



Future Frames 2009

A great deal of thanks and appreciation goes out to the members of our Teacher Advisory Committee, who volunteer their time to assist in the development of Sprockets teacher resources.

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 through 12

Synopses:

Hooked (2 minutes)

DIRECTOR: Kirstin Williams

In this delightfully quirky stop-motion animation, a salty and irascible old fisherman finds his horizons expanded when a friendly but persistent spider comes to call.

Fresh Eggs (3 minutes)

DIRECTOR: Vadim Bazhanov

A desperate duo running on empty along a blazing desert highway must stop to refuel... but can they keep their cool when "the heat" rises?

Trick of the Wind (2 minutes)

DIRECTOR: Jae Hyun Lee

A creative young man, tuned out to all but the object of his affection, finds his life blown comically off course by the winds of fate.

The Death of the Obsolete (2 minutes)

DIRECTOR: Nick Genova

Feeling the inevitable squeeze of time's passing it by, a lonely accordion, mired in an existential crisis, questions its role in a society that has labelled it passé.



My Dad Ralph (12 minutes)

DIRECTOR: Nicholas Wong

For single parent Ralph, a failed artist employed as a house painter, Take Your Kids to Work Day means he can no longer keep his profession a secret from his charismatic son, Zak.

Broken Tulips (8 minutes)

DIRECTOR: Brandon Cronenberg

In the imagined but hauntingly convincing near future of this surreal live-action narrative, a young man finds that he is not alone in his intent to inextricably intertwine his fate with that of his celebrity obsession.

Nappy Heads (3 minutes)

DIRECTOR: Sabrina Moella

Infectiously cheerful, this black-and-white documentary is a rhythmic and invigorating tribute to Afro hair.

The Nature of Battle (3 minutes)

DIRECTOR: Nat Dart

Cargo planes with a deadly looking payload loom threateningly on the horizon, but what more damage could be done to this already-devastated wasteland?

C Block (4 minutes)

DIRECTOR: Vladimir Kooperman

This brilliantly realized animation follows a courageous canine desperately determined not to lose his beloved chew toy in a heart-wrenchingly bleak and unforgiving nuclear future.

CURRICULUM LINKS:

- Guidance and Career Education
- Media Studies
- Dramatic Arts

FOCUSING QUESTION: What is involved in making a film?

EDUCATOR ENDORSEMENT:

“This is a great opportunity for teachers to expose their students to (the work of) other student filmmakers. It also provides secondary students with



an opportunity to ask questions about post-secondary film schools and programmes.”

Pre-Screening Preparation:

Research a Canadian filmmaker and write a brief biography on his or her education and career development. Consider the following:

1. Where did the filmmaker go to school?
2. What genre of film do they work in?
3. How long have they been working in the film industry?
4. Who are their inspirations?
5. What might this filmmaker be most noted for?

Check the Film Reference Library website (filmreferencelibrary.ca) or the Canadian Film Encyclopedia (canadianfilmencyclopedia.ca) for information about filmmakers.

Screening Question/Activity:

While screening the film, have students consider questions to ask the student filmmakers following the screening. This might include questions about the film school they attended, the application process for film school or the genre of film they most enjoy working in.

Post-Screening Activity:

Ask students to screen two films by the filmmaker whose biography they researched in the pre-screening activity, then have them complete the following chart. If students are having trouble tracking down DVDs of the films, try searching at the Film Reference Library; students can screen films at the library by booking a viewing station.

How are these two films the same?
1.
2.
3.
4.

How are these two films different?		
1.		1.
2.		2.
3.		3.
4.		4.

Conclusion/Wrap-Up:

Many filmmakers do not attend formal educational film institutions but instead pursue the study of cinema through alternate learning experiences. Visit reellearning.ca (click on "Curriculum" and then "Video Interviews") to view an interview with *Penelope* director Mark Palansky, speaking about how he got involved in filmmaking and the role of a director in film.

Mark Palansky: Born in Toronto and raised in Los Angeles, Mark studied fine art and philosophy at the University of California at San Diego. He has directed and produced the short films *Shutter* (98) and *The Same* (01). *Penelope* (06) is his first feature film.

Additional Resources:

For more information on careers in the film industry, students can check out the following resources:

1. The Canadian Film Encyclopedia (CFE) includes over 800 film title, filmmaker and subject entries, covering some of Canada's foremost historical and contemporary films and filmmakers.
www.canadianfilmencyclopedia.ca
2. Canada's Top Ten is a unique annual event, established in 2001 by the Toronto International Film Festival Group to honour excellence in contemporary Canadian cinema.
www.topten.ca
3. 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.

www.reellearning.ca

4. The Film Reference Library, 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.

www.filmreferencelibrary.ca