

# Our View

Consensus of the Press-Citizen editorial board

## Return of Hardacre film festival good news for fans, Tipton

When we last tuned into the exploits of Troy Peters and the Hardacre film festival, things looked grim. Last summer, for the first time since the August festival began nine years earlier, Peters announced that there would be no festival in 2006 because of his busy schedule as a Hollywood set designer and because festival organizers were having difficulty securing their traditional screening location in Tipton's historic Hardacre Theatre.

To Tipton, the decision meant that local hotels, restaurants and shops would have to forgo the two-day boost brought in by the August festival. To the region, the decision meant that there was one less opportunity for local, national and international independent filmmakers to display their wares.

We suggested at the time that if the festival organizers fail to work out some accommodations with theater in 2007, that they consider finding other suitable historical theater in another Tipton-sized community.

Happily, Peters announced last week that the Hardacre Film & Cinema Festival was coming back to Tipton for a 10th year on Aug. 3-4. Although several new film festivals are starting up in Iowa, few can re-create the Hardacre's blend of small-town charm and movie-business know-how. The announcement is good news to Tipton Chamber of Commerce, which is taking

### The issue

■ The Hardacre Film Festival will be back for a 10th year. The Legislature also recently approved a measure to help encourage more filming locations in the state.

### We suggest

■ Both of these are good news, for Tipton and for the state.

### What do you think?

■ How do film festivals enrich our state?

■ Send letters to Opinion Page, P.O. Box 2480, Iowa City, Iowa 52245 or e-mail to [opinion@press-citizen.com](mailto:opinion@press-citizen.com).

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over the festival, as well as to area film aficionados.

Where the Hardacre festival ensures another high quality screening venue in state, the Iowa Legislature recently approved a measure to help encourage more filming locations in the state. On Wednesday, the Iowa Senate voted overwhelming to provide a tax break on goods and services companies use while filming in Iowa as well as a tax credit to the investors behind such Iowa-made movies. The House earlier approved the measure, which takes Iowa from offering one of the least impressive to one of the most aggressive tax incentive packages for film in the nation.

When production crews — like those of last year's "The Final Season" — are willing to spend enough money in the state, it's now more likely that the money paid on all levels, from the cameras to the catering, will find its way into the coffers of Iowa businesses. And, whether or not an actual Iowan is in the director's chair, these productions also would provide work for our homegrown filmmakers and actors.

Perhaps by 2008, we'll be able to go to the Hardacre festival to see an Iowan film made possible by the new incentives recently approved.