

SHADOWS ON THE WALL

Short Film Reviews '03 - '04

CHUBBY BUDDY

dir-scr Erika Yeomans; **with** Mot Filipowski, Heather Priest, Nicholas Amato, Roger Haskins • 03/US 13m

This entertaining experimental short features the deadpan narration of its protagonist (Filipowski) as he describes his life leading up to a event when he "ruined someone's sense of privacy". The title refers to the stuffed animals he develops a fixation with after he loses his job in New York City and is left to roam the Connecticut suburbs in search of some connection with life, his wife and and his deceased child. But this isn't a depressing film; it's full of bracing black humour and a fragmented, intriguing tone that's both creepy and funny at the same time. It's very cleverly shot and edited like a collage of grainy home movies, broken up into short chapters ending with awkward blackouts that feel almost like hiccups in the overall film. Filipowski is fascinating as the mopey obsessive at the centre, and Yeomans shows considerable skill both visually and thematically. Keep an eye on her. [3.Mar.04]

Rich Cline, Shadows on the Wall, March 5, 2004
<http://www.shadowsonthewall.co.uk/>