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February

Editorial

Since my studies in horror films and feminist film theory, the portrayal of women has always been of great interest to me. I am delighted that ECFA, together with Film&Kino and Kristiansand Children's Film Festival, will host a seminar about girls on film.

How is the situation for children and youth films? Well, if you are a highly informed media parent you can definitely find good films with tough and independent girls. Looking at admission numbers we know that few such parents exist. For every FIGHTER there's another dozen youth action films where the girl is reduced to being a trophy for the young hero's successful quest. 'Hannah Montana' and 'High School Musical', with their focus on beauty and conservative moral, are another sad fact. Do young girls today experience some sort of backlash? Looking at TV it seems their childhood has been reduced to looking good, behaving nicely and hoping to secure a boyfriend, all the time dressed as a copy of an adult pop star. What about girls with other cultural backgrounds? Have we sacrificed their equal rights by being afraid to offend other people's different religion or culture? Are films like FIGHTER and BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM with their heroines overcoming obstacles from their families' tradition just wishful thinking or a sign that something is changing? But what do we really know of the secret worlds of girls?

I am looking forward to discussing the questions above at our seminar, and I hope to see you all there!

Tonje Hardersen

Girls on Film

ECFA Seminar in Kristiansand

Gender representation in children's films has always been one of ECFA's major concerns. Former president Eva Schwarzwald recently made a statement:

"Girls are interesting market subjects and targets for exploitation in a consumer culture. Being put down or undervalued during their teenage years hinders them to develop a strong self-esteem and confidence. Girls are not receiving adequate means to help strongly assert their will in a positive way. The values communicated through media, advertising and fashion push them towards the acceptance of aesthetic values invented for a world which responds to purely economic interests. As professionals in the film industry we want to promote the production and distribution of quality films for intelligent and sensitive girls and make them more equipped to face the pressure coming from the media world."

ECFA will take the chance to do so in a seminar at the Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival. 'Girls on Film' (May 1st 2009) will create a perfect occasion to discuss gender, identity and diversity in children's films. Key-note speaker is Cecilia von Feilitzen ('Girls in danger – Gender & Media') from the Swedish International Clearing House on Children, Youth & Media. Other presentations will deal with the historical, contemporary or future role for girls to play as characters in children's films and TV-series.

Stay updated about the 'Girls on Film' seminar on www.ecfaweb.org.



Fighter

ECFA Wants You on the International Platform

ECFA Journal from now on will be coordinated by a new editor. I would like to thank Reinhold Schöffel for the wonderful work he did for many years, turning ECFA Journal into a real 'institution' that gave ECFA its own valuable and respectable voice, and for all his help in making the transition run as smooth as possible. I'm happy for the chances ECFA is offering me.

Wrestling with this new job, I am relying on the help of all ECFA's members and friends. I only have a slight idea of the projects you all work on and the way you do it, so more than ever I would like all of you to send information on your activities to ecfa@jekino.be so that we can spread the news.

ECFA Journal does not only want to inform you, but also aspires to be a platform for discussion about all aspects of the children's film industry, by means of your contributions. Only in that way can we share ideas and let our colleagues on the international platform benefit from your experiences. I would be truly grateful for such a co-operation.

Gert Hermans

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

Nueva Mirada – Internat. Film Festival for Children & Youth, Buenos Aires, Argentina

International Jurys' Awards, best long animation for children: „Nocturna“ by Adriá García and Víctor Maldonado, Spain/France 2007; best short animation for children: „The Tiny Fish“ by Sergei Ryabov, Russia 2007. Best long animation for young people: „Papelucho and the Martian“ by Alejandro Rojas Tellez, Chile 2007; best short animation for young people: „The Employment“ by Santiago „Bou“ Grasso, Argentina 2008. Best feature film for children: „Mozart in China“ by Bernd Neuburger, Austria 2008; best short film for children (ex aequo): „Wind's Stories“ by Javier Beltrán Ramos, Venezuela 2007, and „For a Few Marbles More“ by Jelmar Hufen, Netherlands 2006. Best feature film for young people: „Toni Goldwascher“ by Norbert Lechner, Germany 2007; best short film for young people: „Torture and Glory“ by Carlos Gil & Mercedes Furst Zapola, Argentina 2006.

