



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 (+5% compared to 2015) from 40 different countries, with 241 buyers including 120 distributors and sales agents. Organised by CARTOON, the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of this professional forum was the ideal platform to assess the current state of European animation whilst boosting 56 new projects featuring a wide variety of genres and production techniques. Thanks to their originality, the projects in concept always attract great interest.

### BUZZ FILMS AND TRENDS

During these two days, the pitching sessions got a full house.

The 22 projects presented as project in concept created great enthusiasm gathering up to 300 participants at some sessions like "**Canaan**" (Tondo Films) by Jan Bultheel who brightly uses motion capture like in his film "Cafard", "**A childhood of Martha Jane Canary**" (Maybe Movies) by Rémi Chayé which refers to the historical character of Calamity Jane, "**The Siren**" (Les Films d'Ici); "**A Skeleton Story**" (MAD Entertainment) by Alessandro Rak (director of "The Art of Happiness", Best European Animated Feature Film at EFA 2014); "**Ada & Alex**" (Copenhagen Bombay), the newest project of Esben Toft Jacobsen (director of "The Great Bear", "Beyond Beyond"); ...

For projects in development and in production, the titles which attracted the most buyers to the pitching sessions were:

- "**Tulip**", the latest project by Folimage (France) and Lunanime (Belgium), directed by Alain Gagnol and Jean-Loup Felicioli, both directors of "A Cat in Paris" released in 2010 and nominated for an Oscar in 2012 and "Phantom Boy" released in October 2015
- "**Moustique, Cigale & Cambriole**" by Cédric Babouche, produced by Dandeloo (France)
- "**The Journey of the Elephant Soliman**" by Sandor Jesse, produced by Studio88 Werbe-und Trickfilm and Film-und Fernseh-Labor Ludwigsburg (Germany)
- "**The Boy in the Bubble**" by Kealan O'Rourke. Prod: Igloo Films (Ireland)

- "**Louise in the Winter**", upcoming film by Jean-François Laguionie produced by JPL Films (France) and Unité Centrale (Canada)
- "**Tistou of the Green Thumbs**" produced by Finalement (France) and Walking the Dog (Belgium). Adapted from the artwork of Maurice Druon, it is written by Amandine Taffin, author of the feature film "Le Jour des Corneilles" and Bruno Podalydès and will be directed by David Berthier.
- "**Even Mice Belong in Heaven**" by Jan Bubeníček and Denisa Grimmová. Prod: Fresh Films (Czech Republic) and Les Films du Cygne (France)
- "**Next Door Spy**" by Karla von Bengtson. Prod: Copenhagen Bombay (Denmark)
- "**Loving Vincent**" which brings the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh to life, directed by Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman; and produced by Oscar winning film companies Breakthru Films (Poland) and Trademark Films (United Kingdom) for "Peter & the Wolf" in 2008 (nominee for the Cartoon d'Or 2007). In production, "Loving Vincent" is already pre-sold in more than 10 territories.
- "**Second Generation**", an adaptation of the novel of the famous Israeli author Michel Kichka directed by Xavier Picard & Vera Belmont. Prod: STEPHAN FILMS & PMMP (France)
- "**Heart of Darkness**", a fiction inspired on Joseph Conrad's novels representing Rio de Janeiro in the near future by Films d'Ici (France)

Participants also enjoyed the presence of several **new SVOD platforms** such as Sofa Digital (Brazil), Cinema Uno (Mexico), Under The Milky Way (Spain), ... as well as the participation of three Korean distributors.

New this year: **one Canadian project** has been presented at Cartoon Movie in order to expand the collaboration established at Cartoon Connection Canada. "**Amoeba**" (House of Cool) has been selected by several European broadcasters present in October 2015: CBBC-BBC Children's UK, France Télévisions, Walt Disney UK, YLE Finland, Channel 5 - milkshake! UK and Canal+ France.

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

For the fifth consecutive year, CARTOON and Imaginove, the competitiveness cluster of digital content in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, organized CARTOON GAMES, an initiative aimed at fostering collaboration between animation producers and video-game developers. 47 video game representatives from Belgium, Germany, France and Spain, along with 27 animation producers met during more than 300 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:**

- "Asphalt" by Raphaël Penasa  
Fauns, a Lyon-based video game company, is going to produce its first feature film.
- "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: Julith" by Jean-Jacques Denis & Anthony Roux  
Dofus - Book 1: Julith is a feature film version of the video game.

## CARTOON MOVIE TRIBUTES 2016

During the 18<sup>th</sup> Cartoon Movie, participants voted the winners of the Cartoon Tributes 2016, 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:

**Director of the Year: Rémi Chayé** (France) for "Long Way North" (Audience Award, Annecy 2015 – France & Young Public Award, Anima 2016 – Brussels) released in January 2016 in France.

The other nominees were: Jan Bultheel (Belgium) nominated for his first long feature "Cafard" who uses motion capture like in his new project "Canaan" and Michael Ekblad, Ted Sieger & Matthias Bruhn (Germany) for the film "Ted Sieger's Molly Monster – The Movie".

**Distributor of the Year: SF Film**, a Danish distribution company buying mainly for theatrical release and DVD. During 2014, the company distributed European films: "Emil & Ida from Lønneberg", "Pettersson & Findus" and "Postman Pat". In 2015, they released "Paddington", "Shaun the Sheep", "Song of the Sea" & "Asterix". In addition, SF Film has recently launched a new SVOD platform: SF Play Kids.

The other nominees were: BIR Film (Turkey) and La Belle Company (France).

**Producers of the Year: Ulysses Filmproduktion** (Germany), **Fabrique d'images** (Luxembourg), **Grid Animation** (Belgium) & **Moetion Films** (Ireland) for "Oops! Noah is gone...", worldwide sales and always available on the big screen with nearly 521,000 admissions in France.

The other nominees were: MAD Entertainment (Italy) for "The Art of Happiness" and "Cinderella the Cat" and Ankama Animations (France) for "Dofus – Book 1: Julith" (they presented their second film "Mutafukaz" at Cartoon Movie 2016).

## About CARTOON MOVIE

The 18<sup>th</sup> edition of Cartoon Movie is organised with the support of Creative Europe - MEDIA, CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée), Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, Greater Lyon Metropole and in collaboration with the Imaginove cluster (Lyon). Since 1999, over 257 films pitched at Cartoon Movie, with a total budget of 1.8 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 8 to 10 March 2017.**

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## Images

**For images on high resolution** on the event, please log on to

<http://www.cartoon-media.eu/home/press-login.htm>

(Password: cmlyon2016)

**Pictures of the event:**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/35940214@N05/sets/72157664926913892>

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