



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2006

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GET "REEL" WITH ONSCREENILLINOIS.COM

New Web site invites fans to visit locations of their favorite movies filmed in Illinois

From "The Blues Brothers" to "Batman Begins," Illinois has had a starring role as the setting for some of the world's most popular movies. Now visitors can explore the locations of their favorite movies on the Illinois Bureau of Tourism's (IBOT) new Web site, www.onscreenillinois.com, launching today. Designed to stimulate travel to and throughout the state, the Web site is loaded with fascinating information including regional movie maps, movie getaway itineraries and a downloadable audio walking tour. Onscreenillinois.com is an Oscar-worthy resource that will bring movies such as "Barbershop," "Risky Business" and "Road to Perdition" to life.

"People are passionate about movies, and visiting Illinois film locations is a great way for fans to experience their favorite films," said Jan Kostner, deputy director, IBOT. "We created the site and our Magnificent Movie Getaways to encourage visitors to combine travel with their favorite movies, and to explore Illinois' destinations in a new way."

Although Chicago's majestic skyscrapers and sparkling lakefront have often been top location choices for filmmakers, onscreenillinois.com visitors will learn that every region of Illinois has had a chance to shine on the silver screen. Travelers can discover Illinois landmarks such as Woodstock's Town Square, which is prominently featured in "Groundhog Day"; the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, a key location in "Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde"; and Mermet Springs in Mermet, showcased in "U.S. Marshals."

Onscreenillinois.com is packed with unique ways to explore Illinois' movie locations, including:

- An **Illinois movie map**, where visitors can click on various regions of the state to check out films made in that area. Plot synopses and photography from the filming sites will entertain movie fans of all ages.
- A **free downloadable audio tour** of movie sites around Chicago and beyond. Narrated by Chicago broadcast legend Bill Kurtis, the walking tour explores Chicago landmarks on the silver screen and can be played on a personal MP3 player. From

-more-

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism

Chicago's Hilton and Towers, where climactic scenes from "The Fugitive" were filmed, to the river boat cruises from "My Best Friend's Wedding," travelers can immerse themselves in the city's best-known attractions and learn how filmmakers used them in the movies. The tour is accompanied by a downloadable PDF map.

- Bookable **Magnificent Movie Getaways**, a set of five three-day itineraries that send travelers to movie filming sites across Illinois. Each getaway provides additional destinations and activities to round out a cinema-themed trip.
- A **Magnificent Movie Getaway Giveaway** sweepstakes, where visitors to the site can enter to win a grand prize Chicago getaway that includes tickets to some of Chicago's top attractions featured in movies.
- A **trivia page** featuring little-known details and fun facts about movies made in Illinois.

The Illinois Bureau of Tourism makes it easy for travelers to visit the sites featured on **www.onscreenillinois.com**. Bookable 3-Day Getaways across Illinois can be found on the Bureau's Web site, **www.enjoyillinois.com**, with ideas for any type of trip, including arts and culture, family fun, NASCAR, girls' getaways, outdoor, Lincoln, golf and romance.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Media materials and downloadable images are now available on the Illinois Bureau of Tourism online media center at **www.illinoismediacenter.com**. Additional photography may be obtained by contacting Julie Connolly at julie.connolly@edelman.com, 312-233-1246, or Emma Douglas at emma.douglas@edelman.com, 312-240-2730.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.