

No. 3/2007
September 2007

Contents:

The News Section

Films, Festivals, Awards

Forthcoming Festivals

Films on the Horizon

Report

A Drop in the Ocean?
EU-Support for European Children's Films

Interview:

Magnus Carlsson,
Director of the animation film „Desmond and the Swamp Barbarian Trap“

EU-Support for European Children's films:

A Drop in the Ocean?

In the previous issue of this Journal we mentioned that within ECFA a grouping of (children's film) distributors had started. Apart from the exchange of information and experiences, the main goal of this grouping is to get more access to the funds that the European Union has available to support the distribution of European films.



„Lotte from Gadgetville“ was among the films supported by the EU-Media programme

But what is the actual situation ?

In order to support the distribution of European films across the borders, the European Commission created the MEDIA-programme and within this support system,

there are two main opportunities for distribution companies to receive grants:

The first is the „automatic support“ which is based upon the results of a film. For each paying visitor the distributor receives a certain amount to be re-invested in new European productions.

The second is the „selective support“ which is partly paid before the release of the film and is therefore meant to help the distributors to cover the first investments for prints, subtitling or dubbing costs and advertising. Please note, at first this grant was completely regarded as „a loan“ (if the film was quite successful the loan had to be paid back). Then it became part loan, part subsidy (the costs for subtitling or dubbing were a subsidy) and since 2007 the grants will be completely con-

Continued on page 2 + 3

Interview with Magnus Carlsson, Director of Desmond and the Swamp Barbarian Trap:

„Everything Started with a Pig in a Sauna!“

„Desmond and the Swamp Barbarian Trap“ is the first long animated film by Magnus Carlsson (who won several awards for his video for Radiohead's 'Paranoid Android'. And „Desmond ...“ is really HIS baby. Together with a team of (mainly Swedish) animators, he did everything within his power to keep the production in his own hands, whatever the consequences were...

Where does the little pig Desmond come from?

Magnus Carlsson: It all began with an image in my head: a pig in a sauna... and it's with that image that the film starts. I was working on animated TV-series like *The Three Friends* and *Jerry and Lisa*, but only human characters acted in those series. Never before had I animated something with animals and I was really keen on trying. I got the first idea for *Desmond* in 2001. By that time I didn't know what it

would be: a TV-series, a film...? I took my time to let the concept grow and blossom.

You had never done puppet animation before?

MC: I am a director, not an animator. I work exactly like a director of a feature film; the animators are my actors. *Desmond* is the first Swedish puppet animation feature. I had to wait until 2003 when the first generation of Swedish students finished their education in puppet animation. They were the ones working on *Desmond*.

Continued on page 6

Magnus Carlsson. Photo: NonStop Sales



Dear Readers of ECFA-Journal, ...

What we announced in the last issue of ECFA-Journal has been done: meanwhile: You can download ECFA's logo and a pdf-file of ECFA's ad from our website at

www.ecfaweb.org/logos
and
www.ecfaweb.org/ads.

You can use the logo to decorate the link from your website to ECFA. It shows that you are a part of an international network and it makes our network more visible.

You can easily publish the advertisement (see it on page 5) in your cata-

logues or brochures. There is often some free space on the pages that can be filled with an advert. You can enclose the pdf-file in all dtp-software. The size can easily be enlarged or reduced. It would be great if these tools were used for a better communication during the next few months.

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

Children's Film Fest Munich/Germany

Audience Award: „Azur and Asmar“ by Michel Ocelot, France 2006

Contact: Filmfest München -

Kinderfilmfest, Sonnenstr. 21
D-80331 München

Phone: ++49-89-381904-0

E-Mail: katrin.hoffmann@filmfest-muenchen.de

Internet: www.filmfest-muenchen.de

Giffoni Int. Film Festival, Giffoni Valle Piana, Salerno/Italy, July 13th to 21st 2007

Kidz-Section, Best Film: „Mid Road

Gang“ by Pantham Thongsang Somkiat Vithuranich, Thailand 2007;

First Screens-Section, Best Film: „Kidz in da Hood“ by Ylva Gustavsson & Catti Edfeldt, Sweden 2006;

Free to Fly-Section, Best Film and Jury Grand Prix: „Michou d'Auber“ by

Thomas Gilou, France 2007;

Y-Gen-section, Best Film: „Keith“ by Todd Kessler, USA 2006; Jury Grand

Prix: „Eagle vs. Shark“, by Taika Waititi, New Zealand 2006.

