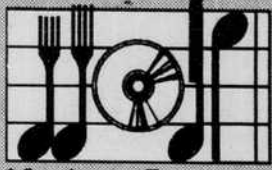


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—Billy Joel

Films cater to the not-easily-offended

The cartoon shorts featured at Spike and Mike's festival are not recommended for those who have weak stomachs

By Mike Schmierbach
Oregon Daily Emerald

A few years ago, I was waiting outside of Cinema 21 in Portland to see *Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation*. My friend and I were excited — ads for the showing proclaimed that ID would be checked at the door, and we had just turned 18.

They let us in without looking at our driver's licenses, and we watched a little more than an hour's worth of animated shorts. Most dealt with sex. It was a theme of sorts.

REVIEW Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation

★★★
(fellatio, feces and fun)

■ **WHERE:** Bijou

■ **WHEN:** Every day through Thursday at 7:25 and 9:30 p.m.

■ **COST:** \$6 Friday and Saturday, \$4.50 the rest of the week

If you're looking for an evening spent viewing some of the best drawn animation in the country, you're not looking for the festival. Granted, some of the cartoons are very well executed: Bill Plympton's *How to Make Love to a Woman* is a beautiful collage of transforming body parts and eyeball piercing. Plympton's style is powerful and unique; so much so that Disney recruited him to become an animator.

However, some of the funniest material relies upon the most crude of pencil drawings. One



COURTESY PHOTO
Tasty Beef, a 90-second cartoon short by David Thomas of San Francisco, is shown at the festival.

short, *Ah L'Amour* by Don Hertfeldt, features a stick-figure man being rejected by a series of stick-figure women in increasingly gruesome ways.

What makes the piece work is not amazing artwork, but the simple, sick sensibility of the creator.

Then again, there is something profoundly sick about most of the shorts. I appreciate the humor, but I'm not sure I'd want to sit in a room with the artists and writers responsible. I know I wouldn't want to bring an easily offended friend to the show.

The "easily offended" test is probably crucial. I laughed a lot, but I laugh at cruelty, misfortune and green claymation witches skewered on erections. If you are offended by "potty humor" — in fact, if you use the phrase "potty humor" — the festival probably isn't for you.

I can't in good conscience recommend this show for everyone. I'd like to. I think it would do the people of Eugene a lot of good to watch an hour that parodies Grateful Dead concerts and casual sex at parties. However, I don't think most of Eugene wants to watch.

If you were already thinking about going to the festival, or if you find humor in fat, ugly babies and their diapers, you'll enjoy the show. If you stopped reading this story at the word sex, you should probably stick to Sunday school.

The festival will run through Thursday and plays at 7:25 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 on Friday and Saturday and \$4.50 the rest of the week.

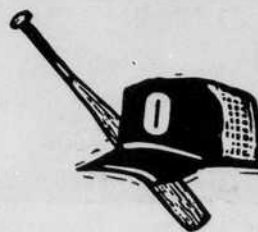
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