

20 AWARD-WINNING SHORT FILMS FOR

KIDS

A Guide
To the Films



DISC 1 For Young Kids

10 AWARD-WINNING SHORT FILMS
FOR CHILDREN AGES 4-8



St Mathurin's School of Practical Joking

Chris Waitt | 9:42 |
Drama | Scotland

A school where pupils learn about peashooting, stink bombs and food fighting is threatened with closure by the arrival of a humourless government official. ♥

- ★ Winner: Bermuda International Film Festival
- ★ Winner: Chicago International Children's Film Festival
- ★ Heart of Gold International Film Festival

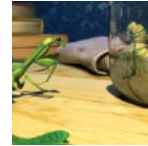


Ruby Who?

H. Bartholomew,
N. Stuetz | 4 min. |
Family | Australia

A little girl discovers that freedom and happiness are found when you let go of all the things you want and relish what you have. ♥

- ★ The third film for this Award winning filmmaker. Her films have screened at numerous festivals and won many awards.
- ★ Best International Family Short: Garden State Film Festival

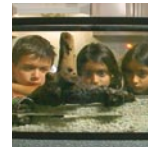


The Mantis Parable

Josh Staub | 9 min. |
Animated | USA

Created in its entirety by first-time filmmaker Josh Staub, The Mantis Parable is the charming tale of a humble caterpillar trapped in a bug collector's jar and in need of a helping hand.

- ★ Multiple awards including Palm Springs International Film Festival and Chicago International Children's Festival



Lost and Found

Joseph, Susan &
Katherine Procopio |
5 min. | Drama | Canada

With the help from 3 friends, a lost toad finds his way home. Joseph Procopio is 12 and one of the most awarded young film makers in Canada. ♥

- ★ Best Film: Toronto International Children's Film Festival
- ★ Professional jury Prize: CIFEJ World Film Festival Cyprus 2007



Rita

Alison Teal Blehert-Koehn
| 6 min. | Family | USA

Rita is a true story based on the filmmaker's childhood. Alison Blehert-Koehn's early life was filled with the stuff of dreams. But not until the family's expedition to Mt. Everest, did seven-year-old Alison get to experience her own dream. ♥

- ★ Multiple awards including Telluride Mountain Film Festival Kids Choice Award
- ★ Nominated for MTV Movie award in 2007



What's Wrong With This Picture

Jeffrey Travis | 1:55 |
Comedy | USA

Millions of children each day are left alone with crayons and paper—the vast majority of whom gleefully animate without loss or injury. There are those precious few, however, who must bear the weight of wax-gone-bad. Three-year-old Aidan may have followed all the rules, but in a moment of carelessness, his own creation will go horribly wrong. ♥

- ★ Tribeca Film Festival
- ★ SXSW Film Festival
- ★ Seattle International Film Festival



With special thanks to the *Heart of Gold International Film Festival* for guiding us to some truly heartwarming Children's films. Heart of Gold films are marked with a heart. ♥

www.heartofgold.com.au

DISC 1 Cont.



Goggles

Olivia Peniston-Bird | 4 min. | Drama | Australia

The story of six-year-old Billy whose encounter with a couple of girl bullies on the way to the pool takes a surprising turn.

- ★ Women in Film Award
- ★ Tropfest Finalist



Looking Good

T. Powell & M. Nebauer | 7 min. | Comedy | Australia

Zali gets to spend a day alone with her dad and in her mind plans a fun outing with him. However, things don't go as planned. ♥

- ★ Best short film: Inspiration Film Festival, LA
- ★ Best short family film: In the Bin Film Festival, Australia



The Planning Lady

Marty Shea | 9 min. | Comedy | USA

The guidance counselor wants Candace to decide on a career path. Candace is in the second grade. ♥

- ★ 1st Place: Lake Michigan Film Competition
- ★ Best Local Film: Lake County Film Festival



Eustice Solves a Problem

Stephen Lance | 12:23 | Drama | Australia

Set in a televised 1958 mathematics competition, Eustice Badgery finds a friend and the courage to stand up to his mother.

- ★ Palm Springs International Film Festival
- ★ Chicago International Film Festival
- ★ Sydney International Film Festival

DISC 2 For Older Kids

10 AWARD-WINNING SHORT FILMS
FOR CHILDREN AGES 9-12



Tommy the Kid

Stuart Clegg | 12 min. | Comedy | Australia

When Tom's bike is stolen by a junk store dealer, he hatches a plan to get it back. ♥

- ★ Berlin International Film Festival
- ★ Tribeca Film Festival
- ★ Seattle International Film Festival.



