



## **FRENCH AND BELGIAN ANIMATION RECOGNISED IN THE CARTOON TRIBUTES**

**Bordeaux, 5 March 2020.** Once again, European animation professionals have paid tribute to the protagonists of the year with the presentation of the Cartoon Tributes, the awards that recognise the work of European animation professionals. Created in 2001, these awards are granted annually by Cartoon Movie.

Announced on Thursday 5 March, the winners in each of the three categories -European Director, Distributor, and Producer of the Year- were voted by the participants at Cartoon Movie, the pitching and co-pro forum for animated feature films that ends today in the French city of Bordeaux.

Two of the three prizes went to France, and Belgium took the third one. Among the winners there are some of the most relevant award-winning films over the past year, as well as companies that have substantially contributed to the development of the European animation industry.

### **DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR: Zabou Breitman & Éléa Gobbé-Mévellec for “The Swallows of Kabul” (France).**

This film is an adaptation of Yasmina Khadra’s literary fiction set in a Taliban-occupied Kabul. Actress and director Breitman first animated feature, and Gobbé-Mévellec first feature film as a director was premiered in Cannes’ Un Certain Regard in 2019, and awarded at the Annecy Film Festival the same year. Produced by Les Armateurs, the film is a coproduction between France, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Monaco.

### **DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR: Lumière (Belgium)**

Lumière Group started to work in 1996 in Bruges as an exhibitor. In 2003, they got into the distribution business in Benelux with a wide catalogue of European films such as “I Lost my Body”, “Funan”, “Phantom Boy” and “Joseph”.

**PRODUCER OF THE YEAR: Xilam Animation (France) / Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Cinéma (France) for "I Lost my Body"** by Jérémy Clapin. Founded in 1999 by Marc du Pontavice, Xilam is a production company specialising in family-oriented, audiovisual and multimedia content. Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Cinéma is the regional film fund for feature films in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. "Mia and the Migoo", "A Cat in Paris", "Phantom Boy", and "My Life as a Courgette" are some of the films recently supported by the fund.

The rest of the nominees in each category were:

Director of the Year: Frank Mosvold & Atle Blakseth for "Ella Bella Bingo" (Norway), and Sergio Pablos for "Klaus" (Spain).

Distributor of the Year: Filmin (Spain), Les Films du Préau (France), and Outsider Films (Portugal).

Producer of the Year: Atom Art (Latvia) / Letko (Poland) for "Jacob, Mimmi and the Talking Dogs" by Edmunds Jansons, Prima Linea Productions / France 3 Cinéma / Pathé (France) for "The Bears' Famous Invasion" film directed by Lorenzo Mattotti, and Trickstudio Lutterbeck (Germany) / Balance Film (Germany) / Doghouse Films (Luxembourg) / Artémis Productions (Belgium) / MAUR film (Czech Republic) for "Fritzi - A Revolutionary Tale" by Ralf Kukula & Matthias Bruhn.

Photos of the winners and the event available during the event on CARTOON's album at Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/35940214@N05/albums/72157713348779491>

### **About Cartoon Movie**

Since 1999, 365 films have been financially supported by CARTOON MOVIE with a total budget of 2.4 billion euros. Cartoon Movie is an annual forum aimed at strengthening the production and distribution of animated feature films in Europe organised by CARTOON with the support of Creative Europe - MEDIA, CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée), Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Bordeaux Metropole, Invest Nouvelle-Aquitaine, the City of Bordeaux and le Pôle Image Magelis.

CARTOON – European Association of Animation Film is an international non-profit association based in Brussels that organises Cartoon Movie, together with Cartoon Forum, a co-production forum for animated TV series, and Cartoon Masters training seminars.

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