



Cinema/Chicago and the 47<sup>th</sup> Chicago International Film Festival

Education Outreach Program Screening: *International Shorts Program*

Directors: Steven Dhoedt (*The Extraordinary Life of Rocky*), Bill Plimpton (*Guard Dog Global Jam*), Jonas Rothlaender (*The Shirt*), Catherine van Campen (*Flying Anne*), Katharine Mahalic (*The Vacuum Kid*), Victor Carrey (*The Runaway*), Anna Musso (*L Train*)

90 minutes, not rated

In English, Dutch, Spanish and German with English subtitles.

Please use the below synopsis, study ideas/questions and helpful websites to lead your students in preparation and post-screening discussion. Following the film, students are required to respond to the screening with a one-page essay. Essays (either all or select) must be sent to Cinema/Chicago.\*

**Synopsis:** From Belgium to Spain, from documentary to animation, this program of various short films from around the world challenge our views and our notions of different cultures and people.

**Recommended for:** humanities, world, cultural and political studies, animation, film and video students.

**Appropriate for:** all high school students.

**Study Ideas/Questions:**

1. Which film was your favorite? Why?
2. Which film was your least favorite? Why?
3. What ideas did you have about foreign film before you came to the screening? Did the screenings change your ideas or preconceived notions?
4. Do you think *The Extraordinary Life of Rocky* is a comedy or tragedy? Argue your point of view and why you think it is correct.
5. *Guard Dog Global Jam* uses a different animator for each shot of the film. Do the same with a story in your class or with your friends. Have one person write a line of the story, and then pass it on to the next to write the following line. Do not tell each other what you think the story is about/what the lines are. What is the result?
6. What do you think *The Shirt* is about? Is it simply a story of a father and son at a wedding reception, or are there larger messages within the film?
7. In *Flying Anne*, Anne must find the courage to explain to her classmates that she has Tourette's syndrome. How does she tell the class about her condition and how do they react?

8. In *The Vacuum Kid*, Kyle explains his passion for vacuums. Do you collect anything or know someone with a collection? Why do you think people collect things, and why do you think Kyle collects vacuums?
9. *The Runaway* talks about how small decisions and movements by people all connect into one, large event. What are the small things that lead to the final climax in the film?
10. *L Train* has no dialogue, but tells a strong story. What do you think is the motivation throughout the film of the female protagonist? Why does she help the girl at the train station, and what do you think she might say (but doesn't) after she helps her?

### **Useful Links and Resources:**

*The Extraordinary Life of Rocky* website (film information and articles):

<http://www.flandersimage.com/browse-films/detail/extraordinary-life-of-rocky>

Bill Plympton official website (*Guard Dog Global Jam*): [http://www.plymptoons.com/index\\_main.html](http://www.plymptoons.com/index_main.html)

*The Shirt* official website: <http://www.dffb.de/flash/#/en/films/film/201>

*Flying Anne* official website (includes trailer):

[http://www.zuidenwind.nl/websites/annevliegt/zien\\_uk.html](http://www.zuidenwind.nl/websites/annevliegt/zien_uk.html)

General information about *The Vacuum Kid*: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1931587/>

*The Runaway* official website: <http://www.lahuida.net/>

General information about *L Train*: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2063699/>

Information about Cinema/Chicago's Education Outreach Program:

<http://cinemachicago.org/education/>

\*Schools who do not send in essay requirement will not be allowed to attend future Education Outreach Screenings.