Contact: Giffoni Int. Film Festival
c/o Cittadella del Cinema
I-84095 Giffoni Valle Piana,

Phone: ++39-089-8023001

E-Mail: info@giffoniff.it

Internet: www.giffoniff.it

Forthcoming Festivals

Lucas - International Children's Film-festival, Frankfurt/Main / Germany

September 23rd to 30th 2007

Contact: Lucas - Int. Kinderfilm-Festival
Deutsches Filmmuseum
Schaumainkai 41
D-60596 Frankfurt/M.

Phone: ++49-69-961220670

E-Mail: lucas@deutsches-filmmuseum.de

Internet: www.lucasfilmfestival.de

Carrousel International du Film, Rimouski, Canada

September 23rd to 30th 2007

Contact: Carrousel Int. du Film
92, 2e Rue Ouest
CAN- Rimouski G5L 8B3

Phone: ++1-418-722-0103

Fax: ++1-418-7249504

E-Mail: cifr@carrousel.qc.ca

Internet: www.carrousel.qc.ca

International Childrens Film Festival LEFFIS, Turku, Finland

September 27th to 30th 2007

Contact: LEFFIS c/o ValoAurinko - Arts and Media for Children
Hämeenkatu 22
SF-20500 Turku

Phone: ++358 50 3003 523

E-Mail: antti@valoaurinko.net

Internet: www.valoaurinko.net

Continuing from page 1

Media Programme EU.: Selective support for children's films in 2005 and 2006

| Filmtitle/ country | country granted | deadlines (month/year) | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 3/05 | 7/05 | 12/05 | 4/06 | 7/06 | 12/06 |
| Villa Henriette Austria | Belgium | 4.000 | | | | | |
| | Germany | 20.000 | | | | | |
| | Iceland | 6.000 | | | | | |
| | Lithuania | 2.000 | | | | | |
| | Norway | 7.000 | | | | | |
| Terkel in Trouble Denmark | Austria | | 7.000 | | | | |
| | Czech Republic | | 20.000 | | | | |
| | Germany | | 75.000 | | | | |
| | Hungary | | 25.000 | | | | |
| | Iceland | | 14.000 | | | | |
| | Italy | | 70.000 | | | | |
| | Netherlands | | 20.000 | | | | |
| | Portugal | | 25.000 | | | | |
| | Slovakia | | 7.000 | | | | |
| | United Kingdom | | 40.000 | | | | |
| | Bulgaria | | | | | | 5.000 |
| Czech Republic | | | | | | 20.000 | |
| Kirikou and the Wild Animals France | Switzerland | | | 40.000 | | | |
| | Denmark | | | 35.000 | | | |
| | Germany | | | 90.000 | | | |
| | Spain | | | 150.000 | | | |
| | Finland | | | 30.000 | | | |
| | Greece | | | 45.000 | | | |
| | Italy | | | 150.000 | | | |
| | Lithuania | | | 6.000 | | | |
| | Norway | | | 35.000 | | | |
| | Portugal | | | 6.000 | | | |
| | Sweden | | | 30.000 | | | |
| Bulgaria | | | | | | 8.000 | |
| Astérix and the Vikings France | Austria | | | | | 0 | |
| | Belgium | | | | 40.000 | | |
| | Switzerland | | | | 27.500 | | |
| | Germany | | | | 40.000 | | |
| | Finland | | | | 21.000 | | |
| | Greece | | | | 27.000 | | |
| | Iceland | | | | 16.000 | | |
| | Netherlands | | | | 0 | | |
| | Portugal | | | | 18.500 | | |
| | Sweden | | | | 31.500 | | |
| | Norway | | | | | 22.000 | |
| | Italy | | | | | | 25.000 |
| | Slovenia | | | | | | 5.000 |
| Lotte from Gadgetville Estonia | Austria | | | | | 6.000 | |
| | Belgium | | | | | 10.000 | |
| | Germany | | | | | 110.000 | |
| | Luxembourg | | | | | 7.000 | |
| | Netherlands | | | | | 12.000 | |
| | Norway | | | | | 30.000 | |
| | Sweden | | | | | 30.000 | |
| | France | | | | | | 45.000 |
| | Bulgaria | | | | | | 12.000 |
| Franklin and the Turtle Lake Treasure France | Switzerland | | | | | | 17.000 |
| | Spain | | | | | | 130.000 |
| | Hungary | | | | | | 19.000 |
| | Poland | | | | | | 55.000 |
| | Portugal | | | | | | 5.000 |
| | Slovenia | | | | | | 10.000 |
| | Sweden | | | | | | 25.000 |
| | Austria | | | | | | 10.000 |
| Rascals on the Road/ My Name is Eugen Switzerland | Belgium | | | | | | 3.000 |
| | Germany | | | | | | 100.000 |
| | Estonia | | | | | | 4.000 |
| | Luxembourg | | | | | | 1.000 |
| | Netherlands | | | | | | 3.000 |
| The Ugly Duck- ling and me Denmark | Belgium | | | | | | 25.000 |
| | Switzerland | | | | | | 9.000 |
| | Czech Republic | | | | | | 17.000 |
| | France | | | | | | 130.000 |
| | Hungary | | | | | | 17.000 |
| | Ireland | | | | | | 35.000 |
| | Portugal | | | | | | 20.000 |
| Slovakia | | | | | | 12.000 | |
| Total grants for children's films: | | 39.000 | 303.000 | 617.000 | 221.500 | 260.000 | 734.000 |
| Overall amount of grants: | | 4.447.900 | 5.199.500 | 3.978.100 | 3.436.500 | 4.124.000 | 3.938.500 |
| Number of children's films granted: | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Total number of films granted: | | 29 | 38 | 31 | 35 | 35 | 40 |

