



**A** while back, a wise man with a lot of time on his hands came up with the idea that there are only seven major plots in literature. Perhaps that's why we just found out that the big movies being prepared for release for the holiday season of 2010 are *Tron Legacy*, *The Smurfs*, and *Yogi Bear*. This means that if someone who had slipped into a coma in the early '80s wakes up next Christmas, they'll have no problem recognizing the characters depicted on the big screen.

Of course, they will be surprised to see that many of their favorite animated characters are created on computers and now interacting with humans in the real world (check all the *Scooby-Doo*, *Garfield* and *Alvin and the Chipmunks* adaptations)! The box-office success of the *G-Force* movie will probably lead to many more copycat titles in the near future.

On the other hand, the fact that Hayao Miyazaki's *Ponyo* was able to hold its own and attract a sizeable audience in the U.S. this summer is a clear indication that you can't easily dismiss a traditionally animated movie. Hopefully this Christmas, Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* feature will provide more proof that we're not ready to say good-bye to the golden ways of the past.

The great animator, storyboard artist and teacher Tom Sito was recently lamenting the fact he had to explain to a group of his undergrad students what animation cels are. "Sometimes I feel like the curator of a museum where I am also one of the exhibits," he wrote on his Facebook page. Tom was half-kidding of course, but he brought up a great point: That we need to make sure today's animation fans never forget about the legacy of Gertie, Oswald, Popeye, Felix and hundreds of other toons of the past.

Since this special edition of our magazine is distributed at Cartoon Forum in Europe, I'd like to take this opportunity to praise the great work the organizers of the event have done in the past 20 years. Each year, animation producers/broadcasters from various European countries get together to pitch their projects and secure financing for their animated series. A passing glance at the 63 projects selected for the 20th edition of the Forum gives us hope that as long as there are brilliant ideas, memorable characters and fantastic drawings, we'll have great cartoons to watch, no matter how they're made and what gadgets we use to experience them!



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# Toonspotting Under the Midnight Sun

The 20th Edition of Cartoon Forum puts the spotlight on 63 promising new European projects in Norway.

**M**onkeys, robots, flying squirrels, dogs in space, adorable dust bunnies, even little kiwi fruits: These are only a few of the central animated characters taking center stage, at the 20th edition of Cartoon Forum, which takes place in the beautiful city of Stavanger in southwest Norway this year (Sept. 22-25).

Eversince its first outing in Lanzarote, Spain, in 1990, this influential European animation event has brought together producers, broadcasters and potential financing partners. American producers who often complain about the glacial development process will be envious to realize that about 300 projects pitched at the Forum have been produced and distributed over the years. Recent success stories include Tiger Aspect's *Tinga Tinga Tales*, TV-Loonland's *Raymond*, Alphanim's *Hairy and Scary* and Aardman's *Chop Socky Chooks*.

According to Gerardo Michelin, the event's spokesperson, a grand total of 320 hours of animation with a budget of 155

million euros (\$221 million) will be presented at this year's edition. He notes that French producers have the highest number of proposed shows with 17 projects, while Spain, The U.K. and Norway are also well-represented with 12, seven and five toons respectively.

As always, the Forum will attract a healthy mix of smaller indie outfits trying to get eyeballs on their pitches as well as well-established toon players who come to the event because of its relaxed atmosphere and to share meals and socialize with their colleagues in the industry. Either way, the 2009 edition promises to be a fantastic opportunity to preview what to expect from the creative community in Europe as we move from TV to multiplatform convergence in the next few years. Not to mention a unique way of taking in the spectacular Norwegian landscapes in the early fall. ■

For more info, visit [www.cartoon-media.be](http://www.cartoon-media.be).



## Little Toons from Big Players

**H**ere is a sampling of some of the new shows that will be presented to buyers by some of the established animation companies in the European market:

### **And Yet It Moves—Galileo**

[Gruppo Alconi]

### **Aztronimo**

[Cromosoma, LuxAnimation, 2 Minutes]

### **Babboo**

[HappyFlyfish, Kook Produktion]

### **Boo Boo Dolls**

[Hahn Film, Film A/S]

### **Crocco and Dillo**

[Cartoon One, Tiburon de Animacion]

### **Gaga Astronaut Professor**

[Musicartoon, Neptuno, Xilam Animation]

### **Granny O'Grimm**

[Brown Bag Films, The Big B Animation Co., HRTV]

### **How to Be a Grown-Up**

[A-Film Estonia]

### **Inky**

[Nordisk Film & TV A/S]

### **Little Sapiens**

[Cross River Productions, 2 Minutes, BRB Internacional]

### **Moe and Lou from Mars**

[Futurikon]

### **Mon Robot et Moi**

[Millimages]

### **Piggly**

[Gaumont-Alphanim]

### **Roxy and the Rubens**

[Magma Films, Ulysses]

### **Silly Bitty Bunny**

[Planet Nemo Animation]

### **The Secret Life of Suckers**

[Screen 21]

### **Tom & John**

[TeamTO]

