



ECFA Award 2015 goes to MOTHER, I LOVE YOU!



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ECFA members voted the Latvian film MOTHER, I LOVE YOU (Janis Nords) as 'Best Children's Film of the Year'. The diploma was handed out during the Berlinale Award Ceremony. See picture: producer Alise Gelze (Tasse Film) and world sales agent Jan Naszewski (New Europe Film Sales), receiving the award from the hands of ECFA President Céline Ravenel.

No. 2 / 2015

MAY

EDITORIAL

Media Education Database

The databases on the ECFA website are without doubt ECFA's most adequate tool for promotion: numerous people got to know about ECFA by using the information listed online about films and upcoming festivals.

Now the Children's Film First project offers ECFA an opportunity to enlarge our database spectrum. Soon three new databases will be available: a short film database containing a 100 titles and a database of study guides, provided in their original language by several member organisations. But the database that requires your immediate attention is the one about 'media education experts'.

Mapping all the European media educational initiatives is an ambitious task in which several agencies have recently failed. ECFA thinks we can do better! Under the control of Günther Kinstler we'll soon provide you with a database containing names of media education experts, listed as individual persons (and not by the institutes they represent).

Therefore your help is needed. If you consider yourself or one of your colleagues qualified as a media literacy expert, don't hesitate to enlist yourself in ECFA's Children's Film First database. Please contact Günther Kinstler (cff@ecfaweb.org) for more information. Please forward this call throughout your national network, and make sure that all experts from your country are represented in our database.

Thank you for helping ECFA in this most ambitious project: completing the first ready for use database on qualified Media Education Professionals!

Children's Film First Conference, 23 & 24 September in Brussels

The Children's Film First (CFF) conference is a new Europe-wide conference for everyone who works with children to educate and inspire them about film. The audience for the conference will include both the film industry and film education sector, offering opportunities for discussion and collaborations.

ECFA will make this conference an event of two parts: the morning will focus on access to film, with an industry panel looking at perspectives on current and future trends in Europe, including production and exhibition. Distributors, working at different scales, examine the core issues in increasing audiences/sales for youth content in both theatrical and home entertainment platforms.

The afternoon will offer sessions on a range of media education practice from around Europe: including youth curation / programming; innovative practice in teaching film editing and sound; ideas for media education with phones and tablets etc.

Planning

The conference is the conclusive element of ECFA's year-long CFF project, co-funded by the Creative Europe MEDIA programme. Earlier seminars at the Schlingel Film Festival, the Il Nuovo Fantarca social cooperative and the Ciné-Jeune de l'Aisne Festival, provided the inspiration for the conference, offering areas of debate and examples of innovative practice. Discussion around the content of the conference began in December 2014, in liaison with CFF partners and UK advisors recruited by Kathy Loizou and the Children's Media Conference (UK), the organisation managing the CFF conference for ECFA.

Location

The CFF Conference will be on Thursday 24 September at the beautiful Brussels City Theatre. The evening before, delegates will meet at a small reception. ECFA Member Pass & Early Bird Pass: €50; Full Price from 1 September for Non-Members €75. For buying passes and e-bulletins with up-to-date programme information: www.childrensfilmfirst.com.

ECFA members have already started to book their places, so don't delay in buying your pass, especially if you need a hotel room. Go to www.childrensfilmfirst.com/practical-info/hotels-brussels/ to see information about hotel rates for the conference. Conference Producer: Corinna Downing, corinna@thechildrensmediaconference.com



The News Section: Films, Awards, Festivals and other events

Children's Film Festival Seattle; USA

Audience Awards: Best Feature: „Lola on the Pea“ by Thomas Heinemann, Germany, 2014;

Best Short: „Sounds of Nature“ by Simon Weber, Switzerland, 2013.

Children's Jury: Best Live Action Film:

„Lola on the Pea“; Best Animated Film:

„Pim & Pom: The Big Adventure“ by Gioia Smid, The Netherlands, 2014; Best Documentary: „Havana Curveball“ by Marcia Jarmel & Ken Schneider, USA, 2014; Best Live Action Short: „The Boy Who Thought He Was Alright the Way He Was“ by Tami Ravid, The Netherlands, 2014; Best Animated Short: „Papa Cloudy's Restaurant“ by Akiko McQuerrey, USA, 2013.

www.childrensfilmmfestivalseattle.org

Göteborg Film Festival; Sweden

Audience's Dragon Award for Best Nordic Film: „My Skinny Sister“ by Sanna Lenken, Sweden & Germany, 2015.

www.giff.se

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

Grand Prix, Prix CICAIE & Du Grain à Démoudre Festival Jury's Award: „Spartacus & Cassandra“ by Ioanis Nuguet, France, 2014.

Short Film Awards: Children -5: „Trampoline“ by Maarten Koopman, The Netherlands, 2013; Children 6-10: „Tigres à la queue leu leu“ by Benoit Chieux, France, 2014; Children 11+: „A Tropical Sunday“ by Fabian Ribezzo, Mozambique, 2014.

www.cinemapublic.org

Int. Film Festival Berlin, Generation; Germany

Int. Jury: Best Feature for Children: „Rainbow“ by Nagesh Kukunoor, India, 2014.

Best Short for Children: „Giovanni and the Water Ballet“ by Astrid Bussink, The Netherlands, 2014. Best Feature 14+: „The Diary of a Teenage Girl“ by Marielle Heller, USA, 2014.

Children Jury: Best Feature: „My Skinny Sister“ by Sanna Lenken, Sweden & Germany, 2015; Best Short: „Gift of My Father“ by Salam Salman, Iraq, UK, The Netherlands & USA, 2014.

Young People Jury: Best Feature: „Flocken“ by Beata Gärdeler, Sweden, 2015.

Best Short: „A Confession“ by Petros Silvestros, UK, 2015.

www.berlinale.de

Anima - Brussels Int. Animation Film Festival; Belgium

Best Film for Children: „The Elephant and the Bicycle“ by Olesya Shchukina, Belgium & France, 2014.

Audience Awards: Best Short for Children: „Dimitri à Ubuyu“ by Agnès Lecreux & Fabien Drouet, France, Belgium, Switzerland, 2013; Best Animated Feature: „The Nut Job“ by Peter Lepeniotis, USA, Canada,

DIGITAL TOOLS – A New Educational Approach Children's Film First Seminar in Saint-Quentin, France

With a seminar on how to use innovative digital tools in film education, the Ciné-Jeune festival did not only echo the fundamental needs of the Creative Europe Programme, but also the desire of the French government, in their directive to 'develop digital tools in schools', as expressed by the Ministry of National Education.



The CFF seminar provided a wide overview of existing initiatives in France, ranging from the 'Kinétoscope' website (embedding short films in a pedagogical framework) and the spectacular 'Mash-up Table' (a playful tool for hands-on editing) to apps and animations developed especially for media educational purposes (like the short film 'Les Petites Choses de la Vie' by Benjamin Gibeaux).