Children's and Young People's Jury: Best feature film for children: „The Year my Parents Went on Vacation“ by Cao Hamburger, Brasil 2007; best long animation film: „Nocturna“.

Signis Jury Award for the best feature film: „King Siri“ by Somaratne Dissanayake, Sri Lanka 2008.

Delphis Film's Dauphin d'Or Award: „The Year my Parents went on Vacation“. www.nuevamisra.com

Olympia Int. Film Festival for Children and Young People, Pyrgos/ Greece

Int. Jury's Awards, best feature film: „Tahaan – A Boy with a Grenade“ by Santosh Sivan, India 2008; best short fiction film: „Pet Shop“ by Michalis-Gravriil Zenelis, Greece 2008; best short animated film: „Panic Painter“ by Johan Hagelback, Sweden 2008; best direction: „No Network“ by Ari Kristinsson, Iceland 2007; best screenplay: „Handlebar Moustache“ by Javad Ardakani, Iran 2007; best young actress: Fatemeh Shaker for her play in „Handlebar Moustache“; Special Mentions: „Fighter“ by Natasha Arthy and „A Tale of Two Mozzies“ by Jannik Hastrup and Flemming Quist Møller, both Denmark 2007.

SEMINAR

Creating Modern Heroes – a Cinekid Seminar

During the Cinekid Festival (Amsterdam) the Dutch Screenwriters Guild organized the international seminar 'Creating Modern Heroes'. The central question was: is writing and creating screen characters for children a different trade than writing for adults? Maya Götz from the International Central Institute for Youth & Educational Television (IZI) was invited to present her research on the role of gender.

Soft Porn Winx Club

Maya Götz (who will contribute to ECFA's 'Girls on Film' seminar) conducted extensive research on how kids react to all kinds of TV-series for a young audience. American series dominate the TV-screens, and the leading stereotypes are male super-fit Caucasians. There are hardly any traces of imperfection in the image of the presented characters. With regard to the over-sexualized female figures in series like 'Winx Club' (which was described by Robert Alberdingk Thijm as 'soft porn for kids'), Götz concluded that boys aged up to twelve do not like getting confronted with references to sex; boys prefer to look at tomboy-like females. The creation of super-slim, super-sexy, idealized animated females reveals more about the sexual obsessions of their creators than about the imagination of the young viewers.

Götz stressed that children like challenges, they like to overcome their fears. For example SpongeBob: he wants to be a grown up, but remains too young, yet at the same time he manages to turn his initial weakness into strength, which is what kids love about him.



Winx Club

Active / Passive

Robert Alberdingk Thijm, screenwriter for DUNYA & DESIE, a series and feature film about two girlfriends with a Moroccan and Dutch background, explained the evolution of his heroine Dunya.



Dunya & Desie

She develops emotionally and is observant, while Desie is the more active part. Kids love Desie but prefer to be Dunya. Alberdingk Thijm stresses the importance of an emotionally active main character who is at the same time a passive hero. Although he fully realizes how funds and producers tend to look at the level of physical activity, he makes a plea for devoting greater attention to the emotional development of modern heroes (although it's sometimes hard to judge on paper how such scenes will work on screen).

Ella Lemhagen (TSATSIKI, IMMEDIATE BOARDING, PATRICK 1,5) distinguishes 3 types of heroes: the rebel/female, the ordinary hero next door, and the lonely outsider. But in her films all heroes have one characteristic in common and that is in the end they learn to accept who they are.

Do As Bambi Did

The bottom-line for writing for children is that you can write about almost all disturbing subjects as long as you give the story a reassuring end. Even Bambi, losing his mother, stars in a film with a happy end. Give hope, so that children dare to engage.

Based on a Cinekid report
Full report: www.cinekid.nl/nl/professionals/news/seminar-verslagen-online.

