

# ELATHAN CINEMA

ASPECTS AND ANALYSIS OF SHORT FILMS

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## What is Lost and what is Found in Lost & Found (2018)

Posted on *February 5, 2019* by *Alby Darling, L. Dalrymple*

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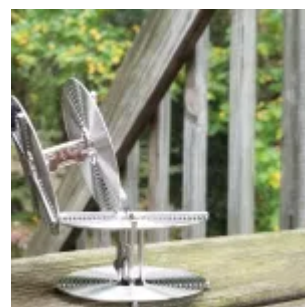


An amigurumi dinosaur searches the yard for their fox companion (off-screen), *Lost & Found* (2018)

In a world of amigurumi yarn animals, something that feels like home teeters on the brink of becoming lost.

The emotional impact of which is made more powerful and prominent as the production team used real puppets for the animals, composed of robotic

### Short Focus, Short Theory



Elathan Cinema aims to be a project focusing on film theory as it applies to short films, as well as news and developments (where applicable).

Over time, the hope is to both share the joy of film, as well as deconstruct some of what makes short films magic in a way a feature may not be able to accurately capture, or even be accurately discussed due to the longer nature of their content.

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to them added by the imperfections of real life and the tactical sensation and appeal of real woolen yarn.

( Shout out to Character Crochet Artist Julie Ramsden and the hard work of the Props team for their dedication and excellent work. )

And so, we the viewers are introduced to the stop-motion animated story of *Lost & Found*, a 2018 Australian short film directed by Andrew Goldsmith (aka "GOLDY") & Bradley Slabe, who also served as the scriptwriter. *Lost & Found* had it's world premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2018 and is the winner of several Australian film awards, an Annie Awards (2019) Nominee for Best for Animated Short Subject, as well as a shortlisted nominee for the 2019 Animated Short Films category of the 91st Oscar Awards.

Using the cross-pollinated spirit of Nintendo's *Yoshi's Woolly World* and *Kirby's Epic Yarn* games as well as Electronic Arts's *Unravel* (and of course, the world of child-like imagination), here we find in a short film rather than a video game, a set of adorable yarn animals who must use cunning to save the world. Or at least, each other.

## When Narration Belongs to the Viewer



An amigurumi dinosaur stands at the edge of a counter, looking over a vast environment, *Lost & Found* (2018)

Supported and produced by the budgeting magic of Lucy Hayes at Wabi Sabi Studios and pixel/Melbourne, *Lost & Found* draws the viewer in with a whimsical soundscapes and an assortment of Easter-eggs of "lost" things such as an old Nokia brick of a cell phone, a Polaroid box, a Gameboy Advance, and various ticket stubs before slowly descending like a trail of water into the

occur about once or twice a month as we have a tiny staff. Email is always open for suggestions on new short films to view, or questions on cinematic film theory.

Allowances may occur for major international or public holidays.

Visit us on Twitter  
**@ElathanCinema**

If you would be interested in contributing to the project please check the Submissions page!

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Which is really a story about grief.

Now, most media about this short say *Lost & Found* is about love and sacrifice, but in the framing of this short, it really does, or can, mean grief. It also means hope. And recovery.

Spoilers abound ahead.



A set of amigurumi yarn animals, a fox and a dinosaur, are shown on a smart photo memory screen, *Lost & Found* (2018)

*Lost & Found* is dialogue free throughout, but it is told from the beginning, in flashback.

This is done through the background images on the screensaver of the cracked, old-model of smart phone behind the dinosaur character as they wake up to find their fox companion is out in the yard, stuck on a small shishi-odoshi fountain.

It is supported again when the dinosaur has thrown themselves across the yard, thinking off all the memories that they have with the fox, and one can assume the fox is reflecting on at the very end as they collect the green pile of tangled yarn that was once their dinosaur, and the old smart phone clicks to a dead battery, ending the loop of memories as the fox sits in the pile of a once-dinosaur struggling to put their world back together again and reflecting on their new reality.

Therefore, if the film was using a circle narrative function — which it never declares but could be assumed since the story starts with the fox being the one awake and not the dinosaur — that means the whole story is really the

Locations in Time, Space, and History interlaced during *Others Will Follow* (2017)  
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An amigurumi fox sits in the pile of yarn that once was their dinosaur companion. They seem to be contemplating life and cradling their grief, *Lost & Found* (2018)

The fountain additionally, from another point of view or interpretation, could be understood as a well of grief or a wishing well since the fox *is* tossing rocks into the well as if waiting for something to happen, only to be called back to the present by the memory of the dinosaur.

A mixing of memory and the current timeline. Perhaps re-living the memory even in the current timeline.

Certainly, in all forms, the dinosaur physically unravels, but the fox *lives*.

The fox *lives*. And the fox remembers.

And that means there is hope, and there is recovery, and there is still life after grief and beyond the veil of collapsing death that we must all fall victim to eventually. It is only a matter of what one does in the time between.

It is a beautiful story, but not a tragic one. It is the nature of life and to some extent, love itself.

**It asks: What would you unravel your soul for? What would you live for?**

It says too, in the moments where there seems like no way out, there still is, if you hold onto the strings long enough. And life will move you if you let it. And the fox collects their memories and continues along.

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*\*Please note:* This perhaps usual interpretation of the narration is *heavily* influenced by the fact that the writer of this piece has been in the position of the fox and has gone through the recovery process related to having a deceased partner.

In literary circles, the advice to authors is often that once the book leaves your hands, it is no longer yours but the readers. The same is true for film.

It is certainly true for the situation here.



A flashback memory of the dinosaur and fox sitting peacefully together, *Lost & Found* (2018)

*Lost & Found* (2018) runs about seven-minutes in length, and can be viewed as shown below, or through Goldy's Vimeo directly. Likewise, the "Making of" video can also be seen below or from Goldy's Vimeo account.

For additional information on this film, please check out their official page and Instagram account:

- [Official Site](#)
- [Instagram Account](#)

And if you happen to be in France, you can follow the unraveling tail of this adorable dinosaur and fox at the Roanne International Animated Short Film Festival the 18th March through the 24th of March, 2019 in Roanne, France.

For the rest of us, there is the cinema experience of the internet

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Vimeo Link: *Lost & Found* short:



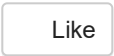
Vimeo Link: Behind the Scenes:



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