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Introduction

Let me start off by saying I love watching shorts. They are short, fun and I can watch them at my desk while I am eating my lunch. I also think shorts have the potential to really showcase a creative talent (writer, director, cinematographer, etc) because often that talent is working on a limited budget and certainly limited time so if the short is executed well – it is always impressive.

But, while I love watching shorts, I believe they are really hard to execute well – harder than features – because in a short you have so many things you need to accomplish:

- get a complete story across
- present and resolve the dramatic question raised by the main characters
- have a beginning, middle and end
- the main character must complete his or her arc

And you have to do all that in under 10 minutes. Phew.

And over the 10 years I have been in this business, I have seen hundreds, if not thousands, of short films. I have attended film festivals across the country, and time and time again I go home tired, hungry and angry that I have wasted another two hours of my life watching one boring short after another. And, as a graduate of a top film school and as someone who has made several shorts herself, I know there are tips to making a great short film that film schools don't teach and that most people don't know.