INTERVIEW

Meeting Charlotte Sachs Bostrup (KARLA'S WORLD) "Never go for the most obvious solution"

The Danish KARLA'S WORLD is a top title in this year's children's film festivals. A girl lives with her mum but dreams about reuniting both her biological parents on Christmas Eve over a celebration dinner. In Danish theatres the film was running during the Christmas period. But – we asked director Charlotte Sachs Bostrup – does the film remain relevant throughout the entire year?

Bostrup: "Of course! It's a story about taking responsibilities and learning to say sorry. About parents who are too busy for really taking time to listen to their kids' needs."

A common subject in children's films. Is the problem more urgent than ever?

Bostrup: "Especially mothers nowadays are struggling with high expectations: a flourishing career, an exciting life, being a perfect housewife, looking like a fashion model,... The pressure is enormous. There's little time left for really paying attention to your kids."

KARLA'S KABALE was the Danish title.

Bostrup: "Which means: 'Karla's game of solitaire', referring to the card game she's playing, the one you play on your own and you never win. It's a common Danish expression for someone who doesn't get his things in line. Like Karla..."

There is no snow in your movie but the Christmas atmosphere is very palpable. How did you create it on screen?

Bostrup: "We worked by a very strict rule: never go for the most obvious solution. Christmas is usually connected with the colours green and red: green for the tree, red for the hearts we hang in it. We took all green and red out of the movie. The colour pallet of this film is gold, silver and yellow. Except one Christmas hat you won't spot a single bit of red."

How were you involved in the preliminary phase of the film?

Bostrup: "A producer asked if I was interested in working with Renee Toft Simonson's 'Karla'-books. That was exactly the kind of project I was looking for. But the books are a collection of anecdotes still in need of a storyline framework. Therefore I worked close together with the talented young scriptwriter Ina Bruhn."



Karla's World

Do the books provide you with enough inspiration for a sequel?

Bostrup: "The shooting is already finished. The working title is KARLA & KATRINE. The film will be released in Denmark on February 6th 2009. We thought Karla could use a bosom-friend. There is a slight touch of 'first love' too. This film will be a bit lighter. Alcoholism is a serious topic to deal with in a children's film. The new film stays out of the taboo-zone."

Allen Olsen gives a wonderful performance as Karla's alcoholic dad.

Bostrup: "Allen's story is amazing. At the age of 16 he was tremendously popular for a role he played in the Danish TV-series 'Charlie & Me'. A really talented self-made actor from a working class family. He had it all... until he started drinking. His life, his family, his career,... everything went down the drain. Years later a girl helped him to give up drinking. Ever since he's giving lectures; he doesn't act anymore. But Allen is a personal friend and I begged him for this film."

What about the rest of the cast?

Bostrup: "All of them were newcomers. But Elena Arndt-Jensen did a fantastic job; I can imagine no one else but her playing Karla. I found working with kids just the same as with grown-ups, maybe even easier. Kids don't ask silly questions all the time. You just tell them what their characters are doing precisely and why they do it." (GH)

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

CIFEJ-Award and UNICEF-Award: „Tahaan – A Boy with a Grenade“; Children Jury's Awards, best feature film: „No Network“; best short fiction film: „Because There are Things You Never Forget“ by Lucas Figueroa, Spain 2008; best short animated film: „A Drop in the Ocean“ by Thodoris Veneris and Dimitris Cheliotis, Greece 2008.

www.neanikoplano.gr

Int. Young Audience Film Festival Ale Kino!, Poznan/ Poland

Audience Award and Jury's Award for the best live action film for young people: „The Class“ by Ilmar Raag, Estonia 2007.

Best animation for children: „Squirrel and Bat“ by Jadwiga Kowalska, Switzerland 2008.

Best live-action film for children: „That Special Summer“ („Kid Svensk“) by Nanna Huolman, Sweden 2007.

Best animation for young people: „Walking Stick“ by Michal Socha, Poland 2008.

Children's Jury Prizes (ex aequo): „Buddha Collapsed out of Shame“ by Hana Makhmalbaf, Iran 2007, and „The Three Robbers“ by Hayo Freitag, Germany 2007.

Young People's Jury Prize: „The Wackness“ by Johnathan Levine, USA 2008.

