

NEWS RELEASE

America 250-Ohio Launches "Ohio Goes to the Movies," A Statewide Event Series Celebrating Ohio's Contributions to Film

COLUMBUS, Ohio (May 1, 2024) – America 250-Ohio, the official state commission responsible for spearheading Ohio's celebrations around America's semiquincentennial in 2026, today launched *Ohio Goes to the Movies* (OGTTM), an unprecedented all-Ohio film series and statewide celebration of movies showcasing Ohioans and their contributions to America's film industry and moviemaking. Films will highlight Ohioans as actors, directors, writers, composers, as well as locations and topics, shown in cities and towns across the state.

At this evening's launch event, held at the Lincoln Theater in Columbus, Governor Mike DeWine delivered introductory remarks ahead of a screening of <u>Apollo 11</u> (2019), an Emmy Award-winning documentary produced, directed, and edited by Ohio native Todd Douglas Miller. Miller also participated in a post-film Q-and-A panel including the film's composer, Matt Morton, who hails from Gahanna, Ohio; OGTTM program director Molly Kreuzman; and special guest JoAnn Hardin Morgan, the first woman to serve as a NASA flight director.

The *Ohio Goes to the Movies* program will include partnerships with film festivals in 2025, and will culminate in a 100-day, statewide movie series beginning mid-February through May 2026. During that time, *Ohio Goes to the Movies* events across the state will highlight films made in Ohio, that feature Ohio-born actors, transpire in an Ohio city or town, or center on Ohioans. The events will be held in venues such as historic theaters, drive-in movie theaters, libraries, community centers, and museums, among others.

"The breadth and depth of the moviemaking talent from Ohio – actors, directors, composers, writers, film crews, filming locations – is remarkable," said Molly Kreuzman, *Ohio Goes to the Movies* program director. "Movies have the power to excite us and unite us, and we look forward to commemorating and celebrating all the ways that movies have brought Ohioans together, and how Ohioans have been at the forefront of many historic and iconic films in American history."

America 250-Ohio is actively planning the spring 2026 film series. Venues of all sizes are encouraged to consider hosting an Ohio-focused film event. Interested venues can learn more at the *Ohio Goes to the Movies* web page at <u>ohiogoestothemovies.org</u> or can contact OGTTM Program Director Molly Kreuzman, mkreuzman@ohiohistory.org. Information on future event dates and details will be announced as events are confirmed.