

Valentina: Well, it's having a tremendously positive effect on short films!

Radio journalist: In what way?

Valentina: It means that now more films are being made – and it's incredible how good the quality of a lot of them is. People are beginning to be interested in short films again. There are several festivals of short film across the world, some directors are now insisting that short films are shown with their films on major cinema releases, and more tv channels are showing short films. Short films are currently the most exciting form of film production!

Radio journalist: Valentina, thank you, and good luck with the next festival!

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**Answer key:**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Mentioned?</b>
1. Specialised film festivals	yes
2. Short films	yes
3. Black and white films	
4. Special effects	yes
5. Famous actors	yes
6. Steven Spielberg	
7. Good scripts	Yes
8. Huge budgets	Yes
9. Computer animation	
10. Cartoons	
11. Digital video	Yes
12. Set designers	

**Listen to a radio interviewer speaking to a film festival organiser.**

**Optional activity:**

While you listen, tick the topics that are mentioned.

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Radio journalist: It seems that almost every city now has its own film festival. This is a good thing – it means more people are watching films, and creates more opportunities for new and young directors, actors and film-makers. But how can you make your festival different to all the others? One of the answers, it seems, is to specialise...

Valentina: There are hundreds of film festivals all over the world now. In Italy, where I live and work, there are at least 20. We decided to make ours different – shorter!

Radio journalist: This is Valentina Ricciardi. She is the curator of a festival of short films in Italy. Valentina, why short films?

Valentina: Well, there are lots of reasons. Firstly, I think that short films are a very undervalued form.

Radio journalist: How do you mean?

Valentina: Well, a short film isn't just a normal film – but shorter...

Radio journalist: How is it different?

Valentina: Well, so many big films now have so many special effects and famous actors, that they often don't have a story! We're not interested in special effects or leading "A-list" actors. None of that matters in a short film. A short film is a real test of having a great script. Of being able to tell a good story in a few images.

Radio journalist: It goes back to what film is really about...

Valentina: Exactly! Added to that, it's so expensive to make a film now. First time directors can't hope to make a full-length feature film. Short films are great places for new directors to practice their skills. You don't need a huge budget to make a short film – just a huge imagination!

Radio journalist: So money is also a factor?

Valentina: Of course. The big film festivals in Cannes and Venice cost a fortune to put on. Many short films are now made using high quality digital video. This means they can be stored on DVD, so we don't have to transport large, heavy reels of film.

Radio journalist: How is all this affecting the short film industry?