

The Olivers - Peninsula

- _ An entertaining mockumentary that satirises the shallow extravagances of Hollywood.
- _ The news format is a clever way to get around filming restrictions.
- _ There's some nice world-building in the script - you've invented not just engaging characters, but also a fake awards ceremony AND scenes from the fake films competing! That's a lot to pack into a short film.
- _ In the opening scene, the news reader stumbles on a couple of her lines. You really need to grab the audience's attention in the first scene of your film, so if any mistakes occur while filming, redo the take from the beginning. Without seeing raw footage, it is impossible to tell whether the actor didn't provide a better take with no mistakes, or the editor picked the wrong take to include in the film. Either way, at some point in the process, more attention should have been paid to this scene.
- _ Overall, the film feels like it could be trimmed down quite a bit. There are really funny jokes throughout, and these jokes would land even better in shorter scenes. It can be a good exercise in editing (or scripting) to strip the scene right back to the minimum possible time it would take to get the required info across, and see if it makes sense or feels too fast. You can always add shots back in later, and often the shorter version will be more effective than you expect. For instance, in the scene where the reporter is interviewing actors on the red carpet, the visual gag of him literally shoving Killian out of the way to get to Zander is a great way to show that Zander is a much more sought-after star. However, we don't need to see the reporter talk to Killian for nearly a whole minute to get to this moment. The scene would be just as effective (and the joke even funnier) if Killian barely gets a word in before being shoved.
- _ Similarly, the epilogue is a fun bit of improv, but we don't really learn any information new about the characters, they just re-explain what happened in the previous scenes. If a scene doesn't contain any new story info, you may as well cut it to make way for another scene that does. Also, when you plan to improvise a scene, it's always good to write and film a scripted version of the scene as a backup, in case the improv feels too long in the edit.
- _ The editor has done a good job of compiling together what was clearly a lot of separately filmed elements. However, there are a few noticeable editing glitches, particularly in the audio, that could have been easily avoided. Eg. In the shot at 3:18, the audio is quite out of sync with the actor's lip movements. Similarly, it's great that some crowd noise was added to the red carpet scene, but this noise abruptly cuts out and then back in at 5:09 (presumably at the point where it loops) which breaks the immersion. Before you render your movie, it's a good idea to do an extra watch through where you pay specific attention to the sound, in order to iron out any glitches such as these.
- _ No credits or ACDA logo!!