A Drop in the Ocean?

sidered as a subsidy. Therefore, there is now no paying back afterwards (but probably the amount of the grants will go down).

In order to apply for this support, there must be a grouping of at least five distributors from different countries and, as we previously mentioned, this is not as easy within the field of children's film. The taste or the opinion about what is a good film for children varies dramatically among different parts of Europe.

So, the creating of the ECFA-grouping is a first step to fulfil this basic condition.

For this article we checked out the EU-support given to children's films in the last two years. The first remarkable fact is that in 2005 there were three films for children supported within this system; three out of the global number of 98 European films that got a grant!!! This is less than 3%. The good news is that these three films altogether received a support amount of 959.000,- Euros. Compared with the total amount of support given out in 2005 (13.625.500,- Euros.), this means that the children's films received 7% of the budget. In other words, a children's film received more than twice as much as the average. This is probably due to the fact that most of the children's films need to be dubbed which raises the costs significantly.

In 2006 there were ten films for children granted, out of the total number of 110 films. So in this year the part of the children's films raised up to nearly 10%. But the good news was soon to come to an end: These ten films altogether received a support amount of 1.215.500,- Euros, which is substantially less per film as the previous year and compared with the global support for that year (11.499.000,- Euros.), the children's films received 10,5% of the budget.

But in fact during the years 2005 and 2006 there were only eight different titles of films for children supported. Some titles were granted a few times. (This does not change a lot regarding the percentages, because this also happens with the other non-children-titles). From these eight titles six were animation and two fiction. Two of the films can be regarded as mainstream movies (*Asterix and the Vikings* and *Franklin and the Turtle Lake Treasure*). So there are six films left from

which we can say that the two fiction films are small productions (*Villa Henriette** and *Rascals on the Road aka My Name is Eugen**) that also got restricted releases in the concerned countries. The last four titles are the ones circulating the most, in festivals as well as in cinemas.

- *Kirikou and the Wild Animals*
- *Terkel in Trouble*
- *Lotte from Gadgetville**
- *The Ugly Duckling and Me*

* In these three titles, out of eight supported films, members of the ECFA-grouping were involved.

One of the questions that could be raised from these statistics is: „Are there too few good films for children?“ In my opinion, the production of quality films for children has its ups and downs, obviously, but in general there is certainly no lack of good films. The programmes of the various children's film festivals all over Europe show that the films are there, but they just have difficulty getting distribution.

The positive news is to see that for the first application deadline in 2007 (April) four new films for children were entered (plus more distributors for *Lotte ...* from 2006) and in each of these applications, ECFA-members were involved:
Azur et Azmar . . .DK,S,SF,IS,NL,N, S, UK (France)

Crusade in JeansD (UK, NL, D)

The Three Musketeers BU,EST, (DK, Latvia) LT,NL, N

TriggerA,B,CH,D,EST,NL, S,BU (Norway)

Lotte from Gadgetville SF, PL (Estonia, already entered in 2006)

Regarding the second deadline in 2007 (July) we do not have any information, but we already know that for the last deadline (December 2007) the ECFA-grouping will apply for the movie *Desmond and the Swamp Barbarian Trap*.

