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TRICKFILM FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF ANIMATED FILM
STUTTGART '17
2. – 7. MAI 2017

First Highlights of the 24th Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film 2017

Stuttgart, March 14, 2017

Animation Without Borders

As one of the most important festivals in the animated film industry, this year the 24th Festival of Animated Film Stuttgart (ITFS) has taken a decisive step forward. "In 2017 we have strengthened the connections to the disciplines of games, transmedia, virtual reality and music," stated Prof. Ulrich Wegenast, artistic director of the ITFS, and added: "We are thereby opening up ourselves and the genre to creative, productive and economic synergies." With the motto "**Animation without Borders**", the ITFS and its international program, which targets many different formats and age groups, also shows that no borders have been created for the content of animated film at the 24th ITFS. The ITFS links cultures from all over the world and also creates innovative approaches to re-discover the genre "animated film". "By closely connecting ITFS with the Animation Production Day and our co-operation events FMX International Conference on Animation, Effects, VR, Games and Transmedia as well as the spotlight Festival for Moving Picture Communication, we have created a platform found nowhere else in the world. Our close partnerships and continuous development turn Stuttgart into the global center of animation, visual effects, virtual reality, and moving picture communication at the beginning of May," said Dittmar Lumpp, Managing Director of Organization and Finance for the ITFS.

From **May 2 to 7, 2017**, the time will be upon us again: The **24th Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film** will become the focus of the global animated film industry and invite both experts and film aficionados to discover the newest animated films and most innovative projects. Worldwide, it is one of the largest and most important festivals for animated film and the related areas of games, transmedia and VR. More than **80,000 visitors** will be once again amazed at the best animated films from around the world this year. Among the approximately **2,500 expert visitors** are producers, curators, contractors, buyers, representatives from television stations, media representatives and filmmakers. With over **200 events and 1,000 films**, the ITFS offers a wealth of interesting and extraordinary programs. Together with its co-operation partners, the ITFS provides an absolutely unique platform. At the same time, the leading industry events **Animation Production Day, FMX International Conference on Animation, Effects, VR, Games and Transmedia** and **spotlight Festival for Moving Picture Communication** will take place.

Changes for the ITFS 2017

GameZone extended!

At the intersection of animation disciplines you can find the area "Games", which has been further developed this year and is a special focus, providing an almost 2,000 square metre venue for games in the Stuttgart Kunstgebäude. With its concentration this year on "**Playful Art / Meaningful Games**", the GameZone, curated by Prof. Sabiha Ghellal (Stuttgart Media University) and Dr. Stephan Schwingeler, presents current trends in computer game culture and forward-looking university projects combining game aesthetics and social relevance. The GameZone shows the links between games and animation with the newest developments in virtual and augmented reality and invites visitors to play and participate on-site.

Let's Play: Giant interactive video game installation by Feng Mengbo

A highlight in the GameZone will be the artistic installation by Feng Mengbo (Beijing) "**Long March: Restart**" in co-operation with the **ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe**. The large (16m x 4m) video game installation with wireless controllers was first exhibited in 2010/2011 in the MoMa PS1. The graphics are inspired by classic games like Super Mario Bros. They invite visitors to guide the hero, a Red Army soldier, on his long "digital" path, fighting various enemies along the way.

The "**Animated Games Award Germany**" will be presented for the first time in 2017. The national award, which comes with 5,000€, is funded by the MfG Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg. The prize will go to



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the German computer game with the best visual design and graphics. The official opening of the GameZone with a tour through the exhibition will take place on May 3 in the Kunstgebäude. Following this, the Animated Games Award Germany will be presented. Entry to the GameZone is free for the entire duration of the Festival.

spotlight and Animated Com Award grow together

For the first time, the **Animated Com Award** will be presented at a joint awards gala with **spotlight - Festival for Moving Picture Communication**. In the Alte Reithalle, Stuttgart will thereby become a new and nationally recognised hotspot, offering networking opportunities among animation artists, advertising agencies, advertising film producers and purchasers. The joint awards gala will take place on May 6 in the Alte Reithalle in Stuttgart. **spotlight** is a renowned creative competition and is considered the largest festival of its kind in the German-speaking region. In the competition, contributions are evaluated by an expert jury from the areas of creation and design, teaching and research, and marketing and advertising. A selection of the competition contributions is also evaluated by an audience jury. You can find more information at: www.spotlightfestival.de

New: Trickstar Business Award

Trickstar Business is the name of the new and first animated award worldwide with an explicit focus on business. The award, which comes with 7,500€, will be presented for the first time in the context of the Animation Production Day 2017 by the Festival of Animated Film Stuttgart. It recognizes nationally or internationally innovative and ground-breaking business models for projects or companies in the animation industry. The award is funded by Region Stuttgart. At a joint gala with the **German Animated Screenplay Award** and the award for the competition **Tricks for Kids Series**, the new prize will be presented on May 5 in the L-Bank rotunda and offers excellent networking opportunities among producers and script writers.

