



PRESS REPORT, April 07, 2010

South Africa at the Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film

Stuttgart - Everyone is talking about South Africa; above all because it is the location for the World Cup 2010. Yet the country has a lot to offer with regard to film, too. This year the 17th Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film (May 04 – May 09) will be showing "Animated Africa" at the Caligari, the Festival's cinema in Ludwigsburg. The programme will include a whole range of animated films from South Africa, the World Cup's host. In addition to a selection of short films – including work by the well-known artist and animator William Kentridge – "Tengers", the first South African feature-length animated film, is also coming to Germany.

South African artist, **William Kentridge**, first achieved international fame for his hand-drawn films at the end of the eighties. His short film series, produced between 1989 and 2003, looks at the development of South Africa, from the apartheid system to democracy. The films describe the lives of two antagonists, the building tycoon and opportunist Soho Eckstein and the idealistic romantic Felix Teitlebaum. Each of his short films is made up for the most part of a number of large-format charcoal drawings, each separately animated. Thanks to charcoal and eraser the pages continually undergo a process of change which is recorded on film. The process is very time-consuming and is a metaphor for the country so scarred by apartheid.

However, Kentridge, who has participated in the **Documenta** and **Biennale** several times, has also made a name for himself in the fields of visual arts and theatre. He exhibits his works all over the world in renowned museums and galleries (amongst other things the MOMA/New York) and is involved in various theatre projects. He has received numerous awards, for example the **Carnegie Medal**, the prestigious **Goslaer Kaiserring** for his contribution to contemporary art and the **Oskar-Kokoschka-Award** for visual art, which includes the largest cash prize for an award in Austria.

Other works by South African artists included in the short film programme "**Animated Africa**" deal with a host of very different subjects – such as piranha birds, married slippers as well as the hopes and fears of people at the end of the apartheid system. These include the "**The Tale of How**" by the South African artist group "**The Blackheart Gang**", submitted to the Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film 2008 and "Beyond Freedom" by the award-winning animation artist Jacquie Trowell, nominated for the Golden Bear 2006.

The **first South African feature-length animated film "Tengers"** by Michael J. Rix is also celebrating its **German premiere** in Ludwigsburg during the Festival of Animated Film. This claymation film is a social satire which takes a critical but amusing look at the country which is hosting the World Cup this year. (Animated Africa: Saturday, May 08 at 8.00 pm., Caligari, Ludwigsburg)

And on the **subject of football**: on Sunday, May 09 at 3.00 pm., the **scopas medien AG** will be showing several episodes of its amusing claymation series "**Deutsche 11 Backstage**". To mark the event the Festival of Animated Film will be holding a virtual goal wall shooting competition for visitors in the theatre of the Metropol 2.

More information is available at www.itfs.de. We would be delighted to send further image and text material on request.

Organisers: Film- und Medienfestival gGmbH, Schloßstr. 84, 70174 Stuttgart

Press contact: Heiko Volz, +49(0)711-92546-120, volz@festival-gmbh.de

Petra Rühle, +49(0)711-92546-102, ruehle@festival-gmbh.de



The Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film (ITFS), May 04 – May 09, 2010, was founded in 1982 and is one of the largest and most important festivals for animated film worldwide. Prize money totalling 56,000 Euros is awarded in seven competition categories. The Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film works closely with the FMX 2010, the 15th Conference on Animation, Effects, Games and Interactive Media, Europe's largest expert conference for animation, effects, games and digital media. Together with the FMX and Michael Schmetz Media Consult the Festival holds the business platform Animation Production Day (May 04 – May 05, 2010).