

A Guide to Reviewing Short Films

Filmmaking is a collaborative art.

It starts with a screenwriter and (if they're lucky) along comes a director, actors, a cinematographer, an editor, a composer, and many talented others working together to try and create something special.

Some filmmakers have had lots of experience and others are shooting for the first time, but, they are all looking to learn and get better.

As always, tell them what you liked, what you didn't, and offer suggestions for improvement. You may comment on any aspect of the production:

- ◆ Script
- ◆ Performances
- ◆ Cinematography
- ◆ Sound
- ◆ Editing
- ◆ Score
- ◆ Direction

Whether the film is polished or still rough around the edges, remember, this is your opportunity to help them improve, not to beat them down.

When it comes time to rate the film, you are not simply saying, this is how much I love or hate this story. You are doing your best to judge the craft of all those involved.

Lastly, a thoughtful review is not optional, it is expected.

Chris Messineo
MoviePoet.com

p.s. During the voting month, you can review the scores and comments you have left and make changes. It is not uncommon to have second thoughts and new insights.