







Informations on Films for Children in Europe!

www.ecfaweb.org

ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DU CINÉMA POUR L'ENFANCE ET LA JEUNESSE

### No. 4/2004 December 2004

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### Taking A Look How They Come Around:

# The Best European Films for Children 2004/2005

The most ambitious films for children and young people can be found at the film festivals for young audiences all over the world. European productions usually rank among the top titles, not only in their programmes, but also among the awards' winners. Not all of these films make their way on to the cinema or TV screens, often they are only screened in their countries of origin, sometimes not even there. Therefore it is important to take a look at the best films for young people from time to time to see if children have the chance to see them.



The Colour of Milk by Torun Lian, Norway 2004

"As usual" most of the films that are handed from festival to festival come from the Scandinavian countries. These are especially Ella Lemhagen's *Immediate Boarding, Misa Mi* by Linus Torell, Elsa Kvamme's *Fia* and **Nasty Brats** by Giacomo Campeotto which were shown at almost all major festivals for young audiences. Among the top-movies for teenagers are the Swedish *The Ketchup Effect* by Teresa Fabik and Denmark's *Count to 100* directed by Linda Holmberg. Until now, all of these films were only distributed in Denmark, Norway

and Sweden. *Nasty Brats* was a big success in Denmark: it had more than 300.000 admissions!

How ever, the rest of Europe is alive as well. Bernd Sahlings *Blindflyers* (in many countries also screened with the original title "Die Blindgänger") according to our information was the children's film with the highest number of festival participations this year – and collected awards by the dozen. A great success for this ambitious movie from Germany, which until now has been or will be distributed in Belgium, Netherlands, Norway and Germany.

Also the French animation *Raining Cats* and *Frogs* by Jacques-Rémy Girerd travelled to many festivals all over the world and received numerous prizes. It is one of the few films mentioned here that already has had a very successful distribution: One million admissions in French cinemas! Theatrical releases have been or will be in Belgium, Denmark, Germany Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland ...

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### Let Us Stay Alert! by Felix Vanginderhuysen, ECFA's General Secretary

Christmas holidays are coming up and again we can confirm that the cinema theatres are overwhelmed with productions for children and youngsters. It is very clear that for some years now, the big commercial companies have found the children's audiences to be a very profitable target group. And of course some of these productions are well made, but a lot of the films are of a quite deplorable quality.

The market is free, but it makes it always harder for smaller distribution companies who are working with quality films for children to find valuable screens. This is just one observation.

On the other hand we see that also governments that used to support the

cultural and educational aspects of the work with quality films for children also measure more and more with economical standards. A quite shocking example was the decision of the Dutch government to reduce expenses also in the cultural film sector. The Dutch Institute for Film Education saw the national grant for the next four years reduced to 20% of the former support, alternative distributors were reduced to 25% or even completely eliminated.

We don't know how the situation is developing in other countries, but we certainly know that within the new European Commission there is a small, but perhaps not so unimportant change. From now on the European Commissar, Mrs. Viviane Reding is no lon-

ger responsible for Media and Culture, but only for Media. This means that Film and Media now are separated from Culture (= Commissar is Jan Figel) and this certainly won't make it easier for development in the field of children's film, that are mostly in some way culturally inspired, to find support.

We just want to insist that everybody who is concerned with the production, distribution and exhibition of quality films for children or involved in the educational part, to stay alert and to put pressure on national authorities to keep on supporting this necessary work within the actual media land-scape.

### The News Section: Films. Festivals. Prizes

Children's Film Fest Hamburg/Germany Children' Jury, "Michel"-Award: "Fourth Floor" by Antonio Mercero, Spain 2003; Special Mention: "In Orange" by Joram

Lürsen, Netherlands 2004.