Good without borders! The ITFS program highlights

In nine competition categories, over 70,000€ in total prize money will be awarded. The core of ITFS is the International Competition, in which the best animated short films of the last 12 months from all over the world are shown. Besides new discoveries like the Lebanese animation artist **Chadi Aoun** with his disquieting animated drama *"SAMT (Silence)"*, we meet well-known personalities from the Festival such as **Spela Cadez** from Slovenia (*"Nighthawk"*), **Franck Dion** from France with *"The Head Vanishes"* - a touching story about Alzheimer's - or **Jochen Kuhn** from Germany.

The feature-length film competition AniMovie has particularly strong contributions from Asia in 2017 - including *"In This Corner of the World"* by **Sunao Katabuchi**, based on the Japanese manga of the same name that has already received awards and whose story plays during the Second World War. The film *"Big Fish & Begonia"* under the direction of **Xuan Liang & Chun Zhang** leads viewers into a fantastical world: inspired by classic Chinese literature, the lovingly animated feature-length film tells the story of a little girl who takes on the shape of a dolphin and goes out in search of adventures in the human world. Other films in the program include: the biographical feature-length animated film *"Ethel & Ernest"* by **Roger Mainwood** based on a graphic novel by Raymond Briggs. The film's soundtrack comes from no one other than **Paul McCartney**, among other artists. In addition, the international co-production *"Birds Like Us"* by **Faruk Sabanovic** and **Amela Cuhara** will celebrate its world premiere. **Alicia Vikander** and Academy Award winner **Jeremy Irons** contribute their voices to the first 3D feature-length animated film from Bosnia-Herzegovina, which was co-produced by Turkish Television, Fork Film (USA) and Autonomous (Great Britain). The soundtrack to *"Birds Like Us"* was composed by Peter Gabriel. **Bill Plympton**, independent master and long-time guest in Stuttgart, is also represented in the AniMovie competition with his newest feature-length work *"Revengeance"* (co-director Jim Lujan).

Tricks for Kids: The ITFS children's film festival

The children's film festival Tricks for Kids is organized together with the curator Iris Loos (vhs Stuttgart "Treffpunkt Kinder"). The imaginative program is comprised of current short films from all over the world, the most recent



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international animated series and international feature-length animated films. They lead the young and the old into fantastical worlds. Many of them are being shown in Germany for the first time!

One highlight of the Tricks for Kids program is the animated film *"Revolting Rhymes"*, based on the beloved children's book of the same name by **Roald Dahl**. The two episodes were produced by the makers of *"The Gruffalo"* and *"The Gruffalo's Child"*, **Magic Light Pictures** in co-production with Triggerfish Animation Studios under the direction of **Jakob Schuh** and **Jan Lachauer**. The story combines the classic fairy tales of Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White, The 3 Little Pigs, Jack and the Beanstalk and Cinderella and mixes the stories with playful elements and a surprise plot twist. The voices are those of well-known actresses and actors such as **Dominic West**, who was recently also the voice of the character "Rudder" in the animated film *"Finding Dory"*.

The famous characters from **Laura's Star**, **The Little Polar Bear** and **Tobias Totz** are introduced in homage to their inventor **Thilo Graf Rothkirch**. The graphics, illustrations, and hand-colored animated film sheets can be admired in the exhibition in the vhs's Treffpunkt Rothebühlplatz (March 15 - May 9, 2017). On May 6, his first wife and well-known film producer **Maya Gräfin Rothkirch** will speak about his works and the exhibition. Thilo Graf Rothkirch's films will be shown in the ITFS program as a work exhibition. Other event locations with a colorful program include the **Stuttgart Zoo Wilhelma**, the **Gerber** and the **ITFS Festival Garden** directly on the Schlossplatz.

New in 2017: The children's program in co-operation with the Mercedes-Benz Museum will take place on the weekend before the Festival. Workshops and film program invite families with children to marvel, participate and experience.