However, it still remains necessary to cooperate even more in order to direct a bigger part of the quite important support budget of the EU to the children's film area.
Felix Vanginderhuysen

A Job offer from Canada:

New Director for „Sprockets“ Wanted

The Toronto International Film Festival Group, a vibrant not-for-profit arts organization, is accepting applications for the full-time position of: Director, Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children.

This position will oversee the presentation of the best of international and domestic children's films to Toronto audiences for the Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children. For more information, please review the full job posting at: <http://www.tiffg.ca/>

Go to „Jobs“ at the bottom of the page.

The posting closes on September 24th, but please contact us at

humanresources@tiffg.ca

if you may need a short extension.

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

Schlingel - Int. Film Festival for Children and Young Audience, Chemnitz/ Germany, October 1st to 7th 2007

Contact: Schlingel - Int. Film Festival
Sächsischer Kinder- und
Jugendfilmdienst e.V.
Neefestr. 99, D-09119 Chemnitz

Phone: ++49-371-4447440

Fax: ++49-371-4447479

E-Mail: info@ff-schlingel.de

Internet: www.ff-schlingel.de

**Gaffa - International Film Festival for Young People, Vienna/Austria
October 1st to 6th 2007**

Contact: Gaffa c/o wienXtra-cinematic
Friedrichstraße 4
A-1010 Wien

Phone: ++43-1-585 68 02

Fax: ++43-1-585 32 27

E-Mail: cinemagic@wienXtra.at

Internet: www.gaffa-filmfestival.at

Cinekid - Int. Film, Television and New Media Festival for Children and Young People, October 14th to 21st 2007

Contact: Stichting Cinekid
Korte Leidsewaarsstraat 12
NL-1017 RC Amsterdam

Phone: ++31-20-5317890

Fax: ++31-20-5317899

E-Mail: info@cinekid.nl

Internet: www.cinekid.nl

Festival Int. de Cinéma, Saint Quentin/ France, October 17th to 24th 2007

Contact: Ciné-Jeune de l'Aisne
9 rue du Bourg – BP 526
F-02001 Laon Cedex

Phone: ++33-3 23 79 39 37

Fax: ++33-3 23 79 39 32

E-Mail: contact@cinejeuneo2.com

Internet: www.cinejeuneo2.com

**Festival int. de Cinéma du grain à dé-
moudre, Gonfreville l'Orcher/ Norman-
die (France), October 23rd to 31st 2007**

Contact: Festival du grain à démoudre
Maison des Associations, BP 95
F-76700 Gonfreville l'Orcher

Phone: ++33-2-35471285

Fax: ++33-2-35471285

E-Mail: contact@dugrainademoudre.net

Internet: www.dugrainademoudre.net

**Istanbul International Children's Film
Festival, Istanbul/Turkey, October 23rd
to November 8th 2007**

Contact: Istanbul International
Children's Film Festival
Suleyman Nazif Sokak 69/5
TK-34371 Nisantasi Istanbul

Phone: ++90 212 296 50 16

Fax: ++90 212 296 50 04

E-Mail: info@iicff.com

Internet: www.iicff.com

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

FEST – Int. Film Festival, Santa Maria da Feira/Portugal, October 28th to November 4th 2007

Contact: FEST c/o Centro de Negócios do Cavaco
Rua António Martins Soares Leite, Apartado 160
PT-4524-909 Santa Maria da Feira
Phone: ++351256330900
E-Mail: fest@fest.pt
Internet: www.fest.pt

Nordic Filmdays, Luebeck/Germany, October 31st to November 4th 2007

Contact: Nordic Filmdays Luebeck
Schildstr. 6-8, D-23539 Luebeck
Phone: ++49-451-122 4109
Fax: ++49-451-122 4106
E-Mail: info@filmtage.luebeck.de
Internet: www.filmtage.luebeck.de

Doxs! - Documentaries for Children and Young People, Duisburg/Germany, November 5th to 11th 2007

Contact: Doxs! Duisburger Filmwoche
c/o Volkshochschule Duisburg
Am König-Heinrich-Platz
D-47049 Duisburg
Phone: ++49-203-2834187
Fax: ++49-203-2834130
E-Mail: info@duisburger-filmwoche.de
Internet: www.duisburger-filmwoche.de

