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The Little Soul

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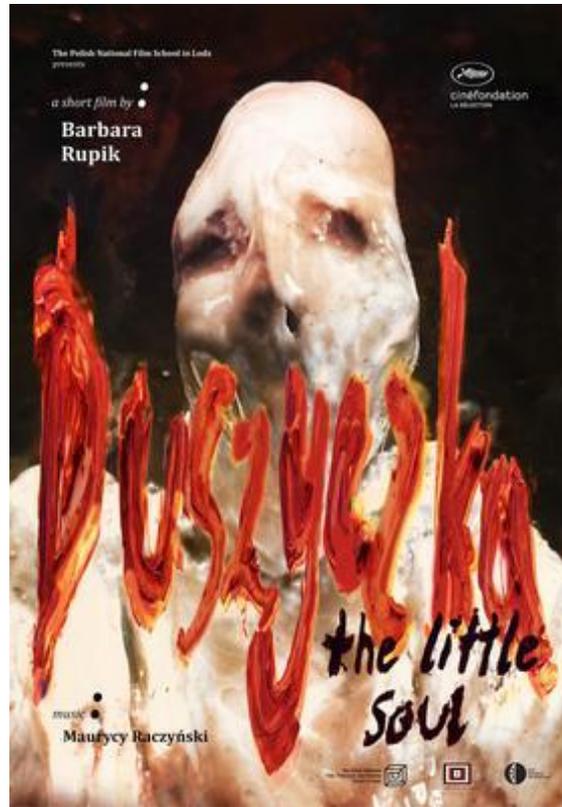
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The Little Soul

Abstract

This is a film review of *The Little Soul* (2019) directed by Barbara Rupik.



The Little Soul (2019), dir. Barbara Rupik

This short Claymation film raises an age-old question regarding the afterlife...will the afterlife be everything we hope for? The film follows the journey of a soul as it leaves a body in a river, climbs to dry land and begins a new adventure. Through haunting music and varying hues of brown, Rupik gives the audience a glimpse into the afterlife of the soul as it encounters a horse. Following a jeweled sun, the soul rides the horse to a village of souls. The souls appear to be in various stages of transformation, suggesting the soul is somehow suffering the sins of the human body it has departed. As we see multiple souls engaged in everyday human-type tasks, in unison we see them all, human and animal souls alike, gaze at something off in the distance; then slowly, one-by-one, they begin to exit the scene. However, our central soul and horse do not follow the masses, they curiously do not blindly depart as the others have, as staying put they somehow seem to know something the rest do not.

Once alone, the soul and its horse seem more lost than ever; desperation and loneliness permeate the film, seeping out to envelope the viewer. As the solitude is too much to bear, the soul climbs back into the river and silently floats back to the body from which it came. It seems that the question of “will the afterlife be everything we hoped for?” is summed up as we watch the wandering soul, slowly make its way back to its birthplace. We see that this interpretation of the afterlife is not so pleasant; so much so in fact, that one would rather curl up in the empty chest cavity of bones than stay in the village of souls.

The Little Soul won the “Animated Shorts Grand Jury Prize” and the “2020 Creative Future Innovation Award.”