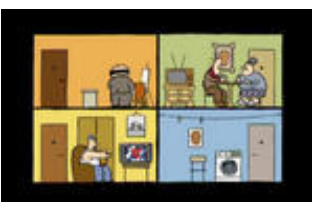




2-D *Flatlife* Tops 'Nine Nation Animation' Lineup

By Andrew Schenker

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Flatlife

Details:

Nine Nation Animation

Various directors
The World
According to Shorts
Opens September
29, IFC Center

If nothing else, “Nine Nation Animation” proves that there’s a lot more to the animator’s art than either the cutting-edge ultra-realism of Pixar or the flat functionality of sitcoms like *The Simpsons*. The nonet of brief films on display in the latest anthology from The World According to Shorts offers a virtual catalog of the tools available to the animator—stop-motion, CGI, rotoscoping—with the techniques often combined in a single imposing display. But while each film has something to recommend it—the mordant wit of *Deconstruction Workers*, the witty nostalgia of *Home Road Movies*—virtuosity too often trumps communication, with the mind-bending visuals propping up unproductively abstract narratives. So for all the advanced technique on display, best-in-show goes to the most low-fi of the lot, Jonas Geirnaert’s *Flatlife*. The title is a triple pun, referring simultaneously to the lives of the film’s apartment- (or flat-)dwellers, the banal nature of those lives, and the two-dimensional technique of the animation. Splitting his screen into four adjacent squares, Geirnaert cannily charts the inter-apartment annoyances that result from the supposedly private activities of people co-existing in too-close proximity to one another, a situation all too familiar to anyone who’s ever lived in an apartment building.

