

No. 4 / 2011

DECEMBER

ECFA wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!

EDITORIAL

ECFA AWARD

One year ago ECFA launched the idea of installing an ECFA Award. The goal of this initiative was not only to find the best European film and to give better credit to the often neglected European children's film industry but also to generate an exchange of persons among the members. We think to have reached these goals; in 2011 9 festivals organised an ECFA jury in which 25 different members have represented ECFA.

Now we will organise the final election of the ECFA Award 2011 to be presented on Saturday February 11th 2012 during the Children's Film Party in Homebase (Köthener Straße 44), Berlin.

Every ECFA member has one vote, and by now they all received a list of the 9 eligible films that have been nominated by the festival juries. Votes should be made before January 15th.

The ECFA Award is a symbolic prize but we think that a prize given by such a large jury (about 60 members) certainly has some prestige!

Looking forward to your votes!

Felix Vanginderhuysen
General secretary



Mobile

THE RAINBOW PROJECT

ECFA's involvement in the fight against homophobia

ECFA plays a hinging role in the Rainbow (Right Against Intolerance - Building an Open-minded World) project: the creation of a filmic tool kit in Europe's fight against homophobia. The project, coordinated by CIG Arcigay Milano, will conclude in November 2012 when presenting this tool kit in Brussels, in the presence of LGBT associations, journalists and the funding EU functionaries. Within the Rainbow project ECFA is responsible for the preliminary selection of films. This selection process has been managed by Eva Schwarzwald and Adam Graham.



The Rainbow Project team in Brussels

In July ECFA organised a meeting in Brussels with all the partnering organisations. A draft selection of films for a wide age range was presented and discussed. Four age groups were decided upon: (primary school) 6 – 7, 8 – 10 years old and (secondary school) 11 – 14 and 15 +. Following that meeting ECFA (Felix Vanginderhuysen) and BJJ (Reinhold Schöffel, Gunther Kinstler) have established the rights for the short films that will run in the project: 'Papa's Boy' (Finland), 'Mobile' (Germany), 'From Lucas to Luus' (The Netherlands), 'Sticks and Stones' (Canada), 'Donkey Girl' (The Netherlands), 'Shark Bait' (Norway), 'Bob' (Germany), 'Omar' (France) and 'Danny's Parade' (The Netherlands).

These 9 films will constitute an educational tool kit, including a user guide for teachers, to be adopted in compulsory schooling, the level of schooling where emotional and sex education is the least practiced in most European countries. The tool kit will be disseminated in all partnering

countries (Spain, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Bulgaria and UK) but also at children and young people's film festivals.

The film selection was based on the needs expressed in research reports from all participating countries. As researcher Ad van Dam sums up: "What came up in interviews with young people was that homosexuality and homophobia are not a topic of discussion at school. There was a strong demand to avoid stereotypes and to picture gays as 'normal people', not as victims. A general 'diversity policy' in schools is a more favourable approach than a specific gay emancipation policy. We should provide recognition and visibility by showing films about common gay relationships, avoiding nudity and sex. And since there is a big desire for a feeling of 'safety' we strongly recommend involving parents in the process of fighting homophobia." After her research in Basque country, Begona Pecharroman adds: "There is more openness about sexuality, but the bullying increases and there is no protocol for this, as family and schools are losing influence to the social media."

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

Cartoon Forum; Sopot, Poland

Cartoon d'Or for best European animated short film of the year: „The Little Boy and the Beast“ by Johannes Weiland & Uwe Heidschötter, Germany, 2009.

www.cartoon-media.eu/FORUM/index.php

Buster - International Film Festival for Children & Youth; Copenhagen, Denmark

Children Jury's Awards: Best film: „The Runway“ by Ian Power, Ireland, 2010. Best child actor: Ask von der Hagen in „The Liverpool Goalie“ by Arild Andreassen, Norway, 2010.

International Jury's Awards: Best film: „The Liverpool Goalie“. Best screenplay: Stephen Glantz, Kris Karathomas, Markus Rosenmüller & Rolf Schübel for „Wunderkinder“ by Markus O. Rosenmüller, Germany, 2011.

Audience Award: „The Magicians“ by Joram Lürsen, The Netherlands, 2010.

Youth Jury's Award: „I Miss You“ by Anders Grönros, Sweden, 2011.

Best documentary: „You Don't Like the Truth: 4 Days Inside Guantanamo“ by Luc Coté & Patricio Henriques, Austria & Canada, 2010.

Best short film: „The Confession“ by Tanel Toom, UK, 2010.

www.buster.dk

AniFest Rozafa – Festival of Animated Films for Children & Youngsters; Shkoder, Albania

Best film: „Gerald's Last Day“ by Justin & Shel Rasch, USA, 2009.

Best students' films: „The Renter“ by Jason Carpenter, USA, 2011 and „A Lost and Found Box of Human Sensation“ by Martin Wallner, Germany, 2010.

Best film by independent director: „Amar“ by Isabel Herguera, Spain 2010.

Best film by production company: „Where Dogs Die“ by Svetlana Filipova, France, 2011.

www.anifestrozafa.com

Filmfest, Children's & Youth Film Festival “Michel”; Hamburg, Germany

Children Jury: “Ways to Live Forever” by Gustavo Ron, Spain & UK, 2010.

www.kinderfilmfest-hamburg.de

Gaffa – Film Festival for Young People; Vienna, Austria

Audience Award: “Glowing Stars” by Lisa Siwe, Sweden, 2008.

