

**MOST
POPULAR
ARTICLES**

1. [Housing: Why the bubble popped](#)
2. [Brittany Zimmermann called 911, but no one came](#)
3. [Did Madison cops miss chance to catch Joel Marino killer?](#)
4. [Joel Marino's grandmother: I heard the killer](#)
5. [The Kissers bid farewell to Madison](#)
6. [Enthusiastic crowd watches *Public Enemies* production in Madison](#)
7. [Blaska's Blog: Time for a feeding frenzy](#)
8. [Brittany Zimmermann: Madison media respond to 911 center revelations](#)
9. [Madison Police respond to criticism in handling of Joel Marino murder investigation](#)
10. [Public Enemies with Christian Bale begins filming outside Wisconsin Capitol in Madison](#)

WISCONSIN FILM FESTIVAL

Short Films from Spain at the 2008 Wisconsin Film Festival

Jason Joyce on Sunday 04/06/2008 3:00 pm , (3) Recommendations

Article Tools:

The hope, for me, when viewing a program of short films at the annual Wisconsin Film Festival is that I'll enjoy a few of them. If more than half are good, I consider it a triumph.

This was not the case with the "Short Films from Spain" program on Saturday afternoon at UW Cinematheque. Maybe it was because I was coming right from seeing *The Substitute*, a Danish film that only reinforced that country's excellent reputation for producing festival favorites. *The Substitute* was a roller coaster ride; the shorts from Spain were more like a punch in the gut.

Before and After Kissing Maria and *Down the Hole* focused on death. Senseless death, in fact. *Dolly* was about unrequited love and regrets. *The Parabolic Dish* was funny, but lectured. *Mensajes de Voz* was a story told via answering machine messages and, while certainly inventive, tested the audience's patience.

The one apparent bright spot, *Made in Japan*, was enjoyable only to those who spoke Spanish in the theater. The festival guide listed all the shorts as making use of English subtitles, but for some reason *Made in Japan* did not have them. So while several people chuckled through the six-minute comedy, I shared confused shrugs with those around me. *Down the Hole* also aired without subtitles, but the pathos it communicated relied less on dialogue.