

## Why Short Films Matter

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Not only are many of the short filmmakers of today the feature filmmakers of tomorrow, but short film as a genre is an incredibly flexible and creative art form. In compilations seen at Cincinnati World Cinema, like *Oscar Shorts*, *Oscar Docs*, *Sundance Short Film Jury Prize Winners* and *LunaFest*, the audience is rewarded with a smorgasbord of culturally and cinematically significant works.

"Indeed, the Oscar shorts offer a more accurate, more complete glimpse of the state of cinema than the features. The shorts did not enter the world on a cushion of prestige or a vapor trail of hype, and they offer concentrated doses of visual ingenuity and narrative discipline.

"[While] the live-action shorts are characterized by realism and local knowledge – each offering moments of immersion in the particulars of individual or family life – their animated siblings explore the universality of film language. They provide a reminder of how expressive, how moving, pictures can be."

~ **A.O. SMITH**, *film educator and principal film critic, the New York Times*

Each year on TV we see tantalizing clips from the nominated short films at the Academy Awards and then they vanish. Some reappear on cable and satellite; others bounce around the Internet in compressed versions of nominal quality. In our region, CWC's annual **Oscar Shorts & More** is the only opportunity to see these thought-provoking and visually beautiful short films on the big screen, at one time, in one place.

Theatre audiences across the country affirm – with their enthusiasm and repeat attendance – that these short films deserve to be seen. Each year's offering belies the myth that short films are amateur works - the nominated shorts that win the top-tier festival competitions have high production values, excellent scripts and compelling actors. Because they have to engage audiences quickly and effectively (not having 90 minutes to work around mediocre scripts, acting and editing) you'll find they are works equal to or better than many of their feature-length cousins.

When we offered our first annual Oscar Shorts back in 2002, we were one of 25 total presenters. This year, the Shorts will screen in over 150 domestic markets. Continuing the tradition in 2016, our 15th annual presentation of **Oscar Shorts & More** makes Cincinnati World Cinema one of the longest-running continuous presenters.

We love good shorts and think you will also. Enjoy!

~ Tim Swallow