FICI – Festival International de Cine para la Infancia y la Juventud, Madrid/Spain, November 12th to 17th 2007

Contact: FICI – Tambor de Hojalata
Asociación, C/ Marqués de Valdeiglesias, n° 5 1º izq
E-28004 Madrid
Phone: ++34 91 522 89 76
Fax: ++34 91 181 23 38
E-Mail: fici@shangri-la.jazztel.es
Internet: fici@shangri-la.jazztel.es

Cinemagic - World Screen Festival for Young People, Belfast/UK, November 16th to December 2nd 2007

Contact: Cinemagic, Fountain House
49 Botanic Avenue
GB- Belfast BT7 1JL
Phone: ++44-28-90-311 900
Fax: ++44-28-90-319 709
E-Mail: info@cinemagic.org.uk
Internet: www.cinemagic.org.uk

Int. Children's Film Festival, Vienna/Austria, November 17th to 25th 2007

Contact: Int. KinderFilmFestival
c/o Institut Pitanga
Steggasse 1/12a, A-1071 Wien
Phone: ++43-1-5868963
Fax: ++43-1-5868963
E-Mail: kinderfilmfestival@pitanga.at
Internet: www.kinderfilmfestival.at

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. Obviously 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.

Behind the Clouds

Feature Film, Portugal 2006
Director: Jorge Queiroga
Production: Filmes do Tejo
Festivals: Frankfurt, Amsterdam
World Sales: Filmes do Tejo
Av. da Liberdade, 85 - 3º
PT-1250-140 Lisboa
phone: ++ 351 213 234 400 / 1
fax: ++ 351 213 471 087
E-Mail: filmesdotejo@filmesdotejo.pt
Internet: www.filmesdotejo.pt
www.atrasdasnuvens.com

Blame it on Fidel

Feature Film, France 2006
Director: Julie Gavras
Production: Les Films du Worso
Festivals: Sundance, Lucas Frankfurt
World Sales: Gaumont
30, Ave. Charles de Gaulle
F-92200 Neuilly
phone: ++33-1-46432000
fax: ++33-1-46432033
E-Mail: info@gaumont.com
Internet: www.gaumont.com

Cowboy Angels

Feature Film, France 2006
Director: Kim Masseur
Production: Artworx films
Festival: Rotterdam, Giffoni
World Sales: Insomnia World Sales
50 bis Rue de la Mare
F-75020 Paris
phone: ++33-143580804
fax: ++33-143580932
E-Mail: contact@insomnia-sales.com
Internet: www.insomnia-sales.com

Crow Lake

Feature Film, Lithuania 2007
Director: Inesa Kurklietyte
Production: Kėtvirta Versija
Festival: Lucas Frankfurt 2007
World Sales: Concept Events & Media
T. Sevcenkos g. 21/12
LT-03111 Vilnius
phone/fax: ++370 5 233 3930
E-Mail: info@concept.lt
Internet: www.concept.lt

The Crumbs – Santa's Little Helper

Feature Film, Denmark 2006
Director: Morten Lorentzen
Production: Regner Grasten Filmprod.
Festival: Giffoni
World Sales: Regner Grasten Filmprod.
Sølvgade 20
DK-1307 København K
phone: ++45-3332 3369
fax: ++45-3332 3389
E-Mail: regner@grasten.com

Franklin and the Turtle Lake Treasure

Animated Film, France 2006
Director: Dominique Monféry
Production: Alphanim
World Sales: Studio Canal
1, Place du spectacle

F-92130 Issy-les Moulineaux
phone: ++33-1-71 35 35 35
fax: ++33-1-71 75 88 88
Internet: www.studiocanal.com

Kid Power

Feature Film, France 2006
Director: Eric Civanyan
Production: Les Films Manuel Munz
Festivals: Giffoni, Lucas Frankfurt
World Sales: TFI International
1, Quai du Point du jour
F-92656 Boulogne-Billancourt
phone: ++33-1-41411763
fax: ++33-1-41411769
E-Mail: sales@tf1.fr
Internet: www.tfmistribution.com/
demandezlapermissionaux
enfants



„Max & Co.“

Little Red Boy

Feature Film, Italy 2007
Director: Pasquale Scimeca
Production: Arbash Società Cooperativa
Festival: Giffoni
World Sales: Adriana Chiesa Enterprises
Via Barnaba Oriani 24a
I-00197 Roma
phone: ++39-06-8086052
fax: ++39-06-80687855
E-Mail: info@adrianachiesa-
enterprises.com
Internet: www.adrianachiesa-
enterprises.com
www.rossomalpelofilm.it

