

Sarasota Film Festival 2008: Part Three

Contributed by Noralil Ryan Fores
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So, we bluffed. We've got one more week of SFF coverage, and we promise you it'll be a rocking and rolling time with some podcast interviews. Check back in for that. In the meantime, take a look at five shorts we thought well on.

Reviews:

Beautifully executed in both its vivid visuals and desolate sound design, Michael Faust and Ariel Belinco's *Beton* tries a bit too hard for its metaphors to have great meaning. In exploring the divisions of warring nations, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict just concealed, the short animation falls prey to its own politically conscious cuteness. [Read more.](#)

A construction worker loves a tightrope walker. A homeless man lives in a tunnel with his dog. A child ambles down the street, his mother clutching onto his hand. In Florence Mialhe's hand painted *Conte de Quartier*, all are strangely connected by the nondescript glimmering dust stashed within the cotton depths of an otherwise insignificant doll. [Read more.](#)

Based on Chet Williamson's 1983 New Yorker short story, Stephanie Argy and Alec Boehm's *Gandhi At the Bat* fantasizes a moment of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's 1933 media record vanished visit to the United States. Told in a playful newsreel format, the ball game short sets the world peace leader between the New York Yankees and the Philly A's, his quiet charm landing him in the professional diamond best perhaps as only a one hit wonder. [Read more.](#)

As a thunderstorm rages outside, a little girl watches the television, her imagination making tangible the images she sees on screen. An animated nightmare, Erik Rosenlund's *Looking Glass* questions the boundlessness of fantasy in sharp, thick strokes of a black and white palette. Innocence and danger meet in a blurred space here, recalling the gruesome origins of fairy tale. [Read more.](#)

Jack Feldstein's neonist animation *Shmetamorphosis* is stranger than its narrative influence Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*. Yet, with that astounding oddity comes a fair amount of inspired brilliance. As a self-important psychotherapist attempts to help a buggy patient deal with the insanity of a fragmented family life, the short rambles out with its appropriated imagery in shocking one liners, one of which somewhat inexplicably includes a reference to Snow White's hymen. Thought jarring, often visually abrasive but also intriguing in its original freakishness, *Shmetamorphosis* is the type of offbeat film festivals exist to screen. [Read more.](#)