CIFEJ Prize: „Buddha Collapsed out of Shame“.

www.alekino.com

Forthcoming Festivals

Children Film Festival - Cine Junior, Val-de-Marne, France, January 28th to February 10th 2009.

www.cinemapublic.org

Animex – International Festival of Animation & Computer Games, SCM, University of Teesside, Middlesbrough, Great Britain, February, 2nd to 6th 2009.

www.animex.net

International Filmfestival Berlin, Generation Kplus and 14plus, Berlin, Germany, February, 5th to 15th 2009.

www.berlinale.de

The News Section: Forthcoming Festivals

Anima – Festival du Dessin Animé et du Film d'Animation, Bruxelles, Belgium, February, 20th to 28th 2009.

www.awn.com/folioscope

Europees Jeugdfilmfestival Vlaanderen, Antwerp & Brugge, Belgium, February, 21st to March 3rd 2009.

www.jeugdfilmfestival.be

New York International Children's Film Festival, New York/ USA, February, 27th to March 15th 2009.

www.gkids.com

Montreal Int. Children's Film Festival (FIFEM), Montreal/Canada, February, 28th to March 8th 2009.

www.fifem.com

Youngabout - Int. Film Festival for Young People, Bologna, Italy, March 9th to 14th 2009.

www.youngabout.com

BUFF – Int. Children & Young People's Film Festival, Malmö/ Sweden, March 10th to 14th 2009.

www.buff.se

Augsburger Kinderfilmfest, Augsburg/Germany, March 21st to 29th 2009. Deadline for film entries: February 1st 2009.

www.filmfest-augsburg.de

Leeds Young People's Film Festival, Leeds/Great Britain, April 2nd to 10th 2009.

www.leedsyoungfilm.com

Children's Film Festival Berimora Kino („Berimor's Cinema“), Riga/ Latvia, April 4th to 12th 2009. Deadline for film entries: January 31st 2009.

www.arsenals.lv

Sprockets - Toronto Int. Film Festival for Children, Toronto/ Canada, April 18th to 24th 2009.

www.sprockets.ca

Stockholm Film Festival Junior Stockholm/Sweden, April 20th to 25th 2009.

www.stockholmfilmfestival.se/junior/

Kristiansand Int. Children's Film Festival, Kristiansand/Norway, April 28th to May 3rd 2009.

www.kicff.no

Production News

ECFA Journal wants to inform regularly about films still in production and highlight some titles. If you have information available about films in every possible phase of the production process, please send it to ecfa@jekino.be.

THE RACE

THE RACE is an Irish-German co-production, directed by André Nebe and starring well-known Irish actor Colm Meany.

Mary (11) lives a life of drudgery on a poor Irish hill farm in the early nineties. Determined to realize her dream of becoming a racing driver, she enters a cart race down the valley against the wishes of her parents and to the general scorn of the small community. By forging a relationship with her uncommunicative father, she gathers the confidence to tackle the rest of her life.

A film about a young girl facing her family's breakdown and discovering a world of opportunities beyond the farm. THE RACE is a girl-empowering story placed in the beautiful Northern Irish countryside where, in terms of tradition and male/female relationships, nothing much has changed in the last twenty years.

Production:
Grand Pictures Ltd production
(ailish@grandpictures.ie)



Dutch Titles in Production

Holland Film (www.hollandfilm.nl) wants to update you about Dutch youth films currently in production. A short overview:

- **COACH:** A guilt-ridden woman becomes a life coach to a Moroccan teenager, supporting Soukri in his secret ambition to become an actor, much against the will of his father, a mechanic who wants his son to take over the garage. Love then begins to bloom between Soukri and Suzanne's daughter. Directed by Joram Lürsen (IN ORANGE). Completed: February 2009. Stormy Minutes Society;
www.minutes.tv

- **THE INDIAN:** Koos wants to resemble his imposing white dad. That's pretty difficult as he is small and dark. One day he finds out about his Peruvian origin and from that moment on he desperately tries to become a true Indian... Directed by Ineke Houtman (POLLEKE, DAISY: SCRATCHES IN THE TABLE). Completed: September 2009. Production: Bos Bros. Sales: Dephis Films;
www.delphisfilms.com

- **THE MULTI CULTI STORY:** Against a musical backdrop, two girl gangs, the racist 'whites' and the radical 'multies' fight their ethnic conflict. Directed by Joost Ranzijn. Completed.

