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Watershed September 2010 Podcast

This is short podcast - which is appropriate as for the past three weeks I have been selecting and programming short films for the **Encounters International Film Festival**. It's a pretty exhausting task – "Exhausting?!" I hear you exclaim! Watching short films *is* exhausting!! Trust me, getting through 400 odd short films, jumping from one imagination to another - from an elderly Danish woman's reminisces about old age to Palestinian animation via Thai ennui and British urban angst - makes for a brain bursting full of images. To such an extent that waking became dreaming became waking. I could begin to understand **Inception**. However, reality blurred to one side what always strikes me is the creativity and imagination that spill from the screen in the short film form. I've said this before and I'll say it again – short films display a much wider breadth of creativity than their larger, bigger sibling the feature film. Feature films need more money and with money invariably comes compromise - or at least less risk taking - whereas in short films directors can experiment and explore. The range is breathtaking - if a little mind bending if consumed in large quantities over a short period of time.

The Encounters programme will be announced in September - check the website for updates at www.encounters-festival.org.uk/ or follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/EncountersSFF.

Still in the short film world - **depict.org** is the micro short online competition. Again it is extraordinary what can be achieved in a maximum of 90 seconds. You can see some classic examples and previous winners at the DepicT! website. But you may also be able to see them at a cinema near you. We have worked with some industry partners to digitise last year's winners and supply them to cinemas around the country to screen with feature films. Curzon cinemas in London were first to offer and Cornerhouse in Manchester then Showroom in Sheffield followed suit. It's a great way of getting new talent out onto the big screen. At Watershed we will be showing Sam Firth's wonderful 90 second documentary I.D with **The Girl who Played with Fire**.

Throughout September there are a number of opportunities to see older films in new restored prints. Fritz Lang's extraordinary visionary **Metropolis** has been restored with newly found footage that brings the film closer to Lang's original vision. We are also working with the British Film Institute's National Film Archive to showcase some lesser known British cinema from the 30s 40s and 50s in our **Projecting the Archive Sunday Brunches** in addition screening Alberto Cavalcanti's gently subversive **Went the Day Well** which imagines a quaint English village being infiltrated by Nazis. Collectively they remind you of the rich history that cinema has.

Finally if film, history and apps are you're thing then I thoroughly recommend **Time Travel** which has brilliant archive footage of Bristol. That's all for September - I'm off to recover from short film overload.