

# Short Films

## Definition:

An original motion picture that has a running time of 40 minutes or less, including all credits.

## Codes and Conventions:

### Length of Short Films:

Lengths vary from 2 minutes to 30 minutes long, recommended to have a maximum of 5 minutes.

### Narratives & Storylines:

Storylines are generally kept simple and easy to follow and will be based over a short period of time. The narrative is usually condensed and contains limited dialogue for the amount of time. The narrative can be in any form but usually the form will define the story line.

### Character(s):

A short film will usually only introduce between 1 and 3 main characters as creating back stories and developing characters is limited. Short films will usually last long enough to connect the audience to few characters and will not have a developed enough storyline to hold a large cast.

### Budget:

Short film budgets are often very low. A high budget isn't needed to make a good film. Focus on the costs of shooting, post-production, marketing, location, travel, cast and crew.

### Twists:

The majority of short films contain a twist. With the use of twists the audience becomes aware and more involved. Typically a twist is placed at the end of the short film however it can run during any part of a short film.