Soon you'll find the complete seminar report on <http://cff.ecfaweb.org/seminars/>.

KINDER & JUGENDFILM KORRESPONDENZ: A LAUDATION

Hans and Christel Strobel were always the driving force behind Kinder & Jugendfilm Korrespondenz (KJK), the German children's film magazine that has been a source of inspiration for many. Now, after more than 35 years, KJK has published its last issue. Uta Beth, one of the Strobels' loyal co-workers, looks back upon the magazines inestimable achievements.

While almost all magazines today appear in a colourful, glossy print, Kinder & Jugendfilm Korrespondenz still looked so modest, as if it was single-handedly hammered into its matrix. But content-wise, there was no single magazine that was so competently and passionately devoted to its subject as KJK, whose founders and publishers have taken up and triggered all the relevant issues about children's and youth film and even over the last few years were not resting on their laurels for pioneering work, but still contributed with articles. How Hans and Christel Strobel succeeded to remain curious and never silt in routine, even after 35 years, remains a mystery. With their enthusiasm they enkindled co-workers, who were encouraged and spurred, impressed by their commitment. Even if for them there was little money to make, they were rewarded with lively discussions, suggestions, numerous contacts and a feedback that today nowhere else can be found. In this way 'the Strobels' for more than 3.5 decades maintained a high professional level, that they've now passed deliberately to the younger Stefan Stiletto, continuing the publication 4 times per year as a part of the 'Film Dienst' magazine for cinema and film culture. (Uta Beth)



Hans and Christel Strobel

DOXSPOT



ONCE UPON A TREE (Het Meisje in de Boom)

Eleven-year-old Filine feels like a pirate in her lookout when she has climbed the old oak, her favourite place, standing on its branches and enjoying the view. Up there, she treasures the silence without actually feeling alone: trees like 'her' oak are like hotels for animals. Many birds and insects live on the branches and leaves, searching for food or seeking shelter from uncomfortable weather conditions. Filine likes to look out for them, but there are other, more alarming sights: Lumberjacks are marking trees in her oak's surroundings with red crosses. Is her favourite place in danger, too? Armed with overflowing fantasy, Filine is poised to do whatever it takes to defend her tree against the sheer pragmatism of the adults' world.

Director: Marleen van der Werf
The Netherlands, 2013, 15'
Director of photography: Dick Harrewijn & Marleen van der Werf

Music: Dennis van Tilburg
Production: HUMAN
Contact: Marleen van der Werf,
info@marleenvanderwerf.com



doxs! festival for children & youth documentaries

Being one of the world's few festivals dedicated to children & youth documentaries, doxs! supports a unique mission: presenting contemporary European documentaries with the aim to create a profound dialogue between filmmakers and young audiences. Doxs! is embedded in the Duisburger Filmwoche. www.doxs.de. Contact: Gudrun Sommer & Julia Niessen.

DHANAK WINS GENERATION GRAND PRIX

DHANAK is a light-hearted story about 8-year-old blind Chotu and his tenderly concerned sister. They both worship the heroes of the big screen. One day they leave their desert village in Rajasthan to search for Sha Rukh Khan, the biggest movie star of all. If someone can cure Chotu, it must be him. We met with amiable director Nagesh Kukunoor after a Generation screening in the Berlinale, where his film made the audience roar with laughter, and later was awarded with the Generation Grand Prix. "The adoration of Bollywood stars is an Indian tradition. Even in the remote villages stories are told about their heroic deeds. In this way a 'bigger than life' myth is created."

The super-fast tempo at which **DHANAK** has come into being is remarkable. "At the end of April 2014, I was talking with a producer about a movie project, when an old dream of mine was mentioned. I had already buried the idea, but began to work again on the script at fast pace. Once the scenario was ready, I picked a random date on a board: my deadline. On July 1st we started shooting. The movie was ready in October! I strongly believe in fate. If I have enough faith in something, I believe it just can't go wrong."



Still, circumstances were not exactly optimal. "Rajasthan is a desert region. We often shot at 50°. I have the greatest respect for the young actors: Krish Chhabria (8) and Hetal Gada (12) who worked all the time without complaining. Rajasthan also left its mark on the music of the movie, which was profoundly influenced by the Rajasthani folk tradition. We made a new cut for the Western market in which certain musical excerpts were cut out."

On the stage of the Berlinale Kukunoor made a striking statement: "I made **DHANAK** to show that the world isn't such a bad place. I dedicate this movie to the India where I grew up, where people were welcoming and genuinely trusted each other. I show that, even today, there is still place for goodness on this world." (GH)

NO. 7 - COPENHAGEN BOMBAY GOES HORROR

As one of the most original players on the European market, the Danish production company Copenhagen Bombay (**THE GREAT BEAR**, **BEYOND BEYOND**) stubbornly follows their own path. Now they are taking us yet another step further by presenting... A horror movie for children!

Curious events take place on a seemingly common Danish school. Ole and Jamie try to register them with their camera. While doing that, their encounter with horrible facts from the past makes the dust fly: the school's cellar door seems to be a gateway to a ghost world. Producer Malene Iversen: "NO. 7 couldn't be a weak-kneed horror story, it had to be a real spine-chiller, making use of all the genre's conventions. We wanted to make a real ghost story, not a soft 'phew-it-was-just-a-dream' story. Director John Kenn Mortensen is a horror freak and has been influenced by **PARANORMAL ACTIVITY** and **THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT**. Children love getting the creeps, and we challenge the daredevils to fully enjoy the genre."



Children can best appreciate the chilling story in small doses, as a TV series. The Danish public broadcasting channel DR shows **NO. 7** in 6 episodes, which are broadcasted as late as possible during the children's slot, to reach the 11+ public. They do believe in the success rate of the series, as sequels **NO. 9** and **NO. 13** are already put into work, and the tension will build up even further. (GH)

MEDIA LITERACY AWARD: PROJECTS WANTED!

The Austrian Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs invites teachers and pupils at all school levels to submit their media projects (best practice) to the Media Literacy Award. This media education competition promotes creative and critical practice with media. The best and most creative teams will be invited to the international 'mla:connect' festival in Vienna, 4-6th November.

Deadline: 15th July 2015. Online registration & info:

www.mediamanual.at/mla.html.

Contact: Renate Holubek; renate.holubek@bmbf.gv.at; +43-676-31-720-51.



South Korea, 2014.
www.animafestival.be

JEFF Europees Jeugdfilmfestival; Antwerp & Bruges, Belgium

ECFA Jury: Best Feature: „Jack“ by Edward Berger, Germany, 2014; Best Short: „Wind“ by Robert Löbel, Germany, 2013. Children's Jury Antwerp: Best Feature: „Scrapwood War“ by Margien Rogaar, The Netherlands, 2014; Best Short: „Munya in Me“ by Mascha Halberstad, The Netherlands, 2013.