Little Secrets

Feature Film, Luxembourg 2006
Director: Pol Cruchten
Production: Red Lion
Festival: Giffoni 2007
World Sales: Quinta Communications
16, Avenue Hoche
F-75008 Paris
phone: ++33-1-40760454
fax: ++33-1-42566921
E-Mail: jeannegeiben@quinta-
communications.com

Max & Co

Animated Film, Switzerland 2007
Directors: Samuel & Frédéric Guillaume
Production: MAX-LeFilm
Festival: Annecy
World Sales: Wild Bunch
99, Rue de la Verrerie
F-75004 Paris
phone: ++33-1-53 01 50 20
fax: ++33-1-53 01 50 49

Continuing from page 4

Films on the Horizon

E-Mail: vmaraval@exception-wb.com
Internet: www.wildbunch.biz
www.maxlefilm.com

Michou d' Auber

Feature Film, France 2007
Director: Thomas Gilou
Production: EuropaCorp
Festival: Giffoni 2007
World Sales: Europacorp
137, Rue du Faubourg
Saint-Honoré, F-75008 Paris
phone: ++33-1-53 83 03 03
fax: ++33-1-53 83 03 70
E-Mail: gmelin@europacorp.com
Internet: www.europacorp.com

The Mystery of the Old Talisman

Feature Film, Czech Republic 2007
Director: Pavel Jandourek
Production: Arthur Krensky Films
Festival: Zlin 2007
World Sales: Arthur Krensky Films
Hornom cholupská 68
CZ-102 00 Praha
phone/fax: ++420 271 960 554
E-Mail: info@arthurkrenskyfilms.cz
Internet: www.arthurkrenskyfilms.cz

Salvatore – That's Life

Feature Film, Italy 2006
Director: Gian Paolo Cugno
Production: Walt Disney Internat. Italy
Festivals: Zlin 2007, Munich 2007
World Sales: Walt Disney Internat. Italy
Via Cantalupo in Sabina, 29
IT-00191 Roma
phone: ++39-06-33083
fax: ++39-06-33083270
E-Mail: info@buenavista.it
Internet: www.buenavista.it

A Tale of Two Mozzies

Animated Film, Denmark 2007
Directors: Jannik Hastrup & Flemming
Quist Møller



„A Tale of Two Mozzies“

Production: Dansk Tegnefilm
World Sales: Nordisk Film Int. Sales
Mosedalvej 14
DK-2500 Valby
phone: ++45-3618 8200
fax: ++45-3618 9550
E-Mail: contact@nordiskfilm.com
Internet: www.sales.nordiskfilm.com

Toni Goldwascher

Feature Film, Germany 2007
Director: Norbert Lechner
Production: Kevin Lee Filmgesellschaft
World Sales: Zorro-Filmverleih GmbH
Astallerstr. 23
D-80339 München
phone: ++49-89-4523529-0
fax: ++49-89-4523529-11
E-Mail: info@zorrorfilm.de
Internet: www.zorrorfilm.de
www.tonigoldwascher.de

Uranya

Feature Film, Greece 2006
Director: Costas Kapakas
Production: Cinegram SA
Festival: Frankfurt 2007
World Sales: Odeon SA
275 Mesogion Avenue
GR-15231 Athens
phone: ++30-1-210 6786601
fax: ++30-1-210 6740073
E-Mail: odeon@odeon.gr
Internet: www.odeon.gr

ECFA's Presentation as an Ad

This short presentation of ECFA is meant for all members to include it as a free ad in their film or festival catalogues, helping us to make ECFA more visible. The original format is 200 x 138 mm, a vertical version is also available. The pdf-files can be enlarged or reduced and downloaded at www.ecfaweb.org/ads



EUROPEAN CHILDREN'S FILMS ASSOCIATION

ECFA is an association for professionals and organisations that operate within the fields of quality films for children and youth. It aims at securing children's access to the best possible film culture and to increase an awareness of the need for good media politics in the different countries in Europe.

ECFA will coordinate any initiative taken in favour of cinema for children and youth, as far as production, distribution, exhibition, cultural action, media education and training of professionals are concerned. Through initiatives such as networking, seminars and exchange of European audiovisual programmes we will strengthen the link between the different fields of operations within children's films.

