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**theatres**

## 2007 SNEAK PREVIEW

43rd Chicago International Film Festival  
October 4 - 17

**300 performances.**  
**150 movies. 35 countries. 2 weeks. 1 city.**  
**Your world. Your movies.**

Don't just watch the movies. Experience them.

Every October, all red carpets lead to Chicago as we welcome the best cinema from all across the globe. Be in the front row for world premieres. Talk with the directors. Shake hands with the stars. Discover the brightest new talent. The velvet rope is open. Come inside.

This year's Festival, presented by Cinema/Chicago, is dedicated to world-renowned film critic **Roger Ebert**. The Pulitzer Prize-winning critic has been an integral part of the Chicago International Film Festival since its earliest days, reviewing movies and interviewing actors, directors, and other Festival award-winners and honorees. It was at the Festival that Ebert first saw pictures by Martin Scorsese, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Greg Nava, and other future film giants.

"It is an important festival," Ebert has said, "one of the oldest film festivals in America, and is an adornment to our city."

### A SAMPLING\* OF THE 43rd CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OFFERINGS:

*\*All programs subject to change.*

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## AMC River East 21

322 E. Illinois St.  
(Illinois & Columbus)

## Landmark's Century Centre Cinema

2828 N. Clark St.  
(Clark & Diversey)

## Music Box Theatre

3733 N. Southport Ave.  
(Southport & Waveland)

## Opening Night Premiere

October 4, 2007  
The Chicago Theatre  
175 N. State St.

## Closing Night

October 17, 2007  
Harris Theater  
205 E. Randolph St.

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### Official Airline



Valid for 5% discount on travel to Chicago on American Airlines. Please call American Airlines (1-800-433-1790)\* or book online at [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) (only for AA/AE flights only) and quote STAR file **A55H7AU**. Valid for travel October 1-21, 2007. \*Please note there is a \$10 per person ticketing fee when calling Reservations.

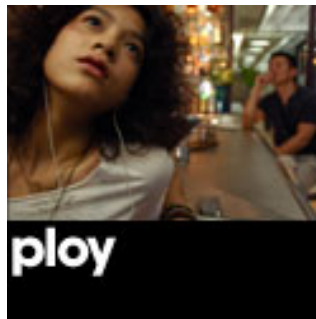
## International Feature Film Competition

Presenting the latest feature-length films from around the world, judged by a jury of international film artists and professionals.



### Poland

The team behind 2005 Gold Hugo recipient *My Nikifor*, Krzysztof Krauze and Joanna Kos-Krauze, explores the tragic effects of financial crisis and emotional conflict on a family in this compelling cautionary drama.

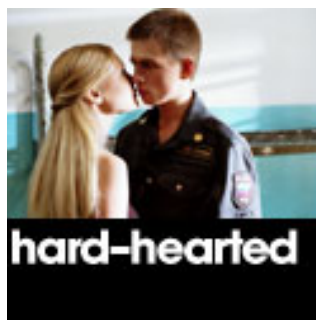


### Thailand

International festival favorite Pen-Ek Ratanaruang's (*Invisible Waves*) hypnotic requiem on the breakdown of a marriage is fueled by a husband's friendship with a young girl and his wife's paranoid delusions.

## New Directors Competition

First or second feature-length films, judged by a jury of local and international film professionals, encouraging and honoring bold new voices in the film world.



### Russia

First-time director Aleksei Mizgiriyov, who picked up the Best Debut prize at the Sochi Open Russian Film Festival, looks at the stark reality of Moscow through the eyes of Anton, a young war vet from the countryside. Anton's rosy vision of the city, fueled by memories of a lost love, is quickly squashed on his first encounter with the city's crooked cops.



### **Puerto Rico**

The passion of first-time filmmaker Carlitos Ruíz Ruíz teems in a darkly comic triptych that celebrates all the complexities of our richest emotion. The innocence of young love blooms for a small boy just as his father throws a major kink into the family, a middle-aged loner's obsessions come to a head when he boards a bus and insists the driver marry him, and a 70-year-old spitfire suddenly finds herself in the center of a love triangle.

## **Docufest**

Find out if truth is stranger than fiction in captivating nonfiction films from around the globe.



### **UK/Austria**

A special presentation of the documentary recognized by Roger Ebert in his 2007 Overlooked Film Festival and the most intimate and revealing portrait of the real man behind the larger-than-life character. Director Rudi Dolezal travels the globe to recreate Freddie's early life in Zanzibar and India, gathering tales along the way from the insiders in Freddie's closely guarded life--including his mother, sister, schoolmates, and former lovers.



### **USA**

Chicago filmmaker Darryl Roberts crafts an alarming and revealing examination of society's views on the representations and idealizations of the female body image.



### **UK**

An unforgettable story of determination, Paul Taylor's work follows a group of orphaned children in South Africa who use music to overcome hardship and loss.



## USA

Brett Morgen's documentary fuses archival footage, interviews, and striking animation to recount the anti-war demonstrations during the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. He also looks at the following year's Chicago Conspiracy Trial, examining the protest's key figures, including Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, and

Bobby Seale.

## Shorts

The latest and greatest narrative, documentary, and student works are showcased in four themed programs.