Jury's Awards: “I Miss You” by Anders Grönros, Sweden, 2011. Best actor: Eugene Byrne in “The Be All and End All”. Best actress: Erica & Hanna Midfjäll in “I Miss You”.

www.gaffa-filmfestival.at

Those criteria were a crucial element in the film selection process, explains ECFA representative Eva Schwarzwald: “The films can't offer solutions but should be seen as an empowerment: 'you are okay as you are, talk with adults about your problems, describe the situations which hurt you...' While making the film selection I found many titles about different ways of loving each other and many films using language referring to homosexual stereotypes (“She likes football; she's probably a lesbian”). I saw families oppressing the different desires and wills and small children having difficulties with their schoolmates for their way of being. Especially during sports (with baths, showers and playgrounds) seems to be a danger zone where boys expose their most macho attitude and attack kids with different behaviour.”

Even for the youngest age group films were found that aren't explicitly dealing with LGTB issues but speak about gender diversity and alternative ways loving one another, like the two animals on both ends of the 'mobile' in the short film of the same name. One of the project's barriers is that different countries go with different levels of openness towards the subject. The degree of how explicit or implicit the issue can be discussed differs from one culture to another. As was proven by 3 short films from The Netherlands: in 'From Lucas to Luus' a young child speaks very openly about gender diffusion and in 'Donkey Girl' two girls use an animal as a substitute

in their careful exploration of physical tenderness. Other crucial issues are gender-related bullying ('Shark Bait') and the peer pressure in non-Western immigrant communities ('Omar').

Alongside the films a study guide is currently in development. It will speak about the results of the research teams and contain a list of key words and specific educational material on every film, as well on the cinematography (film education) as on the social (LGTB issues) level. In January and February the films and study guides will be tested with young 'focus groups' in Italy, Bulgaria, Spain and The Netherlands. In the international meeting hosted by the Dutch COC in Amsterdam, arrangements were made to have films and study guides translated in all languages of the partnering organisations, plus French.

The next transnational meeting will be in early June in Milton Keynes (UK), hosted by Schools Out. The final presentation of the DVD will take place in June / July during the Mix Film Festival in Milano, and finally the whole project will be presented in Brussels on 28th November 2012, in the presence of the subsidising Directorate Fundamental Rights and Citizenship in the EU commission.

During all the meetings the atmosphere within the committee has been extremely positive. ECFA is happy to contribute to this project and wants to thank its members that have been working on it devotedly so far. (GH)

DIGITAL DIARY

As 2011 comes to an end and we all look forward (hopefully!) to 2012; the New Year could bring you new ideas, initiatives and experiences. Perhaps some of these would be in the digital domain; technology, video games and media arts are all out there to expand your programmes and your audiences. Here you will find some events to broaden your digital horizons...

Cloud Gaming Europe

London, UK, 17-18th January 2012

<http://www.cgconfeurope.com>

Cloud Gaming is the world's only chain of cloud gaming focused conferences designed to deliver the answers you need to keep pace with this rapid market shift. Video games are moving to the cloud and this fundamental shift represents a huge opportunity for both the traditional industry and new players moving in.

Mobile Games Forum 2012

London, UK, 25-26th January 2012

<http://www2.mobilegamesforum.co.uk>

The Mobile Games Forum brings together those in the industry to showcase and discuss the latest trends and developments in the sector. The agenda includes keynote speeches from comScore Europe mobile VP Jeremy Copp, who will be tal-

king about what's currently happening in the space and what trends lie ahead, and Google's Laurence Aderemi on android as a gaming platform.

Animex – International Festival of Animation & Computer Games Middlesbrough, UK, 6-10th February 2012

<http://animex.scm.tees.ac.uk>

Using a unique blend of talks, presentations, workshops, exhibitions, screenings and awards, Animex brings the world of animation and computer games to audiences from any background and any level of expertise.

Dice Summit 2012

Las Vegas, USA, 8-10th March 2012

<http://www.dicesummit.org>

Exploring the latest trends in game development in terms of its four key philosophies; Design, Innovate, Communicate and Entertain. In addition to keynotes and panel sessions with speakers from Electronic Arts, Valhalla Games Studios, Augury and 3SJ Tactical Solutions, there will be a range of other networking events, including poker, golf and go-karting tournaments. DICE will also host the Interactive Achievement Awards.

INTERVIEW

ROSTO (THE MONSTER OF NIX)

“Even the butcher is a vegetarian”



Dutch animation artist Rostoad isn't the type of guy you would expect to make a children's film. "In my work unpredictable things take place in a disturbing environment. My experience is that children might get nightmares from watching it." But that is not the case in his latest short film THE MONSTER OF NIX. Rostoad: "Nothing bad happens in the village of Nix. Even the butcher is a vegetarian; the red liquid dripping from the veggie butcher's knife is the juice of raspberries and tomatoes."

Life is good in the idyllic village. But while 10 year old Willy is playing hide and seek with his grandma, the place goes berserk. When a monster appears, houses and inhabitants seem to vanish in to thin air. Is grandma one of them? Willy sets out on a quest and discovers a bizarre world where creatures like the Langemanne and Virgil the Swallow dwell and where stories are stored in eggs... Rostoad: "All stories are out there; you just have to pick them up. In this case it was my son Max who wanted to find out more about the Langemanne, whom he knew from my previous films. Max was very much involved throughout the entire production process. The story might seem quite complex but children plunge into it much easier than grown-ups. Adults are so preoccupied you actually have to reformat them first."

