



CARTOON SPRINGBOARD HOSTS YOUNG TALENT OF EUROPEAN ANIMATION IN MADRID

From October 28 to 30, the city of Madrid will host a new edition of **Cartoon Springboard**, a training initiative aimed at students and recent graduates from animation schools across Europe interested in learning about the industry and strengthening their projects guided by international experts.

Besides the pitching sessions featuring 22 projects in concept or in development, the programme includes keynotes, masterclasses and panels led by renowned professionals from the animation industry. For the fourth year in a row, Cartoon Springboard is being held in Madrid, highlighting both the city and the region importance in promoting the future of European animation. Organised by **CARTOON**, Cartoon Springboard is co-funded by **Creative Europe – MEDIA** with the support of the **Community of Madrid** and the **City Council of Madrid**.

Representing 11 countries, the 22 selected projects are mostly in their early stages of development. During the event, the talents will receive practical advice and guidance from a panel of experts which will help them further develop their projects. Chosen from a record high of 85 submissions – a substantial 47% increase over last year –, the selection includes both feature film and animated series projects.

With six projects, France tops this year's line-up, followed by Spain with four, Italy with three, and Germany with two. Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine are each represented with one project.

Format-wise, TV series are clearly in the majority with 18 works in a selection that also includes four feature films. Almost half of the projects are aimed at teenagers and adult audiences (10 projects), while content for children aged 6-11, family audiences, and preschoolers are represented by 5, 4, and 3 projects, respectively.

The projects from the host country are led by students or recent graduates from educational institutions based in Madrid (**Lightbox Academy**, **Trazos**, and **U-Tad**), while those from France are from **Atelier de Sèvres**, **ECV Bordeaux**, **Gobelins**, **L'Atelier**, and **Université de Strasbourg**. The line-up also includes works by students or former students at Italy's **Fondazione Bottega Finzioni** and **Scuola Internazionale di Comics**, Germany's **Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg**, Greece's **University of**

West Attica, Ireland's **Limerick School of Art and Design**, Hungary's **Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design**, the Netherlands' **St. Joost School of Art & Design**, Slovakia's **The Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava**. Two projects in the line-up are signed by European alumni from non-European school (**National Film and Television School** in the UK, and **Vancouver Institute of Media Arts** in Canada).

Cartoon Springboard is considered the gateway to the CARTOON ecosystem, which also includes European animation co-production forums **Cartoon Forum** and **Cartoon Movie**. Out of the 258 animated works pitched to Cartoon Springboard since its first edition in 2015, 19 have been completed and more than 90 are currently in development stage.

A launchpad for new talent

The **Community of Madrid** is home to 35% of the animation and VFX companies in Spain. Through its Culture, Tourism and Sport Regional Office, Madrid's Community Government supports the development and production of animated series, short and feature films through different initiatives. The **Madrid City Council** is also actively involved in the region's animation industry. Both the Community and the City Council support the four projects by graduates from Madrid educational institutions: **"A Post Apocalyptic Future Where..."**, **"Almond Eyes"**, **"Flor"** and **"MÜMU™, Forget-me-not"**.

Four of the projects were selected directly for Cartoon Springboard in the frame of collaborations: **"Where is my Fucking Horn?"** (AFCA - Festival d'Animation de Rennes - France), **"Puntino"** (Cartoons on the Bay - Italy), **"Fished & Found"** (Animation Dingle - Ireland) and **"Thundertree"** (Magelis, Creative industries hub in Angoulême - France), while **"Off Track"** and **"The Ageless Summer"** takes part in the event supported by France's SACD - Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques.

Seven of the selected projects already have a production company partner on board for their development or production, including Spain's The Milk and TrendPicStudio, France's Werlen Ipsum and Disnosc, Germany's PixelPEC, Ireland's JAM Media, and Slovakia's NAOCHO Production.

The complete list of selected projects is available [at this link](#).

Inspiring the future

Together with the pitching sessions, Cartoon Springboard's [programme](#) features the following keynotes: "Dive into the Deep: Building Worlds beyond Animation", in which **Reza Memari** (Telescope Animation) will reveal the secrets of launching transmedia IPs in today's media landscape; "High Expectations, Hard Times: How to Survive in the Animation Industry these Days when you're a Young Creative?" by **Joanne Allen** (BBC), and "Navigating the Internet's many Platforms and making a Living from Social Media, how does it work?" by **Mei Champeil**.

In addition, renowned Spanish director **Sergio Pablos** will be presenting the sneak preview of "Ember", his long awaited film project by SPA Studios, while **Mark Cumberton** (JAM Media), **Miklos Weigert**, **Eliza Plocieniak-Alvarez** (Blaue Pampelmuse), **Barbara Slade** (Blue Arrow Productions) and **Alba Sotorra Clua** (Alba Sotorra) will reflect on the challenges of using A.I. tools in animation in the panel "Made by Humans, Made with A.I."

Among the [experts and speakers](#) participating in the Cartoon Springboard, which features Agnès Bizzaro as Head of Content, are representatives of TV channels such as Marianne Lévy-Leblond (ARTE France), Joanne Allen (BBC), Lucile Canault (France Télévisions - FTV), Yago Fandiño (Radio Television Española - RTVE), Sara Cabras (RAI Ragazzi / Radiotelevisione Italiana - RAI), and Lisa Albers (Super RTL Fernsehen), and producers such as Juraj Krasnohorsky (Artichoke), Gabrielle d'Andrimont (Bobbypills), David Mouraire (Doghouse Films), João Carrilho (Fly Moustache), Tom van Waveren (Hoek, Line & Thinker), Jakub Karwowski (Letko), Edward Moline (Lighthouse Studios), Ivan Agenjo (Peekaboo Animation), Valeria Brambilla (Studio Campedelli), Viviane Vanfleteren (Vivi Film), and David Sauerwein (Zephyr Animation), among others.

With the aim of connecting the young talent attending the event with the local animation industry, on the morning of October 28, Cartoon Springboard will host a [Job Fair](#) in which local studios will introduce their work, including the job opportunities they offer; a networking session between the young talent and company representatives will follow.

Among this year's news are the [One-to-One meetings](#), an activity aimed at bringing together young talent with producers, broadcasters, and key creatives from across Europe.

Cartoon Springboard will conclude with an exclusive sneak preview of Reza Memari's newest film **"The Last Whale Singer"** (October 30, Palacio de la Prensa Cinema, 8 PM). Participants will thus have the chance to learn about the creative process and the challenges faced by the director of "Richard The Stork" (aka. "A Stork's Journey") and "Little Bird: The Big Quest" in his new film.

About CARTOON

CARTOON is an international non-profit association based in Brussels which organises a number of events focused on animation, including co-production and pitching events Cartoon Forum (Toulouse) and Cartoon Movie (Bordeaux), and three training events: Cartoon Springboard (Madrid), Cartoon Business (Brussels), and CartoonNext (Marseille).

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[Images of the selected projects](#)

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