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## Oldboy's Apples

William L. Blizek

University of Nebraska at Omaha, wblizek@unomaha.edu

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## Oldboy's Apples

### Abstract

This is a review of the short film, *Oldboy's Apples* (2022), directed by Brad Hock.

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### Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Emeritus 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).



**Oldboy's Apples (2022) dir. Brad Hock**

This animated short film starts by taking us down into the earth where we meet a face. The face has apples embedded in it and the apples themselves have faces. The apples laugh as a dog jumps up at them as though they are playing. Then the dog sees a creature through a window. The creature is orange, with thin pointy ears and two horns on the top of its head.

The creature, an ancient spirit, conducts a ritual over one of the small apples and the apple becomes a small creature. The creature is joined by a rat and the rat invites the dog to join them. They put the small creature in a teapot and then drink the tea. The ancient spirits sing a song to reawaken the mystery of the hidden apple.

This is a film about the power of ritual and the importance of ritual in dealing with the various mysteries of life.