

Citytv

TIFF09: Short Shorts

2009/09/04 | Brian McKechnie, CityNews.ca



A short film is technically considered a film under 60 minutes in length. To me a short film is between two and ten minutes long. Besides two longer form short films (*My Toxic Baby* and *Petropolis: Aerial Perspectives on the Alberta Tar Sands*) I've only seen a handful of what I consider a short to be. Check out my opinion of them below along with some clips.

The Spine

There are just some things in this world you can't describe. *The Spine* falls into that category in a big way. Written and directed by Chris Landreth (who won the Oscar for Best Animated Short in 2005 for *Ryan*) the film is downright weird. The animation is great though and weird is not necessarily a bad thing. Part of the [Short Cuts Canada 1 Programme](#).



TIFF09: Short Shorts

2009/09/04 | Brian McKechnie, CityNews.ca

Vive la rose

Inspired by a traditional Newfoundland song by Émile Benoit, *Vive la rose* is a sad (yet beautiful) love story told via stop motion and paint animation. Plays with the feature [Crackie](#).

Runaway

From Cordell Barker, the director of the classic animated short *The Cat Came Back*, comes *Runaway*; a vibrant, energetic, animated train ride. Set to music by Ben Charest who scored *The Triplets of Belleville*. Worth more than one viewing if you can. Part of the [Short Cuts Canada 3 Programme](#).

Soap

Sex, death and 80s decor - what's not to like? Very well made film about an unhappily married woman who has to clean up a mess after her lover slips on a bar of soap in the shower one afternoon. *Soap* could easily be turned into a feature. Part of the [Short Cuts Canada 3 Programme](#).

Man vs. Minivan

After receiving a minivan as a wedding gift from his soon to be in-laws, Shane (Marc Bendavid of *Murdoch Mysteries*) starts to have second thoughts on marriage. The use of a minivan as the main set piece, along with some great performances, makes *Man vs. Minivan* a fun little film. Part of the [Short Cuts Canada 3 Programme](#).

Night Mayor

Guy Maddin is one of the most overrated Canadian filmmakers -- he makes pretentious crap that only a handful of people will ever care about. If you enjoyed *My Winnipeg*, his film that played TIFF last year, you might get something out of *Night Mayor*. If you're like me and can't stand his work, avoid this excruciating experience at all costs. Part of the [Short Cuts Canada Programme 2](#).

brian.mckechnie@citynews.ca

Top image: Still from The Spine. Courtesy TIFF.