Phone:

Contact: Filmfest Hamburg
Children's Film Festival
Sabine Kaulitzki, Steintorweg 4

D-20099 Hamburg ++49-40-399 19 00 21

Fax: ++49-40-399 19 00 10
E-Mail: kaulitzki@filmfesthamburg.de
Internet: www.filmfesthamburg.de

### "Schlingel" - Int. Film Festival for Children, Chemnitz/Germany

Professionals' Jury, Main Award: "Misa Mi" by Linus Torell, Sweden 2003; Special Mentions: "Album" by Reza Heydarnezhad, Iran 2004, and "Bear Hug" by Shaudi Wang, Taiwan 2004. Int. Children's Jury: "The Blue Butterfly" by Léa Pool, Canada/Great Britain 2003; Special Mention: "Max Rules" by Robert Burke, USA 2004.

Best child Actor: Klara Døving ("Fia" by Elsa Kvamme, Norway 2003). Best film for young people: "Beat the Drum" by David Hickson, Republic of South Africa 2003; Special Mention: "Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi" by Shemi Zarhin, Israel 2003.

Audience Award: "Max Rules".

Contact: Sächsischer Kinder- und Jugendfilmdienst e.V.

Neefestr. 99, D-09119 Chemnitz

Phone: ++49 - 371 - 444 74 40
Fax: ++49 - 371 - 444 74 49
E-Mail: info@kinderfilmdienst.de
Internet: www.kinderfilmdienst.de

### Int. Film Festival "du grain à démoudre", Gonfreville l'Orcher/France.

'Grain d'or' prize for feature-length films and Audience Award: "Night passage" by Luis Filipe Rocha, Portugal 2003; Best screenplay: "The 10th Summer" by Jörg Grünler, Germany 2003

Contact: Association du grain à démoudre

Maison d. Associations, BP 95 F-76700 Gonfreville l'Orcher

Phone: ++33 - 2 35 47 12 85 Fax: ++33 - 2 35 13 16 47

E-Mail: contact@dugrainademoudre.net Internet: www.dugrainademoudre.net

### Ulisses Global Kids Int. Film Festival, Mulhouse & Internet

Best animation: "Birdon" by Chieh Huang, USA/Taiwan 2003; Best live action: "A Different War" by Nadav Gal, Israel 2003.

Contact: Ulisses Global Kids Int. Film Festival, Leslie K. Sullivan 11, Rue des Fréres Lumiere

F-60893 Mulhouse

P & f: ++33 - 38 - 942 10 25 E-Mail: info@globalkidsfest.com Internet: www.globalkidsfest.com

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### The Best European Films for Children 2004/2005



From the film "Fourth Floor" by Antonio Mercero, Spain 2003

After her success "Madelief – Scratches on the Table" Ineke Houtman's new film **Polleke** was expected with high anticipation in the beginning of this year. Even this film touches on some hard topics for children it has been shown with great success in many festivals and – which proves that children also appreciate reality even if it is not always amusing – received numerous awards especially from children's and young audience's juries. In Dutch cinemas this film also was a very respectable box office success: 100.000 admissions is an excellent result.

A surprise came from Spain this year: 4th Floor by Antonio Mercero until now has made it to at least a dozen European children's film festivals – and with more than 1 million admissions in Spain it was one of the most successful films of the year. So let us hope that despite this serious topic – children in a hospital – such an optimistic and humorous movie will make its way onto the screens all over Europe.

### **Coming Attractions**

One of the festival hits in 2005 definitely will be Torun Lian's new film *The Colour of Milk* (Norway 2004). Already in her last film "Only Clouds Move the Stars" this writer and director surprised audiences



"Misa Mi" by Linus Torell, Sweden 2003

with how she could bring the feelings of children onto the screen. Her new film describes the mixed feelings of a 12-year-old girl towards boys. No one can treat this subject in a more sensitive way than Torun Lian, who, by the way, will be advisor for children's films at the Norwegian Film Fund for the next two years.

Certainly another coming attraction will be Danny Boyle's *Millions* (UK 2004), a "drama" full of British humour, that has just had its premiere at the London Film Festival.