Production: Zig Zag Film,
www.zigzagfilm.nl

- **SCHOOL'S OUT:** Ten students spend a week working, building a holiday home for children. Initially they're all highly motivated, but their personal agendas quickly emerge. Directed by Diede in't Veld. Completed: December 2009. Production: NL Film & TV,
www.nlfilm.tv

- **EEP:** Birdie is a little girl with wings instead of arms. She's found in the woods by 2 children. Is it a girl? Is it a bird? Whatever it is, everybody wants her. Directed by Rita Horst. Completed. Production: Lemming Film. Sales: Delphis Films;
www.delphisfilms.com

- **FUCSIA THE MINI-WITCH:** A great adventure can sometimes hatch from the smallest egg. As wizard Quark finds out when he finds an egg in the Witches' Wood. Directed by Johan Nijenhuis (ZOO RANGERS IN SOUTH AMERICA). Animation. Completed: December 2009. Production: NL Film & TV,
www.nlfilm.tv

Films on the Horizon

New European films for children or young people 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.

The Bogeyman (Mommo)

Feature Film, Turkey 2008
Director: Atalay Tasdiken
Festival: Berlin Generation
World Sales: Atalay Tasdiken
Yeniçar ı Cad. No:74/2
Galatasaray-Istanbul
phone: ++90-212 251 52 41-42
fax: ++90-212 252 05 50
E-Mail: atalay.tasdiken@gmail.com
<http://mommofilm.com>

Gnomes and Trolls 2 – The Forest Trail

Animation, Sweden 2009
Director: Robert Rhodin
Production: White Shark AB
World Sales: NonStop Sales AB
Döbelnsgatan 24
SE-11352 Stockholm
phone: ++46-8-6739999
fax: ++46-8-6739988
E-Mail: info@nonstopsales.net
www.nonstopsales.net

Katia's Sister

Feature Film, Netherlands 2008
Director: Mijke de Jong
Production: Keyman Film
Festival: Berlin Generation
World Sales: Keyman Film,
Postbox 425
NL-3500 AK Utrecht
phone/fax: ++31 30 232 1384
E-Mail: hans.de.wolf@keyfilm.nl
www.keyfilm.nl

Lippel's Dream

Feature Film, Germany 2008
Director: Lars Büchel
Production: Collina,
Universum Film, BR,
B.A. Produktion, element e
Festival: Berlin Generation
World Sales: Telepool
Sonnenstr. 21
D-80331 München
phone: ++49-89-558760
fax: ++49-89-55876188
E-Mail: telepool@telepool.de
www.telepool.de



Lippel's Dream

Mamma Moo and Crow

Animation, Sweden, Germany,
Hungary 2008
Director: Igor Veyshtaguin
Production: AB Svensk Filmindustri,
Telepool(D), Studio Baest-arts (HU),
Film i Väst, SVT



Mamma Moo and Crow

Festival: Berlin Generation
World Sales: Svensk Filmindustri AB
Greta Garbos väg 13
SE-169 36 Solna
phone: ++46-8-6803500
fax: ++46-8-680 37 83
E-Mail: international@sf.se
www.sfinternational.se

Max Embarrassing

Feature Film, Denmark 2008
Director: Lotte Svendsen
Production: Asta Film
Festival: Berlin Generation
World Sales: Delphis Films Inc.
225 Roy St. East, Suite 200
QC H2W 1M5 Montreal, Canada
phone: ++49 30 2464 97412
E-Mail: distribution@delphisfilms.com
www.delphisfilms.com

Princess Lillifee

Animation, Germany 2008
Director: Alan Simpson &
Ansgar Niebuhr
Production: NDF Neue deutsche
Filmgesellschaft, Beta Film,
Universum, WDR
World Sales: Beta Cinema
Gruenwalder Weg 28 d
D-82041 Oberhaching
phone: ++49-89-67 34 69 14
fax: ++49-89-67 34 69 888
E-Mail: beta@betacinema.com
www.betacinema.com

