

ONE THUMB UP

Late film critic Roger Ebert gets his own movie in *Life Itself*

Bombastic, charismatic and iconic through and through, Roger Ebert was the Muhammad Ali of film criticism, a man whose face and voice became synonymous with our modern pastime of going to the movies. He was the champ: With a review in *The Chicago Sun-Times* or a little wiggle of his thumb on the syndicated TV show *At the Movies*, Ebert possessed the power to single-handedly revive a flailing filmmaker's career or curse a new movie to oblivion. And, like Ali, the man was fallible and all-too-human, prone to bouts of ego bloat and, in the sunset of his life, a victim of a vicious disease that ended him.

But victim, when applied to Ebert, is a relative term, as is amply — and, perhaps, too amply — shown in the new documentary *Life Itself*, based on his memoir of the same name. Working in close collaboration with director Steve James, Ebert tells the story of his life,

and controversial career. Ebert, a recovered alcoholic, was a classic control freak, and watching the film you practically can see him wrest the reins from James, making him less director than curator.

And yet, it is just this compulsive insertion of self and will that drove Ebert's career, and to a large extent informed the brilliance of his work. *Life Itself*, despite its flaws, is a fascinating document of a complicated artist whose work was, by turns, righteously opinionated, accessibly populist and always, at bottom, disarmingly frank and humane. At the core of the film is Ebert's relationship with Gene Siskel, the rival *Chicago Tribune* critic who became his sparring partner on the beloved show that brought both men to global recognition. Their relationship is the stuff of deep drama, a clash of titans that crackles with antagonism, intellectual one-upmanship, wicked humor and the grudging love of brothers. ■

and a huge chunk of the film is dedicated to the Pulitzer-winning critic's epic and courageous fight against the thyroid cancer that eventually forced the removal of his lower jaw, leaving him incapable of talking, eating or drinking.

The footage of these final years, which Ebert demands must be included in the film, are intimate, moving and brutal to behold, but they skew the narrative, eclipsing major moments in a long

OBVIOUS CHILD

Obvious Child is, as you may have heard, an abortion comedy. But that's not exactly true: It's not *About Abortion*, in the afterschool-special, other-movies-I-shall-not-name way. It's about Donna Stern (Jenny Slate), a twentysomething comedian by night and bookstore employee by day. Bawdy and genuine, Donna is a character so messily, perfectly balanced between vulnerability and humor that we're always laughing with her, not at her; there's no cruelty in writer-director Gillian Robespierre's deft, affecting, intelligent and honest brand of comedy. *Obvious Child* is a quiet movie, in a way; no one needs saving, and everyone's going to be OK. But it feels like a big film all the same. (*Bijou Metro*)

SNOWPIERCER

Snowpiercer distills the ugliness of the world and packs it into one long train. Based on a French graphic novel, the film is directed by Bong Joon-ho, of the smart 2007 monster movie *The Host*. In *Snowpiercer*, Earth has sunk into a manmade ice age; punishment, on the train that carries the scraps of humanity, uses the bitter cold outside in gruesomely creative ways, and the train sets make for stunning, compact, ingenious fight scenes that will leave you cringing under your seat. And that's a good thing. (*Bijou Metro*)

THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL

This European adventure set between two world wars is a visual delight directed by Wes Anderson. Memorable characters are played by top-notch actors you might not recognize at first: Ralph Fiennes, Adrien Brody, Jeff Goldblum, Harvey Keitel, Jude Law, Bill Murray and many more. (*Bijou Metro*)

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BIJOU ART CINEMAS
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July 25 - 31

CHEF	Fri-Sun 2:40, 5:15, 7:50 Mo-Thu 5:15, 7:50
LIFE ITSELF	Fri-Sun 1:45, 4:25, 7:00 Mo-Thu 4:25, 7:00