From the film "Polleke" by Ineke Houtman, Netherlands 2003

#### What to do if the Films don't come?

In Germany some of the best films for children from the past years did not appear in the cinemas. Friedemann Schuchardt, managing director of Matthias Film, a non-profit distribution company for educational media, wanted to do something about it. Therefore he gathered partners to start something new: Together with public TV programmes (who broadcasted these films and thus handled the dubbing) Matthias-Film and the German federation of Children's and Young People's Film Clubs (Bundesverband Jugend und Film e.V.) decided that German children should have the right to see these films and published them directly on DVD, together with educational materials for teachers and everyone who screens films for children in educational and cultural projects. This way the films Ikingut (Gisli Snaer-Erlingsson, Iceland 2000), Send More Candy (Caecilia Holbek Trier, DK 2001), Mariken (André van Duren, NL/B 2000), Wallah Be (Pia Bovin, DK 2002), Elina - As if I was not there (Klaus Härö, S/SF 2002) and Who Kisses an Iguana (Karola Hattop, D 2003) finally are available in Germany. Sometimes, if the market does not work for culture, ambition and new technologies can help ;-) More information on the films mentioned here you will find at www.ecfaweb.org

### In Poznan/Poland, June 11th & 12th 2005:

## **ECFA's 3rd Conference of European Film Festivals for Young Audience**

Together with the European Co-ordination of Film Festivals ECFA brings the film festivals for children in the focus of attention. Those invited to participate are not only the traditional children's and young people's film festivals, but also organizers of arthouse film festivals for adults who think about opening an additional program section with films for children.

Furthermore of course directors, producers, distributors, TV programmers, world sales agents and media educaters will participate to discuss the different aspects of festivals for young audiences. The program will be developed at the beginning of 2005

ECFA-members who want to contribute to the program are invited to send their suggestions to ECFA's office at Bruxelles (see page 6 for contact details).

### Films on the Horizon

New European films for children which are ready to be discovered for your programmes. More information and more films can be found at www.ecfaweb.org. Of course we can never guarantee that we cover all important new films. Producers, distributors and sales agents are kindly invited to inform us of their new releases.



"Bombay Dreams", directed by Lena Koppel

### **Bombay Dreams**

Feature Film, Sweden 2004 Director: Lena Koppel

Production: Fladen Film AB, Stockholm Festival: Cinekid Amsterdam 2004 World Sales:Nordisk Film Internat. Sales

Halmtorvet 29

DK-1700 København V
phone: ++45-33-266880
fax: ++45-33-266889
E-Mail: contact@nordiskfilm.com

L-Maii: contact@nordiskfilm.com

#### Count to 100

Feature Film, Denmark 2004 Director: Linda Holmberg

Production: Nimbus Film Productions World Sales:Trust Film Sales, Filmbyen

Avedore Tvaervej 10 DK-2650 Hvidovre

phone: ++45-36-86 87 88 fax: ++45-36-77 44 48 E-Mail: trust@trust-film.dk Internet: www.trust-film.dk

#### Dear Frankie

Feature Film, Great Britain 2004 Director: Shona Auerbach Production: Scorpio Films, London World Sales:Pathé International

Kent House,

14-17 Market Place GB- London W1N 8AR

phone: ++44-20-74624427 fax: ++44-20-74367891 E-Mail: internationalsales@

pathe.co.uk Internet: www.pathe.co.uk

#### The Football Friends 2

Feature Film, Germany 2004 Director: Joachim Massanek Production: Samfilm, Munich



"Count to 100" by Linda Holmberg

Release: February 2005 World Sales:SamFilm GmbH

Rumfordstr. 10 D-80469 Munich

phone: ++49-89-33 99 53 0 fax: ++49-89-33 99 53 24 E-Mail: contact@samfilm.de lnternet: www.samfilm.de

#### In Orange

Feature Film, Netherlands 2004 Director: Joram Lürsen Production: Motel Films World Sales: Motel Films

> Meeuwenlaan 98-100 NL-1021 JL Amsterdam ++31-20-638 60 95

phone: ++31-20-638 60 99
fax: ++31-20-6200785
E-Mail: info@motelfilms.nl
Internet: www.motelfilms.nl
www.inoranje.nl