Music & Animation: Preview "Cat & Mouse"

Theatre, animation and live music: This is the adventure **Paul Barritt** from the 1927 Theatre Company dares in co-operation with Village Underground in the piece *"Cat and Mouse"*. In the exclusive preview, a crazy animation experience awaits the audience. It includes an animated cat and mouse as well as band full of dogs. The piece is inspired by George Harriman's very influential cartoon strip *"Krazy Kat"* (1913-1944). Paul Barritt, renowned animated artist from London, is the director and creator of *"Cat and Mouse"*. Laurence Owen and Siemy Di are responsible for the music on drums and percussion together with Sam Sallon on the keyboard - they form the Officer Pub Band. Lesly Ewen is in charge of the scenic narration, and Octavia Austin designed the costumes. The preview will take place on Saturday, May 6, in the Musikhalle Ludwigsburg. The official premiere is at the beginning of June in London.

Opera & Animation: Bellini's "La Sonnambula" (May 7)

This year, as well, the Opera & Animation co-operation will take place together with the **Staatsoper Stuttgart**. By projecting Bellini's *"La Sonnambula"* on the giant LED screen as well as a live performance from actors at the Staatsoper Stuttgart including the singer Ana Durlovski, on Sunday, May 7 the Schlossplatz will be transformed into a very special visual and audio event. In 2012, the Stuttgart production under the musical direction of Gabriele Ferro and directed by Jossi Wieler and Sergio Morabito was named the "Performance of the Year" by the "Opernwelt" critic's survey. In addition, Paul Barritt (see above), who is known among other things for his animated stage images for *The Magic Flute* at the Komische Oper in Berlin as well as productions for the Sydney Opera House and the Salzburg Festival, will hold a workshop on the topic of animated film and opera.

From A as in Animation to Z as in Zagreb: The breadth of Croatia

The ITFS shows international trends and developments in animated film with several program points, for example with the focus on the feature country Croatia. For this, the Festival presents many co-productions, studio presentations and workshops including Adriatic Animation, Bonobostudio and Zagreb Film. The head of the respected **AnimaFest Zagreb** **Daniel Suljic** will also curate the Best of Animation program.



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Tributes to influential animation artists

The series In Persona honors internationally renowned and artistically outstanding animated film and animation artists with tributes. This year's guests include the Italian master and creator of the famous animated figure Signor Rossi (Mr. Rossi), **Bruno Bozzetto** (Bergamo), **Katrin Magnitz** (Hamburg), **Joanna Priestley** (Portland) and **Ann Marie Fleming** (Toronto).

Homage to Fyodor Khitruk (1917 - 2012)

On the occasion of his 100th birthday, which would have been on May 1, 2017, the ITFS dedicates a homage to the Russian animator, director and script writer **Fyodor Savelyevich Khitruk**. In the original premiere of the new documentary film about Khitruk by **Dimitry Zolotov** of studio **Schar**, one of the most important Russian animation schools and studios, on May 6, at 8 p.m. Khitruk's life will be shown biographically using the most important places where he worked. This also includes Stuttgart, where he studied at the "Kunstgewerbeschule" in the 1930s: an important milestone in his artistic development. Besides this, a program of his short films will also include **Otto Alder's** documentary film from 1998 "The Spirit of Genius - Fedor Khitruk and his Films" on May 7.

Meet the studios!

The Festival offers excellent international networking opportunities for industry experts and decision-makers: The world's leading animation studios will give background information about their work based on selected projects and invite visitors to engage in discussion. These discussions include partners like the VR experts from **Google Spotlight Stories**, the London studio **Lupus Films**, which are represented in the AniMovie competition with "Ethel & Ernest" and in the Tricks for Kids competition with "We're Going on a Bear Hunt", **Studio AKA** (London), which received the BAFTA Award multiple times and has received Oscar nominations, **M.A.R.K. 13** from Stuttgart and **Neuer Österreichischer Trickfilm**.

Arab Animation Forum (May 4 – 7, 2017)

The Arab Animation Forum to promote new animated film projects from the Arabic world was able to be realized again this year together with the Robert Bosch Foundation. It will take place during the ITFS from May 4 – 7, 2017. For animated filmmakers and creative minds from the Arabic world and young German animation producers, the forum offers a platform for co-productions.