Showtimes and info: 541-686-2458

BIJOU METRO
43 W. Broadway
bijou-cinemas.com

THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	Fri 1:45, 4:00 Sat-Sun 4:00, 9:10 Mo-Thu 1:45, 4:00, 9:10
BEGIN AGAIN	Fri-Sun 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25 Mo-Thu 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25
CITIZEN KOCH	Fri-Sun 1:00, 6:15 Mo-Thu 6:15 Monday show hosted by: Move to Amend - We the People
OBVIOUS CHILD	Fri-Sun 12:00, 2:00, 7:00, 9:00 Mo-Thu 2:00, 7:00, 9:00
SNOWPIERCER	3:30, 6:20, 8:45
THIRD PERSON	4:00

SISSIE PIE presents MONSTER BLOCKBUSTERS

ALIEN (1979) Fri 9:00, Sat-Sun 1:00
SATURDAY SHOW INCLUDES DISCUSSION AND FREE PIZZA - \$10; \$7 members

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KING KONG (1933)
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July 30, 7:00pm

CINEMARK
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CINEMARK 17
Gateway Mall - Beltime @ Gateway

22 JUMP STREET (DIG) (R) 10:45, 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30 AND SO IT GOES (DIG) (PG-13) 10:15, 12:40, 3:40, 7:00, 9:30 BEGIN AGAIN (DIG) (R) 10:30, 1:30, 4:40, 7:55, 10:30 DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (3D) (PG-13) SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 10:55, 2:05, 5:15, 8:40 DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (DIG) (PG-13) 12:45, 3:55, 7:05, 10:20 EARTH TO ECHO (DIG) (PG) 10:35, 1:25, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45 HERCULES (3D) (PG-13) SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45 HERCULES (DIG) (PG-13) 11:15, 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 (DIG) (PG) 10:00, 12:55, 3:45, 7:25, 10:10 LUCY (DIG) (R) 10:50, 1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40	MALEFICENT (DIG) (PG) 10:25, 1:15, 4:05, 7:15, 9:55 PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE (3D) (PG) SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 10:20, 9:35 PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE (DIG) (PG) 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20 PURGE: ANARCHY, THE (DIG) (R) 11:00, 1:55, 4:45, 7:50, 10:25 SEX TAPE (DIG) (R) 10:40, 11:55, 1:10, 2:20, 3:50, 5:00, 6:20, 7:35, 8:50, 10:00 TAMMY (DIG) (R) 11:50, 2:25, 5:10, 7:40, 10:35 TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION (3D) (PG-13) SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 10:10, 2:15, 10:05 TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION (DIG) (PG-13) 6:30
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\$1.25* SENIOR MONDAY **DISCOUNT WEDNESDAY** **MOVIES 12**
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AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 (PG-13) 10:45, 1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 5:45, 7:15, 8:45, 10:15 BLENDED (PG-13) 11:25, 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25 CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER (PG-13) 11:15, 2:20, 7:00, 10:10 DIVERGENT (PG-13) 10:50, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30 GODZILLA (2014) (PG-13) 11:05, 12:20, 1:55, 3:20, 4:35, 6:10, 7:25, 8:50, 10:40 GODZILLA (2014) (3D) (PG-13) 9:45 MILLION DOLLAR ARM (DIG) (PG) 11:00, 4:50, 10:45	MILLION WAYS TO DIE IN THE WEST, A (R) 10:55, 1:30, 4:05, 7:20, 9:55 NEIGHBORS (R) 11:30, 2:00, 4:20, 7:30, 10:05 RIO 2 (3D) (G) SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$2.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 7:10 X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST (PG-13) 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 9:20 X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST (3D) (PG-13) SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$2.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 1:50, 7:50
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*Visit cinemark.com for restrictions that apply.

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ALBANY 7 Next to Fred Meyer

Adv. Tix on Sale GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY HERCULES [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (230 PM) 1000 PM LUCY [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (100) 400 700 945 HERCULES IN REALD 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1200 PM) 500 PM 730 PM THE PURGE: ANARCHY [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (130) 410 740 1015 SEX TAPE [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (115) 420 720 1010 PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE IN REALD 3D [CC,DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1215 PM) PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE [CC,DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (300 PM) 630 PM 900 PM DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (345 PM) 950 PM DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES IN REALD 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1245 PM) 645 PM TAMMY [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (1230 PM) 710 PM TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (330 PM) 935 PM
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