



CARTOON SPRINGBOARD PRESERVES ITS ESSENCE AT ITS FIRST ONLINE EDITION

Cartoon Springboard has grown into a unique opportunity for young talent in European animation. At its sixth edition, held on 27-29 October, the event successfully achieved its goals, not only by promoting the series, feature films, and web series projects created by recent graduates from animation schools from all over Europe, but also by offering them an open exchange with professionals from the sector. With a record 268 participants from 27 countries, the event successfully adapted to the new global situation, offering the young talent an experience as close as possible to a live edition.

The event was originally scheduled to take place in the Spanish city of Valencia, but it was moved to an online format due to the global health emergency. In line with its new set-up, dialogue and networking were enhanced in an effort to preserve the essence of the event.

Hailing from 12 countries, the 22 projects were presented in pre-recorded pitchings. The 30 minutes sessions also included feedback from a group of industry experts who, after watching the presentation, gave the new talent useful advice on how to improve their projects. Q&A sessions, expert meetings and keynotes were also among the activities aimed at encouraging networking and providing a forum for reflection on key issues such as target audience, the development of a project, and storytelling, among other topics.

Many of the projects and directors arrived at Cartoon Springboard after successfully participating in different festivals around the world with their first works.

PROJECTS & TRENDS

The host country stood out with nearly 40% of the participants and four projects: the series **“Kubrick and Paramecium”** by Almudena Sancho de Bustos and Roberto Bianchi, **“The Mystery of Cucut City”** by Héctor Arnau, and **“Trip to the Antarctic”** by Eva Pérez Misa; and the feature film **“Pepino the Accordionist”** by Alfonso Casado Diez and Daniel Hidalgo.

France presented three series (**“Agent B. and Spy D.”** by Ninar Al Himdani; **“The Blue Weddings”** by Samia Dzaïr; and **“What It Takes”** by Kelsi Phung and Fabien Corre), as well as Ireland (**“Astrocatastrophe”** by Claire McLoughlin; **“Laochra: The Heroic Tales of Laochra Gayle”** by Eilís Nolan; and **“Headless Mike”** by Natasza Cetner); and Italy (**“Fortune/Misfortune”** by Marco Bambina, Elisa Bindi and Alessandro Fogu; **“Rossoman”** by Gianluca Vitali, Gabriele Del Vecchio, Giuseppe De Donato, and Giacomo Rinaldi; and **“The Beekeepers”** by Alba Matarazzo and Marco Maldonato).

The line-up also included projects from Germany (**“Back to Nature”** by Ana Maria Angel; and **“JellyPimple”** by Jiayan Chen and Tao Zhang); Austria (**“Reyn: Angel of Freedom”** by Shelly Gerten); Denmark (**“Space Ham”**

by Nicolai Vielwerth and Lise Saxtrup); Estonia (“**Elementaria**” by Polina Minaeva); Hungary (“**Urban Bourbon**” by Zsófia Csánki); The Netherlands (“**Brimstone**” by Kevin Hemelaar); Serbia (“**Disbalance**” by Vuk Vulićević); and the UK (“**Jericho**” by Sarah Andrews and Aaron Hopwood).

Projects aimed at Young adult/adult audience (13) stood out, in line with a consistent trend detected in recent years in other events organised by CARTOON, such as Cartoon Movie and Cartoon Forum. Stories for children (6), family (1), teenagers (1), and pre-schoolers (1) were also in the line-up. Format-wise, TV series make up the overwhelming majority followed by web series and feature films (17, 3 and 2, respectively).

[Images of the projects available for download at this link.](#)

A POOL OF YOUNG TALENT

Four TV series pitched at Cartoon Springboard¹ were released on different screens since the event’s first edition in 2015, and around 20 projects are in active development with a producer on board. Following their presentation at Cartoon Springboard, several projects have made the leap to Cartoon Forum and Cartoon Movie, the European animation pitching events that together have helped nearly 1,200 animated series and feature films to secure funding for over 5.2 billion euros.

Supported by the Creative Europe - MEDIA programme of the European Union, and Generalitat Valenciana, Institut Valencià de Cultura and the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Cartoon Springboard featured projects by graduates from La Poudrière, L'Atelier, ESAAT and Gobelins (France); Barreira, U-Tad, ESUPT and ECAM (Spain); Scuola Internazionale di Comics and C.S.C Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia (Italy); Denmark’s ASF VGIK and The National Film School of Denmark; Germany’s Filmuniversität Babelsberg “Konrad Wolf” and Animationsinstitut Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg; Ireland’s Dún Laoghaire IADT; Budapest Metropolitan University (Hungary); HKU (Netherlands); Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture (Serbia); and RCA, Royal College of Arts and Escape Studios (UK).

The [group of experts](#) in charge of guiding the project leaders included acquisition and development managers from streaming platforms and TV channels’ such as ARTE, Adult Swim, Ketnet/VRT, France Télévisions and BBC Children, as well as consultants, scriptwriters and animation producers from companies such as Peekaboo Animation, Lightning Sprite Media, Blue Spirit Productions, Haruworks, Cartoon Saloon, Storyegg, MIAM! Animation, Dandelooo and Laidak Films.

ABOUT CARTOON

CARTOON is an international non-profit association based in Brussels organizing Cartoon Master training seminars, Cartoon Forum, along with Cartoon Movie, a co-production forum for feature-length animation.

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¹ “Hungry Bear Tales” (CZ /IE / POL / SLO); “Ka-Boom!” (SK); “Mum is Pouring Rain” (FR); and; “Hospice Odyssey” (FR).