



NEW EUROPEAN ANIMATION TALENTS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE AT CARTOON SPRINGBOARD VALENCIA

For the third year in a row, Valencia will be host to a new edition of Cartoon Springboard, the pitching event for new animation talents that will be held on October 26-28 in this Spanish Mediterranean city. A total of 24 projects involving 39 young directors graduated from 22 animation schools across Europe within the last five years will be pitched to a panel of experts and professionals from the sector.

Organised by CARTOON, Cartoon Springboard aims to help future European animation professionals to break into the market and enhance their projects, including series, films and TV specials. Since its creation in 2015, it has turned into a must-attend event for producers looking for new projects or interested in discovering new talents. Over the past few years, 25 projects were selected for Cartoon Forum and Cartoon Movie following their participation in Cartoon Springboard, thus confirming the value of this successful initiative. The programme is supported by the Creative Europe MEDIA, the Generalitat Valenciana, the Institut Valencià de Cultura, and the Universitat Politècnica de València.

TOWARDS A COMING OF AGE

TV series are the dominant format, accounting for 70% of the projects, but the selection also includes 3 feature films, 1 TV special and 1 project designed for new media platforms. Most of the directors are making their debut behind the camera, while half of the works are directed by two directors. 65% of the 39 directors are women.

France leads the selection with 7 projects by graduates from Gobelins - L'Ecole de l'Image, École de la Cité, ECV Bordeaux, Emile Cohl Atelier, and EMCA - École des Métiers du Cinéma d'Animation. Italy ranks second with 4 projects by alumni from NAS - New Animation in Sardegna, Nemo Academy, Civica scuola di cinema Luchino Visconti, and Scuola Romana dei fumetti. Germany and Hungary participate with 3 projects each. The former, with graduates from the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, ifs internationale filmschule köln, and Hochschule Darmstadt - University of Applied Sciences; the latter, with former students from Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, and Budapest's University of Theatre and Film Arts. The selection also includes projects by graduates from the LUCA School of Arts, and ENSAV - La Cambre (Belgium), Faculty of Political Science of Zagreb University (Croatia), The Animation Workshop/VIA University College (Denmark), Animation Dingle The Big Pitcher (Jam Media), and

Athlone Institute of Technology (Ireland), and Barcelona's La Salle-URL, and L'idem (Spain). One project is presented by students in their final year of graduation.

Once again, Cartoon Springboard's selection stands out for its diversity of genres, including comedy, drama, adventure, fantasy, and animated documentaries, among others. This rich variety is also reflected in the themes addressed by the works, which range from female empowerment, migration, environmental issues, mental disorders, patchwork family or stories that seek to inspire social change, to name but a few. The stories are set in a wide array of settings, from the Amazon and other actual spots on our planet, to fantasy worlds, distant universes, extinct civilisations and micro-worlds, among others.

Following a trend detected last year, animation aimed at young-adult audiences rises to the top with 7 works, followed by projects for family audiences with 6 works. The selection also includes 4 works aimed at Preschoolers, and Children, and 3 to Teenagers.

Most of the projects are created in 2D animation except for two in 3D, one in stop motion and three using hybrid animation.

Confirming the sector's interest in discovering and supporting new talents, half of the projects have already secured a producer partner, including Story House (Belgium), TETRABOT (Croatia), Icare Entertainment and Yabunousagi (France), Blaue Pampelmuse and TWENTYTWO Film (Germany), CUB Animation and ULab (Hungary), JAM Media (Ireland), and Foore animation, Flora's Room and Lumiar (Italy).

Some of the experts offering their advice to the young talents are broadcasters, producers and distributors among which are Lucie Canault (France Télévisions), Telidja Klai (Ketnet-VRT), Sarah Muller (BBC), Paula Taborda dos Guaranys (Planeta Junior), and Eleanor Coleman (Blue Spirit Productions/Indie Sales), among others. The complete list of experts participating in the event [is available at this link](#).

Participants will also have the opportunity to attend a number of keynotes, including "Understanding your Audience" by Telidja Klai (Ketnet-VRT, Belgium), "Shoom and Pico Pictures: what an Odyssey!" by Claire Paoletti (Pico Pictures, France), "Evolution of animation in Filmin" by Elodie Mellado de la Cruz (Filmin, Spain), and "Animation and Publishing: A New Perspective?" by Julien Papelier (Dupuis Edition & Audiovisuel, France).

ABOUT CARTOON

CARTOON is an international non-profit association based in Brussels organizing Cartoon Masters training seminars, Cartoon Forum, along with Cartoon Movie, a co-production forum for feature-length animation.

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