



Press release
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The main protagonists of European animation nominated for Cartoon Movie Tributes 2016

- Directors of "Ted Sieger's Molly Monster - The Movie", "Cafard" and "Long Way North", among the nominees.
- Over 750 sector professionals will select the winners in the French city of Lyon on 4th March.
- New opus of nWave "Robinson Crusoe" chosen to open CARTOON MOVIE 2016.

CARTOON MOVIE, pitching and co-production event for animated features, has announced the finalists for Cartoon Tributes 2016, the awards for outstanding contribution to the development of European animation over the last year. Divided into three categories – Director, Distributor and Producer of the Year – this year's Cartoon Tributes bring together the best of the latest European animated features as well as some of the continent's most active companies within the industry. Over 750 professionals attending Cartoon Movie will be in charge of selecting the winners who will be announced in Lyon, France on 4th March.

European Director of the Year

Michael Ekblad, Ted Sieger & Matthias Bruhn (Germany) are nominated in the category "European Director of the Year" for the film "Ted Sieger's Molly Monster – The Movie" that opened latest Kinderfilmfestival at Berlinale 2016 and that will be presented as completed film at Cartoon Movie.

Jan Bultheel (Belgium) is nominated for his first long feature "Cafard" who brightly uses motion capture like his new project in concept "Canaan" (Cartoon Movie 2016).

The third nominee is **Rémi Chayé** (France) for "Long Way North" (Audience Award, Annecy 2015 – France & Young Public Award, Anima 2016 – Brussels) released in January 2016 in France. This year, Rémi Chayé will present "A Childhood of Martha Jane Canary" which refers to the historical character of Calamity Jane.

European Distributor of the Year

Three companies will compete for "**European Distributor of the Year**": the Turkish company **BIR Film**, responsible for the launch of "Little Dragon Coconut", "Raven the Little Rascal - The Big Race", "Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea", "Persepolis", "The Painting", "Freddy Frogface", "Marco Macaco". BIR Film also represents all of Studio Ghibli titles in Turkey.

The company will compete with **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".

The third nominee, **La Belle Company**, is a Paris-based company, which is among the top 20 French distributors. They distributed with great success "Maya the Bee" and they are currently distributing "Loving Vincent" (presented at Cartoon Movie 2016).

European Producer of the Year

The shortlist for "**European Producer of the Year**" includes Italy's **MAD Entertainment** for "The Art of Happiness" and "Cinderella the Cat" (the professionals will discover this year their new project in concept A Skeleton Story); Germany/Luxembourg/Belgium/Ireland's **Ulysses Filmproduktion, Fabrique d'images, Grid Animation & Moetion Films** for "Oops! Noah is gone...", worldwide sales and always available on the big screen with nearly 521,000 admissions in France ; and France's **Ankama Animations** for "Dofus – Book 1: Julith".

"Robinson Crusoe", opening film at Cartoon Movie 2016

Cartoon Movie 2016 opens its doors on Wednesday, March 2 with the screening of "Robinson Crusoe".

Directed by Vincent Kesteloot, this 100% Belgian animated film (in CGI and Stereoscopic 3D) tells the adventures of the famous castaway and was produced by Ben Stassen in his Brussels-based studio nWave ("Fly Me to the Moon" (2008) or "Sammy's Adventures" I & II, ...).

As film for general public, "Robinson Crusoe" will be released in eighty countries (1,500 cinemas in the United States) and dedicated the success of Ben Stassen and his studio founded in 1994.

On a tiny exotic island, Tuesday, an outgoing parrot lives with his quirky animal friends in paradise. However, Tuesday can't stop dreaming about discovering the world. After a violent storm, Tuesday and his friends wake up to find a strange creature on the beach: Robinson Crusoe. Tuesday immediately views Crusoe as his ticket off the island to explore new lands. Likewise, Crusoe soon realizes that the key to surviving on the island is through the help of Tuesday and the other animals...

About CARTOON MOVIE

For this edition, 56 projects have been selected. More than 750 animated feature film producers, investors, distributors, sales agents, video game companies and new media players from 40 countries of Europe and beyond will come in Lyon that will become the European capital of animation film.

The 18th 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.

About CARTOON

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, Cartoon Master training seminars and Cartoon Connection, a programme intended to explore ways of reinforcing cooperation between EU and non-EU animation professionals.

Cartoon Movie Director:

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

Press:

Gerardo Michelin - gerardo@latindie.com - T: (+34) (630) 57 22 68

More information about Cartoon Movie 2016 and the selected projects at:

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

For images on high resolution on the event, please log on to <http://www.cartoon-media.eu/home/press-login.htm>

(Password: cmlyon2016)