



NOMINEES FROM 10 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES RUNNING FOR CARTOON FORUM TRIBUTES 2023

Twelve companies from ten countries have been nominated for the Cartoon Forum Tributes 2023, which recognise the leading names in European animation over the current year. Broken down into three categories – Broadcaster, Investor/Distributor, and Producer of the Year – these awards will be voted by around 1,000 professionals attending Cartoon Forum, the European co-production forum for animated TV series that will be held in the city of Toulouse from 18-21 September. The diversity of this year's nominees, regarding both their profiles and the countries from which they hail, reflect the forward momentum of the animation industry across the continent.

Public broadcasters Lithuania's **LRT** and Portugal's **RTP**, Germany's commercial children channel **Super RTL**, and Central and Eastern Europe's children pay TV channel **Minimax** are nominated for the award in the Broadcaster of the Year category.

Meanwhile, selected candidates for the Investor/Distributor of the Year award are France's **APC Kids**, Spain's **DeAPlaneta Entertainment**, Ireland's **Monster Entertainment**, and UK's **Serious Kids**.

Finally, France's **Blue Spirit Productions** and **GO-N Productions** will run alongside with Finland's **Gigglebug Entertainment**, and Belgium's **Thuristar** for the Producer of the Year award. All four finalists in this category will be presenting their new projects at Cartoon Forum, confirming the role of this event as a launching pad for new series.

Seventy-seven TV series from 16 European countries – totalling a 398 million € budget and 479 hours of content – will be presented at this new edition of Cartoon Forum. Besides the pitching sessions, this year the event will be host to [Animated UK Meets Europe](#), an initiative to encourage co-productions between European and UK producers.

BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR

- **LRT - Lithuanian Radio and Television (Lithuania)**

Lithuania's public broadcaster LRT offers a wide range of content both through its free-to-air channels and its FVOD platform. Specifically aimed at pre-schoolers and school-goers, weekly programming block "Vaiku sekmadieniai" broadcasts animated and live-action series. LRT also supports the up-and-coming domestic animation production by co-producing series such as "BFF" and "Babookums".

- **Minimax (Central and Eastern Europe)**

Owned by AMC Networks International, Budapest-based Minimax is a pay television channel broadcasting in five languages throughout 11 Central and Eastern Europe countries. Launched in 1999, this 24/7 channel offers mostly non-violent programs for pre-schoolers and children.

- **RTP - Rádio e Televisão de Portugal (Portugal)**

Portuguese public broadcaster RTP offers content aimed at pre-schoolers and children under Zig Zag, a programming space broadcast daily through RTP's free-to-air channels and streaming platform Zig Zag Play. Largely focused on European content, RTP also plays an active role as co-producer in series developed by Portuguese animation studios such as "Mr. Passenger", "Crias", and "duArte, a Piece of Art".

- **Super RTL (Germany)**

RTL Group's Super RTL is the leading content provider for kids in Germany. Aimed at 3-5 pre-schoolers and 6-10 kids, Super RTL's umbrella brands – Toggo and Toggolino – feature their content via linear TV channels, streaming service, digital radio, and a variety of online platforms. About 70% of Super RTL's content is acquired, with the remaining 30% being commissioned.

INVESTOR/DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

- **APC Kids (France)**

Co-production and distribution company APC Studios' APC Kids features a growing portfolio of high-profile children's and family properties, including animated series "Kid-E-Cats", "DinoCity", "Galactic Agency", and "Fox and Hare", among others. APC Kids also houses its own production company Zephyr Animation.

- **DeAPlaneta Entertainment (Spain)**

Barcelona-based DeAPlaneta Entertainment acquires, produces, and distributes internationally recognised brands, including "Miraculous Ladybug", "Milo", and "Gormiti". The company's catalogue features everything from films, series, and

license products to live shows, sports competitions and, more recently, NFT development.

- **Monster Entertainment (Ireland)**

With a catalogue ranging from pre-school to adult animation, Dublin-based Monster Entertainment distributes its titles in more than 180 countries. “Tiny Toot”, “Fia’s Fairies”, and “Ollie” are some of the newest series in their line-up. The company is also involved in content production.

- **Serious Kids (United Kingdom)**

London-based distributor Serious Kids holds a high-quality IP portfolio featuring animated and live-action series for pre-schoolers, children, and family audiences. Established in 2011, this company distributes acclaimed series such as “Gigglebug”, “Messy Goes to Okido”, “Tulipop”, “Best & Bester”, “Flix”, and “Girls of Olympus”.

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

- **Blue Spirit Productions (France)**

Based in France and Canada, Blue Spirit Productions develops and produces original projects and adaptations for television and theatrical release. With a slate featuring over 80 hours of programming, the company has been involved as a producer in remarkable series as “Arthur and the Children of the Round Table”, as well as in award-winning films as “My Life as a Zucchini”. At Cartoon Forum 2023, they will be presenting “Gisele and her Little Monsters”.

- **Gigglebug Entertainment (Finland)**

Founded in 2013, Gigglebug Entertainment is an animation studio based in Helsinki that creates, develops, and produces children’s content. The pre-school series “Gigglebug” and the animated comedy “Best & Bester” are two of its most acclaimed titles. As for this year's Forum, they will be pitching the in-development series “A Super Epic Tadpole Journey to the Surface of Croak Creek”.

- **GO-N Productions (France)**

Paris-based animation producer and distributor GO-N Productions was established in 2004. Globally renowned both for its own productions and for its co-productions with renowned partners worldwide, the company is dedicated to the creation of high-quality animation for kids. “Simon Super Rabbit”, “Zip Zip”, and “Jasmin’s World” are some of the series by this company, that this year will be presenting “Annette, Apprentice Witch” at Cartoon Forum.

- **Thuristar (Belgium)**

Launched in Belgium in 2008, Thuristar is a production company and creative studio that develops, finances, and produces animated content. “Mush-Mush and the Mushables” – currently airing in 150+ countries – was their first global success. At Cartoon Forum 2023 they will be presenting the series “Luce in the Lovely Land”, in co-production with France’s La Cabane.

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 956 animation series obtain financing to the tune of 3,43 billion €.

The 34th Cartoon Forum is organised by CARTOON – European Association of Animation Film with the support of Creative Europe – MEDIA, the CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l’image animée), Région Occitanie, Mairie de Toulouse, Toulouse Métropole, Casino Barrière and France Télévisions.

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