

# Life ITSELF

Roger Ebert is the best-known film critic of our time. He has been reviewing films for the *Chicago Sun-Times* since 1967, and was the first film critic ever to win a Pulitzer Prize. He has appeared on television for four decades, including twenty-three years as co-host of *Siskel & Ebert at the Movies*. In 2006, complications from thyroid cancer treatment resulted in the loss of his ability to eat, drink, or speak. But with the loss of his voice, Ebert has only become a more prolific and influential writer. And now, for the first time, he tells the full, dramatic story of his life and career. Roger Ebert's journalism carried him on a path far from his nearly idyllic childhood in Urbana, Illinois. In this candid, personal history, Ebert chronicles it all: his loves, losses, and obsessions; his struggle and recovery from alcoholism; his marriage; his politics; and his spiritual beliefs. He writes about his years at the *Sun-Times*, his colorful newspaper friends, and his life-changing collaboration with Gene Siskel. He remembers his friendships with Studs Terkel, Mike Royko, Oprah Winfrey, and Russ Meyer (for whom he wrote *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* and an ill-fated Sex Pistols movie). He shares his insights into movie stars and directors like John Wayne, Werner Herzog, and Martin Scorsese. This is a story that only Roger Ebert could tell. Filled with the same deep insight, dry wit, and sharp observations that his readers have long cherished, this is more than a memoir—it is a singular, warm-hearted, inspiring look at life itself.

Roger Ebert won the Pulitzer Prize for criticism in 1975, and his reviews are syndicated in newspapers around the world. He was co-host of *Siskel & Ebert* and *Ebert & Roeper* for thirty-three years, and is now managing editor and reviewer for *Ebert Presents at the Movies*. He received the Carl Sandburg Literary Award of the Chicago Public Library and won the Webby Awards Person of the Year in 2010. His website, rogerebert.com, receives 110 million visits a year. He lives with his wife, Chaz Hammelsmith Ebert, in Chicago.

Tony and Emmy Award-winning actor Edward Herrmann's Broadway credits include *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, for which he won a Tony Award, and *The Philadelphia Story* (Tony nomination). Edward's many feature film roles include *Nixon*, *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, and *Annie*. He also starred as the patriarch, Richard Gilmore, on the TV series *Gilmore Girls*, and has also appeared on *30 Rock*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *The Practice* (for which he won an Emmy Award), as well as narrating several History Channel series.

Playing time: 14 hrs 17 min



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