Children's Jury Brugge: Best Feature: „The Boy with the Golden Pants“ by Ella Lemhagen, Sweden, 2014; Best Short: „Pony Place“ by Joost Reijmers, The Netherlands, 2014.

Audience Award: „Kick it!“ by Katarina Launing, Norway, 2014

www.jeugdfilmfestival.be

New York Int. Children's Film Festival; USA

Grand Prix: Best Feature: „Belle and Sebastian“ by Nicolas Vanier, France, 2013; Best Short: „Johnny Express“ by James Woo, South Korea, 2014.

Audience Awards: age 3-6: „Zebra“ by Julia Ocker, Germany, 2014; age 5 - 10: „5,8 Metres“ by Nicolas Deveaux, France, 2012; age 8 - 14: „Johnny Express“; age 12 - 18: „Steadfast Stanley“ by John Cody Kim, Canada & USA, 2014; age 18+:

„Giovanni and the Water Ballet“ by Astrid Bussink, The Netherlands, 2014;

Jury Awards: Best Animated Short: „Johnny Express“; Best Live Action Short: „Marina's Ocean“ by Cássio Pereira Dos Santos, Brazil, 2014.

www.gkids.com

Int. Children's Film Festival (FIFEM); Montreal, Canada

Children's Jury: Best Feature: „Operation Arctic“ by Grethe Bøe-Waal, Norway, 2014.

Int. Jury: Best Feature: „Birds of Passage“ by Olivier Ringer, Belgium, 2015; ECFA Award: „Operation Arctic“.

Audience Award: „The Nightingale“ by Philippe Muyl, France & China, 2014.

www.fifem.com

BUFF – Int. Children & Youth Film Festival; Malmö, Sweden

Experts Jury: Best Film for Children: „Life According to Nino“ by Simone van Dusseldorp, The Netherlands, 2014; Best Film for Young People: „X+Y“ by Morgan Matthews, UK, 2014.

Young People Jury & ECFA Award: „X+Y“. Best Short: „Catwalk“ by Ninja Thyberg, Sweden, 2015.

www.buff.se

Youngabout – Int. Film Festival for Young People; Bologna, Italy

Best Feature: „Boys“ by Mischa Kamp, The Netherlands, 2013; Best Young Actor: Marco Todisco in „Banana“ by Andrea Jublin, Italy & France, 2014.

www.youngabout.com

Young People's Film Festival; Leeds, UK

Younger (8-11) Jury: „Fiddlesticks“ by Veit Helmer, Germany, 2014; Older (12-15) Jury: „Song of the Sea“ by Tomm Moore, Ireland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Belgium, 2014.

Audience Award: „Moomins on the Riviera“ by Xavier Picard, Finland & France, 2014.
www.leedsyoungfilm.com

TIFF Kids - Toronto Int. Film Festival; Canada

Audience Awards: Best Feature: „Operation Arctic“ by Grethe Bøe-Waal, Norway, 2014; Best Short: „Yussef is Complicated“ by Vaughn Stein, UK, 2014.

Young People's Jury: Best Feature 8-10: „Mune“ by Alexandre Heboyan & Benoit Philippon, France, 2014; Best Feature 11-13: „When Marnie Was There“ by Hiromasa Yonebayashi, Japan, 2014; Best Short: „Granddaughter“ by Nicolas Villarreal, Argentina, 2014.

Adult Jury: Best Live Action Short: „Stealth“ by Bennett Lasseter, USA, 2014; Best Animated Short: „Decorations“ by Mari Miyazawa, Japan, 2014.

www.tiff.net/festivals/tiffkidsfestival

Vittorio Veneto Festival di cinema per ragazzi; Italy

Young People's Jury: „Love or Death“ by Daniel Kusan, Croatia, 2014; „Boys + Girls“ by Evgeny Sokolov, Russia, 2014; „Buschow“ by Rosa Friedrich, Germany, 2014; „The Boys' Republic“ by Dario Albertini, Italy, 2014.

Experts' Jury: „Bintou“ by Simone Catharina Gaul, Germany, 2013.

www.vittoriofilmfestival.com

Ciné-Jeune Festival de l'Aisne; Saint-Quentin, France

Int. Jury of Young People's: „X + Y“ by Morgan Matthews, UK, 2014.

Int. Experts Jury: „My Skinny Sister“ by Sanna Lenken, Sweden & Germany, 2015. ECFA Award: „Song of the Sea“ by Tomm Moore, Ireland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Belgium, 2014.

Children & Young People Jury: Best Short (3-6): „The Moon and the Wolf“ by Toma Leroux & Patrick Delage, France, 2014; Best Short (7-11): „Jean-Michel the Caribou is in Love“ by Mathieu Auvray, France, 2014; Best Short (young people): „Sense of Touch“ by Jean-Charles Mbotti Malolo, France & Switzerland, 2014.

www.cinejeune02.wordpress.com

Kristiansand Int. Children's Film Festival (KICFF); Kristiansand, Norway

Film & Kino Children's Film Award: „The Games Maker“ by Juan Pablo Buscarini, Argentine, Canada & Italy, 2014. ECFA Award: „Song of the Sea“.

Audience Award: „Antboy 2 – Revenge of the Red Fury“ by Ask Hasselbalch, Denmark & Germany, 2014.

Youth Jury's Award: „Remake“ by Per Gavatín & Andreas Öhman, Sweden, 2014.
www.barnfilmfestivalen.no/english

Int. Children & Youth Animation Film Festival; Varazdin, Croatia

PRODUCTION

IN PRODUCTION: WHO KILLED NELSON NUTMEG?

WHO KILLED NELSON NUTMEG? is a UK film about four misfit kids who suspect their summer camp's mascot has been murdered, so they set out to investigate. It's a kid's film, for kids, with kids in the lead roles!

The project is the brainchild of UK filmmakers Tim Clague (writer, independent filmmaker) and Danny Stack (prolific writer in the children & family genre; his credits include the new THUNDERBIRDS ARE GO!). They noticed that the UK film industry was not making family films specifically targeted for the 6-9 year olds. Where are the live-action, child-orientated films like the Children's Film Foundation used to make in the 60s and 70s?



Clague and Stack realised their idea for WHO KILLED NELSON NUTMEG? would be a tough pitch to the industry so they decided to make it themselves, independently. They ran a successful Kickstarter campaign, used some of their own money and raised some private investment to reach a very modest budget. However, using their wit, savvy and short film experience, they pulled it all together.

The shoot lasted over 9 weekends, bookended with a week's worth of filming. Bonnie Wright (Harry Potter's Ginny Weasley) joined the cast as the villain, and proved to be a professional guide to the kids on set. Excited and passionate about the film's potential, Tim Clague and Danny Stack are looking to the next set of live-action family projects to add to their slate. More info & contact: <http://www.nelsonnutmeg.com/#>

MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI

The Franco-Swiss co-production MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI (Original Title: Ma Vie de Courgette) is a stop-motion animation directed by Claude Barras, after a script by Céline Sciamma (director of TOMBOY and GIRLHOOD).

