

3-Minute Wonder

UK : c2000 : dir. Lucy Baldwyn : Film Four / B.F.I. : c3 min
prod: Paula Cuddy : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....
Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	≠	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5549	½	1	0	298	7	7	7	7	7	No	Nov 2001

Radio Times listing:

“Mark Kermode presents the short film showcase. Tonight’s theme is kids. Three girls swimming at a deserted lido devise a dangerous game.”

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001"]

Broadcast in the Channel 4 “**Shooting Gallery**” slot for short films November 12th 2001. Two girls of 9-11 are sitting on the edge of an outdoor swimming pool waiting for a third, who’s underwater, to complete a challenge of holding her breath for three minutes. While they wait, conversation turns alternately to ice cream and sex. Finally, when their friend does not resurface, one of them dives in. If there is a telling shot, it is of the submerged girl calmly removing her own wristwatch, and letting the watch settle discarded on the pool bottom.

A stultifyingly pointless exercise, even by the standards of the “**Shooting Gallery**”. Did we witness a suicide? Did all that dialogue about budding breasts and orgasm have any point to make about the culture’s active sexualisation of younger children? Though set around a lido, the film is conspicuous for its lack of movement or visual interest, and might just as well have been a short radio play. Vacuous, irritating, like a 3-minute soap, it had even less merit than the average television commercial, which wouldn’t be demanding a lot.

See also, from the same sampling on the theme of childhood, “**BAIT**”, “**SAFER**”, “**DONUTS FOR BREAKFAST**” and “**FOOTBALL**”, and see subject index under **SHORT FILMS** and **SWIMMING**.