

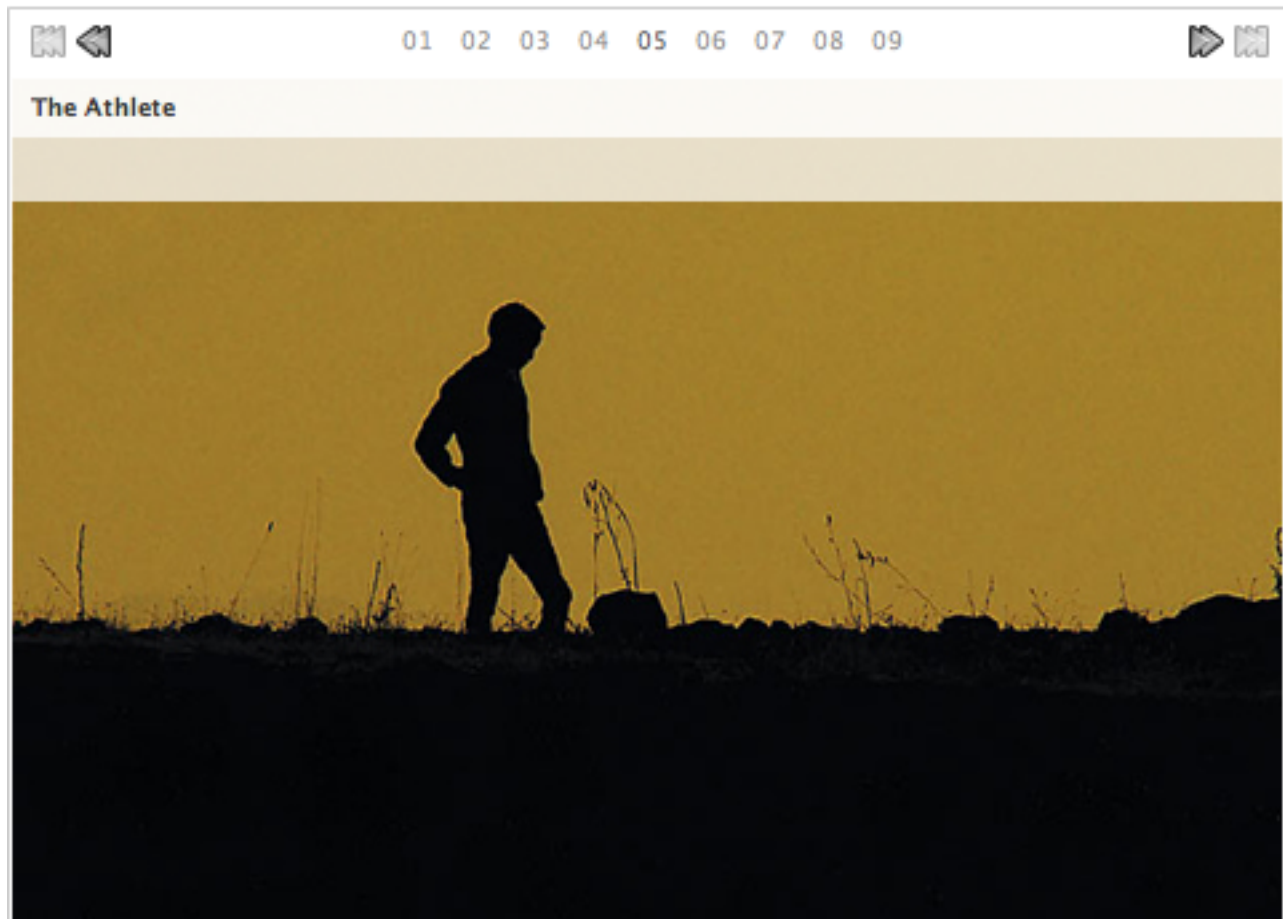


# Film

## Cinematic survey

A day-by-day guide to the Chicago International Film Festival.

By TOC staff



\* *Recommended titles*

If you go Where: [AMC River East](#) 322 E Illinois St Tickets: call Ticketmaster at 312-902-1500, or go to [ticketmaster.com](#). For more information, call 312-332-3456 or go to [chicagofilmfestival.org](#).

## Saturday 17

### 11am Cineyouth

11:15am **Will Not Stop There** Dir. Vinko Bresan. 2009. 110mins. Croatia/Serbia. A Croatian war vet brings a Serbian porn star to his apartment with motives that are gradually revealed.

Noon **Videocracy** See Fri 16.

12:15pm **Shorts 1: Illinois(e)makers** Various dirs. and years. 79mins. USA. As you might guess, all the films in this program have an Illinois connection.

\* 12:20pm **The Athlete** Dirs. Davey Frankel and Rasselas Lakew. 2009. 93mins. USA/Ethiopia. Based on the true life story of Africa's first Olympic gold medalist, *The Athlete* switches between incredible archival footage of the real Abebe Bikila in action with dramatic and gorgeously shot scenes starring Ethiopian Rasselas Lakew. It deserves a permanent place in the runner's movie pantheon. —John Dugan

12:30pm **Effi Briest** Dir. Hermine Huntgeburth. 2009. 118mins. Germany. In 19th-century Germany, the young bride of an older man has a fling with a dashing young officer.

1pm **Made in Hungaria** Dir. Gergely Fonyó. 2009. 109mins. Hungary. Imagine [Grease](#) with some broad Eastern European humor and political jokes thrown in, and you have a pretty good idea of what to expect from this glossy musical set in Hungary in the 1960s, when American music was creeping into the culture and young people were rebelling in the most harmless way, swiveling their hips.—Hank Sartin

\* 1:45pm **Tomorrow at Dawn** Dir. Denis Dercourt. 2009. 96mins. France. As he did in [The Page Turner](#), Dercourt delivers a carefully calibrated mix of psychological drama and thriller elements in this look at the subculture of historical reenactors.—Hank Sartin

2pm **Shortchanged** See Fri 16.

2:30pm **Soundtrack for a Revolution** Dirs. Dan Sturman and Bill Guttentag. 2009. 82mins. USA. This doc looks at the folk music that was a central part of the civil-rights movement.

2:45pm **Mississippi Damned** See Thu 15. \* 3pm **Tales from the Golden Age** Various dirs. 2009. 141mins. Romania/France. Inconsistent, but this multipart portrait of life in Ceausescu-era Romania (spearheaded by [4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days](#) director Cristian Mungiu) is about as solid as omnibus films get. Best part: the exploding pig.—Ben Kenigsberg

\* 3:30pm **Air Doll** Dir. Hirokazu Kore-eda. 2009. 125mins. Japan. Kore-eda's [After Life](#) used videotapes to explore the subject of memory; this time, an inflatable sex doll who comes to life discovers what it means to be human. Oddball wit and Bae Doo-na's performance keep it from turning into *Mannequin 3*.—Ben Kenigsberg

\* 4pm **Who's Afraid of the Wolf** See Fri 16.

4:30pm **Hidden Diary** See Thu 15.

5pm **Lovely, Still** Dir. Nickolas Fackler. 2009. 90mins. USA. When a lively widow enters the life of a lonely, big-hearted bachelor, a tender Christmas-time love story unfolds. The elderly couple's sweet romance builds quickly, like a beautiful blizzard. The plot is serene—almost unsettlingly conflict-free—until a shocking twist makes the film poignant in new and unexpected ways. —Liz Plosser