



Official Feedback

## Checked Bags

Directed BY MARK CLINE

Checked Bags is an experimental and thought-provoking short film that delves into the profound journey of a combat veteran as he confronts and ultimately releases his emotional baggage. Through its concise runtime and effective use of animation, the film takes viewers on an introspective and visually captivating exploration of guilt, trauma, and the liberating power of unburdening oneself.

The film's technical aspects are noteworthy, considering its animation style and the creative choices made by the filmmaker. Shot in a digital format with a 16:9 aspect ratio, Checked Bags utilizes a combination of black and white and bursts of color to enhance the visual storytelling. This stylistic approach effectively conveys the contrasting emotions of the protagonist's journey, emphasizing the weight of his past experiences through somber monochromatic tones and highlighting the transformative release through vibrant splashes of color.

The animation itself is skillfully executed, with attention to detail and a keen eye for visual symbolism. The blend of black and white with bursts of color creates a striking visual contrast, emphasizing the emotional journey of the protagonist. The use of animation allows for creative freedom and the ability to visualize abstract concepts, adding depth and impact to the storytelling.

The sound design, also handled by Mark Cline, complements the visuals and contributes to the overall atmosphere and emotional resonance of the film. It effectively enhances the viewing experience, immersing the audience in the protagonist's world and enhancing the narrative's emotional beats.

Considering the film's runtime of 2 minutes and 15 seconds, the pacing is well-crafted. The concise duration ensures that the narrative remains focused and impactful, maintaining the audience's engagement from start to finish. The efficient storytelling leaves a lasting impression, capturing the essence of the protagonist's emotional release within a limited timeframe.

Furthermore, it is impressive that Checked Bags was completed with a production budget of \$120. This demonstrates Cline's resourcefulness and creative vision, utilizing the available resources to deliver a visually compelling and thematically resonant experience.