The voice cast in THE MONSTER OF NIX is remarkable. Probably for the first time since Monty Python, Terry Gilliam lends his voice to an animated character. How to gather such amazing actors? Rostoad: "I was standing on the shoulders of my previous work. That's how I convinced Tom Waits to do the grating voice of Virgil. Virgil's face looks like mine, but his nose is even bigger and he looks even meaner than I do. And Terry Gilliam has been a friend for years; our films can be situated in a more or less similar universe."

THE MONSTER OF NIX combines various animation techniques. "I start with human actors. One actress was wearing Willy's clothes and a 4 kilo heavy head. Later I changed the head and legs by use of a computer. Everyone working with Willy first had to study Max: his walk, how he pulls his sleeves... Max is 12 now. I've been working on this film for 6 years..."

In Belgium Jekino distributes the film in combination with Suzie Templeton's Oscar-winning PETER AND THE WOLF. Both are gloomy fairy-tales, luring the audience into a grim universe. Meanwhile not only the films but also the film makers hooked up,



as Rostoad and Templeton are now living together in Amsterdam. Coincidentally this compilation turned out a 'family project'. But do they also plan projects together? "No, we both have our own projects. Our daughter is the only thing that we produced together." (GH)

Contact: producer Claudius Gebelem, claudius@studio.rostoad.com;
www.monsterofnix.com

NICOSTRATOS, THE PELICAN

In the French film NICOSTRATOS, THE PELICAN by Olivier Horlait a pelican lands on an idyllic Greek island (where everybody speaks French!) and profoundly changes the lives of the islanders. One of them is Yannis. Ever since his mother died, dad has a bad temper. The pelican brings Yannis closer to Angéliki, a girl blowing over the island like a fresh breeze from the ocean. Just like the pelican the boy learns how to stretch its wings. The actor playing Yannis' father is famous director Emir Kusturica. "He is so experienced. He knows exactly what can be expected from an actor. That made my job much easier," Olivier Horlait says.

NICOSTRATOS is an old school story about a father and son feud and a sum-



mer love. Horlait: "For the pelican scenes I had to develop friendly relations with 8 animals! And 16 trainers! Then came the mating season! All birds went through a physical change in their feather crest. They became vicious and difficult to approach. Luckily one of the pelicans wasn't interested in females... Goats are much easier to work with. We filmed on the islands Mylos en Sifnos, in the Cyclades, there are plenty of goats there. And everything went smoothly as soon as I found out about the golden rule to work with goats: they're only interested in food!"

Schlingel – International Film Festival for Children & Young Audience; Chemnitz, Germany

European Children Jury: "Chubby Drums" by Arne Toonen, The Netherlands, 2010.
International Experts Jury: "Chubby Drums"; Best Film in the Junior-category (age 12+): "Frisson des Collines" by Richard Roy, Canada, 2010.

Young Peoples Jury for the Junior-category: „Nicostratos the Pelican“ by Olivier Horlet, France, 2010.

Pupils Jury (age 14+): „I love you very so much“ by Philippe Locquet, France, 2010.

Audience Award: "Spud" by Donovan Marsh, South Africa, 2010.

ECFA-Award: "Some Dogs Bite" by Marc Munden, UK, 2010.

www.ff-schlingel.de

Cinekid – International Film, Television & New Media Festival for Children & Young People, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Audience Award: "Will" by Ellen Perry, Turkey & UK, 2011.

Experts' Jury: "Among Wolves" by Gerardo Olivares, Spain, 2010.

Children's Jury: "Lost in Africa" by Vibeke Muasya, Denmark, 2010.

Audience Award for best Dutch film: "Penny's Shadow" by Steven de Jong, 2011.

Jury's Award for best Dutch film: "Taking Chances" by Nicole van Kilsdonk, 2011.

Cinekid's festival director Sannette Naeyé received the International CIFEJ Award.

www.cinekid.nl

International Film Festival for Children; Vilnius, Lithuania

Best film for children: "The Strongest Man in Holland" by Mark van de Cloe, The Netherlands, 2010

Best film for young people: "Simple Simon" by Andreas Öhman, Sweden, 2010.

www.kidsfestival.lt

International Children's Film Festival; Chicago, USA

Best of Fest Award: „Star Talers“ by Maria Heland, Germany, 2011;

Best film by an emerging director: „The Stubborn Mule and the Remote Control“ by Helio Villela Nunes, Brazil, 2010;

Liv Ullmann Peace Prize: "A Dress for Anuschka" by Annelies Kruk, The Netherlands, 2011;

My First Movie Prize for age 2-5: „The Big Brother“ by Jesús Pérez & Elisabeth Hüttermann, Switzerland / Germany, 2011.

Children Jury's Prizes: Best live action films, 1st: "The Magicians"; 2nd: "I am Kalam" by Nila Madhab Panda, India, 2010.

Best animated films, 1st: "A Cat in Paris" by Alain Gagnol & Jean-Loup Felicioli, France, 2010; 2nd: „The Storytelling Show“ by Jean-Christophe Roger, France, 2010.

Adult Jury Prizes: Best live action films, 1st: "Winter Daughter" by Johannes Schmid, Germany, 2010; 2nd: "I am Kalam".

Best animated films, 1st: "The Great Bear" by Esben Toft Jacobsen, Denmark, 2011;

2nd: „Tales of the Night“ by Michel Ocelot, France, 2011.

www.cicff.org

KINOdiseea – Children’ Film Festival; Bucharest, Romania

ECFA Award: “The Runway” by Ian Power, Ireland & Luxembourg 2010.

www.kinodiseea.ro

Nordic Filmdays / Section for Children & Young People; Lübeck, Germany

Best Film for Children & Young People: “I Miss You”.

