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THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN SHORT FILM-MAKING

Abstract

South Africa's film industry presently has huge, unrealised potential for growth. Currently one of the most vibrant sectors of the local industry is short film-making. This research's main contention is that, for a number of reasons the short form is the most viable form for film-making development to take. The short film's value as a training tool and essential building block for local film-making is scrutinized. To this end the research incorporates a content and form analysis of selected short films, with special reference made to the modes and economic conditions of production that affect the film industry. To conclude, I take the position that film-making, as a form of artistic and cultural dialogue, has tremendous possibilities for the development of a national identity, the creation and perpetuation of local myths and the fostering of social cohesion. For these reasons the short form is worthy of more concerted institutional support.