



24.
INTERNATIONALES
TRICKFILM FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF ANIMATED FILM
STUTT GART '17
2. – 7. MAI 2017

First Highlights of the 24th Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film 2017

Press release, Stuttgart April, 24th 2017

The ITFS program highlights

In nine competition categories, over 70,000€ in total prize money will be awarded. The core of ITFS is the International Competition, in which the best animated short films of the last 12 months from all over the world are shown. Besides new discoveries like the Lebanese animation artist **Chadi Aoun** with his disquieting animated drama "SAMT (Silence)", we meet well-known personalities from the Festival such as **Spela Cadez** from Slovenia ("Nighthawk"), **Franck Dion** from France with "The Head Vanishes" - a touching story about Alzheimer's - or **Jochen Kuhn** from Germany.

The feature-length film competition AniMovie has particularly strong contributions from Asia in 2017 - including "In This Corner of the World" by **Sunao Katabuchi**, based on the Japanese manga of the same name that has already received awards and whose story plays during the Second World War. The film "Big Fish & Begonia" under the direction of **Xuan Liang & Chun Zhang** leads viewers into a fantastical world: inspired by classic Chinese literature, the lovingly animated feature-length film tells the story of a little girl who takes on the shape of a dolphin and goes out in search of adventures in the human world. Other films in the program include: the biographical feature-length animated film "Ethel & Ernest" by **Roger Mainwood** based on a graphic novel by Raymond Briggs. The film's soundtrack comes from no one other than **Paul McCartney**, among other artists. In addition, the international co-production "Birds Like Us" by **Faruk Sabanovic** and **Amela Cuhara** will celebrate its world premiere. **Alicia Vikander** and Academy Award winner **Jeremy Irons** contribute their voices to the first 3D feature-length animated film from Bosnia-Herzegovina, which was co-produced by Turkish Television, Fork Film (USA) and Autonomous (Great Britain). The soundtrack to "Birds Like Us" was composed by Peter Gabriel. **Bill Plympton**, independent master and long-time guest in Stuttgart, is also represented in the AniMovie competition with his newest feature-length work "Revengeance" (co-director Jim Lujan).

Tricks for Kids: The ITFS children's film festival

The children's film festival Tricks for Kids is organized together with the curator Iris Loos (vhs Stuttgart "Treffpunkt Kinder"). The imaginative program is comprised of current short films from all over the world, the most recent international animated series and international feature-length animated films. They lead the young and the old into fantastical worlds. Many of them are being shown in Germany for the first time!

One highlight of the Tricks for Kids program is the animated film "Revolting Rhymes", based on the beloved children's book of the same name by **Roald Dahl**. The two episodes were produced by the makers of "The Gruffalo" and "The Gruffalo's Child", **Magic Light Pictures** in co-production with Triggerfish Animation Studios under the direction of **Jakob Schuh** and **Jan Lachauer**. The story combines the classic fairy tales of Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White, The 3 Little Pigs, Jack and the Beanstalk and Cinderella and mixes the stories with playful elements and a surprise plot twist. The voices are those of well-known actresses and actors such as **Dominic West**, who was recently also the voice of the character "Rudder" in the animated film "Finding Dory".

The famous characters from **Laura's Star**, **The Little Polar Bear** and **Tobias Totz** are introduced in homage to their inventor **Thilo Graf Rothkirch**. The graphics, illustrations, and hand-colored animated film sheets can be admired in the exhibition in the vhs's Treffpunkt Rothebühlplatz (March 15 - May 9, 2017). On May 6, his first wife and well-known film producer **Maya Gräfin Rothkirch** will speak about his works and the exhibition. Thilo Graf Rothkirch's films will be shown in the ITFS program as a work exhibition. Other event locations with a colorful program include the **Stuttgart Zoo Wilhelma**, the **Gerber** and the **ITFS Festival Garden** directly on the Schlossplatz.

New in 2017: The children's program in co-operation with the Mercedes-Benz Museum will take place on the weekend before the Festival. Workshops and film program invite families with children to marvel, participate and experience.



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Music & Animation: Preview "Cat & Mouse"

Theatre, animation and live music: This is the adventure **Paul Barritt** from the 1927 Theatre Company dares in co-operation with Village Underground in the piece "Cat and Mouse". In the exclusive preview, a crazy animation experience awaits the audience. It includes an animated cat and mouse as well as band full of dogs. The piece is inspired by George Harriman's very influential cartoon strip "Krazy Kat" (1913-1944). Paul Barritt, renowned animated artist from London, is the director and creator of "Cat and Mouse". Laurence Owen and Siemy Di are responsible for the music on drums and percussion together with Sam Sallon on the keyboard - they form the Officer Pub Band. Lesly Ewen is in charge of the scenic narration, and Octavia Austin designed the costumes. The preview will take place on Saturday, May 6, in the Musikhalle Ludwigsburg. The official premiere is at the beginning of June in London.

