

PRESS RELEASE
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CARTOON TRIBUTES UNVEIL NOMINEES FOR EUROPEAN ANIMATION PRODUCER, DISTRIBUTOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Cartoon Movie, the pitching and co-production event for European animated films, announced the companies and personalities nominated for the Cartoon Tributes, whose major contributions in their respective fields have significantly enhanced the European animation industry. The winners of these awards' three categories – Producer, Distributor and Director – will be voted for by the 850+ professionals attending Cartoon Movie's 26th edition, to be held in the French city of Bordeaux on March 5-7.

The four nominees for the Tributes in each category are:

European Producer of the Year

- Animagrad (FILM.UA Group) (Ukraine) for "Mavka. The Forest Song".
- Fernando Trueba Prod. (Spain) / LolaFilms (Spain) / Les Films d'Ici Méditerranée (France) / Submarine (Netherlands) & Animanostra (Portugal) for "They Shot the Piano Player".
- Sacrebleu Productions (France) / Take Five (Belgium) & Ciel de Paris (France) for "Sirocco and the Kingdom of the Winds".
- TAT productions (France) for "The Jungle Bunch: World Tour", and "Epic Tails".

European Distributor of the Year

- Eurozoom (France).
- Films4You (Portugal).
- Pro Films (Bulgaria).
- Selmer Media (Norway).

European Director of the Year

- Enzo D'Alò for "A Greyhound of a Girl" (Italy).
- Isabel Herguera for "Sultana's Dream" (Spain).
- Chiara Malta & Sébastien Laudenbach for "Chicken for Linda" (France).
- Jérémie Périn for "Mars Express" (France).

Winners will be announced at the Bordeaux Congress Centre on March 7.

The producers behind some of the most relevant recent European animated films will be contending for the **Producer of the Year** award. The list of nominees includes Ukraine's **Animagrad (FILM.UA Group)** for the animated fairy tale "Mavka. The Forest Song"; **Fernando Trueba Producciones** (Spain), **LolaFilms** (Spain), **Les Films d'Ici Méditerranée** (France), **Submarine** (Netherlands) & **Animanostra** (Portugal) for the animated docufiction "They Shot the Piano Player"; and **Sacrebleu Productions** (France), **Take Five** (Belgium) & **Ciel de Paris** (France) for the fantasy film "Sirocco and the Kingdom of the Winds".

France's **TAT productions** – the company behind two of the 10 most-viewed French films in the world in 2023: "The Jungle Bunch: World Tour" and "Epic Tails" – rounds up this category.

Among the contenders for **Distributor of the Year** are companies from France, Portugal, Bulgaria, and Norway. **Eurozoom** is a French independent movie distribution company created in 1997 which has distributed films such as "The Island" by Anca Damian, "Buñuel in The Labyrinth of The Turtles" by Salvador Simó, and "Cafard" by Jan Bultheel.

Portugal's **Films4You** catalogue includes "Calamity, a Childhood of Martha Jane Canary" by Rémi Chayé, "Flee" by Jonas Poher Rasmussen, and "Titina" by Kajsa Næss, among other titles.

Bulgaria's **Pro Films** was created in 2005 as a distributor of European films and since then had distributed over a hundred films theatrically, most of them animation features. "The Inseparables" by Jérémie Degruson, "The Elfkins – Baking a Difference" by Ute von Münchow-Pohl, and "Dreambuilders" by Kim Hagen Jensen are among its latest releases.

Completing this category is Norway's **Selmer Media**, a film distribution company that operates in the Nordic market holding the right to a wide range of films, from art-house dramas to broad entertainment. "Epic Tails" directed by David Alaux, with the participation of Éric and Jean-François Tosti, "My Fairy Troublemaker" by Caroline Origer, and "Dragonkeeper" by Salvador Simó are some of the animation titles included in its catalogue.

Lastly, the award for **Director of the Year** will be disputed among helmers from Italy, Spain, and France. Italy's seasoned director and screenwriter **Enzo D'Alò** competes with "A Greyhound of a Girl". Based on the book of the same name by Roddy Doyle and premiered at the Berlinale 2023, the film has been hailed by the critics as "a delicate coming-of-age story, full of irony". Spain's **Isabel Herguera** was nominated for "Sultana's Dream", the director's debut feature film, based on the book of the same name by India's feminist pioneer Begum Rokeya Hossain, published in 1905.

Rounding out this category are the directors of two French films. Directed by **Chiara Malta & Sébastien Laudenbach**, "Chicken for Linda!" is a comedy in 2D traditional animation, while **Jérémy Périn's** debut film "Mars Express" is a neo-noir science fiction work. Both films were supported by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region and the Département de la Charente.

About Cartoon Movie

Since its first edition in 1999, 463 films have been financially supported by Cartoon Movie with a total budget of 3 billion EUR. Organised by CARTOON, Cartoon Movie is an annual forum aimed at strengthening the production and distribution of animated feature films in Europe. The event has the support of Creative Europe – MEDIA, CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée), Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Bordeaux Métropole, and Pôle Image Magelis.

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, and the training seminars Cartoon Springboard, CartoonNext, and Cartoon Business.

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