A 10-year old boy nicknamed Zucchini is taken to live in an orphanage following his



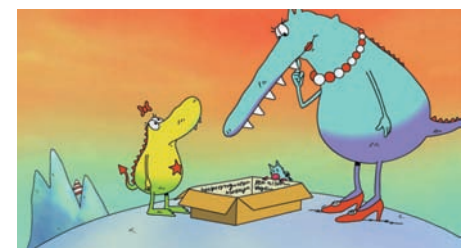
mother's death. Amongst a group of children who, just like him, have been scarred by life, Zucchini has to adapt to his new environment. The voice performance by the child actors is what really makes the film stand out. Claude Barras: *“We were looking for voices that were slightly unusual in terms of tone and speech impediments. During six weeks of recording, we fleshed out the characters and gave them a bit of colour. Since the puppets' heads constitute 1/3 of their entire bodies, their eyes become very important.”*

Life isn't easy for Zucchini, who finds himself in a world full of harassment, denigration and juvenile delinquency, and luckily finds a sympathetic ear in a friendly policeman. But this harsh realistic world is mitigated by the beauty of the handcrafted stop-motion animation. *“The film moves from the shadows towards the light, also in terms of cinematography. It's at the crossroads of two universes.”*

Shooting until the end of April, MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI (70') is now in post-production. Estimated release in 2015 / 2016. Info: Armelle Glorennec at info@spiritprod.com; Sales: Indie Sales at www.indiesales.eu.

MOLLY MONSTER – THE MOVIE

Good news for the fans of the 'Molly Monster' TV-shorts: their favourite monster will soon star in an animated feature, with an early 2016 release scheduled. Molly always gave a perfect sense of how it feels to be the smallest at home. But things are about to change, as in MOLLY MONSTER – THE MOVIE an egg announces the coming of a mini-monster sibling. Together with her best friend Edison, a clockwork toy, Molly sets out on a journey to find her new place in the family. MOLLY MONSTER – THE MOVIE is a preschool adventure (70'), directed by Ted Sieger, taking place in Molly's well-known biotope: Monsterland, where among rocks and volcanoes, easy-going monsters live happily in caves, swim in hot lava pools, play badminton and unconditionally love one another. As every episode of the TV-series ends with a song, also in the movie there's lots of singing to be done.



More info: www.mollymonster.tv;
Contact: alexandra.schatz@t-online.de

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

MOBILE IMPROVISATIONS IN CLASSROOMS – A DRAC MAGIC EXPERIENCE

Mobile devices with a camera have entered the classrooms all over Spain. Whether in the form of a smartphone or school tablet, this technology modifies the learning strategies and the rapport of students with their environment. The democratisation of the access to ways of recording causes a more dynamic relation of youngsters with the audio-visual culture. They consume more films than ever, but also make their own. Their experience is multi-screen but does not necessarily include a deeper consideration of the medium itself.

Thus, the cooperative Drac Magic (Barcelona) promotes its audio-visual literacy project 'Construir Mirades', a program of activities to introduce and prepare young people to audio-visual languages and the spreading of film culture. Since 2014 Construir Mirades also offers modules based on mobile devices and the recycling of online images. The series of workshops, 'Mobile Improvisations', offers tools that contribute to the aesthetic education and to the growth of a critical and creative perspective regarding the content and values of films.

The experience carried out by the school FEDAC Sant Andreu in Barcelona mobilised more than fifty 6-7-year old students to document with tablets their daily life, getting into practice different camera movements and framing. Every room in the school was associated with one particular aspect of visual language: in the playground students worked on tracking; in the kitchen, on framing; in the locker room, on close-ups; in the laboratory, on staging... In this way deploying in all corners of the school fifteen small cooperatives of very young documentary makers. Through creative exercises they became aware of the point of view behind every image and gave new significance to everyday filming.



Construir Mirades is produced by Drac Magic, a film educational entity providing educational programs since 1970, with one basic idea in mind: watching films can be both pleasant, critical and creative. (Marta Nieto Postigo)
Contact: Drac Magic, Marta Nieto Postigo, martan@dracmagic.cat, www.dracmagic.cat.

ANIMAFEST ZAGREB

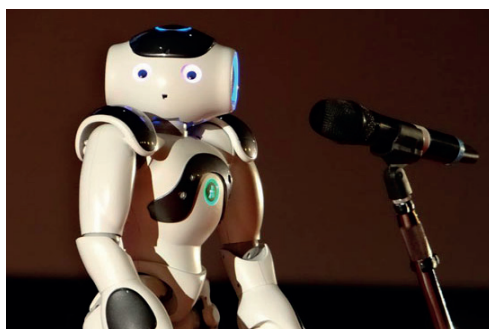
A big step to take for the 25th edition of the World Festival of Animated Film - Animafest Zagreb: for the first time the biannual feature and short editions will merge into one festival. With more than 350 films in all sections, Animafest Zagreb 2015 offers a complete overview of the international animation scene, from great names, Oscar winners and world premieres, to young talents and students.

Moreover, the festival will pay extra attention to videogames and interactive content, today's fastest-growing media platform, with water screen projections and audio-visual live performances. For the youngest, Animafest Zagreb prepared three special programmes: a Children's Film Competition with 40 films selected for various ages, a retrospective of films made by children, and special screenings in several districts of Zagreb. The upcoming edition will take place from 9-14 June 2015 in Zagreb, Croatia. More info: www.animafest.hr.



Carrot Jam

With this year's edition dedicated to the 'fantasy' theme, the Ciné-Jeune de l'Aisne Festival in Saint-Quentin found a true VIP guest to 'cut the ribbon' on the opening night. With absolute certainty we state that Ciné-Jeune was the first ECFA Festival to be opened by... A robot!