### The Junior Olsen Gang Rocks it

Feature Film, Norway 2004 Director: Arne Lindtner-Næss Production: Nordisk Film

World Sales: Nordisk Film Internat. Sales



"The Junior Olsen Gang Rocks it" by Arne Lindtner-Næss

#### Millions

Feature Film, Great Britain 2004 Director: Danny Boyle Production: Mission Pictures Festival: London IFF 2004 World Sales: Pathé International Kent House

14-17 Market Place GB- London W1N 8AR

phone: ++44-20-74624427 fax: ++44-20-74367891 E-Mail: internationalsales@ pathe.co.uk Internet: www.pathe-uk.com

#### The Mystery of the Blue Mountain

Feature Film, Russia 2004 Director: Jewgenij Sokolow Production: Kinokompanija Cinebridge

Festival: Chemnitz 2004 World Sales: Mark Levin

Kinokompanija Cinebridge Ismailowskij Boulevard 24, str. 1, RUS-105043 Moscow

phone: ++7-095-1811779 fax: ++7-095-1811779 E-Mail: support@prostye.ru

### The News Section:

### Films. Festivals. Prizes

Cinekid - Int. Film, TV + New Media Festival for Children & Young People, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Cinekid Jury Award: "Fourth Floor"; Special Mentions: "Misa Mi" and "Blindflyers".

Young Audience Award: "Bombay Dreams" by Lena Koppel, Sweden 2004 Contact: Stichting Cinekid, S. Naeyé Korte Leidsewarsstraat 12 NL-1017 RC Amsterdam

Phone: ++31 - 20 - 531 78 90
Fax: ++31 - 20 - 531 78 99
E-Mail: info@cinekid.nl
Internet: www.cinekid.nl

### Chicago Internat. Children's Film Festival

Best Film: "Blizzard" by Le Var Burton, Canada 2003

Children's Jury, live action, 1st prize: "Taina: A New Amazon Adventure" by Mauro Lima, Brazil 2004;

2nd prize: "Polleke" by Ineke Houtman,

Netherlands 2003.

Children's Jury, long animation, 1st prize: "Kate: The Taming of the Shrew" by Roberto Lione, Italy 2004;

2nd prize: "Litte Longnose" by Ilya Maximov, Russia 2003.

Adult Jury, live-action, 1st prize:
"Blindgänger" by Bernd Sahling,
Germany 2004; 2nd prize: "Polleke";
Certificate of Excellence: "Zulaika:
Coming of Age in Curaçao" by Diederijk
van Rooijen, Netherlands 2003;
Adult Jury, long animation, 1st prize:
"Raining Cats and Frogs" by JacquesRemy Girerd, France 2003; 2nd prize:
"The Dog, the General and the Bird" by
Francis Nielsen, France 2003; Certificate
of Excellence: "Black Mor's Island" by
Jean-François Laguionie, France 2003.
Liv-Ullmann Peace Prize: "Zafir" by

Malene Vilstrup (Denmark 2003)
Contact: CICFF, Kathleen Beckman
1517 W. Fullerton

USA-Chicago IL 60614

Phone: ++1 - 773 - 281 90 75

Fax: ++1 - 773 - 929 02 66

E-Mail: kidsfest@facets.org

Internet: www.cicff.org

### First Children & Youth Int. Film Festival, Madrid/Spain

Children's Jury: "Homerun" by Jack Neo, Singapur 2003

Young People's Jury: "Beat the Drum" Contact: 1st Children & Youth Interna-

tional Film Festival

Tambor de Hojalata Association C/ Marqués de Valdeiglesias, n° 5 1° izq, E-28004 Madrid

Phone: ++34 -91 - 522 89 76 Fax: ++34 - 91 - 181 23 38 E-Mail: fici@shangri-la.jazztel.es

Internet: www.fici.info

### The News Section: Films, Festivals, Prizes

Nordic Filmdays Luebeck/Germany Adults' Jury, Best film for children: "The Colour of Milk"

