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INTERNATIONALES
TRICKFILM FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF ANIMATED FILM
STUTT GART '09
05. – 10. MAI 2009



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Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film looks back on excellent films and prominent guests

The red carpet for animation!

Stuttgart – The 16th Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film effortlessly managed the balancing act between the demands of the industry and the public's wishes. The ITFS, the fmx/09 and the Animation Production Day 2009 all took place simultaneously so that representatives from the industry certainly got their money's worth. Thanks to the fans, the theatres were sold out and the open air screenings were well visited despite some rain. After six eventful days, the ITFS09 ended on Sunday evening, May 10 with the TRICKSTAR award ceremony for eight categories.

For the organisers, it was above all the **concept** which included **events for the industry, hit films with the public and artistic short films** which stood the test over the past six days. "Despite some rainy weather we still registered larger audiences at our open air cinema screenings. And it was not only the **glorious German premiere of the stop-motion film "Coraline"** in the presence of director Henry Selick which showed that, with regard to theatre capacity, we have reached our limit. We had to organise an unscheduled screening at short notice for "Coraline" on Saturday evening" says Dittmar Lumpp, the managing director. The successful synthesis between the ITFS and the **film industry's conference, the fmx/09** which took place at the same time as the Festival also proved its worth: "This year 750 (2008: 100) combi-tickets were sold for the fmx/09 and the Festival". In Lumpp's opinion "This, too, was responsible for a more satisfying attendance not only at presentations for the public but also at our competition series "Under Commission" or the "studio presentations by **Disney, Sony or Laika** for example."

The **Animation Production Day 2009**, hosted by both the FMX and the Festival of Animated Film, was attended by the International animation industry's most important players from eleven countries. "There is a new focus on animated brands - for the first time series projects, games and mobile content were included in addition to feature film projects – and the market potential of around 30 projects with a production volume of 140 million Euros was discussed in more than 600 concentrated one-to-one meetings." adds Ulrich Wegenast, the artistic director. "The balancing act between great cinema and a professional gettogether could be experienced at first-hand in Stuttgart," Wegenast continues. "The lively interest of fans in for example SpongeBob's creator **Stephen Hillenburg**, in the father of the 'Coraline' puppets **Henry Selick** or in **Chris Williams**, the director of "Bolt" amazed even our celebrity guests."

The original short film project *"Muto"* from Italy won the **Grand Prix - the Grand Prize** awarded by the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the city of Stuttgart with a cash prize of 15,000 Euros in the International Competition, the heart of the Festival of Animated Film. The director with the short name Blu presented ambiguous surrealistic animation on public walls: outdoor shots were taken in Buenos Aires and the indoor shots in Baden/Switzerland. The **International Promotion Award for the best graduation film** (10,000 Euros) went to *RABBIT PUNCH* by Kristian Andrews from Great Britain. The Festival's Stuttgart audience chose the French film *SKHIZEIN* by Jeremy Clapin for the **SWR Audience Award** (6,000 Euros). The **special award Music for Animation** – presented by the GEMA Foundation (5,000 Euros) went to *DER DAVINCI TIMECODE – EIN BEWEGTES BILD* by Gil Alkabetz from Germany with music by Alexander Zlamal.

This year for the first time the Festival of Animated Film presented the **Speaker Award** for the **Best Voice Actor** in an animated feature film with a cash prize worth 2,500 Euros. Winner is the actor *BENNO FÜRMAN* ("North Wall") for the German dubbed voice of "Puss-in-Boots" (original voice: Antonio Banderas) in the blockbuster sequels "Shrek 2" (2004) and "Shrek the Third" (2007).

Furthermore the German-British pop-up adventure *THE HAPPY DUCKLING* by Gili Dolev won the Trickstar for the best children's animated film in the **Tricks for Kids** category. A jury of six children chose this film. Its director received prize money worth 4,000 Euros, sponsored by the TV station NICK. Adam Elliot's Australian melodrama *MARY AND MAX* won a Trickstar for the best animated feature-length film (2,500 Euros) in the popular feature-length film category **AniMovie**. In **Young Animation**, the category for young filmmakers, the Slovakian film *O PONOŽKÁCH A LÁŠKE* (About Socks and Love) by Michaela opíková won a Trickstar for the best student film. Jean-Jacques Prunes' French film *HISTOIRES COMME ÇA – ,L'ENFANT D'ÉLEPHANT'* won the prize for the best animated TV series in the **Animated Series** section.

On the evening of Wednesday, May 6, the **German Animation Screenplay Award 2009** went to *OLIVER HUZLY* and *REINHARD KLOOSS* for their film script "The Animal's Conference" which has already gone into production. This year the prize money worth 5,000 Euros was again donated by the Evangelical Church of Germany. The award ceremony for the **Under Commission** award took place May 8. The award for the best commissioned work in the field of music, TV trailers, and advertising spots went to the Audi spot *UNBOXED* by Aaron Duffy and Russell Brooke. The prize money to the value of 2,500 Euros was donated by the Stuttgart-based production company Mackevision.

The 17th Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film will be held May 4 – May 9, 2010.

The complete list with all of the prizes and jury statements can be found at www.ifs.de, in the "Competition" section, photos are available in the "Press" section.

The Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film was founded in 1982 and is one of the largest and most important festivals for animated film worldwide. Prize money totalling 57,500 Euros is awarded in eight competition categories and 670 films were screened in 2009. The Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film works closely with the fmx/09, Europe's largest expert conference for animation, effects, games and digital media, and together with the fmx it holds the Animation Production Day.

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