

DC Shorts Film Festival

Shorts Are The Main Meal

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It's no secret that the short films aren't exactly a big selling point at major film festival. They're the appetizers before the meal; people may enjoy them, but it's not the reason they come to the restaurant.

At the DC Shorts Film Festival, though, the audience views your film like one mini pizza bagel on a tray of 100 when you're drunk—they want all of them. In its sixth year, DC Shorts is extremely well-organized, with a strong list of sponsors.

The screenings are arranged into two-hour blocks, but it's the only festival I've attended that actually cared to make bumpers before each film with the the moviemaker's name and the film's title. This gave each film individual recognition and prepared the audience with just enough time to hit the reset button their brains.

Each screening I attended at the 2009 event, which took place in the nation's capital September 10-17, was filled to capacity, and at the end of each block the audience texted in their votes for their favorite films, giving one moviemaker per block a coveted audience award (my film, *Boo*, won my block).

Festival director Jon Gann is passionate about the atmosphere he has created, and seems just as excited as the moviemakers to be taking part in the fest. Providing each moviemaker with free accommodations at home stays or reduced hotel rates (whichever you choose), egos were checked at the door, and our reward was simply being recognized.

Short films may fall through the cracks at other festivals, but the DC Shorts is the first event I've attended that makes sure the audience knows a short film is no small deal.

Michael Goldberg

Michael Goldberg's Boo (www.boothemovie.com) won the Audience Choice and Filmmakers Choice awards at the DC Shorts Film Festival. He writes and directs animated letter number films for "Sesame Street."