



Press release

Toulouse, 21 September 2016

Animated Series showcase excellence at this year's Cartoon Forum

For the 5th consecutive year, the French city of Toulouse hosted the 27th edition of Cartoon Forum, the co-production platform for European animation series that has fast-tracked European animation to the front row.

Following 26 editions now, 680 projects have been funded for a total amount of 2.3 billion euros.

A record participation

This is a record year for Cartoon Forum which goes from strength to strength with a 5% increase in participation. 22 countries presented their projects to participants from 38 countries which included **950 producers, investors, broadcasters, buyers, SVoD platforms** such as Netflix, Hopster TV, Toon Goggles, ... thus accelerating synergies between the many protagonists of the animation industry. The number of participants is increasing since Cartoon Forum was established in Toulouse: 10% in 2 years and 45% in 5 years. 600 people were present simultaneously in the 3 pitching rooms, for the first time in 27 editions.

The **80 pitched projects** highlighted a great diversity of genres and graphics. The overall level of quality is increasing continuously.

France was once again very present in the top 10 presentations that have aroused keen interest: "Kung Fu Brothers" (Millimages), "RUNES" (Les Armateurs), "Mr. Magoo" (Xilam Animation), "Enchanted Sisters" (Cyber Group Studios), "Vanille" (Folimage Studio), ...

Other highlights were the Belgian projects "Sir Mouse" (Fabrique Fantastique) and "BaDaBoo" (Creative Conspiracy); Germany's "The Muscleteers" (Caligari Film- und Fernsehproduktion); British "The Day Trippers" (Baby Cow Animation) and "Boogaloo and Graham" (Sixteen South).

As part of the Cartoon Connection Awards, **one Canadian project** ("Snowsnaps" from CarpeDiem) and **three Korean projects** ("Tori and Her Hair" by Tori Design, "Bellboy Luke" by Anzac and "Slow Slow Sloth NEUL" by J.Bugs which has generated much interest) were presented at Cartoon Forum 2016 in order to expand collaborations initiated at Cartoon Connection Canada and Asia.

Shaking up more traditional programmes, **young adult projects** carved out a nice audience for themselves, with "The Wind-Ups" by Leonstudio (Spain)/Autour de Minuit (France), "Love, Passion and a Pontiac Bonneville" by Pixies Cinema (France) and "Manivald and the Absinthe Rabbits" by Chintis Lundgreni Animatsioonistuudio (Estonia)/Adriatic Animation (Croatia), ...

These three projects had many participants in their pitching rooms, most of them young adults. This demonstrates that there is an audience for this kind of projects. Linear broadcasters who do not provide slots for this audience yet would do well to reflect on why their adult audience deserts television.

As every year, **leading studios** were present (Folimage, JAM Media, Cyber Group Studios, Kavaleer, Xilam Animation, ... amongst others) and have to face the upcoming **generation** who presented projects packed with originality and audacity such as "Toby Alone" by Tant Mieux Prod (France) (they brilliantly succeeded with "Mr. Carton" at Forum 2015), "Mouse Mansion" by Zooper Film (Germany)/Rubinstein Pictures (Netherlands)/Grid Animation (Belgium), "Ernest & Rebecca" by Media Valley (France), "The Three Little Super Pigs" by Fourth Wall Creative (United-Kingdom), ...

And of course, all the **major buyers** attended the Cartoon Forum - including France Télévisions, The Walt Disney Company, Super RTL, CANAL+, BBC Children, KI.KA, TF1, Lagardère Active, NRK, M6, TVC, ZDF, LTV, Nickelodeon, RTÉ, SVT, Sky UK, ...

Cartoon d'Or and Cartoon Tributes

The Cartoon d'Or, the award for best European animated short film, went to the French film "**Yùl and the Snake**" by Gabriel Harel (his first short film was produced by Kazak Productions).