Children's Jury: "Nasty Brats" by Giacomo Campetto, Denmark 2003

Contact: Nordic Filmdays Luebeck

Linde Fröhlich, Schildstr. 6-8 D-23539 Luebeck

Phone: ++49 - 451 - 122 41 09
Fax: ++49 - 451 - 122 41 06
E-Mail: info@filmtage.luebeck.de
Internet: www.filmtage.luebeck.de

### Castellinaria Festival int. del cinema giovane Bellinzona/Switzerland,

Children's Jury, 6 - 15 years:
Castello d'oro and ASPI-Award for the rights of children: "Ghetto Kids" by Christian Wagner, Germany 2002.
Castello d'argento: "The Wooden Camera" by Ntshavheni Wa Luruli, South Africa, GB, France 2003.

Castello di bronzo: "4th Floor". MiniCastellinaria-Prize by primary school pupils: "We Can Be Heroes" by Ulf Malmros, Sweden 2002.

Young People's Jury, 16 to 20 years: Tre Castelli for the best feature film: "Dias de Santiago" by Josué Méndez, Peru 2004; Special Mention: L'esquive" by Abdellatif Kechiche, France 2003. Life Quality Award: "Schizo" by Guka Omarova, Russia, Kazahkstan, France, Germany 2004

Contact: Festival Int. del cinema giovane

c/o Espo Centro, Via Cattori 3 CH-6502 Bellinzona-2

Phone: ++41 - 91 - 825 28 93 Fax: ++41 - 91 - 825 36 11 E-Mail: info@castellinaria.ch Internet: www.castellinaria.ch

### International Children's Film Festival Vienna/Austria

Children's Jury's Awards: "An Angel For May" by Harley Cokeliss, GB

Contact: Festival Int. del cinema giovane

c/o Espo Centro, Via Cattori 3 CH-6502 Bellinzona-2

Phone: ++41 - 91 - 825 28 93 Fax: ++41 - 91 - 825 36 11 E-Mail: info@castellinaria.ch Internet: www.castellinaria.ch

### **Forthcoming Festivals**

Children Film Festival - Cine Junior '94 Val-de-Marne/France, February 2nd to 15th 2005

Contact: Children's Film Festival -Cine Junior '94, Mr. S. Larère

52, rue Joseph de Maistre

F-75018 Paris

Phone: ++33-1-42 26 02 06
Fax: ++33 -1-42 26 02 15
E-Mail: cineju94@club-internet.fr
Internet: www.cinejunior94.org

#### Continuing from page 3

### Films on the Horizon



"Sergeant Pepper" by Sandra Nettelbeck

### The Nutcracker and the Mouseking

Animation, Germany 2004
Directors: Michael Johnsen & Tatjana Ilyina
Production: MC One, Stuttgart

World Sales: Telepool

Sonnenstr. 21
D-80331 München
phone: ++49-89-558760
fax: ++49-89-55876188
E-Mail: telepool@telepool.de
Internet: www.telepool.de

www.nussknackerderfilm.de

#### Sergeant Pepper

Feature Film, Germany 2004
Director: Sandra Nettelbeck
Production: MTM Media & Television
Festival: Lübeck 2004
World Sales:Bavaria Film International

Bavariafilmplatz 8
D-82031 Geiselgasteig
phone: ++49-89-64992686
fax: ++49-89-64993720
F-Mail: Bavaria international@

bavaria-film.de

Internet: www.bavaria-film-international.de

#### Spoon

Feature Film, NL, D, UK 2004 Director: Willem van de Sande Bakhuyzen

Production: Lemming Film, Amsterdam

Release: February 2005



"Supertramps" by Iñigo Berasategi and José María Goenaga

World Sales: Egoli Tossel

Torstr. 164 D-10115 Berlin

phone: ++49-30-2465650
fax: ++49-30-246565-24
E-Mail: contact@egolitossell.com
www.lemmingfilm.com

#### Strings

Animation Film, Denmark 2004
Director: Anders Rønnow Klarlund
Production: Bald Film Production ApS
Festival: London IFF 2004

World Sales: Trust Film Sales (see above)



"Strings" by Anders Rønnow Karlund

#### 110 % Suburbia

Documentary, Denmark2004

Director: Jesper Jack, Vibe Mogensen,

Mette-Ann Schepelern

Production: Koncern TV- og Filmproduktion World Sales: Koncern TV- og Filmproduktion Esromgade 15, opg.1, 5.

