



Press release
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The nominees for Cartoon Tributes 2015

- Directors of "Moomins on the Riviera", "The Song of the Sea" and "Shaun the Sheep" among the nominees.
- Over 700 sector professionals will select the winners in the French city of Lyon on 6th March.
- New opus of Aardman Animations "Shaun the Sheep" chosen to open CARTOON MOVIE 2015.

CARTOON MOVIE, pitching and co-production event for animated features, has announced the finalists for Cartoon Tributes 2015, 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 700 professionals attending Cartoon Movie will be in charge of selecting the winners who will be announced in Lyon, France on 6th March.

Xavier Picard is nominated in the category "**European Director of the Year**" for the film "Moomins on the Riviera". Adaptation of a famous cartoon by Tove Jansson and Lars Jansson, the film is a co-production of the Finnish company Handle Productions and the French company Pictak.

Other nominees in this category are **Tomm Moore** for "Song of the Sea" (Ireland / Luxembourg / Belgium / France / Denmark) nominated for Oscars in 2015 - his first feature film "The Secret of Kells" was also nominated for an Oscar in 2009 - and **Mark Burton and Richard Starzak** for "Shaun the Sheep" (United Kingdom), the opening film of CARTOON MOVIE 2015 on 4th March.

Three companies will compete for "**European Distributor of the Year**": **INDIE SALES**, a Paris-based international feature film sales & co-productions company, which specialises in commercial independent projects. INDIE SALES' current line-up includes "Moomins on the Riviera", "My Life as a Zucchini" and "DOFUS - Book I".

Since 2009, **Agora Films** has been releasing one animation film per year for the Christmas holidays and buys all rights for Switzerland. In 2009, they released "Eleanor's Secret" in 2010

"A Cat in Paris", in 2011 "The Painting" by Jean-François Laguionie and in 2012 "The Day of the Crows" by Jean-Christophe Dessaint. The next movie will be "Phantom Boy".

Global Screen is a joint venture between Bavaria Film and Telepool for sales & distribution of theatrical and TV programming outside of German-speaking territories such as "Oops! Noah is gone...", "Niko 1 and 2", "Legends of Valhalla - Thor", "Marnie's World", among others.

The shortlist for "**European Producer of the Year**" includes France's **TeamTO** for "Yellowbird"; Spain's **Zeta Cinema** for "Mortadelo & Filemon. Mission: implausible", winner of the Goya 2015 for the Best Animated Feature Film - the first two adventures of "Mortadelo & Filemon" raised 30 million EUR together; and Germany's **Studio 100 MEDIA** for "Maya the Bee - The Movie", Studio 100 MEDIA also co-produces "Vic the Viking - The Movie".

Along with these prizes, the Rhône-Alpes Region will award a special Tribute to highlight regional animation talents.

Aardman's "Shaun the Sheep" to open the 17th edition of Cartoon Movie

Cartoon Movie 2015 opens its doors on Wednesday, March 4 with the screening of "Shaun the Sheep" in the presence of its directors: Mark Burton and Richard Starzak.

"Shaun the Sheep" is the new opus of Aardman Animations, producer of "Wallace and Gromit" and "Chicken Run", among other famous films.

"Shaun the Sheep", discovered in the Oscar-winning short film "Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave" became the most famous sheep through his adventures on television in over 170 countries.

Because of all the silly things of Shaun does, the farmer is going to be taken far away from the farm and Shaun, Bitzer and all the flock will have to face the big city in order to rescue him. An epic adventure to watch this time on the big screen from April 1, 2015 in France.

About CARTOON MOVIE

The 17th edition of Cartoon Movie is 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 1.5 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.

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