Best Film for Children: „Lambs“ by Gottfried Mentor, Germany, 2013; For Juniors: „The Present“ by Jacob Frey, Germany, 2014; For Young People: „Mother“ by Aroop Dwivedi, India, 2014.
www.vafi.hr

Indie Junior; Lisboa, Portugal
Indie Junior Award: „Historia de un oso“ by Gabriel Osorio, Chile, 2014.
www.indielisboa.com

EFA Young Audience Award 2015
„The Invisible Boy“ by Gabriele Salvatores, Italy, 2014.
www.yaa.europeanfilmawards.eu

Dubai Children's Int. Film Festival; United Arab Emirates
Audience Choice: Best Int. Feature: „Kooky“ by Jan Sverak, Czech Republic, 2010; Best Int. Documentary: „Keep Calm and Carry On“ by Studio canoe, UK, 2012; Best Int. Short Film: „Lila“ by Carlos Lascano, Argentina, 2014.
www.ciff.ae

Int. Short Film Festival; Oberhausen, Germany
Children Jury: „Class Trip“ by Jonatan Etzler, Sweden, 2014; „Losers“ by Arianne Hinz, The Netherlands, 2014.
Young People Jury: „AlieNation“ by Laura Lehmus, Germany, 2014.
Ecumenical Jury: „Quiet Mujo“ by Ursula Meier, France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Swiss 2014.
www.kurzfilmtage.de

Forthcoming festivals & events

Int. Festival for Children & Youth; Zlín, Czech Republic
May 29 - June 4th 2015
www.zlinfest.cz

Golden Sparrow Film & Media Festival for Children; Gera & Erfurt, Germany
May 31 - June 6th 2015
www.goldenerspatz.de

Cartoon 360; Barcelona, Spain
June 1 - 3rd 2015
www.cartoon-media.eu

Best of the World - Children's Film Festival; Tromsø, Norway
June 4 - 7th 2015
www.verdensbestefilm.no

Int. Short Film Festival; Children's Film Festival "Mo & Friese"; Hamburg, Germany
June 7 - 14th 2015
www.moundfriese.de

Animafest - World Festival of Animated Film; Zagreb, Croatia
June 9 - 14th 2015
www.animafest.hr

Kids Festival; Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
June 12 - 16th 2015
www.kidsfest.ba

Plein la Bobine; Massif du Sancy, La Bourboule & Le Mont-Dore, France
June 13 - 19th 2015
www.pleinlabobine.com

Film Festival for Children & Youth "Kinolub"; Krakow, Poland
June 14 - 18th 2015
www.kinolub.pl

Fest – Int. Youth Film Festival; Espinho, Portugal
June 22 - 29th 2015
www.fest.pt

Children's Filmfest; Munich, Germany
June 26 - July 4th 2015
www.filmfest-muenchen.de

The Children's Media Conference; Sheffield, UK
July 1 - 3rd 2015
www.thechildrensmediaconference.com

Int. Film Festival for Children & Youth; Tel Aviv, Israel
July 2 - 9th 2015
www.cinema.co.il

Cartoon Club Int. Festival of Animated Cinema & Comics; Rimini, Italy
July 13 - 19th 2015
www.cartoonclub.it

Film Festival; Giffoni Valle Piana, Italy
July 17 - 26th 2015
www.giffoniff.it

Children's Film Programme "Pulica"; Pula, Croatia
July 18 - 25th 2015
www.pulafilmfestival.hr

New Horizons Int. Film Festival; Wroclaw, Poland
July 23 - August 2nd 2015
www.nowehoryzonty.pl

Int. Youth Film Festival; Seoul, South Korea
August 5 - 12th 2015
www.siyff.com

Kineko Int. Children's Film Festival; Tokyo, Japan
August 11 - 15th 2015
www.kinder.co.jp

Int. Filmfestival "Cinemagi"; Hauge-sund, Norway
August 15 - 21st 2015
www.filmfestivalen.no

Anibar Animation Festival; Peja, Kosova
August 20 - 26th 2015
www.anibar.com

Nuevamarada – Int. Film Festival for Children & Youth; Buenos Aires, Argentina
August 27 - September 2nd 2015
www.nuevamarada.com

Fantoche Int. Animation Film Festival; Baden, Switzerland
September 1 - 6th 2015
www.fantoche.ch

IT'S RAINING FESTIVALS IN SOUTHASIA!

The vibrant region of South Asia has seen a spurt in the number of children's film festivals in recent years, all vying with each other to source the most exciting and imaginative international cinema for their young audiences. An overview.

Currently, there are a dozen children's film festivals of repute in the region. The most widely known is The Golden Elephant that gives away cash awards worth €20,000. Run by the Indian government, this biennial festival is the oldest and the largest, with audiences expected to exceed 175,000 in this year's edition. A bulk of this audience comprises children from villages who travel from as far as 200km to the city of Hyderabad to enjoy the big-screen experience of a movie hall for the first time in their lives!

The CMS Int. Film Festival in Lucknow, run by a Montessori school trust and the recently launched Karnataka Int. Children's Film Festival (KINCHIFF) also boast of similar attendance. In fact, KINCHIFF uses a strategy of simultaneous screenings in hundreds of multiplexes through satellite delivery to reach its vast and remote audiences. Children in Bangalore, capital city of Karnataka, were spoiled for choice as they also can attend Children's India Int. Bengali children on both sides of the border get the opportunity to watch a variety of international films through the Kolkata Int. Children's Film Festival in India and the Int. Children's Film Festival in Bangladesh. Backed by UNICEF, the festival in Bangladesh is the most popular children's event in the country.

While Nepal Int. Children's Film Festival in Kathmandu, with its focus on films with educational merit is run by grant support, the Lahore Int. Children's Film Festival in Pakistan generates revenues through ticket sales. In

six years the festival has grown leaps and bounds

to become a festival on demand, travelling to cities that invite it. Chinh India Kids Festival in New Delhi is also special in the way it engages children from indigenous communities with the making of films. Increasingly, South Asian film festivals are presenting films made by children themselves.

Existing festivals for adults are also expanding their programming to include special sections for children. The South Asian Children's Cinema Forum (SACCF) has played a pivotal role in widening the ambit of two prestigious festivals. Mumbai Film Festival, the most glamorous film festival in India is piloting a competitive children's film section in its 2015 edition and aims to expand the section into a fully-fledged festival in the coming years. Organised by the Mumbai Academy of the Moving Image, this festival is backed by stalwarts of the mainstream Indian film industry. Similarly, Mumbai Int. Film Festival, the premier non-fiction film festival in Asia, is collaborating with SACCF to institute Young Reels @ MIFF - a competitive section of documentary films made by South Asian children.

In a region that is home to over 600 million children, it's surprising that it has taken so long for the domestic creative industry to recognise the potential of children's film festivals. However, given this recent trend, we can predict that it's only a matter of time before children's film festivals emerge across smaller cities and towns of South Asia creating a wider access to quality films for children in the region.

(Wayne D'Cruz)



FEARLESS CHILD. DEDICATED TO IQBAL

A stunning project presented during Cartoon Movie was FEARLESS CHILD. DEDICATED TO IQBAL (by Michel Fuzellier & Babak Payami), a tough but poetic film. Producer Franco Serra (Gertie srl Productions): "The movie is the main part of a trans-media project about child labour. Many side-projects will be developed for different media. The Fearless Child project aims to make everyone aware of the huge social topics that the movie deals with."

When his family needs to buy an expensive medicine and there is no money, 10-year old Iqbal decides to go to the market in a nearby city to sell some of his belongings. There the swindler Hakeem offers to sell him the medicine. In return Iqbal will have to work in his friend's rugs factory. How long will Iqbal have to work? Nobody knows. Little Iqbal is sentenced to a life of hard work in a dirty, cold, warehouse where he meets a group of youngsters: Fatima, Emerson, and the others all have



similar stories to tell. When Iqbal comes to understand that his debt will never, ever be paid off, he plans a way to set himself and his friends free...

