

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Syracuse International Film Festival upon the occasion of celebrating its 10th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those organizations within our midst, which have demonstrated consistent excellence while bringing great pride and enjoyment to the citizens of our great State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Syracuse International Film Festival, which has been recognized for excellence and for significantly contributing to cinema; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse International Film Festival is a collaboration between the communities and educational institutions of Syracuse and Central New York; and

WHEREAS, Central and Upstate New York is the birthplace for the American Cinema and Synapse was one of the originating centers for the development of video art; and

WHEREAS, Central New York was also the home of many pioneers in independent and experimental film and video; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of this, each year, Central New York welcomes international films and videos speaking to the traditions of the independent and experimental films that push, probe, and expand the boundaries of the art of the moving image, and the mainstream commercial cinema and television; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse International Film Festival strives to be an important component of the Syracuse and Central New York cultural scene by building and enriching a film culture in Central New York; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception ten years ago, the Syracuse International Film Festival has annually produced a yearly festival of newly-made, independent, international film and video for the local and regional community to experience and enjoy; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse International Film Festival promotes the use of film as a medium to demonstrate the accessibility, relevance, and broad appeal of international film; and

WHEREAS, The annual Syracuse International Film Festival, which spans over a period of four days, presents contemporary, international films with true artistic merit, regardless of length, genre or form, and has begun to provide a significant showcase of established and emerging filmmakers from around the world; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Syracuse International Film Festival welcomes collaborations with regional and community cultural and social groups to create innovative programming of interest to people of all ages, genders, and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse International Film Festival has begun to provide a significant showcase for established and emerging filmmakers from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Over 200 volunteers dedicate their time to help make the Syracuse International Film Festival a thriving environment for international film; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse International Film Festival accepts submissions from professional film and video makers of all countries, and has over 12 award categories, including a special category for Central New York filmmakers; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Syracuse International Film Festival presents the prestigious Sophia Award to those who make lifelong outstanding contributions to the vibrant world of independent cinema; and

WHEREAS, In celebration of its 10th Anniversary, the Syracuse Interna-

tional Film Festival is suspending its film competition and instead creating 10 programs, each honoring a special person who has made significant contributions to the cinema by presenting them with a Sophia Lifelong Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the need to promote the work of film and video artists beyond that of competition screenings and awards, the Syracuse International Film Festival arranges for further programming of competition films throughout the year in venues that generate additional opportunities for filmmakers; and

WHEREAS, By reaching out to all segments and age groups in the community with year-round programming, the Syracuse International Film Festival strives to enhance each individual's experience as a citizen of the global community; and

WHEREAS, Local events throughout the year include speakers on various films and film viewings, the "Film in Syracuse" Talk Series, "Brew & View," the Le Moyne College Youth Summer Film Program, and speakers; and

WHEREAS, The Central New York community is enhanced by the Syracuse International Film Festival; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Syracuse International Film Festival; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Owen Shapiro, co-founder and Festival Artistic Director of the Syracuse International Film Festival.