DK-2200 København V phone: ++45-3582 8221 fax: ++45-3582 9182 E-Mail: koncern@koncern.dk Internet: www.koncern.dk

www.dfi.dk/dfi/english/ featurefilms/11029.htm

### Supertramps

Animation Film, Spain 2004 Director: Iñigo Berasategi & José María Goenaga

Production: Irusoin, San Sebastian & Barton Films, Bilbao

Festival: Gijon 2004 World Sales:Barton Films

C/ Uribitarte, 8, 4° dcha. ESP-48001 Bilbao

phone: ++34-94-424 0559 fax: ++34-94-423 8957

E-Mail: bartonfilms@bartonfilms.com

Internet: www.bartonfilms.com

Your Advertising in ECFA-Journal and on www.ecfaweb.org!

ECFA-Journal is published and distributed both on paper and as pdf-file in 600 copies and reaches almost everybody involved in the production, distribution, broadcasting and exhibition of films for children in Europe. It is an effective publication for you to inform the scene of new productions, sales offers, festival datas or distribution programmes.

Prices: full page (267 x 180 mm): 200 Euros 25 % reduction for half page (133 x 180 mm): 120 Euros ECFA-members! column (267 x 53 mm): 70 Euros

Special formats on request. If artwork is necessary it will be charged extra. For more details and for advertising on ECFA's website please contact the editor.



### WELCOME TO BUFF!

MALMÖ INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S FILMFESTIVAL MARCH 8-13 2005

more info on www.buff.se



### The News Section:

Films, Festivals, Prizes

Europees Jeugdfilmfestival Vlaanderen, Antwerp & Brugge/Belgium February 6th to 13th 2005

Contact: Europees Jeugdfilmfestival

Vlaanderen, Bisschopstraat 67 B-2060 Antwerp

Phone: ++32-3-23 26 409
Fax: ++32-3-21 31 492
E-Mail: kidfilm@skynet.be
Internet: www.kidfilm.be

### International Filmfestival Berlin, Children's Film Festival February 10th to 20th 2005

Contact: Int. Filmfestival Berlin

Children's Film Festival Potsdamer Str. 5 D-10785 Berlin

Phone: ++49-30-25920420 Fax: ++49-30-25920429 E-Mail: kids@berlinale.de Internet: www.berlinale.de

### SehPferdchen - Kinderfilmfest Hannover/Germany, February 27th to March 6th 2005

Contact: SehPferdchen - Kinderfilmfest

Podbielskistr. 30
D-30163 Hannover
Phone: ++49-511-661341
Fax: ++49-511-667792
E-Mail: info@filmfest-sehpferdchen.de

Internet: www.filmfest-sehpferdchen.de

### Children's Film Festival Augsburg March 6th to 13th 2005

Contact: Augsburger Kinderfilmfest

Filmbüro Augsburg
Schroeckstr. 8
D-86152 Augsburg
Phone: ++49-821-3491060
Fax: ++49-821-3495218
E-Mail: filmbuero@t-online.de
Internet: www.filmfest-augsburg.de

### BUFF - Internat. Children's and Young People's Film-Festival, Malmö/Sweden March 8th to 13th 2005

Contact: BUFF, P.O. Box 4277

S-20314 Malmö
Phone: ++46-40-302505
Fax: ++46-40-305 322
E-Mail: info@buff.se

Internet: www.buff.se

### Children's Film Festival "Film Berry" Riga/Latvia, March 14th to 20th 2005

Contact: Children's Film Festival

"Film Berry", c/o Arsenals

Marstalu 14

LV-1050 Riga/Latvia

Phone: ++371-722-1620
Fax: ++371-722-1620
E-Mail: programm@arsenals.lv

Internet: www.arsenals.lv



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ECFA's website programmer: Udo Lange

#### ECFA - The EUROPEAN CHILD-**REN'S FILM ASSOCIATION**

The goal of ECFA is to support cinema for children in its cultural, economical, aesthetic, social, political and educational aspects. ECFA was founded in 1988 in Mons/Belgium after the Conference of Troja/Portugal and it brought together a wide range of European film professionals and associations, producers, directors, distributors. ECFA's aim is to set up a working structure in every European country for films for children and young people, a structure adapted to Europe's multicultural interests.

