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CARTOON FORUM TRIBUTES 2026 RECOGNISE KEY PLAYERS IN EUROPEAN ANIMATION AND INTRODUCE A NEW SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Cartoon Forum Tributes celebrate the dedication and creativity of key players in the European animation industry throughout the previous year. Ten companies from seven countries are competing in the Tributes' three established categories: **Broadcaster, Investor/Distributor and Producer of the Year**. The winners will be voted by Cartoon Forum participants, the industry professionals attending the European co-production forum for animated series, taking place in Toulouse, Occitanie, from September 14–17.

A fourth category, the **Ecoprod-Cartoon Tribute**, is being introduced in this edition to recognise a European animation production company or initiative that has made a significant contribution to advancing sustainability in the sector. The award is organised in partnership with Ecoprod, a non-profit organisation supporting the audiovisual industry's environmental transition through collaboration and practical solutions. It features three nominees, with the winner selected by Ecoprod.

The **Producer of the Year** nominees come from four European countries: **Bionaut** (Czech Republic), **Bobby Prod** (France), **Mago Production** (Spain) and **Melusine Studio** (Luxembourg). Their profiles range from established producers to studios focused on international co-production, independent European production and creative partnerships. All four have a track record at Cartoon Forum and are involved in current or recent projects presented at the event.

The French companies **Folivari International** and **Mediawan Kids & Family**, together with Germany's **Studio 100 International**, make up the three nominees in the **Investor/**

Distributor category. They represent different profiles within international distribution, from independent companies to international divisions of major groups, helping bring European animation and its co-productions to audiences worldwide. All three have links to Cartoon Forum through titles featured at the event.

The **Broadcaster** category brings together three public-service broadcasters from across Europe: **BBC (UK)**, **Sveriges Television (Sweden)** and **Südwestrundfunk (Germany)**. The three play an active role in commissioning, co-producing and acquiring children's and animated content. Their programming includes animated series presented at Cartoon Forum, highlighting the role of public broadcasters in supporting European animation and bringing it to audiences.

Finally, the three nominees selected by Ecoprod for the inaugural **Ecoprod-Cartoon Tribute** come from two countries: **Gao Shan Pictures** and **La Cabane Productions** from France, and **Cartoon Saloon** from Ireland.

THE NOMINEES

Producer of the Year

Bionaut is a Czech film and TV production company, founded in 1999, with a focus on fiction, documentary and animated films and series. Since 2015, its animation activities have been developed through Bionaut Animation, a dedicated label focused on animated content and international co-productions. Its Cartoon Forum track record includes projects such as *9 Million Colors*, *Hungry Bear Tales* and *Animalies*. This year, Bionaut returns as co-producer of *Scope of the Universe*, a Norwegian project by Løv Film.

France's **Bobby Prod** is an animation studio specialising in short-form animated series for adult audiences. Founded in 2008, the company has built a strong identity around irreverent humour and creative freedom. The company is also behind *The Broos*, which originated on TikTok and Instagram and was later developed as an animated series in co-production with ARTE France. The project joined the Cartoon Forum Coaching Programme in 2021 before being selected for Cartoon Forum 2024, showing how digital-first storytelling can reach new audiences.

Spain's **Mago Production** is a Barcelona-based animation company with extensive experience in 2D and 3D animated series, documentaries and films. The company has presented several projects at Cartoon Forum, including *Polinopolis*, *Limbo Ville* and *San Misterio*, among others, and returns this year with *Lily & Kyle*. It is also a co-producer of *Belzebubs*, a project presented at the event in 2020 and set for release this year.

Based in Luxembourg, **Melusine Studio** is an animation company with a long-standing focus on developing and producing films, TV series and hybrid documentaries. Since joining the Superprod Group in 2024, the company has expanded its international co-production activities while maintaining its focus on creative partnerships. Having presented *My Life in Versailles* and *The MiniWhats* in previous editions of Cartoon Forum, the company returns this year as co-producer of *Mebh and the Wolf Pups* and *The Otherness*.

Investor/Distributor of the Year

France's **Folivari International** is an independent sales agency bringing high-quality animated content to audiences worldwide. Founded in 2024, the company maintains a distinctive slate combining Folivari productions and third-party acquisitions. Its series line-up includes titles such as *Samuel*, *Pil's Adventures* and *Ted & Paula's Tadpole Journey*, all pitched at Cartoon Forum. Beyond traditional sales, Folivari International also develops transmedia strategies to expand the reach and impact of its titles.