Children’s Jury: „Coming Home” by Anders Øvergaard, Norway 2011.

www.filmtage.luebeck.de

Doxs! - Documentaries for Children & Young People / Filmwoche, Duisburg, Germany

Best political documentary for children & young people: “One Way, a Tuareg Journey” by Fabio Caramaschi, Italy, 2010.

www.do-xs.de

Castellinaria Festival internazionale del cinema giovane; Bellinzona, Switzerland

Competition 6 to 15:

Golden Award: “Kaddish for a Friend” by Leo Kashin, Germany, 2011; Silver Award: “Tales of the Night”;

Bronze Award: “David & Kamal” by Kikuo Kawasaki, USA/Israel, 2011.

Competition 16 to 20:

Three Castles Award: “Under the Hawthorn Tree” by Zhang Yimou, China, 2010; Quality of Life Award: “The Forgiveness of Blood” by Joshua Marston, USA / Albania / Denmark / Italy, 2011.

Utopia Award: “17 Girls” by Delphine & Muriel Coulin, France, 2011.

Audience Award: “Tales of the Night”.

www.castellinaria.ch

International Children’s Film Festival; Vienna, Austria

Children Jury: “Ways to Live Forever” by Gustavo Ron, Spain / UK, 2010.

UNICEF Award: “My Grandpa, the Bankrobber” by Ineke Houtman, The Netherlands, 2011.

Audience Award: “The Magicians” by Joram Lürsen, The Netherlands, 2010.

www.kinderfilmfestival.at

KuKi - Interfilm Short Film Festival for Kids; Berlin, Germany

Best films for children, 1st: “Marijn” by Lilian Sijbesma, The Netherlands, 2010; 2nd: „The Farmer and the Robot”

“ by Abdollah Ali-Morad, Iran, 2011.

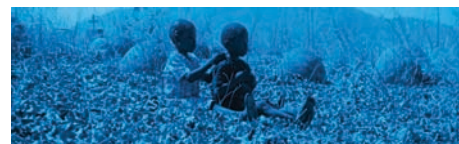
Best film for young people: “Manolo” by Robert Bohrer, Germany, 2010.

www.interfilm.de/kuki2011/home.html

PRODUCTION NEWS

BLUE BIRD

BLUE BIRD is an adaptation of a theatre play from the twenties, shot in Togo with local actors. The main roles are played by 2 children. This Belgian film uses an



extreme visual language: shot completely in blue, with bizarre angels and astonishing painting-like aesthetics. In Belgian schools the film was screened for a younger (8-11) and a teenage (15-17) audience. Director Gust Van den Berghe: “This film makes a grown up audience wonder from the perspective of a child, and vice versa. BLUE BIRD invites children and grown-ups to change places.”.

Depicting the growing process of a boy and a girl on their way to adulthood, the film begins and ends with a bathing scene. “When stepping out of their clothes, it is as if they are stepping out of their childhood skin. Being like brother and sister at first evolves into being a boy and a girl. At the end of the movie their clothes don’t fit them any longer.

They’ve grown ‘out of their skin’.” Did he feel somehow responsible for the African picture he painted? “I didn’t want to emphasize the African problems but I didn’t want to avoid them neither. Young actor Bafioyadié’s belly was swollen, which I registered without further comment. I made my film according to a strict ethical code towards the country and the people living there. That’s the only thing I feel responsible for.”

Contact: Minds Meet Production, info@mindsmeet.be,

http://www.mindsmeet.be/Minds_Meet/FILM.html

FILMBIN AWARDED

At Cinekid, Amsterdam the first European PRIME4Kids&Family Award was handed out to the Norwegian FROM MICE TO MEN project, produced by Filmbin AS. “We want to go into shooting in summer 2013 and hope that this award will help closing the budget”, says scriptwriter Arild Tryggstad. The award was given to one out of the 15 participating projects of EU’s Media Programme workshop PRIME4Kids&Family.

FROM MICE TO MEN is a coming-of-age film about Daniel and his friends, living in a small Norwegian town. It’s their last summer before secondary school and expectations are high. As they fear being considered too childish by their new school mates, they take on three challenges in order to go from mice to men: kiss a girl, drink a beer, and touch a breast. Everything is set for the best summer ever. There is just one problem: Mari.

In spring 2011 the Filmbin production company (RAFIKI) received development funding for three projects: TOUGH GUYS, FROM MICE TO MEN (both by Christian Lo) and NISSEN PÁ HAUGEN (by Anita Killi). TOUGH GUYS is a live action feature about Modulf getting bullied every day, which is fine with him... as long as he saves other children from being bullied. One day tough and righteous Lise joins Modulf’s class. Creating havoc in the ranks, suddenly she is the one standing in the eye of the storm. Modulf is forced to face his situation. Filmbin plans to start shooting in 2012.

NISSEN PÁ HAUGEN (working title) is a full length animation by Anita Killi (check out her multiple awarded short ‘Angry Man’), a Christmas tale about an illustrious old Norwegian barn gnome, made in Killi’s astonishing cut out style.

Contact Filmbin on: <http://www.filmbin.no>

YOU AND ME FOREVER

After HOLD ME TIGHT (which won a series of festival awards, including the ECFA Award in Ciné Jeune, Saint-Quentin) Danish director Kaspar Munk started working on a new film for a similar target group. YOU AND ME FOREVER tells about Laura and Christine, best friends forever. Until one day they meet Maria, a fascinating girl putting their friendship to the test. For Laura this meeting completely changes the world she thought she knew so well. A story about friends and enemies, vulnerability and wildness, love and sex.