### For more informations and membership (membership-fee 200 € per year) contact:

ECFA - European Children's Film Association Rue des Palais 112 B-1030 Bruxelles

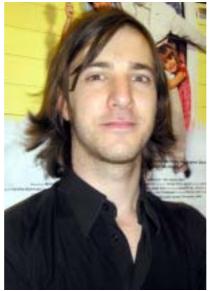
++-32 - 2 - 242 54 09 Phone: Fax: ++-32 - 2 - 242 74 27 E-Mail: ecfa@jekino.be Internet: www.ecfaweb.org

#### The European Children's Film **Distribution Network:** www.ecfaweb.org/english/ ecfnet/index.htm

Databases on children's film festivals, sales agents, distributors and TV-programmers interested in European films for children.

### **ECFA** in Persons:

### Pieter Boeckx, Antwerp/Belgium



Pieter Boeckx has been working for the European Youth Film Festival Flanders in Antwerp and Brugge for several years. Now he follows Katrijn Korten as the festival's artistic director. "My main objective, personally and for the Film Festival, is to present all those films that just wouldn't be able to be seen if we do not make people aware of their existence. When you take a look at the current offer of children's and youth films on the commercial circuit at most points it is very sad to see what kind of films are offered to the audience. Children are quite intelligent these days and they should be treated as such. I like to show them films which are a bit more challenging, that can evoke some

dialogue on certain themes, that are interesting in social and cultural terms."

Working for an international film festival it is essential for Pieter Boeckx to have a network: "Films for children and young people form a very special and unique part of the film market. To be able to obtain information, it is of course very convenient to have contacts in the different countries and to have this central association, which is ECFA. The Association brings together people from around Europe who work for a common aim: interesting films for children and young people. Not only is it extremely interesting to interact with these people on the level of exchanging knowledge on film sources, but also you can exchange a lot of experience in studying each others working methods and ideas in the various European countries. On a more personal level, it's also very interesting to be able to meet these people from all those different countries, who work for the same common goal: promoting high quality European films."

Pieter of course has many ideas on how to improve ECFA's activities: "I would like to see ECFA's website evolve in a more active form, with regular news updates, direct links to new films or festivals, maybe a forum, etc. Maybe there could also be a more intense co-operation between the various European youth film festivals. Something like a travelling ECFA programme, for example, with some of the most interesting films of the time, more co-operation on the exchange of information, such as dialogue lists, etc.

### Get together of the Children's Film Community at the International Film Festival at Berlin, February 12th 2005

On Saturday, February 12th, from 9 pm. on there will be the now famous get together for all those working with children's films, organized by ECFA, Atlas Intermedia, Bundesverband Jugend und Film, Förderverein Deutscher Kinderfilm, Lucas International Children's Film Festival Frankfurt, MDC International Film Distribution and Stiftung Goldener Spatz.

Location: Café am Neuen See, Lichtensteinallee 2, 10787 Berlin

### **ECFA's Annual General Meeting** in Berlin, February 12th 2005

The Annual General Assembly of the European Children's Film Association will be held during the International Film Festival Berlin on Saturday, February 12th, from 4:00 to (approximately) 7:00 pm. Location: Hotel Unter den Linden, Unter den Linden 14, 10117 Berlin.

**Preliminary AGENDA:** 

- 1. Report on the Annual General Meeting 2004
- 2. Report on the ECFA-activities 2004
- 3. Financial report on the year 2004
- 4. Approval of the reports
- 5. Election of new board members
- 6. Projects for 2005, especially The 3rd Conference of European Film Festivals for Young Audiences
- 7. Proposals from the members for future projects
- 8. Any other business