Written by Samuel Zimmerman
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“Not enough people watch short films!” is cried often and loud. They’re an invaluable part of the festival experience, but many are also directly accessible, which can make them an invaluable part of your day at home. Presented here is the SXSW Midnight Shorts lineup, some with trailers, and many in full!

A stunningly gory stop-motion rampage by a maniacal Teddy Bear, the dangers of dancing, perils of babysitting, body horror and a whole lot of head explosions compose what should be a rousing journey for you and SXSW audiences. Those with asterisks (*) are full length. Enjoy!

• The Apocalypse*

Director: Andrew Zuchero

Four uninspired friends try to come up with a terrific idea of how to spend their Saturday afternoon. The Apocalypse.

{youtube}pdtDU8Ww7mA{/youtube}

• BOY FRIENDS

Director: Hugo Vargas-Zesati

A man disturbed by a dream awakens to realize his unconscious has called his self-awareness into question. When confronting himself, misfortune brings the temporal world into perspective.

• Cats

Director: Michael Reich

A master groomer explains the sensual methods of dog grooming to his young and beautiful apprentice. Her mind begins to wander into a profane dream that melds the grossness of dog bathing with voyeuristic and domineering sexuality.

• Child Eater (USA/Iceland)

Director: Erlingur Thoroddsen

A simple night of babysitting takes a horrifying turn when Helen realizes the boogeyman really is in little Lucas' closet.

{vimeo}42975478{/vimeo}

• Dance Till You Drop*

Directors: Eric M. Levy, Juan Cardarelli

She thought the house was safe, but under the right circumstances, anything can be dangerous. Even a dance montage.

{vimeo}56795028{/vimeo}

• Follow

Director: Owen Egerton

Follow is a dark thriller centered on a young couple's dangerous bedroom games.

• Hell No

Director: Joe Nicolosi

Hell No is a new type of terror, a reality-based horror film that pits real smart people in terrifying horror situations...

• Play House

Director: Brandon LaGanke

Harold's crumbling family is bound only by his unconditional love for them.

• Root

Director: Caleb Johnson

A young woman has an affair that leaves a hideous mark. Her attempts to remove it only make it worse.

{vimeo}40432050{/vimeo}

• Two Fingers - 'Vengeance Rhythm' (UK)*

Director: Chris Ullens

This is the story of a very angry teddy bear.

{vimeo}52141935{/vimeo}

• Under the Lion Crotch (Hong Kong)*

Director: Wong Ping

Daily life living in Hong Kong.

{vimeo} 33518886{/vimeo}