Animation Production Day (May 4 – 5, 2017)

The Animation Production Day (APD), the most important co-production and financing market in Germany specialised on animated projects, will take place from May 4 – 5. Production companies from all over the world will meet here with broadcasters, distributors, sellers, investors and co-production partners to present their projects in effective one-on-one meetings. This format has proven very successful: More than one-third of the projects presented in the past years at the APD have acquired important financing elements through their participation and have now been successfully produced. The program is complemented by the **APD Conference** on May 4, freely accessible for those with accreditation, which offers focused speeches and discussions by well-known speakers on current trends and challenges in the industry. The Animation Production Day is held by the ITFS together with the expert conference **FMX - Conference on Animation, Effects, Games and Transmedia**, which takes place at the same time. You can find more information at: www.animationproductionday.de

FMX - Conference on Animation, Effects, Games and Transmedia (May 2 – 5, 2017)

The FMX is Europe's most influential expert conference for Digital Visual Arts, Technologies and Business. The topic of this year's FMX, "Beyond the Screen", will discuss the question of how we will experience content now and in the future. The FMX is organized by the Institute of Animation at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and this year will take place at the same time as the ITFS from May 2 – 5 in Stuttgart. You can find more information at: www.fmx.de



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Facts of 24th International Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film

Organizer	Film- und Medienfestival gGmbH Stephanstrasse 33, 70173 Stuttgart Phone: +49-711-925-46-0; E-Mail: kontakt@festival-gmbh.de
Managing Director	Dittmar Lumpp, Managing Director Organization and Finance Prof. Ulrich Wegenast, Managing Director Programme
Press Contact	Katrin Dietrich, Head of PR and Press Phone: +49-711-92546-102 E-Mail: dietrich@festival-gmbh.de Maren Wiesner, PR and Press Tel.: +49-711-92546-120 E-Mail: wiesner@festival-gmbh.de
Website	www.itfs.de (German und English)
Year of Founding	1982
Accredited Guests (2016)	circa 2,500
Total Attendance (2016)	circa 80,000
Venues	Innenstadtkinos: Gloria 1+2, Metropol 1-3 Kunstgebäude Festival Garden: Open Air / Schlossplatz i.a. Mercedes-Benz Museum, Wilhelma, Stadtbibliothek (City Library), Jugendhaus Mitte, Alte Reithalle, Renitenztheater
Competitions	<u>Internationaler Cometiition</u> High-quality artistic animated short films from the last 12 months. An international jury made up well-known personalities from animation industry awards the following prizes: Grand Prix Grand Award of State of Baden-Württemberg and City of Stuttgart, totaling 15,000 euros Lotte Reiniger Promotional Award for Animated Film The prize for the best graduation film sponsored be MFG Film Funding Baden-Württemberg, totaling 10,000 euros SWR-Audience Award totaling 6,000 euros Amazon Audience Award Amazon Instant Video Germany presents the "Amazon Audience Award", totaling 5,000 euros <u>Young Animation</u> The Young Animation competition shows the best student films from international film and art schools



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Young Animation Award

funded by Landesanstalt für Kommunikation Baden-Württemberg and MFG Film Funding Baden-Württemberg, totaling 2,500 euros

The FANtastic Award

For the best animation talent, funded by the Animation Family, totaling 1,000 euros

Tricks for Kids

Challenging and entertaining animated Films and series for children

Award for the best Children's Animated Film

Funded by Studio 100 Media GmbH. The winner is chosen by a children's jury, totaling 4,000 euros

Award for the best Animated Series for children (national & international)

Funded by MIP Junior. The winner is chosen by an expert jury.

AniMovie

Selection of internationally outstanding feature-length animated films.

AniMovie Award

Prize for the best feature-length animated film

German Animation Screenplay Award

Funded by Telepool GmbH, totaling 2,500 euros

German Animated Voice Actor Award

Prize for the best German-language voice actor in a feature-length animated film – in cooperation with the Renitenztheater

Animated Com Award (International)

Prize for applied animation funded by Animation Media Cluster Region Stuttgart, totaling 2,500 euros

Lapp Connected Award

Totaling 2,500 euros

Crazy Horse Session – 48h Animation Jam

Live Animation in cooperation with M.A.R.K. 13 electronic media and supported by MFG Film Funding Baden-Württemberg and the Landesanstalt für Kommunikation Baden-Württemberg

Neu: Animated Games Award Germany

Prize for the German computer game with the best visual art and aesthetic funded by MFG Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg, totaling 5,000 euros

Neu: Trickstar Business Award

First animated award worldwide with an explicit focus on business, funded by Region Stuttgart, totaling 7,500 euros