Willi and the Miracles in this World (Willi Wants to Know)

Feature Film, Germany 2008
Director: Arne Sinnwell
Production: Megaherz, BR
World Sales: Telepool
(Address see *Lippel's Dream*)

The News Section: Forthcoming Festivals

**International Festival of Animation
Films, Stuttgart/ Germany, May 5th
to 10th 2009.**
www.iffs.de

**Goldener Spatz, German Chil-
dren's Media-Festival, Erfurt &
Gera/Germany, May 24th to 30th
2009.**
www.goldenerspatz.de

**International Film Festival for Chil-
dren and Youth Zlín, Zlín/ Czech
Republic, May 31st to June 7th
2009. Deadline for film entries: March
14th 2009.**
www.zlifest.cz

**Int. Shortfilmfestival Hamburg;
Children's Film Section „Mo & Fri-
ese“, Hamburg/Germany, June 1st
to 7th 2009. Deadline for film entries:
February 15th 2009.**
www.moundfriese.de

**Animafest - World Festival of Ani-
mation Films, Zagreb/Croatia, June
2nd to 6th 2009. Deadline for film
entries: March 20th 2009.**
www.animafest.hr

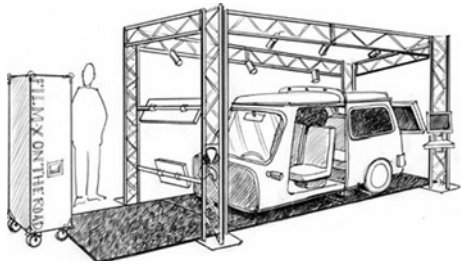
**Plein la bobine – Sancy Film
Festival for Young People, Mas-
sif du Sancy, La Bourboule & Le
Mont-Dore/France, June 11th to
17th 2009. Deadline for film entries:
February 22nd 2009.**
www.pleinlabobine.com

**Kids Festival, Sarajevo/Bosnia-
Herzegovina, June 12th to 17th
2009. Deadline for film entries: April
1st 2009.**
www.kidsfest.ba

**Showcomotion - The Filmfestival
for Children and Young People,
Sheffield/Great Britain, June 25th
to July 9th 2009. Deadline for film
entries: March 20th 2009.**
www.showcomotion.org.uk

**Filmfest Munich / Children's Film
Fest, Munich/Germany June 26th
to July 4th 2009. Deadline for film
entries: May 1st 2009.**
www.filmfest-muenchen.de

**Giffoni Film Festival, Giffoni Valle
Piana, Salerno/Italy
July 12th to 25th 2009. Deadline for
film entries: May 15th 2009 (short
films) and June 5th 2009 (feature
films).**
www.giffoniff.it



Education & Hands On

FILM-X on the Road

Project presented by the Danish Film Institute

Film-X on the Road is a mobile, interactive film studio, developed by the Danish Film Institute, giving young people a unique opportunity to make their own films, dealing with all aspects of filmmaking as well as technology, illusion and storytelling. The successful interactive Film-X Studio in Copenhagen was the model for this mobilized version, taking filmmaking literally 'on the road'. The visitors choose among various pre-set background films serving as frames for their own scripts. Working in crews they direct, act, shoot, edit and do the sound design, helped by instructors. In just a few hours, their films are ready to be screened.

More Production News

Flinck Films

Flinck Film is a new Dutch production company, launched by Michiel de Rooij and Sabine Veenendaal who recently left the BosBros. Company. Flinck Films first ambition is the production of high quality youth & family films and TV-series (yes or no based on literature or original scripts) for a wide audience. Currently 2 scripts are developed: FINN (script: debuting writer Janneke van de Pal, directed by Frans Weisz) and MISS SINGSONG SURINAME (script: Fiona van Heemstra; directed by Mischa – WINKY'S HORSE – Kamp). Furthermore Flinck Film will produce drama-series for Dutch public television.

