

**OPEN LETTER TO ROGER EBERT FILM CRITIC, CHICAGO SUN TIMES  
FROM THE PRODUCER & DIRECTOR OF THE FILM CHAOS**

Dear Mr. Ebert:

Thank you for reviewing our film, CHAOS, and for your thoughtful comments. However, there are some issues you raised that we strongly feel we need to address. First, it is obvious that our film greatly upset you. In your own words, "it affected [you] strongly," and filled you "with sadness and disquiet." You admitted that the film "works." Nevertheless, you urged the public "to avoid it," and you went so far as to resort to expletives: "Why do we need this s\_\_t?", you asked.

As your colleague at the Chicago Daily Herald commented, CHAOS "marks the first real post- 9/11 horror film," and "the horror of reality has long ago surpassed the horror of Japanese movies and PG13 films." Simply put, The Herald gets it and you do not.

Natalee Holloway. Kidnappings and beheadings in Iraq shown on the internet. Wives blasting jail guards with shotguns to free their husbands. The confessions of the BTK killer . These are events of the last few months. How else should filmmakers address this "ugly, nihilistic and cruel" reality - other than with scenes that are "ugly, nihilistic and cruel," to use the words you used to describe CHAOS.

Mr. Ebert, would you prefer it if instead we exploit these ugly, nihilistic and cruel events by sanitizing them, like the PG13 horror films do, or like the cable networks do, to titillate and attract audiences without exposing the real truth, the real evil?

Mr. Ebert, how do you want 21st Century evil to be portrayed in film and in the media? Tame and sanitized? Titilating and exploitive? Or do you want evil portrayed as it really is? "Ugly, nihilistic and cruel," as you say our film does it?

We tried to give you and the public something real. Real evil exists and cannot be ignored, sanitized or exploited. It needs to be shown just as it is, WHICH IS WHY WE NEED THIS S--T, to use your own coarse words. And if this upsets you, or "disquiets" you, or leaves you "saddened," that's the point. So instead of telling the public to avoid this film, shouldn't you let them make their own decision?

Respectfully,

Steven Jay Bernheim  
Producer, CHAOS

Respectfully,

David Defalco  
Director, CHAOS