

# Cincinnati World Cinema presents its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Oscar Shorts & More" ... April 11-14

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## Essential Event Info

### WHAT:

- OSCAR SHORTS & MORE
- Two programs ("A" and "B"), each with a running time of 105 minutes. In English and various languages with English subtitles.
- Genre: Short Live-Action & Animation; comedy, drama and documentary.
- NR (not rated) but generally suitable for all audiences, high-school and older. Suggest 'R' for language and violence in *Logorama*.

### WHEN:

- Sun, April 11, Program A, 4:30 pm
  - Sun, April 11, Program B, 7:30 pm
  - Tue, April 13, Program A, 7:30 pm
  - Wed, April 14, Program B, 7:30 pm
- Doors open at 3:30 and 6:30 pm for the two Sunday screenings; at 6 pm for the Tuesday and Wednesday screenings.

### WHERE:

- [The Redmoor](#)  
3187 Linwood Avenue, Mt. Lookout Sq 513 871 6789
- FREE PARKING on the two upper levels behind the CVS drugstore next door to the Redmoor. Click for [PARKING MAP](#).

### TICKETS:

- Single Tix for Program A or Program B are \$10.
- Save 20% - Combo Tix for both Programs A and B are \$16.

### ADVANCE TICKETS

( click each location for maps )

\$16 Combo Pkg and \$10 Single Tix:

- [ON-LINE](#)
- tollfree 1-877-548-3237
- [The Redmoor](#), 513-871-6789

\$10 Single Tix, cash only:

- Clifton-Ludlow Ave. - [Sitwell's Coffee House](#)  
513 281 7487
- Mt. Lookout Square - [Lookout Joe Coffee Roasters](#)  
513 871 8626
- Northside-Hamilton Ave - [Shake It Music & Video](#)  
513 591 0123
- Downtown Cincinnati - [Coffee Emporium](#)  
513 651 5483

Tickets will also be sold at the door, if not sold out.



## Socialize Before & After Enjoy Cocktails and Dinner

Oscar Shorts is held at THE REDMOOR, a movie theatre-turned-cabaret where you'll enjoy a "cinema deluxe" environment at everyday prices.

**Come early, park once.**

(Free parking behind the theatre - see map.)  
Meet others with similar interests and enjoy a meal, snacks and beverage along with a great CWC film event -- all in the same building!

# Program A Film Descriptions

## TRT 105 minutes

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***But first, a word from our sponsors...***

**Directors: Various, 5 minutes, international.**

A brief compilation of hilarious commercials from around the world.

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**A1 FRENCH ROAST *Animation* Oscar Nominee**  
**Director Fabrice Joubert, France, 2009, 8 minutes, in French with English subtitles.**

Set in a Parisian café, you don't have to speak the language to see that the central figure is a stuffed-shirt. Leisurely reading the financial news, he ignores the waiter serving him and blows off a beggar asking for money. But things change when he discovers he has forgotten his wallet and then orders coffee after coffee, prolonging the moment of payment.

With visual styling reminiscent of the *Triplets of Belleville*, director Fabrice Joubert melds urbane comedy with social commentary on class distinctions. And, the plot twist at the end is icing on the cake.

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**A2 KAVI *Live-Action* Oscar Nominee**  
**Director Gregg Helvey, India/USA, 2009, 19 minutes, in Hindi with English subtitles.**

Kavi is a boy in India who wants to play cricket and go to school, but instead he is forced to work at a brick kiln as a modern-day slave. Unsatisfied with his fate, Kavi must either accept it or fight for a different life even if he's unsure of the ultimate outcome. The film brings *Slumdog Millionaire* to mind, and it is worth noting that *Kavi* was written and filmed before the filming and release of *Slumdog*.

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**A3 AFTERNOON DELIGHT *Animation* Bonus Short**  
**Director Michael Varnum, USA, 2008, 2.25 minutes, in English.**

Making a professional house call, Candi knocks on the wrong door and a case of mistaken identity ensues. Sweet, mildly provocative and funny, you will never look at Fruit Rollups in the same way again.

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**A4 MIRACLE FISH *Live-Action* Oscar Nominee**  
**Director Luke Doolan, Australia, 2008, 17 minutes, in English.**

Premiering at Sundance and well received at festivals, *Miracle Fish* examines the ways in which the words we use and the actions we take impact our everyday lives. Combining elements of fantasy, sci-fi and coming of age drama, this short film is simultaneously magical, suspenseful and haunting - one that will keep you hanging until the startling final plot twist.