After respectively 12 and 15 years in BosBros. Film & TV Productions, this was a logical next step for Sabine Veenendaal and Michiel de Rooij (who moderated ECFA's latest seminar at Cinekid). Some projects – such as AAN DE BAL (3 boys in an African village are chosen to play for a major football club and from then on their paths lead towards different directions; script by Tamara Bos) will still be produced in cooperation with BosBros.

We wish both companies good luck and we hope the European children's film industry will benefit from yet another quality player on the Dutch market.

Flinck Film is located in Amsterdam -
Michiel@flinckfilm.nl &
Sabine@flinckfilm.nl.

Film-X on the Road arrives at 'your' location in 10 shipping containers – including a car set! – and requires plenty of room, a solid accommodation and a staff of trainers. The project premiered in June in London and will from now on be used to strengthen international exchange in the area of film.

Film-X is equal parts teaching concept, Danish design and digital innovation.

Contact: Barbara Rovsing Olsen: barbarao@dfi.dk.

More information: www.filmxontheroad.dk

Within the Family 2009 (Novosibirsk) Belgian education trainers hosted in Russia

In October 2008 the International Film Festival "Within the family" was held in Novosibirsk (in the South of Russia). The festival travels annually to another Russian town (Kaluga, Moscow, Novosibirsk) and has a strong focus on films for/about family; the only festival on that topic in Russia. Three competition programs (feature, short and short animation), retrospectives and special events all over the Novosibirsk region attracted a large audience of all ages. Last year IFF "Within the family" (represented by Lex Cinema) joined ECFA.

Through ECFA the festival found a "partner in education" with animation workshops held under the guidance of 3 Belgian Jekino co-workers have been a major success for two consecutive years. A great experience for everyone involved: children, teachers, the festival team and volunteers...

Overwhelmed by the endless 'grey' Siberian world, the topic for the films pretty much suggested itself to the Belgian guest instructors: 'Siberian Landscape'. Trees, plants, animals and of course the Trans-Siberian Railway came to life in a series of animated short films. Three groups of students from different age groups worked on separate projects, which were screened during the closing ceremony.

Surprised by the results of the children's work, all feedback from the teachers is positive. At first a bit shy and avoidant, the children opened up over 5 days of work and made their personality shine through the films they created. And even more importantly these workshops are a strong impulse for future projects in the local schools. Teachers now try to implement the knowledge they received into the daily educational process.

Of course there are film schools all over Russia and animation workshops are not a new invention, but we feel that the international level of the project adds some important elements and gained a lot of attention from the local media.

Ksenia Koltsova



**Kristiansand
April 28th - May 3rd 2009**

www.kicff.no

**The 12th
Kristiansand International**

CHILDREN'S film festival 2009

Welcome to six festive days packed with children's and youth films in Kristiansand, situated on the coast of southern Norway.

PROGRAM

The Main Program is devoted to new feature films for children to be released in theaters and on DVD. Titles are selected on artistic merit. The sidebars will consist of **Panorama, Youth Program (14+), Documentaries and Short films.**

AWARDS

FILM&KINO'S CHILDREN'S FILM AWARD

A professional jury awards the best film in the Main Program with NOK 75.000, to support distribution in Norway for the film. Presented by FILM&KINO.

THE LUDI AWARD

Audience award for best film in the Main Program.

THE CIFEJ AWARD

A professional jury awards the best film in the Main Program with a CIFEJ statuette and diploma.

THE DON QUIJOTE AWARD

The International Federation of Film Societies FICC (Fédération internationale des ciné-clubs) jury awards the best film in the Youth Program.

PROFESSIONAL DAYS

NEW NORDIC CHILDREN'S FILMS

From Thursday 30th of April until Saturday 2nd of May **Professional Days - New Nordic Children's Films** is the place to be for anybody involved in Children and Youth Films. Use the opportunity to see the best and latest Nordic and international productions!

Films on the Horizon

A work-in-progress presentation of upcoming Norwegian and Nordic films for children and young people (on Thursday 30th of April and Friday 1st of May).

Video bar

Distributors, sales agents, television buyers and other international festivals will be able to view the entire festival line-up in our video bar.