This film, produced by Nimbus Film, is based on an original script by Kaspar Munk and will be released in Denmark early September 2012. More info on

<http://youandmeforever.dk>.

Contact: nimbus@nimbusfilm.dk;

www.nimbusfilm.dk.



FESTIVALS NEWS

GOODBYE

Many recent staff changes amongst ECFA member festivals. Cinekid has waved goodbye to Marlies Van Hoek, artistic director Mieke Vanderhaeghen has left the European Children's Film Festival Flanders (Antwerp / Bruges) and the vacancy for 'Film Festival Producer & Cinema Youth Development Officer' at Dundee's Discovery festival is still open since Katharine Simpson has left. Meanwhile BUFF Malmö has set out for a new journey after 5 people resigned from the Festival Board. Among them is Krister Kjelstrom:

"Dear Friends, after 26 years in various positions in the BUFF Filmfestival, I have left the festival. Therefore I may not be meeting some of you in the future. I would like to say "Thank You All" very much for nice meetings, good work, funny and interesting discussions over a glass of wine or a coffee, good laughs in the cinemas and a lot of support for the festival over the years. I wish you all good luck in the future, and if you come to the Malmö festival you will most probably find me in a cinema. And of course.....if you need a member in a jury somewhere, don't be shy to ask. All the best, Krister Kjellström"

SCOTTISH CINEMAS WIN AWARD

ECFA member The Dundee Contemporary Arts Centre is one of the three Scottish cinemas that have been jointly awarded the prestigious Europa Cinemas Award for Best Young Audience Activities. The winners (belonging to the Young Audiences Cinema Network Scotland) were selected from over 1,057 cinemas for their collaborative work together as well as their individual projects.

YOUNGABOUT



The Youngabout International Film Festival (6th edition) is organised by a group of youngsters aged 16 to 26. It is not just a cinema festival but also a chance to meet up and join in with events in music and art. There is room for Italian premieres and short films made by young people, telling about love, fears, solitude, rebellion and hopes of children dealing with life today. Youngabout has suffered drastic cuts in their financing, like so many cultural projects. These cuts have put every single activity at stake. Angela Mastrolonardo: *"Despite all this, we decided to continue our work, at least this*

year, and to have our Youngabout Festival in Bologna from March 19th – 25th, 2012. We will do our best to keep the quality as high as always and will also continue to organise our festival A Film in Your Backpack, aimed towards children aged 3-12. Our problem is that resources are scarce, and they are not distributed in an equal manner and quite often concentrated on a few members of this sector."
More info: www.youngabout.com



A Film in Your Backpack

AUDIOVISUAL OBSERVATORY REPORT

On the occasion of Cinekid's 25th anniversary the European Audiovisual Observatory presented a report on 'Theatrical Circulation' of European Children's Film and Television', often relying on ECFA's 2009 market survey. Using an extensive data sample the updated statistics examine the production of live action and animation films for children, their circulation within Europe, their share in Europe's total feature film production and their theatrical performance as well on the national and international market.

Included in this survey you'll find box office hits with a rather Hollywoodish atmosphere (NANNY MCPHEE), widely released art-house productions (BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM), common titles from the festival circuit (ELLING, EMIL UND DIE DETEKTIVE) and several German titles gaining success mainly on the home market (BIBI BLOCKSBERG, DIE WILDEN KERLE). Germany was the most prolific producer (91 titles), followed by France and Denmark. On the animation side you'll find films like LA PROPHECIE DES GRENOUILLES and KIRIKOU ET LES BÊTES SAUVAGES alongside ARTHUR ET LES MINIMOYS.

Children's films, on average, are released in 3.9 countries. 66 % of admissions to European children's films were generated on national markets. Animation films however are less depending on national markets than their live action counterpart. Many of the reports' conclusions might sound rather familiar to anyone working in the children's film industry, but are confirmed in the report by concrete numbers.

Contact the European Audiovisual Observatory: +33 (0) 90 21 60 00, obs@obs.coe.int; <http://www.obs.coe.int>.

FICI – International Children & Youth Film Festival; Madrid, Spain

International Experts Jury: "The Best Things in the World" by Laís Bodanzky, Brazil, 2010.

International Young Peoples Jury, best film: „Tomorrow Will be Better“ by Dorota Kedzierzawska, Poland, 2011.

Audience Award & CIFEJ-Award: "The Magicians".

Young People Jury: "The Garbage Prince" by Raimo O Niemi, Finland, 2011.

Children Jury: "The Crocodiles Strike Back" by Christian Ditter, Germany, 2010.

www.fici.info

Golden Elephant – International Children's Film Festival; Hyderabad, India

International Experts Jury, best feature film, 1st: "Meadow" by Mohammad-Ali Talebi, Iran 2011; 2nd: „The Ugly Duckling“ by Garri Bardin, Russia 2010. Best direction: Vibeke Muasya for "Lost in Africa". Best screenplay: Bart Korthuis & Maarten Lebens for: „The Strongest Man in Holland“.

Best short film, 1st: "Nineandahalf's Goodbye" by Halina Dyrschka, Germany, 2010; 2nd: „The Ball“ by Katja Roberts, UK, 2010.

International Children Jury, best feature film: "The Crocodiles Strike Back".

Best short film: "Nineandahalf's Goodbye".