France is also represented by **Mediawan Kids & Family**, the international sales division of Mediawan Group, which distributes premium kids and family content across more than 200 territories worldwide. Its catalogue comprises more than 2,500 half-hours of programming, including the global hit *Miraculous: Tales of Ladybug & Cat Noir*, as well as titles such as *The Little Prince & Friends*, *Ki & Hi in the Panda Kingdom* and *Witch Detectives*, all three of which were presented at Cartoon Forum.

Studio 100 International is the German international arm of Belgian Studio 100 Group, specializing in the global distribution and licensing of high-quality kids and family entertainment. The company works closely with broadcasters, platforms and distributors worldwide, while also engaging in brand rights licensing. Its portfolio includes well-known IPs such as *Maya the Bee* and *Mia and Me*, alongside recent additions such as *Louca*, *Mortina* and *Chill Out, Zeus!*, all of which have been showcased at Cartoon Forum.

Broadcaster of the Year

BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) is the UK's public-service broadcaster, with its children's services CBeebies and CBBC catering respectively to pre-school and school-age audiences. The BBC is a major commissioner and co-producer of children's animation, with a strong focus on original content and partnerships with independent production companies. It has been a long-standing presence at Cartoon Forum, where it has discovered European series for its programming slate, including *Duck & Frog*, *Maddie + Triggs*, *Piggy Builders*, *Pablo* and *Dungeons & Kittens*.

Sveriges Television (SVT) is Sweden's public-service broadcaster operating SVT Barn, a children's service aimed at audiences aged 2–9, focused on identification, values,

adventure, play and comedy. An active commissioner and co-producer of animated content, SVT Barn features European animated series presented at Cartoon Forum, including *Ormildur the Brave*, *BeddyByes*, *Team Nuggets* and *Tree & Bee*.

Part of the ARD network, **Sudwestrundfunk (SWR)** produces, co-produces and licenses children's and animated content, mainly for KiKA, the German public-service children's channel operated jointly by ARD and ZDF. Its regular programming includes series such as *Sir Mouse*, *Living with Dad*, *Lambs*, *Patchwork Pals* and *The Jungle Bunch*, all of which have been pitched at Cartoon Forum.

Ecoprod-Cartoon Tribute

France's **Gao Shan Pictures** is a production company and animation studio founded in 2014 in La Réunion. The company develops and produces bold, emotionally engaging animated feature films, series and short films, with a distinctive artistic approach. It has been involved in acclaimed features films and series such as *Jim Queen*, *In Waves* and *The Smurfs*. At Cartoon Forum 2026, the company will present *The Roots of My Hair*, a 2D animated series.

Ireland-based **Cartoon Saloon** is an animation studio founded in 1999 by Paul Young, Tomm Moore and Nora Twomey that has received multiple nominations for the Academy Awards, the Golden Globes, the BAFTAs and the Emmys. The studio has a long-standing relationship with Cartoon Forum, where it has presented series *Skunk Fu!*, *Silly Sundays* and *Natu Natu*. This year, it returns to the Forum with its new series *Mebh and the Wolf Pups*.

Another French company, **La Cabane Productions**, was founded in Paris in 2015 and develops, finances and produces animated content for film, TV and streaming platforms, with a focus on storytelling, visual development and music. Its productions include the International Emmy-nominated *Mush-Mush & the Mushables*. The company is working on *Luce and the Rock* and *The Wolf's Dinner*, both scheduled for 2027 release, and will present *Emma Makes Waves* at this edition of Cartoon Forum, co-produced with Belgium's Thuristar.

ABOUT CARTOON FORUM

Created in 1990 to boost the co-production and distribution of European animation across television and new media platforms, Cartoon Forum has helped 1,053 animation series obtain financing totalling more than €3.83 billion. Cartoon Forum 2026 is organised by CARTOON – European Association of Animation Film, with the support of Creative Europe – MEDIA, CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée), Région Occitanie, Mairie de Toulouse, Toulouse Métropole, Casino Barrière and France Télévisions (FTV).

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