



OnlineFestival.ITFS.de

## Launch of the first digital edition of ITFS on May 5, 2020:

### The official opening of the OnlineFestival.ITFS.de in the free live stream

Press Release, Stuttgart, Mai 5, 2020

**On May 5 the first digital edition of the Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (ITFS) starts: the OnlineFestival.ITFS.de. The ITFS, as one of the world's most important festivals for animated film, opens its digital platform with the sections:**

- **OnlineFestival Free:** The free live stream with a German-English programme about animation and other topics from art and culture, consisting of films and talks for everybody as well as workshops for professionals and kids.
- **OnlineFestival+:** Access to the On Demand platform with over 200 current competition films and the best films of the last ITFS years is available from 5 to 10 May for a one-off fee of 9.99€.
- **OnlineFestival Plus:** Professionals can get exclusive access to the Animated Video Market and other industry news.

### The official opening of the OnlineFestival.ITFS.de in the free live stream

The free live stream, which broadcasts a varied programme for young and old every day, will start with the official opening of the festival on **May 5, at 8 pm**. This opening, like all evening programmes of the festival days, will be broadcast live from the ITFS studio, which is located in the foyer of the cinema "Cinema" with a view of the Schlossplatz. In addition to **a colourful short film programme, emotional video messages from well-known filmmakers, an interview with festival organisers Ulrich Wegenast and Dieter Krauß and exclusive information on the new OnlineFestival** format will arouse the anticipation for the other five festival days.

The well-known TV presenter Markus Brock will guide through each evening and welcome live in the studio for the opening: Dr. Walter Rogg, Managing Director of Wirtschaftsförderung Region Stuttgart GmbH (WRS) and the entertainer Dodokay with his funny Swabian film dubbing. There will also be an interview in a live video talk with **Eduardo Rivero (Mexico)**, director of the animated feature film "A Costume for Nicolas", which celebrates its European premiere at the OnlineFestival.ITFS 2020. After the opening, the first ITFS Night Talk with Ulrike Groos (Director Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, 10:45 pm) will start at 10 pm. From 11 pm the Night Stream will be broadcast until the next programme item on the following day: with pop office sessions, the ITFS Trailer Show, a Best of ITFS 48h Animation Jam.

### Highlights in the live stream programme on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 on OnlineFestival.ITFS

#### **Focus Animated Oscars (8 pm to 10 pm)**

Live in the studio via video call is **Ron Diamond (Hollywood)**, filmmaker and member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (OSCAR®). He will present OSCAR® award-winning films and talk to Markus Brock about his work as a producer and Academy member. The film programme will feature

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**OSCAR® award winners such as "Harvie Krumpet"** (Adam Elliot, Australia, OSCAR® winner 2004, 23:02 min) or **"Quest"** (Tyron Montgomery, Thomas Stellmach, Germany, OSCAR® winner 1997, 12:00 min) as well as other OSCAR® nominated short films such as **"Gopher Broke"** (Jeff Fowler, USA, 2004, 4:18 min). In addition, personal video messages of some filmmakers will be shown.

### **Workshops & Masterclasses for Professionals (noon to 2 pm)**

Daily workshops & master classes by filmmakers, screenwriters or creative people will take place from Wednesday onwards. **On Wednesday, May 6, the brothers Nicolas Blies & Stéphane Hueber-Blies will introduce the world of their film "Zero Impunity"** - an activist, animated transmedia project dealing with sexual violence in war zones. This feature film can be seen in the OnlineFestival+ section. The master class will be repeated in the live stream at 11:30 pm (In English).

### **For Film and culture interested people (5 pm to 8 pm and from 10 pm)**

For the entertaining eve programme "Talks & Shorts" the head of the City Initiative Stuttgart (CIS) Sven Hahn (5:00 p.m.), Karin Fritz (Managing Director InnenstadtKinos Stuttgart, 5:30 p.m.) and Viktor Schoner (Intendant Staatsoper Stuttgart, 6:00 p.m.) are as regional guests in the ITFS studio. **For film fans, Max Howard (Animation Consultant, London, 6:45 p.m.) will speak on the topic "From Roger Rabbit to Asian Animation production". This will be followed by the world premiere of the short film "Messages" and an interview with director Daniel Höpfner. In the Night Talk Markus Brock talks to Stefanie Stegmann from the Literaturhaus Stuttgart (10:45 pm).**

### **For families and children (2 pm to 5 pm)**

For children, the workshop series of the Children's Animated Film Academy of the initiative Kindermedienland starts in the afternoon in the ITFS Kids Stream. In the 6-part workshop series, children learn how to develop and produce an animated film themselves. Episode one on Wednesday deals with the idea and the storyboard (with animation professional Derek Roczen). Every day Studio 100 will also show an episode of the children's series "Nils Holgersson" (2:30 pm) and Udo Schöbel, the inventor of the Kika rabbit song, will perform a live song "Körperklaus is in ze house" and show a short animation clip.

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