Eight-year-old Joe has a Birthday he will never forget. After classmates tease him at school because he is poor, Joe escapes to the infirmary, where he falls asleep wishing everyone in the world would go away. Joe wakes later to find his dream may have come true - an empty school has become his private playground. But Joe soon realizes that something else is going on and he is confronted by a young man who is both frightening yet strangely familiar.

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**A5 THE KINEMATOGRAPH *Animation* Bonus Short**  
**Director Tomek Baginski, Poland, 2009, 12 minutes, in English.**

On this year's Oscar shortlist, *The Kinematograph* is a moving love story about a man struggling to create motion pictures at the end of the 19th century, just before the Lumiere Brothers announced their own similar invention.

Based on a graphic novella by Mateusz Skutnik, the film is influenced by Baginski's penchant for muted palettes and stylized, romantic figures. It also relies heavily upon music to convey love and emotions, using original compositions by Adam Skorupa and Pawel Blaszyk, performed by the sinfonia ViVA conducted by Krzysztof Herdzin.

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**A6 EXTREME SHEEP LED** *Live-Action Bonus Short*  
Director James Rouse, Wales/UK, 2009, 2.75 minutes,  
in English.

To create this compelling Internet video, the folks at The Viral Factory UK dressed hundreds of sheep in little LED jackets and filmed shepherds and herding dogs as they moved the flocks into various comedic displays on a hillside in Wales. Intended to convey the brilliance of Samsung's LED television line, what you see is an engaging, creative documentary, as the crews set up their day and night time shots, the dogs execute the choreography and the brightly-lit sheep cooperate .

Released in March, 2009, *Extreme Sheep, LED* became wildly popular with over 11 million views on the Internet and recognized as outstanding by the BBC, The Guardian, The New York Times and ABC's Good Morning America. All of which pleased TVF's client, Samsung UK. [Watch the behind-the-scenes featurette.](#)

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**A7 LOGORAMA** *Animation Oscar Winner*  
Directors François Alaux, Hervé Crécy and Ludovic Houplain, France, 2009, 16 minutes, in English.  
(Consider this short R-rated – language and violence.)

The most inventive of all Oscar nominees this year and already a cult favorite with graphic design and advertising types, *Logorama* is unique in that every single thing in it is a recognizable corporate logo. Also noteworthy - the dialogue is in English with French subtitles, not vice-versa.

*Logorama* can be enjoyed on multiple levels:

- A fast-paced parody of Hollywood action and disaster movies and their penchant for flagrant product placement.
- An homage to the logos, signs, symbols and referents created by the global design/branding community.
- An astonishing piece of subversive allegory. (Or perhaps a triumphant embrace?)

- An extreme action film with Ronald McDonald as a psychotic killer who rubs out Big Boy and Mr. Peanut; Michelin men as profane cops in pursuit; SWAT teams, high-speed chases, helicopters, hostage situations, an earthquake, animals escaping from the zoo; and cameos by Mr. Clean, the Pringles Man and the Jolly Green Giant.

**Audacious, funny, unique, surreal. And quite possibly the fastest 16 minutes you will experience watching a film.**

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**A8 INSTEAD OF ABRACADABRA**

*Live-Action Oscar Nominee*  
Director Patrik Eklund, Sweden, 2008, 22 minutes, in Swedish with English subtitles.

Tomas, a 25-year-old wannabe magician who still lives with his parents, is unwilling to accept the fact that he will never make a decent living as an illusionist. With his dad pushing him to get a real job, Tomas reluctantly agrees - but only if he can perform his magic act at his father's upcoming 60th birthday party.

The pursuit of magic has taken a toll on the household - Tomas lost temporary sight in one eye due to a trick gone wrong, and when he tries to convince his father that this magic will soon pay off, the inept trickster accidentally stabs his mother with a sword while performing a routine in the living room. His father, Bengt, is very nervous about Tomas' scheduled performance at his birthday party.

Then Tomas meets their new neighbor, a sexy single mother who has him over for a kids' magic show. Smitten, he decides that maybe he should give the magic business another shot. Which all leads up to the big show at his father's birthday party. There is blood. There are screams. And there are surprises aplenty.

The writing, casting and performances are great -- Mom and Dad are drollily hilarious in their own right, and Tomas proves to be an eccentric and loveable character, complete with cheesy mustache and ridiculous costumes.

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## Program B Film Descriptions

### TRT 105 minutes

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**Directors: Various, 5 minutes, international.**

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#### **B1 GRANNY O'GRIMM'S SLEEPING BEAUTY**

**Animation Oscar Nominee**

**Director Nicky Phelan, Ireland, 2008, 6 minutes, in English.**

The premise is familiar: a grandmother offers to tell her young granddaughter a bedtime story. But, this grandma isn't the kind who would make you cookies and tuck you in. Granny is a bit demented (with appearance to match) and repeatedly strays from her rendition of the classic fairytale "Sleeping Beauty" to rage against personal slights real or imagined. In reality, she's scaring the child to death with tales of an evil fairy who casts a spell on Sleeping Beauty. Later, Granny sings the girl a lullaby whose repeated refrain is "they will die."

