

## SWISS SHORTS

The Swiss short film scene is highly diverse. There is a tremendous creative output, despite a relatively modest amount of financial support. In 2009, some 124 short films were selected and screened at major festivals in Switzerland. Many of these films have since managed their breakthrough abroad and won international awards.

Extremely varied in terms of style and technique, the common denominator among these film productions is their creators' enthusiasm for the creative freedom that the short film genre offers. The four-part programme for the Drama Film Festival reflects this enthusiasm and diversity.

Productions on the animation film scene enjoy a consistently high level of quality. In the early nineties, film schools provided added impetus in the fiction and documentary short film genres. Films by graduates from these schools have frequently created a stir at festivals around the world. In the wake of such success, numerous independent production firms also ventured to take on the short form by the end of the nineties. The risk was worth it, proven by the festival careers of "Stolen Father", "Pastry, Pain and Politics" or "Summertime" (not screened in Drama).

Switzerland has four national languages, and a substantial portion of film production comes from the French-speaking region, often influenced by French cinema. Hybrid forms, such as the fictional documentary film "Terra incognita" or the documentary "Chasseur" round off the multifaceted image of short films made in Switzerland.

Apart from the glossy Swiss façade (clean, safe, chocolate), there is another side of Switzerland, a dark side frequently concealed which lends itself well as the subject matter for short films. Filmmakers derive a great deal of pleasure from crushing clichés or celebrating obscure fantasies in their works. A selection of such films was compiled for the "The Dark Side of Switzerland" programme.

## SWISS FILMS

SWISS FILMS is the promotion agency for Swiss filmmaking, also representing the Swiss film culture abroad. The short film department promotes the genre in its broad spectrum of diverse forms: fiction, documentary, animation, experimental film productions and hybrid forms are presented and screened at international festivals, film markets and in curated programmes worldwide. Since 2010 SWISS FILMS has provided a short film distribution service in Switzerland, offering short film productions in the digital format as well.