



MONDAY, JULY 26, 2004

Fahrenheit 9/11 DVD Delay?

by Michael in New York on 7/26/2004 10:23:00 AM

David posted below about "Fahrenheit 9/11's" possible delay in coming out on DVD. Here's the latest from Michael Moore himself in a conference call Sunday morning, as reported in Variety.

"Moore also backed away slightly from his earlier intention to release "Fahrenheit" on DVD in time for the election. Sony's homevid unit is close to a distrib deal (Daily Variety, July 7), but Moore said Sunday that Lions Gate and IFC now say they envision playing the movie "through the end of the year and possibly into the next year," suggesting a DVD won't be released until after the pic finishes its theatrical run.

"I don't honestly know what's going to happen," Moore said. That new scenario would keep "Fahrenheit" in theaters into awards season; the film is likely to be a contender for the documentary Oscar (or, as some optimistic partisans have suggested, best picture). The Weinsteins then could choose to release the DVD timed to the pic's awards campaign.

While delaying the release of the "Fahrenheit" DVD could hurt the timeliness of the doc, especially if Bush loses the election, it also would sidestep Federal Election Commission regulations that would hamper the marketing of a DVD. Though the FEC has yet to rule definitively on the issue, campaign finance rules likely prohibit mentioning or showing Bush in any broadcast ads for "Fahrenheit" in advance of the election. Restrictions are lifted after the Nov. 2 vote."

My two cents? Delaying the DVD release till next year would be a huge financial mistake. People would hold parties to watch the DVD. People would buy multiple copies and give them to their friends. People would delve into the DVD extras to get better informed. Put it out after the elections and you lose all that momentum, that sense of duty felt by those on the left to support it. Just put out the DVD, then rerelease the film in early January with new footage -- either the happy ending of Bush losing or the "to be continued" ending if he wins.

You can go to www.michaelmoore.com and send him an email urging its release on DVD if you so desire. And you can go to www.amazon.com -- which has a massive 500+ reviews of the movie by readers posted -- and add your post saying the same thing.



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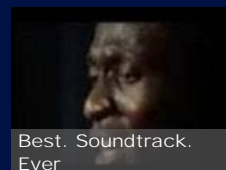
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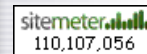
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 - 03/29 - 04/05 (117)
 - 03/22 - 03/29 (117)
 - 03/15 - 03/22 (108)
 - 03/08 - 03/15 (103)
 - 03/01 - 03/08 (103)
 - 02/22 - 03/01 (110)
 - 02/15 - 02/22 (101)
 - 02/08 - 02/15 (104)
 - 02/01 - 02/08 (119)
 - 01/25 - 02/01 (112)
 - 01/18 - 01/25 (116)
 - 01/11 - 01/18 (103)
 - 01/04 - 01/11 (95)
- 2008 (6624)
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2008 elections (191)
abortion (51)
afghanistan (76)
africa (64)
Ann Coulter (37)
australia (46)
auto industry (40)
banks (47)
barack obama (703)
Bernanke (37)
bigotry (35)
bill clinton (36)
Bill O'Reilly (59)
birth control (2)
catholic church (109)
china (130)
consumer protection (197)
credit crisis (136)
dad (36)
Dick Cheney (69)
dollar (37)
domestic spying (62)
economic crisis (106)
economy (143)
employment (84)
ENDA (6)
energy (47)
environment (141)
european union (50)
FDA (64)
Federal Reserve (22)
FISA (63)
food (127)
ford (66)
Foreign Policy (126)
Fox News (63)
france (94)
Fun stuff (43)
gas (21)
gay (719)
gay marriage (39)
George Bush (457)
germany (1)
global warming (127)
GOP civil war (1)
gun control (30)
harry reid (39)
hate crimes (25)
health care (120)
Henry Paulson (37)
hillary clinton (734)
housing (24)
human rights (117)
humor (73)
hypocrisy (35)
immigration (33)
inflation (122)
internet (26)
Iran (121)
Iraq (888)
Israel (24)
jeff gannon (123)
joe Biden (17)
joe lieberman (35)
john edwards (228)
john mccain (1206)
john solomon (18)
karl rove (50)
katrina (286)
Larry Craig (95)
mary cheney (104)

media (54)
media bias (128)
microsoft (68)
middle east (45)
mike huckabee (159)
military (50)
mitch mconnell (13)
mitt romney (102)
mormon (5)
mortgages (93)
Mugabe (40)
Myanmar (25)
nancy pelosi (32)
Newt Gingrich (1)
norm coleman (14)
oil (162)
olympics (38)
orchids (111)
pakistan (37)
paul krugman (85)
phil gramm (25)
polls (57)
privacy (169)
prop 8 (9)
race (23)
racism (76)
ralph nader (40)
ralph reed (49)
rape (29)
real estate bubble (67)
recession (400)
religion (27)
religious right (113)
retirement plans (13)
rick warren (3)
Robert Gates (3)
robin carnahan (5)
roland burris (3)
ron fournier (7)
Ron Paul (63)
Ronald Reagan (1)
rudy giuliani (64)
rupert murdoch (18)
rush limbaugh (67)
Russ Feingold (4)
russia (20)
sarah palin (251)
sarkozy (19)
Saudi Arabia (19)
Scalia (23)
scandal (47)
schip (13)
science (16)
scott kleeb (18)
Scott McClellan (7)
SEC (10)
senate (12)
senate democrats (4)
senate races (5)
september 11 (10)
sex (23)
sexism (7)
Silvio Berlusconi (2)
social security (5)
socialism for CEOs (18)
South Africa (5)
south carolina (1)
Southern Baptists (1)
spain (12)
special interests (14)
sports (11)
starvation (7)
stem cell research (7)
steny hoyer (2)
stephen colbert (4)
stimulus (8)
stock market (23)
student loans (1)
Sub-prime lending (211)
sudan (3)
Superdelegates (61)
Supreme Court (9)
surge (25)
susan collins (44)
taxes (56)
ted haggard (3)

ted kennedy (8)
terrorism (56)
terry mcauliffe (2)
texas (5)
Timothy Geithner (10)
tobacco (1)
tom allen (15)
Tom Delay (5)
tommy thompson (5)
Tony Blair (57)
torture (297)
trade (7)
transportation (4)
travel (11)
UK (146)
UN (19)
unions (6)
US Attorneys (80)
veterans (64)
vietnam (9)
Wall Street (414)
War on terror (29)
women (26)