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## 'Six minutes of social terror'

The place to see short films on the big screen

Presented by



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Courtesy CFC

Other than a couple nods during Oscar season, short films are often given short shrift. It's rare that they're screened before features anymore and, outside of the festival circuit, the genre is hard to find in any form besides pixellated You-Tube videos.

But as the lineup for the 14th annual CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival was announced yesterday afternoon in Toronto, which will bring in 268 works from around the globe when it launches on

June 10, the future of the short looked long and promising.

"The ideal place to see any short film is on a big screen, at a festival, where you really do get to enjoy it best," said Eileen Arandiga, the festival's director. "But there are a lot of shorts on the internet, you can see them on cellphones now, and of course the more exposure people get to this kind of cinema, the better."

Filmmaker Mark Montefiore understands the difficulties of making these films accessible to the general public. In his case, although he's more than happy to have his movie *Back In '93* -- about a Montreal Canadiens fan growing up in St. Catharines, Ont., narrated by George Stroumboulopoulos -- play at the WSFF, he's also found creative ways of distributing it that don't rely on traditional theatres and screening rooms.

Short films about hockey, however, are inherently easier to market -- at least here in Canada -- than more challenging fare, such as a small thing, Adam Garnet Jones's 15-minute film, developed at the Toronto International Film Festival's Talent Lab, which deals with more abstract concepts of loneliness and drifts between dreams and reality.

"In short film, as opposed to with features, you don't have as many restrictions," said Chad Maker, director of *About Face*, a short film in the comedy program about an office worker whose social networking site comes to life with awkward consequences. "You can basically just execute your vision without any constraint. In our case, it involves six minutes of social terror for our lead actor."

Nonetheless, some types of short films are destined to remain within the festival circuit, and in this case, the WSFF's selection of Thai films commissioned in honour of that country's king's 80th birthday, accidentally funny public service shorts from the '50s and '60s, projects from an Argentinian film school

and celebrity short films -- this year starring Dakota Fanning, Bill Murray, Chevy Chase and a directorial debut by Kate Hudson -- will most likely screen only once in Toronto.

"The best part is," said one filmmaker, "if you don't like one of the films, it's over in three minutes anyway." - The CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival runs from June 10th to 15th in Toronto. For more information visit [www.shorterisbetter.com](http://www.shorterisbetter.com)

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