For the Cartoon Tributes (the professional awards given to broadcasters, investors/distributors and producers who have made a active contribution to the European TV animation industry), the French won 2 awards: Broadcaster of the Year for **M6** and Producer of the Year for **Autour de Minuit**.

Investor/Distributor of the Year went to British distributor **Cake Entertainment**.

Spotlight on Ireland!

For the first time, Cartoon Forum was putting the spotlight on a country. Ireland, very active and creative in animation, was chosen as the first country to go under the full glare of the media.

Ireland boasts 23 animation studios (1.600 full time staff) and has signed 65 international co-productions.

This flourishing sector now accounts for one-third of the country's audio-visual industry, and production activity is increasing every year.

Irish animation studios are working with some of the biggest names in global broadcasting - including Disney, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network and the BBC - making animated series that are shown to millions of children all over the world every week. In recent years, Irish animation has been nominated for every major international awards, including Academy Awards, BAFTAs, Emmys and Annies. Underpinning the sector's competitiveness in a global landscape is the Irish tax incentive (tax credit of 32%) for film and television.

Irish animation appeared as a constant thread throughout Cartoon Forum: presentations of Irish studios during Croissant Shows, Irish Farewell Dinner & Party , ...

Out of its eight selected projects, five were particularly successful: "Snoozeville" (JAM Media), "Creepers" (Giant Animation), "Alva & the Trolls" (Kavaleer Productions), "Peek Zoo" (Igloo Films) and "Zombabies" (Keg Kartoonz).

Coaching Programme and Cartoon Springboard prepare the next generation

For both activities, CARTOON encourages young talents to develop their own projects. The "Coaching Programme" is a training initiative to enlighten a group of students on the world of the animation industry and challenges related to project launches. This year, about seventy students and teachers attended the programme from six training schools in Toulouse with eight further students coming from two Irish schools.

From November 15 to 17, Cartoon Springboard will welcome many young European talents. They will have the opportunity to pitch their animation projects/concepts to a panel of experts who will advise them on how to improve their project to accelerate their access to the audiovisual and digital markets.

Moreover, three projects from Cartoon Springboard 2015 were presented at Cartoon Forum 2016: "Planet Z" by Pyjama Films (Finland), "The Wind-Ups" by Leonstudio (Spain) and "The Piracy of Princess Priceless" by Adriatic Animation (Croatia).

A public event "Les Toons débarquent!"

"Les Toons débarquent!" is a local initiative to promote cartoons in Toulouse and in the region for the general public and young people in particular. The 2016 edition ran from 9 to 17 September in Toulouse and will continue to run until 6 November in the Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée region.

Organised outside the Cartoon Forum, it proposed preview screenings of animated films in the presence of their director as well as a selection of short films made in the region. The complete family also enjoyed great animated films at open-air screenings in Toulouse. Moreover, school sessions throughout the week highlighted the heroes of the animated series born in Toulouse and in the region and introduced 2.000 children to the different animation techniques

<http://www.cultures.toulouse.fr/-/les-toons-debarquent->

About CARTOON FORUM

Created in 1990 to boost the co-production and distribution of European animation for television and new media platforms, Cartoon Forum has helped 680 animation series obtain financing to the tune of over 2.3 billion Euros.

The main partners of Cartoon Forum Toulouse are Creative Europe - MEDIA, CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée), Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, Mairie de Toulouse, Toulouse Métropole, Casino Barrière and France Télévisions.

*The next edition of Cartoon Forum will take place from **12 to 15 September 2017**.*

About CARTOON

CARTOON is an international non-profit association based in Brussels organising Cartoon Forum, along with Cartoon Movie, a co-production forum for feature-length animation; the 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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Images

The **list of selected projects** can be found at this link:

<http://www.cartoon-media.eu/cartoon-forum/cartoon-forum-2016/discover-the-projects-2016-1.htm>

Poster of the event and high-resolution stills of the projects available for downloading in the Press Area:

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

Password: cftoulouse2016

Pictures of the event:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/35940214@N05/sets/72157672515669771>

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