Indian Competition, best feature film, 1st: "Chillar Party" by Nitesh Tiwari & Vikas Bahl, 2011; 2nd: „Watch Indian Circus“ by Mangesh Hadawale, 2011; Best direction: „The Well“ by Umesh Kulkarni, 2010.

Best screenplay: Sanjay Chouhan for "I Am Kalam".

www.cfsindia.org

Cinemagic – Festival for Young People; Belfast, Northern Ireland

Best short films: "The Farmer & The Robot", and „Pentecost“ by Peter McDonald, Ireland, 2010;

Best feature films: "The Liverpool Goalie" and „In Sunshine or In Shadow“ by Andrew Gallimore, Ireland, 2010.

www.cinemagic.org.uk

Children & Youth Film Festival Just Film; Tallinn, Estonia

Best Film for Children: "Red Dog" by Kriv Stenders, Australia, 2011;

Best Film for Young People: "Killing Bono" by Nick Hamm, UK, 2011;

International Jury: "August" by Oskari Sipola, Finland, 2011.

www.justfilm.ee

Festival international de Cinéma du grain à démoudre; Gonfreville l'Orcher, France

Best short films: "Deux inconnus" by Lauren Wolkstein & Christopher Radcliff; "Turning" by Karni & Saul,

UK, 2010 and "Goodbye Mandima" by Robert-Jan Lacombe, Switzerland, 2010.

Best feature films: "Silver Forest" by Christine Repond, Switzerland, 2011; "Breathing" by Karl Markovics, Austria 2011.

www.dugrainademoudre.net

International Children's and Youth Film Festival; Oulu, Finland

Children Jury's Award: "Iris" by Ulrika Bengts; Kaleva Award: "Iris".

CIFEJ prize: "Lost in Africa"

ECFA prize: "On the Sly" by Olivier Ringer, Belgium & France, 2011.

Youth Jury's For Tomorrow Award: "Skyscraper" by Rune Schjøtt, Denmark, 2011;

Church Media Foundation's Prize: "The Little Snow Animal" by Miia Tervo, Finland, 2009.

Northern Film & Media Foundation's Little Bear Award received producer Mikael Wahlforss.

www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef

Forthcoming Festivals

Children Film Festival - Cine Junior; Val-de-Marne, France

February 1st to 14th 2012

www.cinemapublic.org

Animex – International Festival of Animation & Computer Games; Middlesbrough, UK

February 6th to 10th 2012

www.animex.net

International Filmfestival Berlin, Generation; Berlin, Germany

February 9th to 19th 2012

www.berlinale.de

International Children's Film Festival of Cyprus (ICFFCY); Nikosia, Cyprus

February 12th to 19th 2012

www.icffcy.org

Europees Jeugdfilmfestival Vlaanderen; Antwerp & Brugge, Belgium

February 18th to 26th 2012

www.jeugdfilmfestival.be

SehPferdchen – Kinderfilmfest; Hannover & Braunschweig, Germany

February 19th to 29th 2012

www.filmfest-sehpferdchen.de



Ducoboo

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. Producers, distributors and sales agents are kindly invited to inform us of their new releases.

Among Wolves

Feature Film, Spain, 2011

Director: Gerardo Olivares

Production: Wandavision

World Sales: Terra Mater Factual Studios
Wambachergasse 2, 1130 Wien, Austria

Phone: ++43-1-87-00-30

E-Mail: office@terramater.at

www.terramater.at;

www.amongwolvesthefilm.com

Colour Me Happy



Animation, France / Belgium, 2011

Director: Jean-François Laguionie

Production & World Sales: Blue Spirit, 55
rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris, France,
Phone: ++33-1-78-42-22-22

E-Mail: info@spirit-prod.com

www.spirit-prod.com/site/le_tableau.html

Ducoboo

Feature Film, France, 2011

Director: Philippe de Chauveron

Production: UGC Images

World Sales: TFI International

1, Quai du Point du jour
92656 Boulogne-Billancourt, France

Phone: ++33-1-41-41-21-68

E-Mail: sales@tf1.fr

www.tf1international.com

Love Like Poison

Feature Film, France, 2010

Director: Katell Quillévéré

Production: Les Films du Bélier

World Sales: Films Distribution

34 Rue du Louvre, 75001 Paris, France

Phone: ++33-1-53-10-33-99

E-Mail: info@filmsdistribution.com

www.filmsdistribution.com

Little Big Panda

Animation, Germany / China / Luxembourg, 2011

Director: Greg Manwaring & Michael Schoemann

Production & World Sales: Benchmark Entertainment, Rheinbabenallee 21a, 14199 Berlin, Germany,

Phone: ++49-30-89-72-55-13,

E-Mail: studio@b-m-e.net

www.b-m-e.net

Lea & Darija

Feature Film, Croatia, 2011

Director: Branko Ivanda

Production & World Sales: Ars Septima

Svačićev trg 10, 1000 Zagreb, Croatia
Phone: ++385-1-485-65-10

E-Mail: lidija@ars7.hr; www.ars7.hr



Nicostratos, the Pelican

Animated Film, Estonia, 2011

Feature Film, France, 2010

Director: Olivier Horlait

Production: Five 2 One Films, Wesh Wesh Productions

World Sales: Other Angle Pictures

39 rue de Constantinople

75008 Paris, France

Phone: ++33 9 54 88 02 41

E-Mail: otheranglepics@gmail.com

Taking Chances

Feature Film, The Netherlands, 2011

Director: Nicole van Kilsdonk

Production: Lemming Film, A Private View

World Sales: Delphis Films Inc.

