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Albatross Soup

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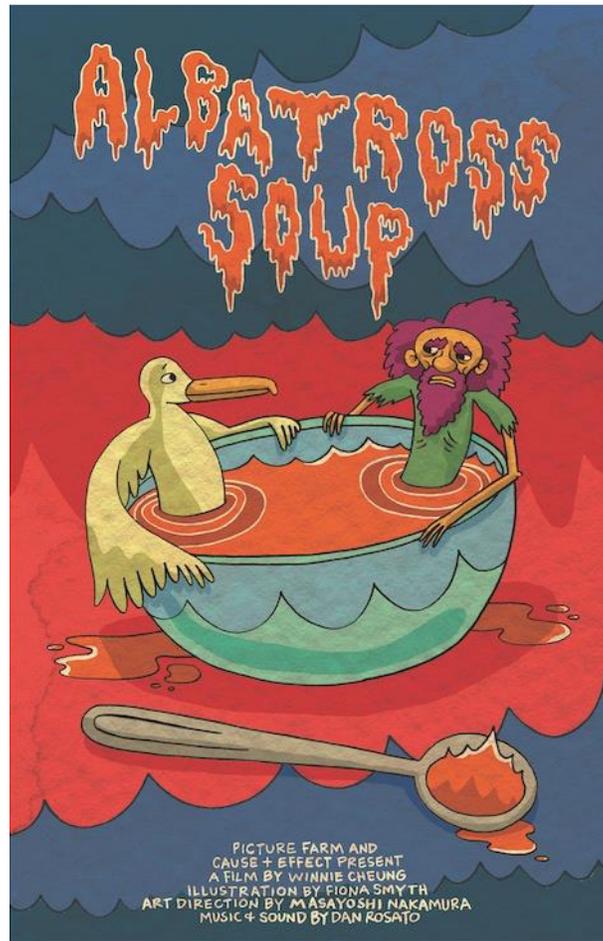
Albatross Soup

Abstract

This is a review of the Sundance short film, *Albatross Soup* (2019), directed by Winnie Cheung.

Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).



Albatross Soup (2019), dir. Winnie Cheung

This animated short film recorded over 50 people trying to solve a riddle: “Why does the man kill himself?” Before the man kills himself, he has one spoonful of Albatross soup. It is fun to listen to the participants ask the questions that they hope will give them the answer. Eventually someone does solve the riddle.

I think, however, that the particular answer to the riddle is less important than the larger question of why someone would kill him or herself. Death is something that most of us try to avoid. Often we go to great lengths to avoid death. So, what would cause someone to bring about his or her own death? And what does the question tell us about our values and our humanity?