This animated feature (85') tells stories, based on true facts, through young people who actually lived them. FEARLESS CHILD. DEDICATED TO IQBAL is developed under the patronage of Unicef, with the support of the European MEDIA Programme and MIBAC (Italian Ministry for Cultural Activities). Release date: 20 November 2015

Info & trailer: www.gertieproduction.com/en/produzioni/fearless-child/
Contact: Franco Serra, gertie@gertieproduction.com

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

Albert



Animation, Denmark, 2015
Director: Karsten Killerich
Production: M&M Prod., A. Film
World Sales: Sola Media GmbH
Filderhauptstr. 49; 70599 Stuttgart, Germany
Phone: ++49-711-479-36-66
E-Mail: post@sola-media.net
Internet: www.sola-media.net

Code M

Feature Film, The Netherlands, 2015
Director: Dennis Bots
Production: Bijkler Film, Elbe Stevens Prod.
World Sales: Sola Media GmbH
(address see above)

Birds of Passage

Feature Film, Belgium & France, 2015
Director: Olivier & Yves Ringer
Production: Ring Prod, RTBF
World Sales: Attraction Distribution
5455 De Gaspe Ave., Suite 803
Montreal, Quebec, H2T 3B3
Phone: ++1-514-846-12-22
E-Mail: info@attractiondistribution.ca
Internet: www.attractiondistribution.ca

Boy 7



Feature Film, The Netherlands, 2014
Director: Lourens Blok
Production: Lemming Film
World Sales: Attraction Distribution
(address see above)

A Dozen Summers

Feature Film, UK, 2015
Director: Kenton Hall
Production & World Sales: Monkey Basket Films; Workspace 14, Phoenix 4 Midland Street; Leicester LE1 1TG, UK
Phone: ++44-7944-041-872
E-Mail: kentonhallmusic@gmail.com
Internet: www.dozensummersmovie.co.uk

The Invisible Boy

Feature Film, Italy, 2014
Director: Gabriele Salvatores
Production: Indigo Film, Rai Cinema
World Sales: Pathé France
2, rue Lamennais, 75008 Paris, France
Phone: ++33-1-71-72-33-05
E-Mail: themba.bhebhe@pathe.com
Internet: www.pathe.com

Knutsen & Ludvigsen and the Horrible Rasputin

Animation, Norway, 2015
Director: Rasmus A. Sivertsen & Rune Spaans
Production & World Sales: Tordenfilm
Sandakervn. 52; 0477 Oslo, Norway
Phone: ++47-23-40-03-40
E-Mail: info@tordenfilm.no
Internet: www.tordenfilm.no

Max's Movie

Feature Film, Sweden, 2014
Director: Roberto Duarte
Production & World Sales: Way Creative Films; Monbijougatan 17b; 21153 Malmö, Sweden
E-Mail: js@waycreative.se
Internet: www.waycreative.se

Mune

Animation, France, 2015
Director: Alexandre Heboyan & Benoit Philippon
Production: Onyx Films
World Sales: Kinology
30, rue Moret; 75011 Paris, France
Phone: ++33-9-51-47-43-44
E-Mail: gmelin@kinology.eu
Internet: en.unifrance.org/movie/32462/mune

My Life, My Lesson

Documentary, Sweden & Norway, 2015
Director: Åsa Ekman
Production & World Sales: Film and Tell
Slipgatan 7; 11739 Stockholm, Sweden
Phone: ++46-8-55-80-38-30
E-Mail: info@filmmandtell.com
Internet: www.filmmandtell.com

My Skinny Sister

Feature Film, Sweden & Germany, 2014
Director: Sanna Lenken
Production: Story AB & Fortune Cookie Filmprod.
World Sales: Wide Management
9, rue Bleue; 75009 Paris, France
Phone: ++33-1-53-95-04-64
E-Mail: wide@widemanagement.com
Internet: www.widemanagement.com

Transylvanian Garlic

Feature film, Romania, 2014
Director: Lucian Alexandrescu
Production: E-Motions Films, Groparu.ro, IT Media Films
Contact: www.reelhouse.org/lucianoalexander/usturoi

You're Ugly Too

Feature film, Ireland, 2014
Director: Mark Noonan
Production: SP Films / Savage Prod.
World Sales: Picture Tree Int. GmbH
Zur Börse 12; 10247 Berlin, Germany
Phone: ++49-30-201-21-62
E-Mail: pti@picturetree-international.com
Internet: www.picturetree-international.com

Film Festival; Milano, Italy

September 10 - 20th 2015

www.milanofilmfestival.it

Int. Film Festival TIFF Kids; Toronto, Canada

September 10 - 20th 2015

www.tiff.net/kids

Buster – Int. Film Festival for Children & Youth; Copenhagen, Denmark

September 14 - 27th 2015

www.buster.dk

Cartoon Forum; Toulouse, France

September 15 - 18th 2015

www.cartoon-media.com

AniFest Rozafa Int. Film Festival; Shkodra, Albania

September 20 - 27th 2015

www.anifestrozafa.org

Children's Film First Conference; Brussels, Belgium

September 23 - 24th 2015

cff.ecfaweb.org/childrens-film-first-conference

Lucas Int. Children's Film Festival; Frankfurt, Germany

September 27 - October 4th 2015

www.lucas-filmfestival.de

Children's & Youth Film Festival "Michel"; Hamburg, Germany

October 2 - 10th 2015

www.michel-kinderfilmfest.de

Schlingel Int. Film Festival for Children & Young Audience; Chemnitz, Germany

October 5 - 11th 2015

www.ff-schlingel.de

Int. Film Festival; London, UK

October 7 - 18th 2015

www.bfi.org.uk/iff

Youth Film Festival „Giffoni Macedonia“; Skopje, Macedonia

October 7 - 11th 2015

www.giffoni.mk

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

October 15 - 24th 2015

www.cinekid.nl

More information on all these festivals you will find on our website:

www.ecfaweb.org/ecfnet/festivals.php



Code M



The Invisible Boy

VAFI FESTIVAL

The cosy city of Varazdin (Croatia) is the location for VAFI, a unique festival of its kind: VAFI offers an overview of short animated films made by children all over the world. "We're screening in 3 categories: Mini (<10 yrs), Midi (11-14-yrs) and Maxi (15-18-yrs)," explains co-director Hrvoje Selec. "Even if the amount of films applying for our senior programme (shorts for children made by professionals) has grown from 150 to 400 in just one year, still the work of young filmmakers remains the core of our festival." That's why during VAFI (21-26th April), the quiet streets of Varazdin were overcrowded with Greek, Taiwanese, Armenian and Croatian children, running from one workshop to another.