ECFA Seminar

"Girls on film" - gender, identity and diversity in children's films. The European Children's Film Association organizes a seminar on this topic on Friday 1st of May.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

E-Mail: festival@krskino.no
Tel: + 47 3810 4205 /09
Fax: + 47 3810 4201

FOR ENTRY FORM, GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS - VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
www.kicff.no

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KRISTIANSAND KOMMUNE





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ECFA's goal is to support cinema for children and youth in its cultural, economical, aesthetic, social, political and educational aspects. ECFA since 1988 brings together a wide range of European film professionals and associations, producers, directors, distributors. ECFA aims 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 information and memberships (€ 200 per year):
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The European Children's Film Distribution Network:
www.ecfaweb.org/network.htm
Databases on children's film festivals, sales agents, distributors and TV-programmers interested in European films for children.

FILM IN THE FOCUS

Martin Duffy's SUMMER OF THE FLYING SAUCER

"Those who search for cynicism in this film, will find nothing"

Martin Duffy's **SUMMER OF THE FLYING SAUCER** is screened in almost every European festival. It's hard to label this bizarre science fiction story about a flying saucer falling from the sky and a boy falling in love. Like in his debut, **THE BOY FROM MERCURY**, Martin Duffy finds a **shaky balance on the edge of magic and realism**. "The industry somehow labelled me: "That's Martin Duffy, he's good in working with kids and in films about the sixties." So that's what they ask me for."

Ten years later, how do you look back at THE BOY FROM MERCURY?

Duffy: 'I included many autobiographical elements in that script. That's why it was so dear to my heart. The boy in the film has lost his father. Me too... when my brother died, my dad turned into a bitter, inaccessible man. **THE BOY...** still cuts off my breath.'

Did you grow up in circumstances somehow comparable with the world you picture in SUMMER OF THE FLYING SAUCER?

Duffy: 'I'm from Dublin; I'm a city boy. But that era for sure was mine. In Ireland we only had showbands, Nat King Cole and Elvis. I was the first one in the family to buy a Beatles record. Suddenly a whole different sound was coming from the record player in the Duffy's living room. I still remember how much my father hated 'Sergeant Pepper'.'

SUMMER OF... was shot in Ireland?

Duffy: 'We found a godforsaken village in Galway (Western Ireland) that seemed to have escaped from modern times. At first we couldn't find it on the map. Celtic Ireland was kept very much alive and intact in that place.'

How did you maintain balance between the absurdity of the story and the serious elements it carries within?

Duffy: 'Humour was the most important element. It's a pure feel good movie. I didn't want a bit of cynicism in the film. Whoever searches for cynicism in this film, will find nothing at all. That's my nature; I don't know if it's a blessing or a curse.'

An a) and a b)-question. Choose which one you want:

a) What's your opinion about flying saucers?

b) When you first kissed, did it feel as if you were kissing an alien?

Duffy: 'My first kiss was not with an alien. But I do remember the excitement... It was with a beautiful girl who

later on became my wife. About flying saucers: I'm 100 % sure they exist. It's not just a presumption; I've seen one myself. On a clear night I saw a lighting object making movements that couldn't possibly be performed by planes nor satellites...'

Just like THE BOY FROM MERCURY, SUMMER OF... contains a scene in a small local movie theatre. Was that an important part of your childhood?

Duffy: 'Absolutely! Those were the early days of Irish television, broadcasting from 6 – 10 PM. Saturday afternoon was the week's apotheosis. You could even pay your ticket with empty bottles to collect. On the way home we played cowboys and Indians with our friends.'

Nowadays you live and work in Berlin. How are things going for Irish children's film?

Duffy: 'Not much has been produced; the National Film Board is not exactly supporting family films. Recently a magazine published a list of 50 recent Irish films, lined up on one side in order of box office results. **THE BOY...** was all down at the bottom. The other side lined up the amount of spectators on television. There it was amongst the top 5. It was the only film showing such a distinction. Bizarre... people love watching children's films from their own country, but they're not willing to see them in the cinema. Soon, the same might happen to **SUMMER OF THE FLYING SAUCER**.' (GH)

You can view the complete interview at www.ecfaweb.org/projects/filmmaking/duffy.htm.



Summer of the Flying Saucer