



Press Release, May 10, 2015 – HOLDBACK PERIOD: May 10, 10pm

Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film – A week full of animated highlights



Stuttgart – With about 80,000 visitors the 22nd Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film (ITFS) came to an end this Sunday, May 10, 2015. The organizers are totally satisfied with this resonance. Despite unfavourable circumstances like the rail strike of Deutsche Bahn, which took place during the whole festival week, the record of 2014 almost could be reached. The visitors witnessed over 1,000 films in about 200 single events. For the first time two events were shown online with a livestreaming, it was used by about 5,000 people.

Every day a big highlight was presented besides the competition and supporting programme: Numerous special formats have established and thrilled the audience. On Wednesday the German Animation Screenplay Award as well as the Tricks for Kids Series Award have been awarded at Neues Schloss (New Castle). Besides the two actresses Anna and Nellie Thalbach a live performance of the Stuttgart Opera offered high-class entertainment. The German Voice Actor Award was given to **Ralf Schmitz** on Thursday. Host **Christoph Sieber** presented an enjoyable show with Simpsons director **David Silverman** and **Dodokay** at Renitenztheater.

Friday's highlight was the awarding of Animated Com Award for the best applied animation in the fields of advertising, technology and spatial communication as well as the special prizes by Daimler AG and U. I. Lapp GmbH. The top-class winner films and a keynote by Jörn Großhans (Mackevision), who recently was awarded with two Emmys for the visual effects in "Game of Thrones", convinced the audience at Mercedes-Benz Museum.

Saturday's highlight took place in Ludwigsburg: At "Music & Animation" the guests were fascinated by breathtaking musical acts and visual performances. The event was organized in cooperation with Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, jazzopen Stuttgart, Scala Ludwigsburg and Institute of Animation, Visual Effects and Digital Postproduction at the Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg. "We're absolutely delighted", said Prof. Ulrich Wegenast, Managing Director Programme at ITFS, "that we were able to offer an exclusive event like Music & Animation to our Ludwigsburg audience."

For the first time the Game Zone took place at Württembergischer Kunstverein (WKV) this year. Under the slogan "Games for everybody" game fans of all ages met there to play regional indie games as well as international blockbusters. **Nils Bomhoff**, host at RocketBeansTV & well known - not only within gaming scene - from NBC GIGA GAMES and MTV GameOne, was present and a true crowd puller. Further highlights have been the sold out world premiere of "Rascal the Little Raven 2 - The Big Race" or specials like "20 years of Sailor Moon in Germany" with a cosplay event.

The 22nd Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film was organized with the support of about 80 cooperation partners. "Due to new partners like Hansgrohe, Stuttgart Opera and Reed Midem/MIPJunior but also Antenne 1 as media partner and the newly located Game Zone at Württembergischer Kunstverein (WKV) the festival widened its spectrum and its presence in Stuttgart once again", said Dittmar Lumpp, Managing Director, Organisation & Finances at ITFS.

At the open air cinema thousands of animation film fans came together every day and filled the Schlossplatz very well - although the weather had its ups and downs. The short film programme during the day as well as the feature film programme got down well with the audience, also special events like GamesFlash, a flashmob of the Stuttgart Opera as well as the various offers at Festival Garden found an echo. The cinemas, presenting the competition programme and numerous further programme points, were packed with people, too.

But the festival finally had to find an end and so on Sunday the last, but therefore appropriate celebrated festival event took place: the awarding of the Trickstars, which are worth more than 60,000 Euros altogether.

