

PLAZACLASSIC FILMFESTIVAL

NEWS RELEASE

DEBBIE REYNOLDS COMES HOME TO EL PASO FOR PLAZA CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL

www.plazaclassic.com

Legendary actress will share experiences of filming Singin' in the Rain during a special screening

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EL PASO, TX (June 21, 2010) – El Paso native and legendary film actress Debbie Reynolds will be appearing at the Plaza Theatre as part of the 3rd annual Plaza Classic Film Festival. The festival runs August 5-15, 2010 at the Plaza Theatre in El Paso and is sponsored by the El Paso Community Foundation.

Reynolds is scheduled to appear before a screening of the 1952 classic *Singin' in the Rain*, in which she starred opposite Gene Kelly and Donald O'Connor. "It's really great to have someone of Ms. Reynolds' caliber here to present and discuss such an important film, and we're very excited to welcome this famous El Paso native home," said Charles Horak, a volunteer with the El Paso Community Foundation and the film festival's artistic director. Horak says Ms. Reynolds will be discussing her career and early break being cast in *Singin' in the Rain*, with film historian Nick Clooney. Clooney, former host of American Movie Classics and father of actor and director George Clooney, is making his second appearance at the Plaza Classic Film Festival after introducing numerous films last year.

Festival organizer Eric Pearson, who is also the Executive Vice President for the El Paso Community Foundation, says having the presence of stars like Debbie Reynolds will be memorable to the generation who grew up watching her on the silver screen and will educate younger viewers on the magnitude of her career in film. "Ms. Reynolds has a great fan base, but her upcoming appearance at the Plaza Classic will introduce a whole new generation to her career." Further details of Reynolds' involvement with the festival are still being decided,

Pearson added. A public reception is planned, and a dressing room in the Plaza Theatre could be named in her honor.

In addition to “Singin’ in the Rain”, the Plaza Classic Film Festival will feature rare screenings of classic films, film talks with film scholars, concerts and special presentations. Screenings will be held in and around the historic Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre, a 1930 atmospheric-styled movie palace restored in 2006.

Ticket prices range from \$2.00 to \$10.00, with several screenings free of charge.

The Plaza Classic Film Festival is a special project of the El Paso Community Foundation, which provides a wide range of charitable and philanthropic services in the region. Learn more at www.plazaclassic.com

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About the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre

Known as “The Showplace of the Southwest”, the Plaza Theatre (www.theplazatheatre.org) opened in 1930 to a sellout crowd. It was a first-run commercial movie palace until it closed in the 1970s. Its restoration, which won the National Preservation Award in 2009, was a joint project of the El Paso Community Foundation and the City of El Paso, and resulted in one of the best performing arts facilities in the country. The Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre hosts a broad range of arts entertainment, from movies to symphony, Broadway to opera and rock & roll. The Plaza Theatre is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a “Place of National Significance,” a moniker reserved for only about 5 percent of the historic structures in the United States. It is a unique example of a historic atmospheric theatre with the most modern working parts behind the antique beauty.

The Plaza Theatre has been home to the Plaza Classic Film Festival since 2008.