



Press release  
Bordeaux, 14 March 2017

## Great success for Cartoon Movie first edition in Bordeaux!

Cartoon Movie, the European pitching event for animation films, took place in Bordeaux last week with 850 participants (+14% compared to 2016) from 41 different countries, with 43 game companies and 221 buyers including 125 distributors and sales agents. Organised by CARTOON, the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of this professional forum was the ideal platform to assess the current state of European animation whilst boosting 55 new projects featuring a wide variety of genres and production techniques.

### BUZZ FILMS AND TRENDS

Out of the **55 projects** selected with very disparate budgets (from 3 to 13 million euros), 17 of them are in concept, 26 in development, 9 in production and 3 in sneak preview.

The variety of countries producing animated films is still growing. This year, Georgia, Ukraine and Israel pitched a project for the first time at Cartoon Movie.

This edition also benefited from a strong territorial anchoring with 7 projects out of 55 developed in Bordeaux and Angoulême under the aegis of the Pôle Image Magelis.

During these two days, the pitching sessions got a full house. The 17 projects presented as projects in concept created great enthusiasm like "**The Nazis, my Father and Me**" (Folivari) by Remy Schaeppman, a new project of the successful producer Didier Brunner, "**Two Caravans**" (Blue Zoo Animation) based on the best-selling novel of Marina Lewycka, "**Unicorn Wars**" (Schmuby Productions), "**Single Mom in Korea**" (Marmitafilms) – a new film by Jung Henin ("Approved for Adoption"), "**Princess Dragon**" (Ankama Animations) by Anthony Roux & Jean-Jacques Denis ("Dofus – book 1"), ...

With 35 projects out of the 55 selected, **family comedies and adventure films for children** remain the focus of Cartoon Movie projects.

### The 10 projects which attracted the most participants to the pitching sessions:

- "**Zombillennium**" (Maybe Movies), a highly anticipated film by the successful comic artist Arthur de Pins
- "**The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales**" (Folivari) inspired from Benjamin Renner's books (co-directed of "Ernest & Célestine")
- "**Miss Saturne**" (Prima Linea) by Jérôme Combe & Barbara Israël \*

- **"Wolfwalkers"** (Cartoon Saloon) by Tomm Moore ("Song of the Sea", Best European Animated Feature Film at European Film Awards and nominated for the Academy Awards in 2015)
- **"Calamity, a childhood of Martha Jane Cannary"** (Maybe Movies), new movie of Rémi Chayé ("Long Way North", Audience Award at Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2015, Anima 2016 Audience Award for Best Animated Feature for Children)
- **"Kensuke's Kingdom"** (Lupus Films) by Neil Boyle & Kirk Hendry
- **"The Prince's Journey"** (Blue Spirit Productions, a new film by Jean-François Laguionie) which will be made in Angoulême studios
- **"Charlotte"** in co-production with Les Films du Poisson Rouge (in Angoulême) and directed by Bibo Bergeron \*
- **"The Siren"** (Les films d'ici) about the Resistance in Iran and directed by Sepideh Farsi \*
- **"Super Vinamotor"** (Je suis bien content) by Stéphanie Lansaue & François Leroy \*

It is interesting to note that the most famous directors (Arthur de Pins, Benjamin Renner, Tomm Moore, Rémi Chayé, Jean-François Laguionie) attract most of the participants.

\* Animated films for adults, this year's big trend (33% of projects)

### **CARTOON GAMES & APPS: THE MEETING OF VIDEO GAMES AND ANIMATION**

In collaboration with Bordeaux Games, Pôle Image Magelis and CATS (Cluster Aquitain du Transmedia Storytelling), Cartoon organized the "Cartoon Games & Apps", which consists of matchmaking sessions of 20 minutes each between animation producers, transmedia & gaming professionals. These meetings took place to establish a new synergy between these two sectors. In the long term, it aims to encourage producers to bring game and transmedia partners at the same EARLY stage as the co-producer and the distributor in the process of a feature film.

This year, 43 video game representatives (Ubisoft, ShinyPix who created "Robinson Crusoe" game, FrameOver, Remote Control Productions, Waveor, Solidanim who created "Cafard" game..) from Germany, Belgium, Spain and France, and around 61 European animation producers met during more than 300 meetings.