Snakebite

Matt Pinder | 9 min. | Comedy | Scotland

Seven-year-old Sammy is convinced that he has been bitten by a poisonous snake. He spends the afternoon diagnosing what he believes to be the first signs of his impending death. Can his father come to his rescue? ♥

- ★ 1st prize, children's jury: Chicago International Children's Film Festival
- ★ Best film: Heart of Gold International Film Festival

DISC 2 Cont.



The Unique Oneness Of Christian Savage

Jennifer Ussi | 18:30 |
Children's | Australia/
South Africa

Although they are from different cultures, life is one big adventure for two best friends as they explore rural Africa. ♥

- ★ Chicago International Children's Film Festival: Best Short Film
- ★ Toronto International Children's Film Festival



For All the Marbles

Kris Booth | 11 min.
| Family/Adventure |
Canada

For all the marbles follows the escapades of a ten-year-old boy as he attempts to retrieve his prized marble, tossed away by a bully at recess, from across a school-yard fraught with unbelievable dangers.

- ★ Tribeca Film Festival, New York
- ★ Sprockets International Film Festival for Children, Toronto
- ★ Best Short Film: World of Comedy Festival



Kick Like a Girl

Jenny Mackenzie | 24:40
| Documentary | USA

Kick Like A Girl is the story of what happens when "The Mighty Cheetahs", an undefeated third grade girls soccer team competes in the boys division.

- ★ "Billie" (Jean King) Award for positive portrayal of women and girls in the media
- ★ Santa Barbara International Film Festival



Crooked Mick of the Speewah

Philip Smith | 11 min.
Comedy | Australia

Strong-Arm Sam and his promoter Gus are down on their luck. Tired of hearing about how much stronger Crooked Mick of the Speewah is, they decide to find the mythical Speewah and challenge legendary Crooked Mick. A film based on traditional Australian myths, told in a heightened way using the latest technology. ♥

- ★ Screened at many of the world's best festivals and winner of numerous awards

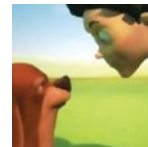


Going to School in a Mud Desert

Divya Kumra | 10 min.
| Documentary | India

In the middle of a cracked, mud desert of mirages, Ramesh and his friends go to school. ♥

- ★ Nappa Gold Award
- ★ Parent's Choice Honors
- ★ La International Children's Film Festival



Fetch

Dana Dorian | 1:30 |
Animation | UK

Colin takes his dog Cumberland to the park for a game of fetch, but Cumberland has other ideas. What happens when mans best friend refuses to co-operate? ♥

- ★ Best Animation: BAFTA Scotland
- ★ Audience Award for Best International Film: Krakow International Film Festival
- ★ Children Jury Special Mention: Auburn International Children's Festival



Charlotte's Red

Colin McIvor | 15 min. |
Drama | Northern Ireland

Seven year-old Charlotte has a talent for painting. Her Father has a talent for burglary. When Van Gogh's 'The Sunflowers' visits Belfast, Charlotte's Father can't resist the biggest heist of his career.

- ★ Best Short: Kids Film Fest '06, La Matatena, Mexico
- ★ Best Children's Film: Heart of Gold Film Festival, '06, Australia
- ★ Most Popular in Fest: New York Kids Film Fest '07



Celamy

Julie Anne Meerschwam |
18:45 | Drama | USA

A story about the rise and fall of a friendship between a little girl and her imaginary friend.

When 5 year-old Nelly's mom passes away she creates "Celamy", an imaginary friend, to help her cope with her loss. For years the two girls are inseparable. But once Nelly becomes a teenager, it becomes obvious to Celamy that she's no longer needed, in fact that she's in the way. So now it's up to Celamy to choose: should she stay like she wants to or leave so that Nelly can grow up?

- ★ Multiple awards including Angelus Film Awards, Spiritual Film Festival at Sea and Vail Film Festival



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It may not surprise you to find out that the majority of award-winning indie and foreign films can only be seen at film festivals. *Official Best of Fest* was created to share these world-class, film-festival films with everyone. We have gathered a top-tier curating team — award-winning film makers and film-festival directors, Oscar winners and nominees — to sift through thousands of independent film-festival films to find the best of the best. The results are here on DVD as part of the *Official Best of Fest* collection.

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