



Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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State Of Illinois/City Of Chicago 2004 Screenwriting Competition Now Underway

CHICAGO - - Governor Rod R. Blagojevich and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley jointly announced that the Illinois Film Office and the Chicago Film Office are teaming up once again to offer Illinois writers the opportunity to showcase their screenplays to the motion picture industry. Screenplay submissions are now being accepted for the Sixth Illinois/Chicago Screenwriting Competition, a biennial event since its inception in 1994 that is designed to display local writing talent and the vast array of settings that the state and city offer as backgrounds for feature-length films. Over 300 scripts were submitted in the last competition in 2002.

“With the tax incentives we signed into law earlier this year, the great roster of Illinois’ filmmaking alumni, and development of home-grown talent through this creative competition, we will bring new life to the film industry here in Illinois and the thousands of jobs that it supports,” said Governor Blagojevich.

“Chicago has a legacy of great writers, especially those who have contributed to our dynamic theater and film industry,” said Mayor Richard M. Daley. “We are proud to set the stage and provide yet another literary opportunity where residents can create Chicago's future masterpiece productions.”

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The Illinois/Chicago Screenwriting Competition is open to residents of the State of Illinois age 18 or older. Writers are asked to submit an original screenplay that has not been previously produced or sold, but has been copyrighted or registered. Panels of local and national film industry professionals, which have in the past included current or former Chicagoans who have written, directed or produced feature films, judge entries.

Winners receive a cash prize, and their screenplays are submitted to a select group of studio executives and producers. A formal announcement will be made later in the year.

The Illinois Film Office is a division of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). "At its peak in 1999, film and television production in Illinois contributed an estimated \$124 million to the local economy," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin. "This competition will help define the next group of creative film industry talent who will be key players in attracting new film production back to Illinois."

The Chicago Film Office is a division of the Mayor's Office of Special Events. "We're putting the creative control and decision making in the hands of Chicagoans, right from the start," said Jim Law, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Events. "This competition helps to grow the city's identity as a center for creativity and a home for filmmakers."

The 2004 Illinois/Chicago Screenwriting Competition began accepting scripts on January 5, 2004 and will continue until the deadline on April 1, 2004. For information regarding the competition and its requirements or a copy of the entry form, contact the IC Competition hotline at (312) 814-8711 or log onto the Film Office web sites at www.filmillinois.state.il.us or www.cityofchicago.org/filmoffice.

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