

Sprockets

Toronto International FILM
Festival for children
April 14-18, 2008

Future Frames 2008

A great deal of thanks and appreciation goes out to our teacher committees who volunteer their time to assist in the development of Sprockets lesson plans.

Join Sprockets in celebrating Canada's newest crop of directorial talent! Future Frames is a unique presentation of the latest and greatest work created at renowned post-secondary film schools across the country. This year's selections feature an engaging array of live-action and animated narratives unfolding in diverse cinematic worlds where nothing is as it seems.

Recommended for Grades 10 to 12

Synopsis:

Glitch (11 minutes)

A technological glitch propels an unassuming guy into the futuristic underbelly of "the establishment." Trapped in this alternate dimension, can he outwit the enemy?

Smokestack (13 minutes)

A fictional character improbably named Smokestack is smitten when he meets the charming Elena. However, the author of their story tries to give the otherwise predictable romance a macabre twist, forcing Smokestack and Elena to take their plotlines into their own hands.

The World's Most Fabulous Object (10 minutes)

For two ex-best friends with a lot of relationship baggage, an old cassette recording contains much more emotional meaning and nostalgia than meets the ear.

Fourth of July (5 minutes)

A young man's love interest accidentally leaves her journal in the library. Sneaking a peek inside its intriguing, artful pages, he embarks upon a wildly imaginative journey.

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The Legend of Boruta (9 minutes)

In this chilling animated film, a German soldier instructed to pillage a Polish catacomb discovers that history can sometimes take on a life of its own.

The Universal Hanging Together of All Things (7 minutes)

Karma and synchronicity are explored in this wacky yet savvy film about a corrupt philanthropist, a pernicious saboteur and Nostradamus.

Curriculum Links: Guidance and Career Education, Media Studies, Dramatic Arts,

Focusing Question: What is involved in producing a film?

Teacher Endorsement: This programme is a fantastic opportunity for Media Studies classes or students considering pursuing post-secondary education in film. Students will screen a range of films with diverse styles, story concepts and film techniques. Should students have any questions about the films, the post-screening question-and-answer session is a great chance for them to learn first-hand about choices made and the hard work involved in producing a film from idea to fruition.

Pre-Screening Preparation: To introduce students to the many different types of films, the art of cinema and its historical and cultural significance visit the website storyofmovies.org. This online tool will outline curriculums and readings that will provide an overview of the world of cinema.

During Screening Question/Activity: What are some of the roles in producing a film? From set design to writing, have students think about careers they could aspire to in the field of film production.

Post-Screening Activity: Interview a student enrolled in post-secondary school film, radio or television arts programme. During your interview enquire about the following:

- 1) Why did they choose that programme?

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- 2) What was the application process like?
- 3) How many courses do they take and what are they?
- 4) What do they feel is the strength of the programme?
- 5) Where do they hope to work after they graduate?
- 6) "If you knew then, what you know now" what would they do differently when applying to post-secondary film school.

Conclusion/Wrap-Up:

For students who want to learn more about trends, programmes and research in the world of media (including film, television and new media) whatsnewmedia.org is a site designed to be a "valuable resource for students and faculty across a variety of new-media-themed courses and programmes emerging within colleges and universities. Entries highlight articles, papers, announcements regarding some aspect of new media. This site aggregates a number of interesting sources for new media-themed content." (whatsnewmedia.org)

Additional Resources: For more information on careers in the film industry check out the following resources:

1. mandy.com - International film and television production resources from job postings to writing competitions it's a great tool for students to learn about different careers in this industry.
2. reellearning.ca - Reel Learning is an online film-literacy resource for educators. With live video interviews, interactive webcasts with film-industry experts, e-newsletters and a wide range of study guides, Reel Learning is a unique resource portal for educators and those interested in film and media literacy.
3. filmreferencelibrary.ca - The [Film Reference Library](http://filmreferencelibrary.ca), with more than 17,000 book titles and 60,000 film files, holds the world's most extensive English language collection of Canadian film-related material plus the unique archival collections of Canada's most esteemed filmmakers. [The Canadian Film Encyclopedia](http://filmreferencelibrary.ca) (CFE) includes over 800 film titles, filmmaker and subject entries, covering some of Canada's foremost historical and contemporary films and filmmakers.