



REVIEW of *Futureworld* submitted by Christopher Angus

With every new group of submissions comes several animated entries, usually geared to children. *Futureworld* was the first that had me chuckling within the first minute. The animation is reminiscent of *The Jetsons* or *Futurama*. It's simple and delivers solid writing and is actually funny. Christopher Angus has been working in animation for 30 some years, producing and teaching, and has gained recognition internationally with several festival wins. With *Futureworld*, he wrote, produced and animated. His brand of humour is rather dry and sarcastic and may be an acquired taste. Me, I began laughing right away. As they say, we are what we know... and its obvious Chris has grown up with *South Park*, which brings with it a little irreverence. The ability to see humour in the tedium of day to day life and to poke fun at one's self is a necessity.

The film opens with a child... or witch, playing on the floor of an attic and pulling a bizarre looking doll from a dollhouse. I wasn't sure what I was looking at and then realized it was the set up for his production logo, Attic Films. The actual opening scene is an old woman reminiscing about days gone by, growing up on the farm. Life was simple, but hard... and we liked it that way. This is followed by an old man describing his youth having to walk miles to school, uphill there and back. In present day, a schlep grabs

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a TV remote and drops onto the couch. We cut to the future and see four old timers sitting around a card table being dealt by a robotic arm.

There's not a ton of dialogue which is effective with this style of humour where less is always more. This is Chris' take on how things have changed in society, good or bad. It has a definite *Far Side* flavour to it, which means 'you get what you get'. It doesn't really matter if you know exactly what the film is saying, so long as you get something from it.

Rhonda Kennedy-Rogers was brought in for the female voices and Scott Moat for the male. Both were great. Technically, this is a slick and sound seven minute project that would fit nicely on TV between *The Family Guy*, *The Simpsons* or *Futurama*. The magic is in the simplicity of the writing and dry wit. I enjoyed it and look forward to the next release. Great job!

Brian Lutes  
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