economic impact the festival has on downstate Illinois, but Ebertfest’s action goes beyond the festival. Portions of the festival income go toward ongoing renovations at the Virginia Theatre. The festival has more than subsidized admissions for students, hosting free movie showings at the University of Illinois and giving free movie viewings and discussions led by our invited and celebrated film critics in local high schools. The festival offers hundreds of volunteers ways to be involved and gives professional experience to dozens of students in advertising, production, and communication. It also offers community partners, like the Alliance for Inclusion and Respect, a means to access a wider public.
Sponsors of the festival join the filmmakers at specially organized events.

Above: The Gala Opening of the Festival occurs at the President’s Mansion on the grounds of the University of Illinois’ campus. Filmmakers and sponsors join Chaz Ebert and President Killean of the University of Illinois in a celebration that opened the 2019 Festival with food and refreshments.

Left and Below: Between movies in the Hyatt Hotel, the Ebertfest Green Room is ready to serve full meals. Filmmakers and VIP sponsors enjoy Green Room access on every full day of the event.
VIP passes to the festival allow access to reserved seating with filmmakers and critics and entrance to the festival parties.


The Ebertfest parties feature live entertainment and (occasional) Karaoke performances by festival guests!

Right: Actor Héloïse Godet sings at the Ebertfest 2015 Mid-Festival Party.

GUEST RESTAURANT AND INVITED CHEF DE CUISINE

For a one-night-only change from our regular Green Room service, we have partnered with a special guest restaurant and chef to provide Thursday evening’s Ebertfest Dinner.

In the private dining space of Big Grove Tavern, specially invited Chef de Cuisine, Raúl Parada, will be preparing a chosen menu of dishes for our V.I.P. passholders. Known for taking dishes to the next level with creative ingredient combinations, Chef Raúl Parada will follow the food philosophy of Big Grove Tavern, preparing classic dishes with modern flair from locally sourced ingredients. With a reputation of being the best, you will understand why Ebertfest is partnering with Big Grove Tavern. We will also be using the restaurant’s beverage team to curate the wine selection for the Green Room and President’s Reception during the festival.
Film Circle $25,000+
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
Enhanced promotional benefits

Diamond $10,000+
8 VIP passes to all screenings
Mentions in all social media platforms
Display inside Virginia Theatre
1 full page ad in festival program
Enhanced promotional benefits

Platinum $5,000+
4 VIP passes to all screenings
Display inside Virginia Theatre
1 full page ad in festival program
Enhanced promotional benefits

Gold $2,500+
3 VIP passes to all screenings
1/2 page ad in festival program
Enhanced promotional benefits

Silver $1,500+
2 VIP passes to all screenings
1/4 page ad in festival program
Enhanced promotional benefits

Patron $750+
2 Festival passes to all screenings
Invitation to Gala Opening
General promotional benefits

Friend $500+
1 Festival pass to all screenings
General promotional benefits

Associate $250+
General promotional benefits

Student Pass Donation
Ebertfest offers reduced prices for student passes and tickets.
Consider donating a sum towards passes or tickets for students at
the University of Illinois!
We are happy to work with you to make sure a donation of stu-
dent passes is warmly received.

Gifts in Kind
Please contact Andrew Hall at
amhall2@illinois.edu to discuss a custom-built benefits package
for in-kind gifts.
Please note that in-kind gifts are not judged as equivalent to cash
donations and no more than 2 VIP passes will ever be returned for
in-kind gifts.

Questions?
Contact Andrew Hall at amhall2@illinois.edu or 217-300-6911.

Additional Promotional Benefits
Benefits listed below are in addition to the sponsorship level
benefits.

Enhanced Promotional Benefits
Ebertfest sponsors Silver Level and above receive the fol-
lowing additional benefits:
Reserved seating in Virginia Theatre
Invitation to Gala Opening
Invitation to Mid-Festival Party
Invitation to Post-Festival Reception
Lunch and Dinner with Chaz & Filmm 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
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:

Andrew Hall
Project Coordinator, Roger Ebert’s Film Festival
University of Illinois | College of Media
810 S. Wright St., Urbana IL 61801
217.300.6911
amhall2@illinois.edu
“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. For over 20 years, she 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 of Chicago 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 Pivot TV, a division of Participant Media, telecast of *The 73rd Annual Peabody Awards* (2014) and *The 74rd 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).
SELECT EBERTFEST FILMMAKER GUESTS

Bill Paxton  Allison Maclean  Rudi Dolezal  Jane Gillooly  Marcia McBroom  Sturla Gunnarsson
Curtis Cotton III  Billy Crudup  Robert Townsend  Kris Kristofferson  Veronica Cartwright  Hugh Dancy
Donald Moffat  Charles Burnette  Nancy Allen  Wu Tianming  Rita Taggart  Bertrand Tavernier
Scott Wilson  Brett Morgen  Dan Cohen  Paul Cox  David Warner  Karen Sprecher
George Nierenberg  Richard Corliss  Richard Roeper  Rufus Sewell  Heather Rose  Claudio Valdés Kuri
Bernard Rose  Tahmineh Milani  Andrew Douglas  Alex Proyas  Jack Valenti  Robert Forster
Barry Avrich  Bill Forsyth  Christine Lahti  Paul Schrader  Eran Kolirin  Hannah Fisher
Jeff Nichols  Joe Pantoliano  Ayesha Dharker  Doc Erickson  Hadjii  Jason Scott Lee
Tarsem Singh  John Peterson  Joseph Greco  Aida Turturro  Keir Dullea  Timothy Spall
Neil LaBute  Mark Borchardt  Taggart Siegel  David Urrutia  Ang Lee  Terry Norris
Phil Morrison  Azazel Jacobs  Lara Phillips  Enzo  Cliff Robertson III  Mitra Sen
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.02?
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
Baadaaaa!
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
Synecdoche, 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
Blanchanives
Kumaré
Escape From Tomorrow
The Spectacular Now
Not Yet Begun to Fight

Ebertfest 2014
Life Itself
Museum Hours
Short Term 12
Young Adult
He Who Gets Slapped
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

Ebertfest 2017
Hair
Hysteria
To Sleep With Anger
The Handmaiden
July and Half of August (Short Film)
They Call Us Monsters
Varieté
Elle
Mind/Game
Pleasantville
Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You
Being There
De-Lovely

Ebertfest 2018
The Fugitive
Interstellar
Selena
Belle
Columbus
A Page of Madness
American Splendor
13th
Daughters of the Dust
Rambling Rose
The Big Lebowski
Rumble: the Indians Who Rocked the World

ILLINOIS
College of Media
LOOKING BACK THROUGH THE YEARS