

Film Feature: Ranking the ‘2013 Oscar-Nominated Animated Shorts’

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on February 1, 2013 - 4:14pm

- [Academy Awards](#) [2]
- [Adam and Dog](#) [3]
- [Brian Tallerico](#) [4]
- [Fresh Guacamole](#) [5]
- [Head Over Heels](#) [6]
- [HollywoodChicago.com Content](#) [7]
- [Maggie Simpson in The Longest Daycare](#) [8]
- [Movie Review](#) [9]
- [Oscars](#) [10]
- [Paperman](#) [11]
- [Short Films](#) [12]
- [The Simpsons](#) [13]

CHICAGO – Want a leg-up in your Oscar pool? The five short films nominated for the Academy Award for “Best Animated Short” are now playing at the Landmark Century Theatre in a special presentation with three other shorts (the non-nominated “Abiogenesis,” “Dripped,” and “The Gruffalo’s Child”). The program runs 88 minutes and we have mini-reviews of all five below, ranked in the order we’d like to see them win the Oscar.



Paperman

Photo credit: Shorts International

“Paperman”

What a delightful piece of filmmaking. This short, which played before “Wreck-It Ralph” was superior to its acclaimed companion film. As much as it pains me to put a Disney film at the top of a category that I wish was led solely by independent productions, nothing tops “Paperman” this year. It’s a lovely piece about a NYC man who has a chance encounter with a woman while waiting for a train. After she kisses a piece of paper (and her red lipstick is the only mark on it), the world conspires to get the two back together. The only word is lovely.



The Longest Daycare

Photo credit: Shorts International

“Maggie Simpson in “The Longest Daycare””

Where Disney bundled “Paperman” with “Ralph,” Fox took the release of “Ice Age 4” to debut this great short from the world of “The Simpsons.” I’ve always been a huge fan of the silent Maggie Simpson and she makes a fantastic subject for a silent short film like this one. And the fact is that this short is more clever than 90% of episodes of “The Simpsons” in their entirety over the last few years. It reminds me of why I loved “The Simpsons” in the first place.



Adam and Dog

Photo credit: Shorts International

“Adam and Dog”

This tale of first man’s best friend features some lovely 2-D animation but goes on a bit too long. However, I liked the focus on nature with some gorgeous imagery of the natural world and some excellent sound design. Also, being a dog guy, I love the idea that man’s relationship with his canine best friend goes back before Eve. I only wish it was half as long.



Head Over Heels

Photo credit: Shorts International

“Head Over Heels”

A visual trick in which an older gentleman lives on the floor while his wife “lives” on the ceiling. He’s watching TV on the floor, she’s vaccuming from above him. It’s conceptually clever but that’s it. It’s not really used for any form of storytelling and wears out its welcome even at a brief running time.



Fresh Guacamole

Photo credit: *Shorts International*

“Fresh Guacamole”

My least favorite short by some stretch is less than two minutes so that’s the good news. It will go by quickly. Go get some popcorn. It’s not that this sound experiment in which the audio of making guacamole is laid over stop-motion footage of different materials (a poker chip instead of a tortilla one for example) is all that horrible it’s just so slight that one wonders how it got nominated. Fun, sure, but in no way memorable. You’ll walk away from this program laughing about “Daycare” and fondly remembering “Paperman” more than wanting some guacamole.



[14]

By [BRIAN TALLERICO](#) [15]

Content Director

HollywoodChicago.com

brian@hollywoodchicago.com [14]

Source URL (retrieved on Apr 25 2024 - 7:20am):

<http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/21223/film-feature-ranking-the-2013-oscar-nominated-animated-shorts>

Links:

- [1] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/users/briantt>
- [2] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/academy-awards>
- [3] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/adam-and-dog>
- [4] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/brian-tallerico>
- [5] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/fresh-guacamole>
- [6] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/head-over-heels>
- [7] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/hollywoodchicagodotcom-content>
- [8] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/maggie-simpson-in-the-longest-daycare>
- [9] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/movie-review>
- [10] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/oscar>
- [11] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/paperman>
- [12] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/short-films>
- [13] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/the-simpsons>
- [14] <mailto:brian@hollywoodchicago.com>
- [15] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/about#BRIAN>