

Antefilms buys France Animation

On the eve of Mipcom Jnr, French animation outfit Antefilms Production has bought rival toon studio France Animation, bringing together flagship series Funky Cops and Titeuf into one 1,600-hour catalogue.

While the companies' identities and output will be kept separate, both outfits will make use of a new marketing framework.

"This structure will permit the marketing development of proprieties by capitalising on their international circulation," said an Antefilms representative. "Its main thrust will entail working out agreements for promotion campaigns, licensing, merchandising, publishing, music, and coordination of local licensing agents."

France Animation, which started life as a Wanadoo subsidiary, was set up in 1984. With Titeuf screened in over 35 territories, the Parisian studio is currently working on Little Vampire, Space Lunies, and Dr Dog.

Meanwhile, Antefilms was founded by Christophe and Benoît di Sabatino in 1990. The company is based in Angouleme, South Western France, and boasts its own 3D animation and motion capture studio.

This year Antefilms cemented its international reputation with the retro animated series Funky Cops. Broadcast in over 100 countries, the series will soon benefit from its own line of toys as reported [here](#).

Season two of Funky Cops is currently in production, along with Code Lyoko, Pet Alien and The Invisible Man. The merged companies aim to produce four to five original series per year.

Maria Esposito
7 Oct 2003
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Magma takes Angelo to Cannes

Irish toon house Magma Films reports strong French and German interest in its new animated series Angelo (13x22'), which it is coproducing with NDF in Germany and A-Film of Denmark.



"We launched Angelo at Cartoon Forum in September and we're now deciding which partners to go with," said Magma's director of animation, Daina Sacco. "We hope to close the deals at Mipcom this week."

Angelo (left) is based on the series of children's books by German author Klaus Heilmann, entitled Luzi My Guardian Angel. The show is aimed at 8-12 year-olds.

Magma is also in production on Lilly the Witch (13x26'), after presale deals with the BBC, WDR Germany and TVO Canada. Trixter and Vivatoon are coproducing.

Magma's new toon, School for Vampires (13x26'), is now in pre-production, with Germany Hahn Film coproducing. ADR Germany and TF1 France are onboard.

The Dublin-based company's copro with Egmont and A-Film, Hans Christian Anderson: The Fairytaler, has already been delivered to Super RTL Germany and Denmark's Radio.

Ed Waller
7 Oct 2003
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