## China

Keith Qix Chen crafts the gripping tale of a lonely 75-year-old woman who does all she can to keep a delivery boy around.



## USA

Christina Voros' film channels *Grey Gardens* to display the hilarious and devoted relationship of two fiercely independent sisters nearing the ends of their lives.

## World Cinema

The sights, sounds, and perspectives of diverse cultures from all across the globe come to audiences in Chicago.



## **lars and the real girl**

### **USA**

Craig Gillespie directs Academy Award®-nominees Ryan Gosling and Patricia Clarkson, Emily Mortimer, and Paul Schneider in a script by *Six Feet Under* scribe Nancy Oliver. Lars Lindstrom (Gosling), a loveable introvert whose emotional baggage keeps him from fully embracing life, takes his family on an emotional journey after he brings home a new friend--Bianca, a life-size doll whom he treats like a real person.



## **the witnesses**

### **France**

André Téchiné's (*Changing Times*) compelling AIDS drama, set in the 1980s, explores the fragility and fluidity of the boundaries that define human relations.



## **beaufort**

### **Israel**

Joseph Cedar, himself a veteran of Israel's first war with Lebanon, crafts a thoughtful and intense war drama about the 2000 Israeli evacuation of a mountaintop fortress in southern Lebanon. The powerful, provocative film, which favors the soldiers' points of view over any political stance, earned the directing prize at the Berlin International Film Festival.



## **getting home**

### **China**

After realizing that his old friend and co-worker Liu has died suddenly, Zhao promises to return the body to Liu's distant hometown for a traditional burial. Sixth-generation director Zhang Yang's (*Shower*) humorous road movie offers a unique insight into the lives of the common people who ultimately define this touching story about a man's dedication to his friend.

## Cinema of the Americas

Witness the exciting and innovative works emerging from Latin America and the Caribbean. This year's program will present a focus on cinema from the Argentine New Wave.

Other national cinemas represented in this section include Mexico, Peru, Brazil, and Puerto Rico.



### Argentina

Esteban Sapir's visually seductive drama is set in a futuristic, Orwellian world where a villainous media magnate has stolen the citizens' voices... literally.



### Argentina/France

Santiago Otheguy's moody, meditative debut explores the growing rift between two men living in a remote Argentine river community. Meticulously presented in high-definition black and white, *La León* is fraught with sinister sexual undertones.

## Black Perspectives

Founded in 1997 through collaboration with legendary director Spike Lee, Black Perspectives presents provocative and insightful projects created by and about people of African descent. This year's film series presents an array of projects in which central characters and themes provide the perspectives of people of color.



### USA

A hipster searches for resolution of his on-going issues with race, identity, and romance in Jennifer Sharp's stylish, comedic look at love and commitment.

## Anime Focus

Now in its second year, this section presents animated films by Japanese artists working in one of the most dynamic and inventive art forms in film today.



**the girl who  
leapt through time**

### Japan

Through the invention of time travel, tomboy Makoto learns lessons of friendship, responsibility, and love in Mamoru Hosoda's enchanting coming-of-age tale.

## Family Programming

New to the Festival this year--films geared toward family audiences will be presented on weekend afternoons.



**august rush**

### USA

A charismatic young Irish guitarist (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) and a sheltered young cellist (Keri Russell) have a chance encounter one magical night but are soon torn apart, leaving in their wake an orphaned infant. Years later, performing on the streets of New York and cared for by a mysterious stranger (Robin Williams), the child (Freddie Highmore)

uses his remarkable musical talent to seek the parents from whom he was separated at birth.

## Gala Presentations and Tributes



The Gala Presentations, including Opening and Closing Night celebrations, will present one-time showcase screenings of some of the most exciting new releases from the world's most prominent directors and emerging

talents from Hollywood and abroad.

# 100 Years of Filmmaking in Chicago



A century ago, the Essanay Film Manufacturing Company made Chicago a moviemaking city second to none. From its Gold Coast and Uptown studios, Essanay produced hundreds of films on the old-world streets of our fair city, providing a major boon to the motion picture business then,

and an inimitable and entertaining historical record now. The surviving Essanay reels have been seen by only a few hundred people today, but the Festival is presenting this priceless piece of Chicago history to all of us with a special program of short films made between 1907 and 1915.

*Photo courtesy of the Chicago History Museum*

## Conversations & Encounters



The Conversations & Encounters series will bring film artists and audiences together in an intimate atmosphere to foster the exchange of ideas on filmmaking, culture, and the intersection between the two.

## Join Our Cast

**Membership** takes you behind the velvet rope: to experience the best in world cinema and to meet other film enthusiasts while supporting a culturally vibrant organization which strives to enrich our community. You'll also benefit from knowing that you've helped to support a wide range of year-round educational and community programs.

Becoming a member of Cinema/Chicago gives you an impressive package of benefits:

- Free year-round film screenings
- Access to sneak-preview passes
- Member Rates on tickets for the annual Chicago International Film Festival
- Invitations to special Cinema/Chicago events

·And more...

For complete information about Membership Levels and Benefits, please [click here](#).

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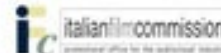


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