



Press Release, April 13, 2014

ITFS 2014 | „Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film has grown up“

Stuttgart – In a few days Stuttgart will be the global capital of animated film again. **From April 22 to 27, 2014 at the 21st edition of the Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film (ITFS)** – one of the biggest and most important international festivals for animated film – can be seen the best animated films from all over the world. In more than **200** individual events over **1,000** animated films, out of **2,300** entries, represent the entire spectrum of genres.

There are numerous innovations in the competitions as well as in the main program. Thus, the **German Voice Actor Award** is presented for the first time in the special event “Animation & Comedy” in Renitenztheater. *“We are very happy that the nominees Anna Thalbach, Ilja Richter and Josefine Preuß will each perform their own program point on stage, including, for example, a live synchronization,”* stated **Prof. Ulrich Wegenast**, artistic director of the ITFS. Posthumously the exceptional humorist Lorient will also be a guest: in a world premiere one of the most important German animators, Hayo Freitag (Werner 1 and 4, Captain Bluebeard etc.), presents the Lorient Animatic “The Egg”, in which the master of humor was still creatively involved.

“Let’s Play!” is the slogan at the Game Zone of ITFS 2014 – the Schlossplatz in Stuttgart becomes a playground! Games stations offer visitors of all ages the opportunity to try out various games of the mainstream and indie sector and to compete in competitions against each other. *“The ITFS expands its play area on the Schlossplatz – through the Game Zone the Planie-Allee is integrated into the festival events for the first time”* says **Dittmar Lump**, Managing Director, Operations and Finance of the ITFS. Other venues, such as the youth center Jugendhaus Mitte and the city library, offer presentations and lectures by games experts and representatives of large and small game companies, as well as workshops and competition “Game Storm’s Battle of the Bands”.

As an important industry event, the presentation of the **German Screenplay Award** will be expanded. Under the motto **“Stories and series in the Castle”** it will be awarded together with the price **Tricks for Kids – Series** for the first time in the White Hall of the New Castle in Stuttgart. In addition, the L-Bank was acquired as a location for industry platform Animation Production Day (www.animationproductionday.de).

The successful collaboration with the **Mercedes-Benz Museum** (Animated Com Award, Easter program of the children’s film festival Tricks for Kids) and **U. I. Lapp GmbH** (Animated Com Award and India Music & Animation) continues.

The newly established **TELE 5 Special price “Leider Geil”** will award short film the ITFS that breaks out of the usual categories, one that surprises and convinces. The prize is endowed with 5,000 Euros. The winner will be chosen from the areas of International Competition, Young Animation, Cartoons for Teens for Teens and Animated Com Award.

In the feature film competition AniMovie the ITFS shows numerous Germany premieres, including **“The magic House”** by **Ben Stassen**, **“Lisa Limone and Maroc Orange a rapid Love Story”** by **Mait Laas**, **“Giovanni’s Island”** by **Mizuho Nishikubo**, and **“Cheatin”** by **Bill Plympton**.



High-profile animation experts and artists could be won for the juries, including Fadi Abdelnour (Head of the Arab Film Festival Berlin), Mariola Brillowska (enfant terrible of the animated film), the experimental British animator Paul Bush, the two Israelis Tsvika Oren and Uri Kranot (Oscar nominated) the Danish animation icon Jannik Hastrup, the film producer Peter Rommel ("Wetlands", "Summer in Berlin"), Max Howard (as a former president of Warner Bros. feature Animation and vice president of Walt Disney Animation crucially involved in films like "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" and "The Lion King") and many more.

The role of competition curators has been significantly expanded. Iris Loos has been involved for several years in the Section Tricks for Kids. A new addition is the Animated Com Award, the animator and illustrator Kathi Kaeppel and GameZone-curator Sabiha Ghellal, assistant professor for Experience and Interaction Design in the degree course "mobile media" at the Stuttgart Media University.

In this year's the focus of the festival programme are host country Israel (in cooperation with the Israeli Consulate General in Munich), animation in World War I (with contemporary animated film rarities as well as recent cinematic confrontations), Abstract Animation (with the curator Vibeke Sørensen), Music & Animation ("Music for your Eyes" with Luca Ciarla and video artist Keziat and "Hattler vs. Hattler" with the legendary bassist Hellmut Hattler and his son, the media artist Max Hattler, in the music hall of Ludwigsburg).

At the free open-air cinema highlights such as "Waltz with Bashir", this year's Oscar winner "Frozen", "Wolf Children", "Monsters University" and "Epic" can be seen.

"With the program of the ITFS 2014, we managed to portray the wonderful theme of animated film in all its facets. With its 21st edition, the Festival of Animated Film has now grown up," that's what the two managers Lump and Wegenast agree upon.

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The Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film (ITFS), April 22 – 27, 2014, was founded in 1982 and is one of the largest and most important festivals for animated film worldwide. Prize money of 70,000 Euros is awarded in nine competition categories. The Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film works in close co-operation with the FMX, Europe's biggest Conference on Animation, Effects, Games and Transmedia, attracting industry professionals. Together with the FMX the ITFS holds the business platform Animation Production Day.