

Portland International Short Short Film Festival

There should be a law that says short films should actually be short. Personally, I'm tired of these 45 minute mini-movies that call themselves shorts. That's why I like the Portland International Short Short Film Festival—nothing runs longer than 10 minutes. This year's PISS Fest showcases 62 films in four different programs, with a special program of all locally made pieces. The shorts run the gamut, from narrative to experimental, documentary to animated, well-crafted to ineptly executed. Some are great, many are good, and some are pretty bad. But they are all short! Two of the best films are Sarah Kurchowski's *Lump*, a simultaneously sad and funny tale of little girl who wants a dog, and *Lucky*, an action-packed Australian thriller. *Aroma*, from Ireland, is silly and sophomoric while at the same time entertaining, and *In the Morning* is emotionally powerful and disturbing. The program of locally produced films includes *Dew Line*, by acclaimed animator Joanna Priestley, *Gimme Doughnut*, a documentary about Voodoo Doughnut, and a pair of comedic looks at the world of dating, *The "Aha" Moment* (by Melissa Gorr) and *Speed Dating* (by Chris A. Bolton). For descriptions of all the films and schedule of showtimes, go zenkerfilms.com. DAVID WALKER, Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy Blvd., 281-4215, 7 and 9:10 pm Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21-22. \$6.