

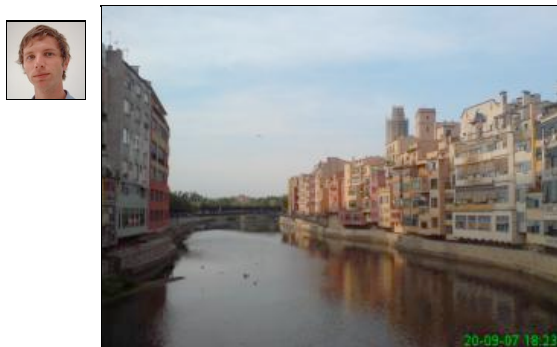


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### cartoon forum thursday round-up

Submitted by frank grimshaw on Fri, 2007-09-21 06:30.



The consensus here is that the Cartoon Forum gets better each year, the quality of the animation and hospitality has so far been very good. There are themes and trends emerging, which I'll summarise at the end of the week and a lot of footage of presentations and interviews to be vodcast. But today a quick run through the presentations I saw.

#### Anton and the Trophy Turbot

A lot of buzz surrounded this presentation and it seemed justified. A beautiful and original looking animation about a boy with normal problems who has a talking, wish-granting turbot fish mounted on his wall. Anton goes to him with his problems but the turbot always suggests B-movie style solutions; turning him into a giant robot to trample his enemies, etc. I hope this does well, eminently watchable.

#### Slash://

A high-risk farcical presentation from an Italian production team as they pretend to demonstrate the central concept of their show, which is that people can be transported through the internet. Multicultural, musical characters created for mass appeal, uninspiring aesthetic, formulaic. Probably get picked up quickly.

#### Gilmerton Heights

A straight and solid presentation of this Flash-based, kind-of Truman Show, Simpsons-style reality program presented by Lutenant Colombo . The auditorium is overflowing and the jokes, which come thick and fast, get big laughs. This probably will, and certainly deserves to, get picked up. Very rude and very funny. There was a lot of discussion of mobile content. A British South Park. Expect to see it on Channel Four and podcasts within the year.

#### Heavy Mental

A black comedy about teenagers with mental problems, each show deals with different themes such as: suicide, anorexia, drug addiction, phobia. It wasn't exactly Disney stuff but I thought it was brilliant. The writing and conceptualising were great, as was the 3D look. It was more adult that they thought. Lots of people didn't go and lots of those that did didn't get the sardonic, possibly inappropriate humour, I thought it was great. The production team was young and funny. I hope it does well but doubt it will.

#### Bridget and Friends

Another powerpoint presentation about an animation of this popular Swedish children's picture book. The trailer was curiously under-developed and, bizarrely, in 3D, the original books were all light watercolour stuff, which seemed to lend itself to hand drawn. I had thought the animation would be a simple extension of this style. The character explanation was dull, "Lidden is also a girl, she is also swedish, she attends the same day care centre as bridget, she is also 5..." The presenters were keen to stress the strong message of the show but it struck me as Swedish propaganda. They got some good feedback, which showed the supportive side of this event.

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