To kick start the informal round table that VAFI organised for its international guests, ECFA was asked to present itself. Together, animators from Australia, Belgium, Italy, Brazil etc. examined alternative ways of distribution for films made by youngsters. Jean-Luc Slock (Camera-Etc.): "The hurdle for such films is that they often fall into the gap between culture and education."

Executing their very specific task, VAFI is doing a marvelous job. Whoever is in search of a wide panorama of animated films, made by youngsters all over the world, can find the best possible selection here. (GH)



FATAO AND THE STREET

One of the winners in this year's VAFI was 'Fatao and the Street', made by Cinomade (Burkina Faso). This workshop is part of 'Camera & Consorts', a permanent training structure for creating movies with children, organised by the Belgian Camera-Etc in several countries. 'Fatao and the Street' (6') was made by girls aged 12-14. Jean-Luc Slock "They are women rather than girls, often with a life of abuse and sexual harassment behind them." Cinomade gave them the opportunity to tell about their experiences in a simple imagery. Their story sounds shocking, but is told with a touching sense of honesty. The festival jury praised VAFI for their courage to share this film with a young audience.

Contact Vafi: Sandra Malenica, sandra@vanima.hr; www.vafi.hr.

Contact 'Fatao and the Street': Cinomade, www.cinomade.org/presentation/. Distribution: Dimitri Kimplaire for Camera-Etc; dimitri.kimplaire@camera-etc.be.



CROSS VIDEO DAYS (Paris)



The European digital content market 'Cross Video Days' (June 11 & 12, Paris) is celebrating its 6th edition. The event offers co-financing and co-production opportunities for interactive projects and match-making of digital players across the value chain. It is an exceptionally open market offering free (!) participation for all selected projects.

"Every year we are looking for diversity of interactive projects across different genres and platforms.

For ECFA members it might be relevant to know that this also includes the categories 'Interactive animation' and 'Youth & Education'," says co-organiser Ruta Boguzaité. "Out of 500 projects submitted last year, 58 got selected and invited to the market, 21 were publicly pitched (and livestreamed) for digital industry professionals." Furthermore participants are invited to individual one-to-one meetings with commissioning editors and get full and free access to all other sections during the 2-day event: conferences, pitch sessions, workshops, keynotes, content market, IT Market, etc.

Exchange partnerships with MIFA (Annecy) and the Film Financing Forum for Kids Content will guarantee a further project circulation in the European markets. The Cross Video Days will take place in Paris and are supported by the Creative Europe MEDIA programme. Contact: Ruta Boguzaité; market@crossvideodays.com; www.crossvideodays.com.

DUBAI, NOT AS YOU KNOW IT About the CIFF Festival

CIFF, the Children's Int. Film Festival of the United Arab Emirates, wants to make a



young audience familiar with 'the best in family entertainment'. Besides screening a small selection of feature films, the heart of the festival lies in stimulating young people (aged 12-18) to start using film as a language to express their thoughts and feelings. An open call to all the schools in the UAE resulted in more than 160 films, made by students. During screenings for school groups in cinemas in Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai and Fujairah, over 19,000 youngsters were welcomed. "This region offers them little challenges in the area of filmmaking. Chances to get their creative work inside the cinema theatres are almost non-existing. CIFF offers such a chance to young people living in the Emirates, with the help of our main sponsor Nikon, who provided several schools with state of the art video equipment," says Deepak Jain. Together with Creative Director Jyoti Jain, he is the driving force behind CIFF.

This initiative offers a rare insight in the world of young people living in an overprotected society. "Nevertheless I'm struck by their need to express feelings of empathy. Most of these children grow up under privileged circumstances, never confronted with poverty or criminality. Still from their films speaks a great urge to do well, to promote a positive morality, although their vision on the world's bigger problems is often strikingly naïve." This spurred the international jury on handling specific criteria. Films were chosen that dared to broaden the horizon beyond the common school / living room / shopping mall environment.

Deepak Jain speaks honestly about life in the UAE, providing outsiders with a context for understanding the true impact of such films on local students. "This region wishes to avoid dealing with some issues that are commonly dealt with in European films. Every film screened in this festival must be submitted to a governmental council that judges the film's admissibility by using strict criteria." Remarkable: LOLA ON THE PEA was denied for CIFF for exactly the same reasons as for several US festivals, like the New York Int. Children's Film Festival: one vague shower scene and a child in a moment of anger using an indecent swear word.

The award ceremony, in the presence of all young film makers, was the festive conclusion of an event that helps children in the UAE to see the world with a different eye and feeds their minds, and therefore might truly change the lives of young people. (GH)

ECFA's AGM 2015

With almost 70 people attending and a wide range of topics discussed, ECFA's AGM 2015 edition was a true success. Two new board members were welcomed: after thanking Reinhold Schöffel and Petr Koliha for their priceless efforts and energy invested in ECFA, Maxime Lacour (EuroVoD) and Per Eriksson (SFI) took over the vacant seats. The jointly network dinner kept all its intentional promises: facilitating informal meetings amongst all members. ECFA is considering ways to continue and extend this initiative from next year onwards, and wants to thank all members for their presence and positive input during the AGM.



© Judita Soukupova

From left to right: Per Eriksson, Petra Slatinsek, Felix Vanginderhuysen, Céline Ravenel, Maxime Lacour, Kathy Loizou, Cecilia Grubb and Tanja Milicic.

ECFA AWARD AGE SPECIFICATION

Realising how many ECFA juries recently have chosen films that could be considered as 'teenage films', ECFA doesn't want to forget about the awards' initial goal: 'supporting European children's films'. That's why the AGM decided to change the award regulations: "the target group of the film should be under 14". Obviously such regulations can't be made strictly binding, but:

- We hope that everybody serving in ECFA juries will remember the award's initial goal.
- Guidelines about the ECFA juries' criteria will soon be published on the ECFA website.

FIRST ECFA AWARD IN NON-EUROPEAN FESTIVAL

With an ECFA Award given in the FIFEM Festival in Montreal, Canada, ECFA celebrated a premier: the first ECFA Award handed out in a non-European festival. The jury, consisting of Felix Vanginderhuysen, Marketa Pášmová and Stéphane Crête voted OPERATION ARCTIC as the winner. We thank FIFEM for hosting this jury so generously!

