

ITFS
03.–08. MAI 2022



The first programme highlights of ITFS 2022 | Ticket shop is online

Press release, Stuttgart, February 18, 2022

"Black is Back!" is the motto of the first hybrid Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film, which will take place from May 3 to 8, 2022. True to this motto, the fundamentals of animation – reduction, simplification, and clarity, but also exaggeration and over-drawing – will be the focus of ITFS 2022 and presented and highlighted in various film programmes and events. Because with the coronavirus crisis, the desire to return to the essence and fundamentals of their existence in everyday life has become clear to many people. As one of the world's most important festivals for animated film, ITFS 2022 takes place at various venues in Stuttgart, including the Schlossplatz and the Innenstadtkinos, and in addition presents a rich programme online at OnlineFestival.ITFS.de and in the virtual world of the ITFS VR Hub.

Animation and games are the central art forms of the 21st century and have proven to be extremely resilient in the coronavirus crisis. They combine technological innovation with social emancipation, entertainment with avant-garde, thus reaching all generations. ITFS 2022 celebrates these art forms in screenings, exhibitions, talks, master classes, lectures, hackathons, live streams, VR events and live animated performances.

The **International Competition** is at the heart of the Festival. **Young Animation** honours the best films by students from international institutes of higher education for film, media and art, **Tricks for Kids** the best animated short film for children, **AniMovie** the best animated feature-length film, the **Trickstar Nature Award** the best animated short film on the topics of climate protection, biodiversity, the environment and sustainability, the **Trickstar Business Award** the best innovative and ground-breaking business model for a project or company in the animation sector, the **Animated Games Award Germany** the best and most innovative animation-based computer game from Germany, and the **German Animation Screenplay Award** the best German screenplay for a feature-length animated film as well as the screenplay with the greatest international market potential. All competition programmes can be viewed on-site at Innenstadtkinos and in the ONLINE+ media centre. In the **animation competition Crazy Horse Session – 48 H Animation Jam**, international teams face the challenge of creating an animated film involving Festival mascot Trixi in 48 hours.

In the supporting programme, ITFS 2022 will focus on **Austria**, along with numerous other highlights. Animation production in the Alpine republic is known for experimentation, innovation, and dark humour. Selected artists, studios and institutes of higher education will present their work. Austrian partner festivals are **Tricky Women / Tricky Realities** and **Ars Electronica**. In the themed series Wonderwomen – Women in Games & Animation, curated by **Waltraud Grausgruber**, ITFS continues the themed programme realised in 1996 and curated by Jayne Pilling, and sheds light on how the situation for women in animated film has changed since then and which new artistic positions have emerged.

In the **IN PERSONA** series, internationally renowned and artistically outstanding animators give personal insights into their work and their working methods. Scheduled guests for the series include **Daniel Höpfner** (Berlin), **Jochen Kuhn** (Ludwigsburg), **Registra Pessoa** (Porto), **Jean-Charles Mbotti Malolo** (Lyon) and **Thomas Renoldner** (Vienna). Other guests confirmed for ITFS 2022 so far include **Nick Park** (Bristol), Oscar winning creator of the characters **Wallace & Gromit** and **Shaun the Sheep**, filmmakers **Michelle and Uri Kranot** ("**Nothing Happens**", "**Hollow Land**"), film producer and Academy member **Ron Diamond** (Los

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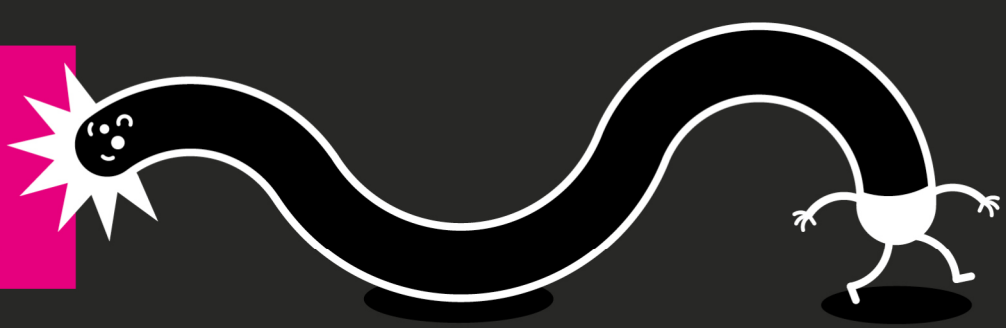
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Angeles) and **Jürgen Hagler**, professor at the Hagenberg University of Applied Sciences and curator at Ars Electronica.

The **GAMEZONE** presents innovative and high-quality computer games and interactive projects at the intersection of games and animation that invite visitors to play. The games nominated for the Animated Games Award Germany and a selection of exciting games degree programmes will be presented. Hackathons and the GameZone Kids at Jugendhaus Mitte complete the programme.

As part of the children's film festival **TRICKS FOR KIDS**, supported by the impulse programme "Kultur nach Corona" of the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts Baden-Württemberg, numerous film programmes, workshops, special screenings and participatory activities for children and school classes are offered in cooperation with vhs Stuttgart – Treffpunkt Kinder and Landesanstalt für Kommunikation Baden-Württemberg. At the Animation Academy for Kids, in cooperation with Kindermedienland Baden-Württemberg, experienced animators and film professionals provide insights into the world of animation production. Premium partner of the Tricks for Kids children's film festival and long-standing supporter of the ITFS is L-Bank: Staatsbank für Baden-Württemberg.

In addition to many other programme highlights, a special programme series will be dedicated to the motto "**Black is Back!**" – a selection of the most beautiful and extraordinary animated films of the last 25 years will be shown, which captivate with their black-and-white aesthetics, reduction, and minimalism, but also with exceptional narrative forms – curated by the Artistic Managing Director of ITFS, **Ulrich Wegenast**.

Tickets now available at the Early Bird rate

Whether film fans, families, or professionals – ITFS offers both on-site and digital options for every target group. This is also reflected in the different types of tickets that are available in the ticket shop at www.itfs.de. For the general public, the Festival Pass ONSITE (for on-site visits) as well as tickets for the online visit are available. To the industry, ITFS offers an HYBRID Accreditation Professionals (on-site and online) and an Accreditation Professionals ONLINE PRO (online only). Until March 10, 2022, the ONSITE Festival Pass and HYBRID Accreditation Professionals are available at discounted Early Bird rates.

<https://www.itfs.de/en/>

A registration form for press accreditation is available at www.itfs.de/en/pressaccreditation

Contact Press & PR: presse@festival-gmbh.de

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About the ITFS: The Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (ITFS) was founded in 1982 and is one of the world's biggest and most important festivals for animated films. In several categories of competitions more than Euro 70,000 prize money will be awarded. The FMX - Film and Media Exchange, Europe's largest professional conference for animation, effects, games and immersive media takes place parallel to the ITFS. Together, ITFS and FMX organise the business platform Animation Production Days, the only coproduction and financing market in Germany specialized in animation projects.

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