To strengthen the high quality film culture for children and young people from the beginning of the films' production until they reach the eye of the young audience, ECFA can offer you:

- An extensive database of European films, festivals and contacts
- A network for professionals working within children's films
- Specialised seminars and workshops
- Distributors group for children's films
- A quarterly newsletter

ECFA was founded in 1988, and has 50 members from 20 European countries.
Membership fee is 200 Euro per year. Please find more information on our website.
www.ECFAweb.org
ecfa@ekino.be

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

Castellinaria Festival internazionale del cinema giovane Bellinzona, November 17th to 24th 2007

Contact: Castellinaria Festival
c/o Espocentro
Via Cattori 3 - P.O.Box 1239
CH-6502 Bellinzona-2
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London Children's Film Festival, London/UK, November 17th to 25th 2007

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Oulu Internat. Children's Film Festival, Oulu/Finland, November 19th to 25th 2007

Contact: Int. Children's Film Festival Oulu Film Center
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Gijón Int. Film Festival for Young People Gijón/Spain, November 22nd to December 1st 2007

Contact: Gijón Int. Film Festival Paseo de Begona, 24 - Entlo. E-33205 Gijón, Asturias
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Olympia International Film Festival for Children and Young People, Pyrgos/Greece, December 1st to 8th 2007

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International Young Audience Film Festival Ale Kino!, Poznan/Poland, December 7th to 15th 2007

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journal

Published by

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ECFA – EUROPEAN CHILDREN'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 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.

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The European Children's Film Distribution Network:

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

Continuing from page 1

„Everything Started with a Pig in a Sauna!“



Magnus Carlsson. Photo: NonStop Sales

„Desmond ...“ is a real Swedish production.

MC: You know how it goes with co-productions: Americans are extremely sensitive for nudity and bad language, the British refuse jokes about electricity (no fingers in the plug, etc.), France and Germany have their own priorities. From all sides they're pushing and pulling until the only thing left from your film is as flat as a pancake. That's why these days everything looks so similar. I absolutely wanted to save my film from such influences and keep everything in my own hands. That explains the few seconds frontal nudity in the film.

That had its budgetary consequences.

MC: With a big budget you have to deliver less seconds film per animator per day. So you have more time for trying out and experiment. But my motto is: stick to your budget and do what you're good at. We invested a lot of time-consuming handwork in *Desmond*. We only used computers for the special effects, like for the water. The animating process took us two years. We were shooting simultaneously on four sets, so we needed a lot of identical puppets. We used an aluminium frame that was covered with a fluffy type of latex. The puppets were developed by people who also work for Aardman Productions. And as much as possible we used original material: wooden objects were made in wood, the houses were built with little bricks, the roofing was made in zinc, etc. *Desmond* looks really cosy, with dark for-

ests, little wooden cabins,... We were definitely aiming for a fairytale atmosphere.

The storyline is pretty anarchistic and absurd.

MC: That was my goal: allowing adults to enjoy and laugh together with their kids. But not too much: the young audience should always be the main target. *Desmond* is suitable for children from 3 or 4 years old, but even a 9 year old kid should consider it 'cool enough'. It's a classic story in the European tradition, like H.C. Andersen. I added some humour by using funny dialogues and situation slapstick. But there is also a level of educating through 'lessons of wisdom': 'Don't cheat on your friends' (the hare celebrating his birthday every day) or 'Always accept the consequences of your actions'.

Throughout the story, little pig Desmond might be the most balanced, stable character.

MC: That is a classic misconception. The main character shouldn't be the craziest of them all, but should be surrounded by characters who are much more crazy than him. Look at *Seinfeld*: most of the humour doesn't come from his actions, but from things caused by the people around him.

Who is your favourite character?

MC: I have a preference for Helmut Sebaot, the moose.

How did the Swedish release go?

MC: The Swedish press reviews were very positive, with high scores on the valuation scale. The theatrical release got a bit crossed by internal problems at Triangle Film, our producer. But after running in the theatres for months, the film still finds a new audience. It is a slow starter.

Did „Desmond ...“ influence your plans for the future?

MC: Surely. I feel that I am ready for new projects. I am working on a new animation film for a teenage audience and *Desmond's* story is surely not finished yet. I do not know if he will be back in a sequel or in a TV-series, but for sure... he will be back!

Interview: Gert Hermans



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