



PRESS RELEASE
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EUROPEAN ANIMATION FILMS COME TO LIFE IN LYON

Cartoon Movie, the European pitching event for animation films, took place in Lyon last week with more than 750 participants from 34 different countries. Organised by CARTOON, the 17th edition of this professional forum was the ideal platform to know the current state of European animation as well as to boost 60 new projects marked by a wide variety of genres and production quality. The projects in concept - one third of the event's line-up - have caught the attention of more than 200 buyers and investors present at Cartoon Movie, showing a growing interest in discovering new projects in an early stage.

BUZZ FILMS AND TRENDS

Gathering up to 300 participants, the pitching sessions got a full house. The most attended projects were the following: "My Life as a Zucchini" (FR/SW), "The Swallows of Kabul" (FR), "The Jungle Bunch" (FR), "The Army of Rabbits" (FR/ SW/BE), "Young Perez" (FR/SW), "Beausoleil" (FR), "Unstable" (UK/FR), "Musketeers of the Tsar" (FR), "The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily" (FR/IT), "Pachamama" (FR)...

The project of Claude Barras "**My Life as a Zucchini**" already presented as project in development in 2012, unveiled this year its first pictures. Animated in motion capture, this children's movie is played by children (characters in plasticine) and performed by children (for voice). Laughs, lots of emotions and ultimately long applause, this film has definitely created a buzz on the first day of Cartoon Movie and we are looking for its release at the end of the year. This Franco-Swiss co-production shot entirely in the Pôle Pixel Studio in Lyon.

Another film that made the buzz: "**The Swallows of Kabul**", the new project of Les Armateurs that will be directed by French actress and director Zabou Breitman. She presented her new film at Cartoon Movie with Elea-Gobbé Mevellec, the film's graphic designer. A real complicity between them was observed during their pitch. This film will be an adaptation of the novel by Yasmina Khadra.

Participants had also the chance to have a sneak preview of "**Cafard**" before sending its application off to the Cannes Film Festival. This feature film by Belgium's director Jan Bultheel is a coproduction between Tondo (Belgium), Superprod (France), Topkaki Films (The Netherlands) and Tarantula (Belgium). It is a very human and very moving adult film about the First World War, which relates a new episode of the Great War in an astonishing drawing style that will stand out.

Novelty in the European animation: more and more successful series being turned into feature films. In Lyon, two projects were presented in development: "**The Jungle Bunch**" (TAT productions), which recently received the Emmy Kids Award in New York and "**Vic the Viking – The Movie**" (Studio 100 Animation).

Moreover, another trend continues: a greater number of fiction and documentary producers are attracted by animation. They presented projects at Cartoon Movie such as Mysteo (with Les Armateurs for "The Swallows of Kabul"), Explicit Films ("Young Perez"), Est Ouest Films ("Musketeers of the Tsar"), Mozaic Productions ("Hoodoo"), Moteur S'il Vous Plaît Production ("Beausoleil"), Les Films d'Ici ("Mister Wu"), Les Contes Modernes ("The Tower"), among others.

Explicit Films, producer of the project "**Young Perez**" announced in Lyon during the Cartoon Movie, that the Mikros Image Group will join their project for the making of the film. On this occasion, they showed new images of their project, beautiful drawings of Franck Van Leeuwen.

MAPPING OF THE ANIMATION INDUSTRY

Cartoon Movie 2015 was also the framework for some important announcements like the implementation of a research project to map out the landscape of the animation industry in Europe initiated and financed by the CREATIVE EUROPE - MEDIA Programme of the European Union. The European Audiovisual Observatory will undertake this study with the help of CARTOON and the Annecy - based City of moving images - CITIA. The first results will be presented at Mifa and the final survey at the end of 2015.

CARTOON GAMES: THE MEETING OF VIDEO GAMES AND ANIMATION

For the fourth consecutive year, CARTOON and Imaginove, the competitiveness cluster of digital content in Rhône-Alpes, organized CARTOON GAMES, an initiative aimed at fostering collaboration between animation producers and video-game developers. 42 video game representatives from Belgium, Germany, France, Spain and the United Kingdom, along with 31 animation producers met during more than 500 meetings. The aim is to encourage the players of both worlds to multiply opportunities for cooperation between animation and video games.

Examples of collaborations created thanks to Cartoon Games:

- "Oops! Noah is gone..." by directors Toby Genkel and Sean Mc Cormack
The creation of a video game from the film came about following the meeting of a video game company, Mimimi Productions, during Cartoon Games.
- "Dofus - Book 1" by Jean-Jacques Denis & Anthony Roux
Dofus - Book 1 is a feature film version of the video game.
- "Asphalt" by Raphaël Penasa
Fauns, a Lyon-based video game company, is going to produce its first feature film.

CARTOON MOVIE TRIBUTES 2015

During the 17th Cartoon Movie, participants voted the winners of the Cartoon Tributes 2015, the awards for outstanding contribution to the development of European animation over the last year. Considered one of the European animation's most prestigious prizes, the winners are:

Directors of the Year: Mark Burton and Richard Starzak for "Shaun the Sheep" (United Kingdom). Produced by Aardman Animations and financed and distributed by StudioCanal, the film is based on the television series and opened Cartoon Movie 2015.

Sales Agent of the Year: INDIE SALES (France), a Paris-based international feature film sales & co-productions company, which specialises in commercial independent projects.

Producer of the Year: TeamTO (France) for "Yellowbird", the first animated feature film produced by this studio-based in Paris. Directed by Christian De Vita the film was presented at Cartoon Movie.

The Rhône-Alpes Region also awarded the prize for **Personality of the Year in Rhône-Alpes** to Patrick Eveno and Mickaël Marin, in charge of The Annecy International Animation Film Festival and its Market (Mifa), which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and gathers together more than 7,000 professionals every year. With this prize, the Rhône-Alpes Region wishes to highlight regional animation talents that are the pride of this region, which is especially dynamic in the area of the animation.

About CARTOON MOVIE

The 17th edition of Cartoon Movie was organised with the support of Creative Europe – MEDIA Programme of the European Union, CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée), the Rhône-Alpes Region, la Métropole de Lyon and in collaboration with the Imaginove cluster (Lyon). Since 1990, over 229 films pitched at Cartoon Movie, with a total budget of 1.6 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.

Next Cartoon Movie will take place from **2 to 4 March 2016**.

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IMAGES

For images in high resolution on the event, please logon to

<http://www.cartoon-media.eu/cartoon-movie-event/cartoon-movie-2015/press-1.htm>

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Pictures of the event:

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