

# Film, Film, Film Lively Pantomime

By Fyodor Khitruk

Film Review By: Veronica Campos

Film, Film, Film. Directed by Fyodor Khitruk (USSR). Written by Vladimir Golovanov and Fyodor Khitruk. Music by Aleksandr Zatsepin, Yevgeny Krylatov. Soyuzmultfilm 1968.

This short is why I love animation. The animation opens the possibility of creating a whole new world, personages, or entertainment; The short Film, Film, Film is evidence of that. The gags have subtly implied throughout the personage actions or timing in the scenes; we can perceive the critique or parody of the Soviet movie industry. The character design, sound, and timing are essential elements in any animation; those elements will guide the story. In this particular short animation, the Character design tells, as part of visual elements, who are each character and what they represent. Likewise, the writer character presented at 0:47 min., characterized with glasses, long fingers, turtle shirt, and light suit, with a cigarette to stress anxiety and nervousness. The Director character, introduced at 2:25 min., almost no hair due to the stress, dressed in the stereotype suit; using by directors, his body language and facial expressions guide the viewers to his actions. Even the muse that appears at 1:06 min was designing accordingly. The main characters - Writer and Director, do not have many drawing details, but both personages are easy to identify and relate; to their personalities.

The sound is the soul of this short since this film is a nearly-silent pantomime telling the story. To start with a piece of very caching music at the intro, this sets the mood for the entire short. Then the well synchronized quick sounds are the word telling of the sequence as it guides the scene; perhaps, around 1:08 min., the bells sound announcing the aha moment, the muse appears, and the writer started typing, a strong sound of the typing is hearing. All those elements enrich the scene and provide a clear stamen to follow. Nonetheless, we can appreciate the effective use of the sound in sequence 3:03 to 3:16 min, where they start running for approval of their project. The melody playing a key, sound element provokes as a viewer the sensation of rush and anxiety about what is going to happen. The sound effects are very crucial to dress the scenes. It provides a clear understanding of the situation; perhaps, the dinging bells, the stamping of the documents, closing the doors, the swing of the movement from the characters are sounds filling the short. Another moment of the importance of the sound effects as an invisible personage, nor less important, is when both personages going through the studios, 5:40min, collecting the crew, all the beeps, running-up and down, sound swings. All sounds are combined to illustrate the idea of the excitement in the film studio.

The timing is another significant element for the animate short; timing gives the spaces between actions, phrases, sounds, and music. It helps to fill the story with the necessary time for each motion. Timing has added interest and appeals to the personages. For instance, when the writer

is trying to type his script, he was silent, his motionless movements, the scene carries slow timing. Then there is the contrast when the writer and the director running through the hall or across the film studio; the upbeat timing is evident. In general, this short has fast speed motion, but the slow or motionless provided it the balance with the momentum into this animation.

There is no story without the character design, sound, and timing; all those elements provide a lively atmosphere and guides the sequence. The sound effects are like an invisible supporting actor helping the personage enhance its actions or emphasize its emotions; without a sound, the short will not appeal. Meanwhile, the character design is vital; it provides the characterization of each personage. This animation embraces the fresh look and modern feel to each personage and helps to their visual appealing. Similarly, the timing is an essential element; it gives us the flow of the story. It is like a musical piece playing fast or slow tempo with some retards; that it's what creates an astounding art piece.

This animation portrays and criticizes the difficulties of creating a film; the director does it in a lively and transmittable way. He uses and plays with those elements to convey the message. I believe that he ends up with a great piece, this animation is energetic, and the intention or message has clearly stated.

#### **References:**

Furniss, Maureen. *A New History of Animation*. Thames & Hudson, 2016.

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, "Film, Film, Film"  
Online Encyclopedia. Last edited October 16, 2020  
< [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film,\\_Film,\\_Film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film,_Film,_Film) >

#### **Available at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLwk7VcbbVM&t=915s>

Short Version without Intro

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqwxWIU5ON0>