

# WBEZ91.5

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For Immediate Release

The early 70's sounds of funk, soul, blues, and R&B immortalized in  
***Sound Opinions at the Movies*** screening:  
Mel Stuarts' *Wattstax*  
**at the Music Box Theatre, Wednesday, May 1**

CHICAGO (March 4, 2013) – The popular *Sound Opinions at the Movies* series continues with a screening of *Wattstax*, the 1973 Mel Stuarts documentary chronicling the legendary Stax Records-sponsored Wattstax music festival, at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Avenue, Wednesday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m. Chicago Public Media's *Sound Opinions*, the world's only rock 'n' roll talk show, is co-hosted by acclaimed pop music critics Greg Kot of the *Chicago Tribune* and Jim DeRogatis of *WBEZ.org* and airs on more than 100 radio stations around the country.

A 1974 Golden Globe™ nominee for "Best Documentary Film," *Wattstax* takes place seven years after the Watts section of Los Angeles ignited in a violent burst of racial tension and revisits the issues that led to the devastation. The focus of the film is the Watts Summer Festival held in 1972 at the L.A. Coliseum, where legendary comedian Richard Pryor joined an all-star list of entertainers including Isaac Hayes, the Dramatics, Albert King, the Staple Singers and show-closer Luther Ingram. An estimated 112,000 people attended what came to be known as "the Black Woodstock" in a soulful, proud, and peaceful celebration of African-American musical heritage.

"One of the greatest concerts ever staged took place in the shadow of the burned-out Watts ghetto in Los Angeles in 1972," says Kot. "Virtually the entirety of the powerhouse Stax Records roster was represented -- with the Staple Singers and Isaac Hayes at the top of the charts. It was a history-making day in which a community of 112,000 declared, 'I am somebody.'"

"More than three decades before 'Block Party,' some of the best funk, soul, R&B and blues acts ever took the stage in Los Angeles with Richard Pryor instead of Dave Chappelle," says DeRogatis. "From Isaac Hayes to Albert King and the Bar-Kays to the Staple Singers, 'Wattstax' is a party you won't want to miss."

Tickets for the *Sound Opinions at the Movies* screening of *Wattstax* at the Music Box are \$9 in advance for WBEZ members and \$10 in advance for the general public online at [www.soundopinions.org](http://www.soundopinions.org). Tickets will also be available at the door for \$10 (cash only).

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