ECFA Awards

Titles recently listed for the ECFA Award 2014:

- JEFF Festival (Antwerp / Bruges, Belgium): JACK (Edward Berger, Germany)
- BUFF Int. Children & Youth Film Festival (Malmö, Sweden): X + Y (Morgan Matthews, UK)
- FIFEM Montreal Int. Children's Film Festival (Canada): OPERATION ARCTIC (Grethe Bøe-Waal, Norway)
- Ciné-Jeune Festival de l'Aisne (Saint-Quentin, France): SONG OF THE SEA (Tomm Moore, Ireland / Luxembourg / Denmark / Belgium)
- Kristiansand Int. Children's Film Festival (Norway): SONG OF THE SEA

NEW MEMBERS

KontxtFilm (Norway)



"My name is Stig Brekke. In 2012 I founded KontxtFilm, a company for distributing (both theatrical & home entertainment) foreign children and youth films in Norway. For nine years I've been working in a 35mm film text laboratory in Oslo, until the workplace closed down, due to the digitalizing of cinemas. I always dreamed of working in film distribution, and since nobody was hiring staff, I started my own company. KontxtFilm is based on my passion for film, my know-ledge about film technique and marketing, and my bachelor in culture management. With a background in theatre production for children and youth, it was clear to me that KontxtFilm would focus on films for a young audience. That's my true passion. Due to an event, happening to me at the age of 12: that's when my father took me to the cinema to see Lasse Hallström's MY LIFE AS A DOG, certainly the most important cultural experience I ever had. This film has formed me as a human being."

"If Lasse Hallström would have made his film today, as a debuting director adapting a not well-known novel, most probably this film wouldn't be released in Norway. This for me is unacceptable. Such thoughts denounced the true mission of KontxtFilm: dare to try! And after three years in business I'm still optimistic, due to the immense qualities I found in European cinema. My dream is to present quality films like MY LIFE AS A DOG in cinemas and at home. Children and young people should have access to films to which they can relate in their own life. And I don't want to give up our heritage as a European nation to generations growing up on nothing but entertainment coming from or inspired by Hollywood."

"Me and ECFA, I think we share the same agenda. That's why I became a member. I'm also interested in other members' work with schools and educational institutions, as this is something KontxtFilm might focus on in the future. And perhaps I can make myself useful to others, presenting ideas and plans regarding the marketing of children and youth films." Contact: KontxtFilm, Stig Brekke, post@kontxtfilm.com; www.kontxtfilm.com.

EuroVoD / UniversCiné (Belgium)

Created in 2010, EuroVoD aims to develop a pan-European network of VoD platforms specializing in art-house and independent cinema: a group of companies operating with common technology and the largest curated catalogue of European films available on VoD.

EuroVoD's objectives are to achieve convergence between its members by pooling resources to increase the transnational circulation of European films, to defend cultural diversity, and to develop Video on Demand as a new, legal channel for distributing audio-visual content, as well as a new financial resource for cinema production. EuroVoD platforms currently operate across 9 countries: France, Spain, Belgium, Ireland, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Italy and Bulgaria, with more than 18,000 films available to watch. Furthermore EuroVoD has launched Streams (European Online Film Festival), and developed strong links with European Film Awards (European Film Academy, César, Magritte du Cinéma, Goya, etc.) and with major European film festivals.

Within ECFA, EuroVoD is represented by (new board member) Maxime Lacour, who in 2009 was appointed to develop UniversCiné Belgium, the first e-commerce platform of movie on demand in Belgium. UniversCiné has 3 main poles of activities:

- Watch: customers can stream or buy films directly from the online platforms.
- Distribution: organise the trading and distribution of the partner's catalogues towards IPTVs & other platforms.
- Delivery: providing technical and logistic solutions in order to organise viewing, encoding and delivery of digital files and physical media.

Meanwhile Maxime Lacour also coordinates the activities of 'Loupiote' (structure for education through and about film) and of ARPF-Doc, the association of directors and producers of documentaries within the French Belgian Community. Contact: Maxime Lacour; maxime.lacour@europafilms.net; www.universciné.be



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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. Since 1988 ECFA 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 FOCUS

MARGIEN ROGAAR'S SCRAP WOOD WAR "Hammering a nail here and there"

During a summer camp, children annually compete with each other to build the highest cabin. It will be the last summer before Bas (Julian Ras) and Ziggy (Kees Nieuwerf) go to a new school. But their paths already start to diverge. And when the first love flickers up, the close friends end up on competing sides. Their simmering feud casts a shadow over the whole 'construction camp'. I met with Julian Ras and director Margien Rogaar during the JEFF festival.



Julian Ras: The movie was recorded during summer. A sweltering hot summer. All the sweat you see is real. As on that day we poured coke into our trousers...

Excuse me?

Ras: There is one scene in which Ziggy gets coke poured into his trousers. According to Kees it felt rather itchy. We practiced it beforehand with the coach. He had to make sure we were not going to bully each other, like in the movie. That never happened. I got along fine with everyone. If we didn't have anything to do, we made cabins in the woods ourselves.

Margien Rogaar: It was important that the story's gruesome atmosphere didn't live through to the set. That's why the coaches were so important.



When thinking back to SCRAP WOOD WAR I see a bizarre collection of towers, cabins and constructions... Who had made these?

Rogaar: Those kind of construction camps really exist in The Netherlands. In villages, pallets are collected per year by flower growers and used as building material in summer camps where children try to hammer the most beautiful structures, sometimes as high as 7 metres. We built our set around such existing cabins. But our towers had to be extra solid; we had to stand on them with the whole crew. The towers keep getting higher in the movie, so a team worked overnight to build new levels.

Did you know exactly what the set would look like?

Rogaar: We had scale models made, which indicated which part could be moved and through which one could be filmed. But I was impressed when I saw everything in real life.

Did the actors have to hammer?

Ras: I didn't do much, except for hammering a nail here and there.

Why is bullying such a timeless theme?

Rogaar: The movie is more about 'battling' than about bullying. All children recognise the situation in which you're suddenly no longer whom you used to be. Like Ziggy,

who is actually very sweet, but circumstances turn him into a monster, a fighting machine. SCRAP WOOD WAR is about someone who gets pushed into a corner and makes mistakes.

How do you assess the reaction of the parents?

Rogaar: Our parents always told us we had to be the 'wisest' in a conflict. "Prove that you're smarter." In that way we, children of high-educated parents believing in sincere goodness, were pacified at home and were never taught how to fight or use your fists.

How come the dynamic between these children feel so lifelike?

Rogaar: Children provoke conflicts because they do have fun in excluding someone. Bullies in real life are often quite witty; they are sometimes charismatic and it's nice to feel like you belong with them. It's something you don't see very often in a movie. I sometimes feared this will end up a confrontational, nasty, messed up movie.

SCRAP WOOD WAR is also about saying goodbye to something... but to what exactly?

Rogaar: To a boyhood friendship which you couldn't imagine ever to end. Recently I found a letter once sent to me by a girl-friend: 'We'll be friends forever!' When reading that letter, I remembered I wanted that too and still it didn't work out.

Can such a farewell go by painless?

Rogaar: Growing up has done me much harm. First you go dressed up together to a party, the next year, no one is dressed up except you. That was the worst part, that you couldn't play anymore.



SCRAP WOOD WAR was actually made for television.

Rogaar: Such a film, based on an original script, might not attract much of an audience. So it's already a good thing that it could be made at all. With television the way for a public is open. You know for sure that the movie will be seen by children sitting in front of the TV on Sunday morning. (GH)