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ROXBURY

Roxbury International Film Festival to screen 50-plus films over four days

Posted by Matt Rocheleau July 14, 2011 04:13 PM

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"The Athlete," also known as "Atletu," opens the festival on July 28th at the Museum of Fine Arts at 8 p.m.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The 13th annual [Roxbury International Film Festival \(RIFF\)](#), which bills itself as "New England's largest film festival dedicated to celebrating people of color," will screen more than 50 films over the final four days of July.

Festival director Lisa Simmons says of this year's screenings "that many of the films selected for this year's festival are really about a call-to-action and films that effect change."

"That is what independent films should do," she adds in a festival announcement. "They should enlighten you, inspire you and move you to act."

The festival presented by [The Color of Film Collaborative](#) runs from Thursday, July 28 through Sunday, July 31, event organizers said. Films will include features, shorts, documentaries and youth-produced works.

"[My So-Called Enemy](#)" kicks off festival week with a special screening at the Coolidge Corner Theatre on July 25.

"[The Athlete](#)," also known as "Atletu," opens the festival on July 28th at the

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Festival organizers said the 2009 film is “based on the true story of Abebe Bikila, an unknown, barefoot Ethiopian man, who stunned the world in 1960 by winning Olympic gold in the marathon and then repeated a similar feat four years later in the Tokyo Olympiad. One evening returning to his home in Addis Ababa after training, fate would present him with his greatest challenge: to dig deep within, not just to run the next mile, but to find the will to live.”

Other highlights of the festival include documentaries and narratives like, “[Make A Movie Like Spike](#)” along with two Boston-filmed presentations “[The Last Shot](#)” and “[PUSH: Madison Versus Madison](#),” which is about Madison Park High School's basketball team.

Closing the festival will be the 2010 UK documentary “[Fire In Babylon](#)” screening at the Museum of Fine Arts on July 31 at 4 p.m.

“Played against the backdrop of the national liberation movements of the '70s and '80s, this documentary pays tribute to the golden age of cricket in them West Indies as the teammates set out to triumph over their former colonial masters and make a name for themselves on the world stage,” festival organizers said of the film.

Screenings are held in and around Roxbury, including at: The Museum of Fine Arts; the Massachusetts College of Art and Design; the Annex Auditorium at Wentworth Institute of Technology; the Roxbury Center for Arts at Hibernian Hall; Northeastern University, and the Haley House Bakery Café.

Those interested in helping support the festival are invited to join its “[Get On The Reel](#)” campaign.

For more information, visit www.roxburyfilmfestival.org. To purchase passes, [click here](#).

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