5455 De Gaspe Ave., Suite 803

Montreal, Quebec H2T 3B3, Canada

Phone: ++1-514-843-33-55

E-Mail: distribution@delphisfilms.com

www.delphisfilms.com

Tony Ten

Feature Film, The Netherlands / Germany / Belgium, 2012

Director: Mischa Kamp

Production: Lemming Film, Ma.Ja.De

World Sales: Delphis Films Inc.

(address: see above)

Twigson in a Pinch

Feature Film, Norway, 2011

Director: Arild Østin Ommundsen

Production: Paradox Film AS

World Sales: Sola Media GmbH

Filderhauptstr. 49, 70599 Stuttgart, Germany,

Phone: ++49-711-479-36-66

E-Mail: post@sola-media.net

www.sola-media.net; knertenfilmen.no

Will

Feature Film, Turkey / UK, 2011

Director: Ellen Perry

Production: Strangelove Films, Galata Film

World Sales: Galata Film

Gümüşsuyu Mah., Muhtar Kamil Sokak

Onur Apt. 5/5 Taksim, 34437 Istanbul, Turkey,

Phone: ++90-212-249-10-71

E-Mail: info@galatafilm.com

www.galatafilm.com

Yoko

Feature Film, Germany, 2012

Director: Franziska Buch

Production: Blue Eyes Fiction

World Sales: Telepool

Sonnenstr. 21, 80331 München, Germany

Phone: ++49-89-558760

E-Mail: telepool@telepool.de

www.telepool.de

ECFA NEWS

ECFA Board Meeting in Oulu

During the International Children's and Youth Film Festival the ECFA Board gathered in Oulu, Finland. The Board would like to thank the Oulu Festival and its staff for their kind hospitality and perfect accommodation. Most important topics during the board meeting where the current situation of the Rainbow project (see page 1 & 2), the ECFA seminar during the next Kristiansand festival, the 1st European Children's Film Award and the preparation of ECFA's Annual General Meeting, which will both take place during the upcoming Berlinale. ECFA will keep you updated about all this in the pages of the Journal.

ECFA's Annual General Meeting 2012

will take place during the Berlinale on a NEW LOCATION! All members are invited to meet in "Die Wille", in the Wilhelmstrasse 115 in Berlin (walking distance from Potsdamer Platz) at 4 pm.

Later that evening ECFA welcomes everyone at the Children's Film Party in Homebase, Köthener Straße 44, Berlin.

CHILDREN'S FILM FORUM

The Children's Film Forum, a collaboration project between ECFA and KIDS Regio, attempted to apply for MEDIA funding in June 2011. This was a substantial undertaking and unfortunately was unable to continue to present their application due to problems of establishing co-financing. The idea for a Children's Film Forum still remains but at this time of economic uncertainty it is, perhaps, an initiative for the future.

RAINBOW International CONTEST of SHORT Films AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA: Calling all European young people

RAINBOW is seeking submissions of short films made by young people aged 15 -19 years from European countries.

The films, up to 10 minutes, must enter one of the following 3 the categories: Live action, Animation, Documentary

In one of these two different issues about sexual orientation and gender diversity:

- Surroundings: being gay, lesbian, transgender or bisexual at school, in the family or in sports

- Relationships: me and my friends

Deadline for entries is May 11th, 2012 (films must be delivered by May 11th).

The films must be produced in the years 2011-2012

Films should be sent to: Rainbow Short Film Competition against Homophobia Centro di Iniziativa Gay ONLUS, Comitato Provinciale Arcigay di Milano, Via Bezzacca 3, 20135 Milan – Italy

The Rainbow Project team will appoint an international jury - involving experts and LGBT professionals connected to the Milano Mix Festival - Gay and lesbian cinema and queer culture that will award a weekend for 2 people in a European city (flight and accommodation in hotel 3* BB) for the 2 best films.

The winning films and a selection of the films participating will be screened at the 26th Milano MIX Festival – Gay and lesbian cinema and queer culture, in Milan, Italy, June 2012 and in other festivals organised by partners of the Rainbow Project.

Film submission form and competition guidelines can be downloaded at the website: <http://rainbow.ecfa.info>

ECFA AWARDS

Films recently listed for the ECFA Award 2011

Schlingel International Film Festival for Children & Young Audience (Chemnitz, Germany): SOME DOGS BITE (Marc Munden, UK)

Kinodiseea (Bucarest, Hungary): THE RUNWAY (Ian Power, Ireland) + Special Mention for KOOKY (Jan Sverak, Czech Republic)

Oulu International Children's & Youth Film Festival (Oulu, Finland): ON THE SLY (Olivier Ringer, Belgium)

Olympia Youth Film Festival (Pyrgos, Greece): THE STORYTELLER (short animation, Nandita Jain, UK)

Meanwhile the list of European countries illegible for the ECFA Award has been updated. You'll find all details about the ECFA Award regulations on

<http://www.ecfaweb.org/award/regulations.htm>.

ECFA members are now invited to bring out their votes. More in editorial, page 1.

IN MEMORIAM ZDENEK MILER

On November 30th the Czech animator Zdenek Miler died. The simple charm of his most famous creation the 'Little Mole' (Krtek), a peaceful and inventive animal, could be considered a symbol of everything the children's film circuit stands for.

Zdenek Miler (° 1921) made more or less 70 short films; 50 of them about the Little Mole. Already in his screen debut, the cute rodent resisted against suffocating bureaucracy. For the rest of his career by the mouth of the mole Zdenek Miler would passionately plead for solidarity in a language that was understood universally.