### **CARTOON MOVIE TRIBUTES 2017**

During the 19<sup>th</sup> Cartoon Movie, participants voted for the winners of the Cartoon Tributes 2017: the awards for outstanding contribution to the development of European animation over the last year. Considered one of European animation most prestigious rewards, the winners are:

**Director of the Year: Claude Barras** (Switzerland) for his long feature **"My Life as a Courgette"**.

The other nominees were: Michael Dudok de Wit (the Netherlands) for the film "The Red Turtle" and Jean-François Laguionie (France) for "Louise by the Shore".

**Distributor of the Year: Angel Films** (Denmark) - distributor in Scandinavian countries of "My Life as a Courgette", "Phantom Boy", "Ernest & Celestine", "Pinocchio", "Tad, The Lost Explorer".

The other nominees were: MUBI (United Kingdom) and Urban Distribution International (France).

**Producers of the Year: Rita productions** (Switzerland), **Blue Spirit Productions & Gebeka Films** (France) for "My Life as a Courgette".

The other nominees were: Knudsen & Streuber Medienmanufaktur, Ulysses Filmproduktion (Germany), Walking The Dog (Belgium), Melusine Productions (Luxembourg) & Den Siste Skilling (Norway) for "Richard the Stork" and Lupus Films & Melusine Productions (United Kingdom/Luxembourg) for "Ethel & Ernest".

### **SPOTLIGHT ON "FLANDRIENS OF ANIMATION"**

As we did at Cartoon Forum, Cartoon Movie put a specific region in the spotlight. The first region to go under the full glare of the media was **Flanders**, which has become increasingly active and is very creative in the field of animation.

Flemish animation producers play an important role in international co-productions, adding their drive to Oscar-nominated films such as "The Triplets of Belleville", "The Secret of Kells", and "A Cat in Paris". The region has 22 animation production companies, 10 of which have their own studios. They released 11 animated features and 12 series in 2013-16, including minority co-productions, and have 25 more animated features and 30 series in the pipeline for 2017-18.

On the strength of its eight selected projects this year (including 5 in co-production), Flemish animation appeared as a constant thread throughout Cartoon Movie: presentations of Flemish studios during Croissant Shows, Farewell Cocktail with famous Flemish chocolates, beers & tasty Belgian fries, ...

Out of its eight selected projects, six were particularly successful: "**Charlotte**" (Les Productions Balthazar/Walking The Dog), "**The Siren**" (Les films d'Ici/Lunanime), "**Crazy Island**" (Grid Animation), "**Fox and Hare Save the Forest**" (Submarine/Walking The Dog), "**HUMP**" (MovieBrats Pictures/Walking The Dog) and "**Canaan**" (Tondo/Tarantula/Superprod) directed by Jan Bultheel ("Cafard").

### **About Cartoon Movie**

Since 1999, over 275 films pitched at Cartoon Movie, with a total budget of 1.9 billion Euros, have secured their financing and have been released thanks to this annual forum aimed at strengthening the production and distribution of animated feature films in Europe.

*Cartoon Movie is organised by CARTOON with the support of Creative Europe - MEDIA, CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée), Bordeaux Metropole, the city of Bordeaux and Pôle Image Magelis.*

**Next Cartoon Movie will take place from 7 to 9 March 2018 in Bordeaux.**

**Cartoon Movie Director:**

Annick Maes - [annick.maes@cartoon-media.eu](mailto:annick.maes@cartoon-media.eu) - Tel: (+32) (0)2 242 93 43

**International press:**

Gerardo Michelin - [gerardo@latindie.com](mailto:gerardo@latindie.com) - Tel: (+34) (630) 57 22 68

**French press:**

Nathalie Collin - [nathalie.collin@coklicotcommunication.fr](mailto:nathalie.collin@coklicotcommunication.fr) - Tel: (+33) (0)6 50 91 93 37

**Images**

**The list of selected projects** can be found at this link:

<http://www.cartoon-media.eu/cartoon-movie-event/cartoon-movie-2017/discover-the-projects-1.htm>

**Pictures of the event:**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/35940214@N05/albums/72157680776838666>

*To download a picture, click on it, then click on the arrow on the bottom right and you can download the size you want.*

Copyright: © CARTOON