Nicky Phelan's quirky animated film shares an amusing look at twisted adult behavior through the eyes of a child. The script was written and performed with cackling glee by Kathleen O'Rourke as Granny, who originally was doing the character as a part of a cabaret act. The film uses a flat, hand-drawn style to visualize Granny's story and a more dimensional CG look for Granny and her captive audience. Granny's voice and hair are enough to terrify all but the staunchest Gray Panther.

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**B2 THE DOOR Live-Action Oscar Nominee**  
**Director Juanita Wilson, Ireland/The Ukraine, 2008, 17 minutes, in Russian with English subtitles.**

Filmmaker Juanita Wilson sees *The Door* as a universal symbol of life, death and entering the next life, that can mean an opportunity gained or an opportunity lost, as one door opens, another one closes... Filmed in the Ukraine - Kiev and the abandoned city of Pripjat, the story opens with an absurd act: stealing a door. raising a question in the viewer's mind that is

not answered until the final shot. Then, what had seemed a senseless act turns into a simple statement of human dignity, of people making sense of loss through ritual.

Based on a true story, *The Door* gives us images that are impressionistic and haunting, like fragments of memories which the viewer must piece together. Although the main character, Nikolai, gives us the facts, he himself is trying to make sense of them in his own mind. The story moves forwards and backwards in time, revealing events retrospectively as the viewer bears witness to the universal tragedy of Chernobyl through the eyes of one man.

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#### **B3 A MATTER OF LOAF AND DEATH**

**Animation Oscar Nominee**

**Director Nick Park, United Kingdom, 2009, 29 minutes, in English.**

Wallace & Gromit have started a new bread baking business, "Top Bun" and converted 62 West Wallaby Street into a granary with ovens, robotic kneading arms and an old-fashioned windmill on the roof. The transformation is perfect. Although business is booming, Gromit is concerned by the news that a dozen local bakers have "disappeared" this year — but Wallace isn't worried. He's too distracted and "dough-eyed" in love with former beauty and bread enthusiast, Piella Bakewell.

While they enjoy being the "Toast of the Town," Gromit soon realizes his master's life is in jeopardy, and turns sleuth to solve the escalating murder mystery — in what quickly becomes "**A Matter of Loaf and Death.**"

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**B4 CAROUSEL Live-Action Bonus Short**  
**Director Adam Berg (Stink Digital) UK, for Tribal DDB Amsterdam, 2009, 2.33 + 3.33 minutes, no dialogue.**

Film-inspired dramas infused with sponsors' product placement on the Web are as old as the BMW Films that came out at the turn of the century. But *Carousel*, a 2:19 cinematic short directed by Adam Berg, is stunningly original and well crafted, pulling viewers into the story of a robbery gone bad and the resultant fire fight between police and clown-masked bad guys.

## [CAROUSEL CONTINUED]

As with *Avatar*, the concept and tech mastery is the key — ***Carousel*** takes us through a **frozen moment in time** (suspended animation for you old Twilight Zone fans), in what is described as **one long, continuous shot**. Characters never move, but the camera does, floating up stairways, down corridors and out of windows, traversing a single, immaculately staged, moment in time.

The film is constructed as an **endless loop**. It opens with a shot of a cop kneeling on a car roof top, pointing at the action. At the end, we come back to that opening shot and deduce that the above-mentioned cop is actually one of the robbers, who jumped out of a window onto the car top.

Inspired by Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* and John Woo's *Hardboiled*, ***Carousel*** goes further and does it better. Without a trace of character movement or a word of dialogue, it tells a fascinating action story.

Set aside for the moment that the film promotes the new Philips Cinema 21:9 LCD TV, the first Cinema Scope-proportioned TV screen. The thing to enjoy is the creation itself - a stylish, masterfully produced narrative piece that very, very effectively uses sound, lighting and post-production SFX to give the viewer an amazing experience.

With close to 5 million views on the Internet, this viral video has spread from the Philips cinema microsite to YouTube and to dozens of tech and me-too video sites, drawing huge numbers of repeat watchings as viewers parse the camera angles and special effects.

Equally important, from an advertising/media perspective, ***Carousel***, and films like it are harbingers of change - longer content, branded, interactive, with creative types calling more of the shots.

