

PRESS RELEASE
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*Katja Schumann, Cal McLoughlin & Jason Tammemägi (Cartoon Saloon) -
Marei Bruckmann & Arne Lohmann (ZDF Studios) © Celia Lenoir*

GREATEST PLAYERS IN THE EUROPEAN ANIMATION INDUSTRY RECOGNISED IN TOULOUSE WITH THE CARTOON FORUM TRIBUTES

Toulouse, September 19, 2024. Companies from France, Germany and Ireland have been recognised with the **Cartoon Forum Tributes**, the peer-to-peer awards which honour the work of broadcasters, investors/distributors, and producers in the promotion and development of European animation.

Winners were voted by the near 1,000 professionals attending the Cartoon Forum, the pitching and co-production forum for animated series which today closes its 35th edition in the French city of Toulouse. The Broadcaster of the Year prize went to Franco-German public broadcaster **ARTE**, while Germany's **ZDF Studios** and Ireland's **Cartoon Saloon** were recognised as Investor/Distributor and Producer of the Year, respectively. This year's nominees also included companies from Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland.

Presented for the first time in the French city of Pau in 2006, the Tributes have grown since then into a landmark recognition in the European animation industry.

At the ceremony, the organisers of the event also presented **Luca Milano** with a **Cartoon Tribute of Honor** for his contribution to European animation. From his position as Executive Director of **RAI Kids** - the children's unit of the Italian public channel RAI - and throughout his extensive professional career, Milano has been responsible for programming, acquiring, producing and co-producing internationally animated content for children with a clear European vocation.

CARTOON FORUM TRIBUTES 2024 WINNERS

▪ BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR

Founded in 1992, Franco-German **ARTE** is a European public cultural television channel and digital network with a strong focus on creation and innovation. “Samuel”, “Music Queens”, “Boys Boys Boys”, and “Globozone” are some of the series scheduled on the channel that have been previously pitched at Cartoon Forum.

▪ INVESTOR/DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

Founded in 1993, Mainz-based **ZDF Studios** is a commercial subsidiary of Germany’s ZDF, one of the largest public broadcasters in Europe. With a catalogue of 25,000 episodes in 25 languages, the company is responsible for the global distribution of ZDF and third parties’ content, investing in an average of 20 programmes per year. “Dougie Dolittle”, “Tobie Lolness”, and “20 Dance Street” are some of the series recently presented at Cartoon Forum that are being distributed worldwide thanks to its work.

▪ PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Established in 1999 by Paul Young, Tomm Moore and Nora Twomey, **Cartoon Saloon** is a world-renowned animation studio with five Academy Award and two Golden Globe nominations, as well as many award wins, including BAFTA and Emmy. Located in Kilkenny, Ireland, the studio produces shorts, feature films, and TV series, including “Skunk Fu”, “Dorg Van Dango”, and “Silly Sundays”, which have been pitched at Cartoon Forum and are currently being broadcasted around the world.

[PHOTO OF THE WINNERS OF THE CARTOON FORUM TRIBUTES](#)

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 1,002 animation series obtain financing to the tune of over 3.7 billion EUR. In this new edition of Cartoon Forum, 75 TV series from 20 European countries were presented totalling a 350.7 million EUR budget and 388 hours of content.

The 35th Cartoon Forum is organised by CARTOON - European Association of Animation Film with the support of Creative Europe - MEDIA Programme of the European Union, the CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l’image animée), Région Occitanie, Mairie de Toulouse, Toulouse Métropole, Casino Barrière and France Télévisions.

CARTOON Director: Annick Maes – forum@cartoon-media.eu

International Press Officer: Gerardo Michelin – gerardo@latindie.com - Tel: (+34) 630 572 268

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