Belgian children's film pioneer Hugo Elsemans remembers his friend Zdenek Miler as "utterly nice companion. Actually his character resembled a bit to the Little Mole: always kind, modest and without a single bit of violence." Zdenek Miler once agreed with that: "The Little Mole is the ideal image of how I should really be. But I can't compete with my ideal alter ego."



PLEIN LA BOBINE

Like many festivals Plein La Bobine's struggles with financial difficulties are endangering the 10th edition that should be celebrated in the Massif du Sancy in June 2012. Local authorities are leaving the festival in doubt about the possibility of yet another edition.

Determined to convince the authorities about the need for a cultural and educational investment, Plein la Bobine invites everyone to write a short message about the festival's importance and send it to coordination@pleinlabobine.com. Meanwhile the festival staff promises to dedicate all their energy and passion to organising the next festival from June 9th – 14th and hopefully many more editions afterwards.

ECFA Journal

Published by ECFA
European Children's Film Association
Rue du Pavillon 3
B-1030 Bruxelles
Phone: +32 (0)2 242 54 09
Fax: +32 (0)2 242 74 27
E-mail: ecfa@jekino.be
www.ecfaweb.org

Please send press releases, advertisements, questions & information to Jekino - Gert Hermans
See address above
E-mail: gerth@jekino.be

Contributors to this issue:
Adam Graham, Reinhold Schöffel, Elise Van Beurden, Eva Schwarzwald, Kortfilmfestival Leuven, Claudius Gebele, Nicholas Sando, Gust Van den Berghe, Krister Kjellström, Katharine Simpson, Angela Mastrotonardo, Felix Vanginderhuyzen, Xiaojuan Zhou.

Corrector: Adam Graham
Design: Sam Geuens & Mecca Henneco
ECFA website: Udo Lange

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):
ECFA
European Children's Film Association
Phone: +32 (0)2 242 54 09
E-mail: ecfa@jekino.be
www.ecfaweb.org

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

THE RINGER BROTHERS' ON THE SLY: "Parents have the best intentions"

ON THE SLY is a family affair: Olivier Ringer writes, directs, stands behind the camera, edits and together with his wife Macha he acts in a minor role in the film. His daughter Wynona plays the main character Cathy. His brother Yves is producer and co-author of the script.



Wynona, we never see you talking in the movie but all the time we hear your voice. Wynona Ringer: "My dad prompted all the texts for me in the studio. I had to repeat them." Olivier Ringer: "The voice is very important in this film. It expresses Cathy's inner life and gives access to her complex patrons of thoughts and feelings."



How do you deal with an actress who is your daughter at the same time?

Olivier: "Wynona might look like a little girl but I was very surprised by her maturity as an actress. With astonishing ease and accuracy she could express thoughts and emotions through her face. Her biggest challenge was not only to find the right tone, but to move in a credible way without hiding herself behind words and dialogues."

Did she work on the script too?

Olivier: "She wasn't involved in the writing process, but sometimes helped me in finding the right words. Yves and I wrote the monologues. After the rough cut we rewrote the text. In the last phase we worked on the 'realness' of Wynona's monologue."

Did the shooting take much time?

Olivier: "For almost a year we worked some hours per day. We didn't want to exhaust Wynona too much. We mainly shot in summer, in the forests in the Ardennes. The biggest problem was the ticks. Every evening we had a complete body-check."

Where did you find inspiration for this story?

Olivier: "I'm a lousy father myself and that I wanted to show to the world." Wynona: "No, you're not!" Olivier: "This isn't about 'bad' parents. We look exclusively through Cathy's eyes. To have a better understanding it is our duty as parents to bend our knees until we're on the same height as our children. We spoil them in a materialistic way, but what can we do to understand

their feelings? Even when her parents are caring, Cathy feels as if she doesn't exist for them. Many children will recognize that: their parents have the best intentions but do not always succeed in sparing them enough time."

Even when spending every weekend together on the countryside?

Olivier: "Driving through Paris in a perfectly air-conditioned car, Cathy looks at the world from the backseat, feeling like a prisoner, choking in a sterile world where everything is neat, decent and tactful. This safe and comfortable reality benumbs her emotions. Out in the wild Cathy's view on the world changes, she's like Robinson Crusoe. To survive in the wilderness, she has to adapt some primitive habits: gathering food, finding protection from predators and shelter from the storm, developing a relationship with the surrounding environment."

They young audience is very much intrigued by the film's magical elements. Is ON THE SLY a fairy-tale?

Olivier: "It's a modern story that contains references to the fairy-tales of our childhood: the woods, the red thread, the beast, the magic seeds, the resemblance with 'Hansel & Gretel'... The heritage of our imagination. The seeds refer to Cathy's discovery of the little miracles of life: the magic that you discover in small things. That's an important lesson. Most family movies use computer generated images to take children onto an imaginary world. When my children are watching those movies they're enthusiastic but seldom deeply touched. I wanted to tell a story that stands close to reality so that children can identify with real emotions."

How to put such a film out in the theatres? Olivier: "The best example was our last film POM LE POULAIN that remained in the theatres throughout the summer holidays. I was there in the very first screening... in an empty theatre. Nobody came! Painful... But the film was given some time, the word-to-mouth promotion worked and finally POM had its best score in its 4th week."

ON THE SLY is dedicated to a dog?

Olivier: "Our dog Ourga played 'the beast'. Ourga recently died. The premier in Berlin was the first time Wynona saw his image again on screen. That assailed her very much." (GH)