On the big screen at Oscar Shorts, we will share two video pieces: the 2:19 *Carousel* film, plus a 3:33 a behind-the-scenes "How they did it." This is the kind of work you will want to see more than once. The full interactive version is here, [www.cinema.philips.com](http://www.cinema.philips.com) and the behind-the-scenes mini documentary is here, [youtube.com](http://youtube.com).

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## B5 THE LADY & THE REAPER

Animation OSCAR NOMINEE

Director Javier Recio Gracia, Spain, 2009, 8.33 min, no dialogue.

A sweet old widow lady lives alone on her farm, waiting for death so that she can be with her beloved husband once again. One night, she is invited to enter death's domain, but someone ruins it for her.

At the hospital, a Dudley Do-Right doctor and his team of lascivious nurses are determined to keep the old woman alive. A Looney Tune tug-of-war between the Grim Reaper and the medicos commences, with classic slap-stick hijinx that will take you back to the old Saturday morning cartoons. It's morbid, funny and swift.

Visit the website and production blog (in English & español): [theladyandthereaper.com](http://theladyandthereaper.com) and [theladyandthereaper.com/wordpress](http://theladyandthereaper.com/wordpress) to see storyboards, concept illustrations, learn about the music, and more.

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## B6 THE NEW TENANTS Live-Action OSCAR WINNER

Director Joachim Back, USA/Denmark, 2009, 21 minutes, in English.

This darkly funny and frightening film, populated with drifting, damaged souls, was the dark-horse winner of this year's Oscar for Best Live-Action Short.

Exactly how the film was chosen for Oscar consideration is a bit of a mystery -- it was an Official Selection at only three festivals: Los Angeles Reel Film Festival, the Florida Film Festival and the Scandinavian Film Festival in Los Angeles. [Watch the trailer.](#)

***The New Tenants*** is anchored by powerful performances from New York film and theater stalwarts Vincent D'Onofrio, Jamie Harrold and Kevin Corrigan, plus This American Life regular David Rakoff. Rakoff also adapted the original script - a twisted mistaken identity caper - into a dark, gleefully existential meditation on the inevitability and banality of death and our desperate attempts to ignore it (as well as a salute to the cold comforts of cigarettes and mom's cinnamon buns).

## [THE NEW TENANTS, CONTINUED]

Shot in the Chelsea Hotel in NYC, the new tenants encounter a bizarre Welcome Wagon -- a prying neighbor, a glassy-eyed drug dealer, and a husband brandishing both a weapon and a vendetta. Set amidst the as-yet-unopened boxes and the hopes for a fresh start of two men on what might just be the worst moving day ever. Their new apartment reveals its terrifying history in a film that is by turns funny, frightening, and unexpectedly romantic.

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### **B7 RUNAWAY Animation Bonus Short** **Director Cordell Barker, Canada, 2009, 9 minutes, in English.**

Two-time Oscar nominee Cordell Barker describes his short as "a metaphor film" for our out-of-control world in which he paints a cynical view of how we treat each other and the world around us. An absurd comedy filled with latent social satire, *Runaway* is dark, and very funny. This is the second Barker short film presented by Cincinnati World Cinema; the first was *Space Invaders*, part of Oscar Shorts 2002.

Conceived back in 2003, *Runaway* packages the popular runaway train metaphor with sly, stylized mischief and mayhem and applies it to a society hurtling blissfully and obliviously to its own destruction. It compartmentalizes social hierarchies, with the chattering classes packed like cattle into "Economy" and the boorish bourgeois situated in "First Class," both unaware that the captain is an incompetent noob more focused on romance than operating the train.

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### **B8 MOSCOW CAT CIRCUS Live-Action Bonus Short** **Director Marilyn Agrelo, USA, 2008, 3.25 minutes, in Russian and English with English subtitles.**

An entertaining, informative and thoroughly delightful documentary, artfully written for three-minute run time.

Director Vladimir Anisimova has headlined the Moscow Cat Theatre since 1991 and his daughter Maria is his training and performance assistant. Based in Moscow, the theatre travels throughout Russia and has performed in 80 countries around the world. Of the 120 cats in the troupe, only 35 (plus one dog) go on out on tour at one time.

"Sometimes the cats teach us the tricks!," says Vladimir. In Russia, the circus is considered an art form like ballet or opera, a showcase for highly skilled artists. And the MCT felines fill that bill with a variety of tricks and acts such as trapeze work, pole climbing, balancing on large balls and jumping from a height of twenty feet.

The cat trainers laugh at the idea of rewarding cats with food. The philosophy at the Moscow Cat Theatre is to train the cats not by rewarding them with treats, as one might train a dog, but "with long, good words, touching them." They believe that cats are like actors, and if they do not want to do something, they just won't.

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*Presentation sequence and bonus films are subject to change.*

[CONTINUES]