PRESS RELEASE
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CARTOON SPRINGBOARD MADRID CONNECTS 22 NEW ANIMATION PROJECTS WITH THE INDUSTRY

Cartoon Springboard returns to Madrid for its fifth consecutive year, bringing together emerging animation talent from across Europe. From 4 to 6 November, 22 projects from 10 countries will be pitched at the Ateneo de Madrid to international industry professionals. Created by CARTOON in 2015 and considered a key gateway into the industry, the programme is aimed at students and young European talents who graduated from an animation school within the past five years. For industry professionals, the event offers an opportunity to discover emerging talent and projects at an early stage of development.

With a record 87 submissions, this year's selection is led by France with six projects, followed by Spain with five, Italy with three and Germany with two. Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Lithuania and the Netherlands are each represented by one project.

Young adults and adults are the main target audiences, accounting for 10 projects (45%), followed by children aged 6 to 11 with eight projects (36%), preschoolers with three (14%) and family audiences with one (5%). TV series make up the vast majority of the selection, with 17 projects, while the remaining five comprise three feature films and two web series.

Over the three-day programme, participants will receive feedback and practical advice from industry professionals. Networking activities will also provide opportunities to exchange ideas and build connections with other participants and professionals from across the industry.

Organised by CARTOON and co-funded by Creative Europe MEDIA with the support of the Community of Madrid, Cartoon Springboard takes place in a region that is home to more than 30% of Spain's animation and VFX companies. Through its Regional Office for Culture, Tourism and Sport, the Community of Madrid also supports the development

and production of animated series, short films and feature films through various initiatives.

The selection

The selection includes talent trained at Gobelins, Ecole des Nouvelles Images, Ecole Georges Méliès, La Poudrière and Institut Supérieur Couleur Image Design (France); Universitat Politècnica de València, BAU College of Arts and Design of Barcelona, UDIT - University of Design, Innovation and Technology, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and ECAM - Escuela de Cinematografía y del Audiovisual de la Comunidad de Madrid (Spain); Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and Politecnico di Torino (Italy); Hochschule Furtwangen (Germany); St. Joost School of Arts & Design (the Netherlands); Design and Animation School (Georgia); National Film School of Denmark (Denmark); Ballyfermot College of Further Education and Technological University of the Shannon (Ireland); and Drexel University (USA).

Spain, the host country, is represented by two feature films: ***Amalthea's Children***, by Estrella Vázquez, and ***The Windmill Boy***, by Olga Sanchis Terol; and three TV series: ***Kukeleku***, by Jelle Janssen, a Spain-Netherlands coproduction in concept; ***Rewind***, directed by Lyda Fernández Umbría and Lucía Pérez Domínguez; and ***Saltport***, by Nacho Laya, written by Daniel Coira and produced by Laura Pazienza Signo. Three of the five Spanish projects—*The Windmill Boy*, *Rewind* and *Saltport*—received support from the Community of Madrid to participate in the event.

Four projects were selected directly through various collaborations: ***Carlotta and the Magic Mountains*** (Cartoons on the Bay, Italy*)*, ***Feet in the Water*** (Magelis, France), ***Mighty Knighticorn*** (Animation Dingle & JAM Media, Ireland), and ***Very Dad Trip*** (Festival de Rennes / AFCA, France), while ***Climate Change, the End of the World, and Noelle*** and ***Very Dad Trip*** are participating with the support of SACD - Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques (France).

Five of the selected projects already have a production company on board for their development or production.

You can find the full list of selected projects at the following link.

Training & Development

Alongside the pitching sessions, Cartoon Springboard offers a programme featuring a masterclass and three keynotes on animation project development and production.

The director of **Martirio Films** and Emmy Award winner **James A. Castillo** will share his experience producing animation in Spain for the international market and developing his own feature film in *Every Act of Creation Has a Price*. **Federico Turani,** co-founder of **IBRIDO Studio (Italy)**, will discuss supporting new voices and creative proposals in *How to Produce Your Next Animation Project?* **Barbara Slade,** head of **Blue Arrow Productions (UK)**, will explore how to turn an idea into a strong series in *How to Develop a Great Animated Series?* Finally, **Janine Weigold,** former Strategic Media Leader at

Netflix and founder of **Weigoldmedia (Germany)**, will examine how projects can gain early recognition and reach audiences in *The First Yes: How Projects Find Their Way to an Audience*.

Cartoon Springboard's 12th edition will bring together 35 experts and speakers from 15 countries, with Agnès Bizzaro as Head of Content. The panels of experts include representatives of broadcasters and platforms, producers and key creatives, as well as professionals from distribution, sales and investment.

The programme will also include a **Special Screening** session offering an exclusive preview of eleven projects that took their first steps at Cartoon Springboard and have since continued their development through different CARTOON and industry events.

Finally, Cartoon Springboard will host **Connections Hub**, aimed at connecting participants with the Spanish animation industry. The initiative will feature presentations by seven companies from the region, which will showcase their work and the professional opportunities they offer, followed by a networking session with the young talent. The programme will also feature **One-to-One Meetings** of up to 20 minutes, bringing together young talent with producers, broadcasters and other industry professionals.

About Cartoon Springboard and CARTOON

Since its first edition in 2015, Cartoon Springboard has received 280 animation projects, 21 of which have been completed and more than 90 are currently in active development. In addition, 48 Springboard projects have gone on to participate in other CARTOON events, including Cartoon Forum, Cartoon Movie and CartoonNext.

CARTOON is an international non-profit association founded in Brussels in 1988 with the support of the European Union's MEDIA programme. Committed to supporting the European animation industry, CARTOON organises five annual events for industry professionals, divided into two categories: training seminars —Cartoon Springboard (Madrid), Cartoon Business (Brussels), and CartoonNext (Marseille)— and co-production forums for animated series and feature films —Cartoon Forum (Toulouse) and Cartoon Movie (Bordeaux).

CARTOON Director: Annick Maes
Cartoon Springboard Head of Content: Agnès Bizzaro – agnes.bizzaro@cartoon-media.eu
Cartoon Springboard Event Coordinator: Laura Jarka – masters@cartoon-media.eu – +32 23 44 76 18

Press Officer: Gerardo Michelin – gerardo@latindie.com – +34 630 572 268

Images of the selected projects
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