Awardees of the 22nd Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION Grand Prix

15,000 euros, sponsored by the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the City of Stuttgart "Le sense du toucher" / "The Sense of Touch" France 2014 Directed by Jean-Charles Mbotti Malolo Production: Folimage Studio, La Fabrique Production, Nadasdy Film

Lotte Reiniger Promotion Award for Animated Film

10,000 Euros, sponsored by MFG Film Funding Baden-Wuerttemberg "The Bigger Picture" United Kingdom 2013 Directed by Daisy Jacobs Animation: Daisy Jacobs & Christophe Wilder Production: NFTS – National Film and Television School

SWR Audience Award

6,000 Euros "One of a Kind" Great Britain 2014 Directed by Rok Predin

Special Mentions

"Light Motif" France 2014 Directed by Frédéric Bonpapa

"Pul de Somn" / *"Baby Nap"* Romania 2014 Directed by Paul Muresan

YOUNG ANIMATION

Award for the best student film

2,500 Euros, sponsored by Landesanstalt für Kommunikation Baden-Wuerttemberg (LfK) and MFG Film Funding Baden-Wuerttemberg "Cup no naka no koushi" / "My Milk Cup Cow" Japan 2014 Directed by Yantong Zhu Production: Tokyo University of the Arts

ANIMOVIE

Award for the best animated feature film

"Resan till Fjäderkungens Rike" / "Beyond Beyond" Sweden / Denmark 2014 Directed by Esben Toft Jacobsen Production: Copenhagen Bombay

Special Mention

"Song of the Sea" Ireland, Luxemburg, Belgium, France, Denmark 2014 Directed by Tomm Moore

TRICKS FOR KIDS

Award for the best children's animated short film

4,000 Euros, supported by Studio 100 Media GmbH "Neige" / "Snow" France 2014 Directed by Antoine Lanciaux & Sophie Roze Production: Folimage Studio

Award for the best animated series for children

supported by ReedMIDEM/MIPJunior "Cleo" Spain 2013 Directed by Ana Sánchez-Gijón

TELE 5 "LEIDER GEIL" AWARD

2,500 Euros, sponsored by TELE 5 "Light Motif" France 2014

Directed by Frédéric Bonpapa ANIMATED COM AWARD Awards for the best applied animation in the fields of advertising, technology and spatial communication

Sponsored by Animation Media Cluster Region Stuttgart, Daimler AG, U.I. Lapp GmbH

Main prize

2,500 Euros, sponsored by Animation Media Cluster Region Stuttgart "League of Legends: Warriors" France 2013 Directed by Arnaud & Jérôme (Passion Pictures) Riot Games

Category Advertising

"Nike Mercurial Superfly IV" Great Britain 2014 Directed by Manvsmachine Nike

Category Technology

"Ghost Peloton" Great Britain 2014 Directed by Mark Huskisson NVA Phoenix Dance Theatre

Category Spatial Communication

"smart - traffic light" Germany 2014 Directed by Marten Persiel (Bigfish Filmproduktionen GmbH) Smart

Category Special Award of Daimler AG: "Future needs Derivation – Individual Mobility"

2,500 Euros, sponsored by Daimler AG Driving USA 2014 Directed by Nate Theis

Category Special Prize Lapp Connected Award

2,500 Euros, sponsored by U.I. Lapp GmbH "Pass It On" Portugal 2014 Directed by Teresa Cruz

48H ANIMATION JAM - CRAZY HORSE SESSION

Live competition award

Victor Collado, Maria Torregrosa Domenech (Spain) In co-operation with M.A.R.K. 13, Landesanstalt für Kommunikation (LFK) and MFG Film Funding Baden-Wuerttemberg

GERMAN SCREENPLAY AWARD

2,500 Euros, sponsored by Telepool GmbH "Robbi, Tobbi und das Fliewatüüt" by Jan Berger

GERMAN VOICE ACTOR AWARD

Ralf Schmitz as Dwarf Sunny, "7th Dwarf"

ARAB ANIMATION FORUM 2015

in cooperation with the Robert Bosch Stiftung Waref Abu Quba and Kevork Mourad, "Four Acts for Syria", Syria

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The Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film (ITFS), May 5-10, 2015 was founded in 1982 and is one of the largest and most important festivals for animated film worldwide. Prize money of 50,000 Euros is awarded in numerous 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.