Opera & Animation: Bellini's "La Sonnambula" (May 7)

This year, as well, the Opera & Animation co-operation will take place together with the **Staatsoper Stuttgart**. By projecting Bellini's "La Sonnambula" on the giant LED screen as well as a live performance from actors at the Staatsoper Stuttgart including the singer Ana Durlovski, on Sunday, May 7 the Schlossplatz will be transformed into a very special visual and audio event. In 2012, the Stuttgart production under the musical direction of Gabriele Ferro and directed by Jossi Wieler and Sergio Morabito was named the "Performance of the Year" by the "Opernwelt" critic's survey. In addition, Paul Barritt (see above), who is known among other things for his animated stage images for The Magic Flute at the Komische Oper in Berlin as well as productions for the Sydney Opera House and the Salzburg Festival, will hold a workshop on the topic of animated film and opera.

From A as in Animation to Z as in Zagreb: The breadth of Croatia

The ITFS shows international trends and developments in animated film with several program points, for example with the focus on the feature country Croatia. For this, the Festival presents many co-productions, studio presentations and workshops including Adriatic Animation, Bonobostudio and Zagreb Film. The head of the respected **AnimaFest Zagreb Daniel Suljic** will also curate the Best of Animation program.

Tributes to influential animation artists

The series In Persona honors internationally renowned and artistically outstanding animated film and animation artists with tributes. This year's guests include the Italian master and creator of the famous animated figure Signor Rossi (Mr. Rossi), **Bruno Bozzetto** (Bergamo), **Katrin Magnitz** (Hamburg), **Joanna Priestley** (Portland) and **Ann Marie Fleming** (Toronto) and **Robert Valley** (Canada).

Homage to Fyodor Khitruk (1917 - 2012)

On the occasion of his 100th birthday, which would have been on May 1, 2017, the ITFS dedicates a homage to the Russian animator, director and script writer **Fyodor Savelyevich Khitruk**. In the original premiere of the new documentary film about Khitruk by **Dimitry Zolotov** of studio **Schar**, one of the most important Russian animation schools and studios, on May 6, at 8 p.m. Khitruk's life will be shown biographically using the most important places where he worked. This also includes Stuttgart, where he studied at the "Kunstgewerbeschule" in the 1930s: an important milestone in his artistic development. Besides this, a program of his short films will also include **Otto Alder's** documentary film from 1998 "The Spirit of Genius - Fedor Khitruk and his Films" on May 7.

Meet the studios!

The Festival offers excellent international networking opportunities for industry experts and decision-makers: The world's leading animation studios will give background information about their work based on selected projects and invite visitors to engage in discussion. These discussions include partners like the VR experts from **Google Spotlight Stories**, the London studio **Lupus Films**, which are represented in the AniMovie competition with "Ethel & Ernest" and in the Tricks for Kids competition with "We're Going on a Bear Hunt", **Studio AKA** (London), which received the



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BAFTA Award multiple times and has received Oscar nominations, M.A.R.K. 13 from Stuttgart and Neuer Österreichischer Trickfilm.

Arab Animation Forum (May 4 – 7, 2017)

The Arab Animation Forum to promote new animated film projects from the Arabic world was able to be realized again this year together with the Robert Bosch Foundation. It will take place during the ITFS from May 4 – 7, 2017. For animated filmmakers and creative minds from the Arabic world and young German animation producers, the forum offers a platform for co-productions.

Animation Production Day (May 4 – 5, 2017)

The Animation Production Day (APD), the most important co-production and financing market in Germany specialised on animated projects, will take place from May 4 – 5. Production companies from all over the world will meet here with broadcasters, distributors, sellers, investors and co-production partners to present their projects in effective one-on-one meetings. This format has proven very successful: More than one-third of the projects presented in the past years at the APD have acquired important financing elements through their participation and have now been successfully produced. The program is complemented by the **APD Conference** on May 4, freely accessible for those with accreditation, which offers focused speeches and discussions by well-known speakers on current trends and challenges in the industry. The Animation Production Day is held by the ITFS together with the expert conference **FMX - Conference on Animation, Effects, Games and Transmedia**, which takes place at the same time. You can find more information at: www.animationproductionday.de

FMX - Conference on Animation, Effects, Games and Transmedia (May 2 – 5, 2017)

The FMX is Europe's most influential expert conference for Digital Visual Arts, Technologies and Business. The topic of this year's FMX, "Beyond the Screen", will discuss the question of how we will experience content now and in the future. The FMX is organized by the Institute of Animation at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and this year will take place at the same time as the ITFS from May 2 – 5 in Stuttgart. You can find more information at: www.fmx.de

Press Contact:

Katrin Dietrich, Head of Press and Public Relations, Tel.: 0711-92546-102, E-Mail: dietrich@festivalgmbh.de

Maren Wiesner, Press and Public Relations, Tel.: 0711-92546-120, E-Mail: wiesner@festivalgmbh.de