

Bristol's Watershed Media Centre and Arts Alliance Media unite to offer an Industry First

DepicT! Short Films available now to all members of the UK Digital Screen Network



Watershed Media Centre and Arts Alliance Media have joined forces to offer cinemas that are part of the UK Digital Screen Network the opportunity to screen the most recent DepicT! shortlisted entries, along with ten cherry-picked favourites from the DepicT! vaults, before digital feature film releases. This is the first time that the network will be used to heighten the profile of independent short filmmaking talent on a national scale.

For the past ten years, DepicT! - Watershed's popular online 90 second short filmmaking competition, part of Encounters International Short Film Festival - has been challenging filmmakers from across the globe to come up with a compelling, imaginative idea and distil it into a minute and a half. The contest has had many success stories in terms of its shortlisted titles going on to be screened across the UK and at international festivals around the world.

Thanks to the recent introduction of digital screening facilities in selected cinemas across the UK, and with support from Arts Alliance Media, who are providing the digital encoding and distribution services for DepicT!, Watershed is now able to build on this success and further develop the platform for the DepicT! shorts and its filmmakers.

The UK Digital Screen Network – a £12 million investment by UK Film Council and the Arts Council England to equip 240 screens in 210 cinemas across the UK with digital projection technology – aims to give UK audiences much greater choice. This initiative allows cinemas to screen short films before digital feature film, extending audiences for quality short films and inspiring budding filmmakers to make shorts by giving the medium a theatrical platform.

Mark Cosgrove, Watershed's Head of Cultural Programme, said:

"Producing a 35mm print of a short film for distribution to cinemas is expensive, which often means shorts struggle to reach a wide audience beyond the specialist festivals circuit. The idea is to use the flexibility of the Digital Screen Network set-up to encourage cinemas such as Watershed to show individual shorts before features. We're really excited about using high-end digital technology as a way of getting shorts submitted online to the DepicT! competition out to wider audiences."

Nicola Gaddes, Arts Alliance Media's Distributor Services Coordinator, commented:

"We are delighted to be able to help emerging filmmakers get their films seen in cinemas, and in the highest possible digital cinema format. Watershed's DepicT! is an important showcase for independent short films and we are very happy to bring it to the Digital Screen Network."

Watershed and Arts Alliance Media hope that this initiative sparks a on-going trend within the industry to engage with the versatility of the digital format and give the short film medium the theatrical platform it deserves.

- ENDS -

Notes to editors:

- For further information and/or images please contact Dan Fowler dan.fowler@watershed.co.uk or call (0117) 927 5108.
 - To view the available films, please visit: www.depict.org – Screeners are also available on request.
 - For bookings, please contact: depict@watershed.co.uk or call (0117) 927 5120. For venues that are not part of DSN, the films are also available on digi beta/Beta SP PAL and DVD.
 - For further info on the Digital Screen Network (DSN), visit: ukdsn.com/dsn
 - All of the selected DepicT! films have been submitted to BBFC to ensure cinemas can screen the shorts with appropriate features.
 - The DepicT! '08 call for entries is now open. Can you do it in 90 seconds? Deadline for submissions: Mon 8 Sept '08, 1700hrs (GMT) For more information, visit: www.depict.org
 - DepicT! is a Watershed project as part of Encounters International Short Film Festival (Tue 18 - Sun 23 Nov '08) supported by Aardman Animations, Films@59, Arts Alliance Media, BBC Film Network, Shooting People and the Independent Cinema Office.
- See following page for details of available titles.

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Available Titles:

DepicT! Audience Favourites

La Flamme PG

Dir: Ron Dyens France '02
Set in the seaside town of Deauville, a pair of lovebirds find themselves on the beach but technical difficulties get in the way...
Category: Live Action / Silent / Black & White / Comedy

The End U

Dir: Rob Crowther & Tim Clayton UK '02
You have 90 seconds to live... all of you!
Category: Live Action / Environmental / Comedy

Geoff, World Destroyer PG

Dir: Phil Hall UK '02
An old man attempts to teach social inclusion to some kids by way of an ultra modern fable.
Category: Animation / Political satire / Comedy

How to Tell When a Relationship Is Over PG

Dir: Tony Roche UK '03
Boy meets girl. Boy gets girl. Girl gets sick of boy. Boy gets sick of girl. Big fight. The end.
Category: Live action / Love Story / Comedy

Le Cheval 2.1 U

Dir: Stephen Scott-Hayward/Alex Kirkland UK '03
A humourous short about a man who just wants to be a horse. A tiny slice of the absurd - don't blink!
Category: Live Action / Philosophy / French / Comedy

Brian's Breakdown U

Dir: Natalie Kavanagh UK '04
As Brian sits in the psychiatrist's chair, he is unable to follow her instructions, for his mind is taking him to a different place.
Category: Animation / Experimental / Psychology

Donut U

Dir: Hazel Grian UK '04
"They said a terrorist could attack at any time. I didn't know it was me!" JFK assassination spoof.
Category: Live action / Political / Comedy

Screen Kiss 12A

Dir: Steven Sander UK '05
Behind the scenes of a movie snog.
Category: Mock Documentary / Comedy / Romance

Flighty U

Dir: Leigh Hodgkinson UK '05
With an average lifespan of just a few weeks, speed-dating seems the perfect solution for butterflies.
Category: Animation / Comedy / Romance

Pemba PG

Dir: Marc Hilltout/Pascal Colson Belgium '06
Africa is dying... to play football.
Category: Documentary / Political / Football

DepicT! '07 Shortlist

Operator U

Dir: Matthew Walker UK '07
A man makes a phone call to God to ask Him a burning question
Category: Animation / Philosophy / Comedy

The Picnic PG

David Gilbert
A family picnic turns very sour...
Category: Animation / Experimental

Showdown at Yohoko Valley U

Dir: Theo Jamieson/Joseph Wallace UK '07
An animation about the devastating events which took place at Yohoko Valley.
Category: Animation / War / Comedy / Experimental

State of Nature U

Dir: Joseph Pierce UK '07
An introspective look at the minutiae of a hidden world through an animation shot entirely on a digital stills camera.
Category: Animation / Experimental

The Tales of Donkey the Whale PG

Dir: Chris Corner & Dave Ezra UK '07
After meeting on MySpace, Dave (story and soundtrack) and Chris (direction and animation) collaborated to chronicle Donkey the Whale's visit to the zoo.
Category: Animation / Comedy

Breather U

Dir: Peter Snowdon UK '07
A man finds a stone outside his house. He picks it up - with unexpected results...
Category: Live Action / Music

Finding Clarity PG

Dir: Kevin Bartrum New Zealand '07
One man's way of finding peace of mind.
Category: Live Action / Inspirational / Experimental

The Forgotten Comic U

Dir: David Handley/Simon Ball DepicT! 2007
Before Little Britain, The Fast Show or even The Goons Show came the original catchphrase comic. But who is Tommy Handley?
Category: Animation / Documentary / Comedy

Moon Shot UK U

Dir: James Harris UK '07
The first UK moon landing goes skew whiff.
Category: Live Action / Mock Documentary / Comedy / Space

Oops! U

Dir: Trevor Hardy UK '07
One brave knight, one trusty steed and a helpless princess; what could possibly go wrong? A short film about bravery and clumsiness.
Category: Animation / Children / Comedy