



## YOUNG EUROPEAN TALENTS TAKE THEIR FIRST STEPS INTO THE ANIMATION INDUSTRY AT THE 10<sup>th</sup> CARTOON SPRINGBOARD IN MADRID

Cartoon Springboard, the pitching and training event for young European animation talents, returns to Madrid for its tenth anniversary, to be held on October 29-31. Designed as a training initiative for students and recent graduates of animation schools, the event combines pitching sessions with a program of lectures by renowned industry professionals. Shortlisted from 58 submissions, the 22 projects in the line-up – mostly in-concept stage – will be mentored by a panel of 30 international experts to further advance into their development.

Spain leads this year's selection with six projects, followed by France with five, Germany with three and Belgium and Italy with two each, while Bulgaria, Denmark, Hungary and Ireland are present with one project per country. Format-wise, TV series are clearly in the majority with 14 works, followed by five web series, two feature films and one TV special. Projects aimed at children aged 5-11 and young adult / adult audiences represent 27% and 23% respectively. The remaining works are targeted at preschoolers (18%), family audiences (18%) and teenagers (14%).

Among the projects from the host country, four come from institutions in Madrid - **Universidad Carlos III**, **ECAM**, **U-tad Centro Universitario de Tecnología y Arte Digital**, and **UDIT - Universidad de Diseño, Innovación y Tecnología** -, and one from **L'Idem Barcelona**.

The French projects are by students or alumni of **La Poudrière**, **Lycée Marie Curie (Marseille)** and **Emile Cohl**, while the German projects are by talents from the **Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg** and **Hochschule Darmstadt - University of Applied Sciences**.

The selection also includes works by young talents from Italy's **Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia** and **Bottega Finzioni**, Denmark's **The Animation Workshop**, Hungary's **MOME**, and Ireland's **TUS Midlands**. Two projects in the line-up are signed by European alumni from non-European schools, specifically UK and Canada.

Finally, five of the selected projects already have on board a production company partner for their development or production, including France's Avec ou sans Vous ("**Tulip**"), Germany's Wait a Second! ("**Bernard & the Little Tiger**"), Ireland's JAM Media ("**Ultra Cat and Mega Dog**"), and Spain's Henfunk Studio ("**Galiworld**") and PI Art Produccions ("**Painting Illusions**").

Organised by **CARTOON**, Cartoon Springboard is supported by **Creative Europe - MEDIA** and the **Community of Madrid**, the **City Council of Madrid**, and the **Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade (ICEX)**. Among the 236 animation works submitted to Cartoon Springboard since its first edition in 2015, 14 have been completed and more than 80 are currently in development.

### From Madrid to the screen

For the third year in a row, Cartoon Springboard will be held in the city of Madrid, which, together with the **Community of Madrid**, is home to 31% 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 city's audiovisual industry. Both the Community and the City Council support the four projects by graduates from Madrid educational institutions: "**Chavales: la webserie**", "**Out of Tune**", "**Painting Illusions**", and "**Battle of the Bands**".

"**a é i o u**" and "**The Extra and Ordinary Adventures of Pod the Plankton**" will be presented in Madrid thanks to the support of France's **SACD - Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques**, while "**Welcome to Demonland**" is supported by **FWB - Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles**.

With the aim of connecting the young talent attending the event with the local animation industry, Cartoon Springboard will host, the first morning of the event, a Job Fair in which 5 to 6 local studios will present themselves, including the job opportunities they offer, followed by a networking session between the young talents and company representatives.

### Masterclasses & keynotes

Besides the pitching sessions, Cartoon Springboard displays a program with international experts who will discuss the latest trends and challenges facing European animation industry. Spain's **Rodrigo Blaas** will open this 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the event with his masterclass "Back to the Garage Days", about current creative challenges. Blaas began his career as an animator at Pixar and has been recognized for his work as director, showrunner and executive producer of "Tales of Arcadia Trilogy", and for works such as the short film "Alma" or "Star Wars: Visions" episode "Sith", produced by his company El Guiri Studios.

Within the conferences program, **Perrine Gauthier** – co-founder and producer of France's La Cabane and Belgium's Thuristar studios – will discuss the development of original IPs in the age of franchises, while **Nick Dorra** – producer of Finland's Haruworks – will reflect on the challenges involved in the use of artificial intelligence in the animation sector. Finally, Belgian screenwriter **Valérie Magis** will deliver the conference "The Writing Odyssey: from a brilliant idea to distribution!"

The program will come to an end with a round table, "10 years of Cartoon Springboard: voices of the young generation", in which Denmark's Sif Savery, Spain's Irene Chica and Germany's Jan Gadermann – three young animation talents that have participated in previous editions of the event – will share their experiences and their upcoming challenges.

## 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).

**CARTOON Director:** Annick Maes

**Cartoon Springboard Head of Content:** Agnès Bizzaro – [agnes.bizzaro@cartoon-media.eu](mailto:agnes.bizzaro@cartoon-media.eu)

**Cartoon Springboard Event Coordinator:** Laura Jarka – [masters@cartoon-media.eu](mailto:masters@cartoon-media.eu) –

Tel: (+32) 23 44 76 18

**Press Officer:** Gerardo Michelin – [gerardo@latindie.com](mailto:gerardo@latindie.com) – Tel: (+34) (630) 572 268

[Images of the selected projects](#)

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