

ITFS
MAY 04–09, 2021



28. INTERNATIONALES
TRICKFILM FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF ANIMATED FILM
STUTT GART



28th Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (ITFS)

ITFS 2021 – The ITFS 2021 Winners | Glamour, Diversity and (almost) Personal Interaction

Press Release, Stuttgart, May 8, 2021

Not to be released before Sunday, May 9, 21:15 pm (CET)

After six exciting days filled with highlights from the world of animation, the **28th Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film** has come to an end on the evening of May 9, 2021 with the grand award ceremony. And the magic's not over yet: the entirety of the ITFS media library (including recordings of lectures and presentations) will be available to accredited users until May 16, 2021.

The motto of this year's festival was **Creating*Diversity**. In addition to film and gaming events centred around this year's theme, diversity was reflected thematically in programme strands such as **Focus on France, Pandemic Animation or Women in Animation and Games**. Equally, ITFS 2021 was also set up extremely diverse regarding its formats and media. The programme was comprised of screenings, videos on demand, numerous video conferences, virtual exhibitions and concerts, as well as the great ITFS live stream. The ITFS VR Hub even elevated digital encounters to a news level: visitors were able to mingle and interact virtually in numerous locations as their preferred avatar – on Stuttgart's Schlossplatz, in the cinema, in the workshop room and even in the club, which boasted various musical performances.

Via the website **OnlineFestival.ITFS.de**, viewers could enjoy more than 400 short and feature films both on the ITFS website in the ONLINE FREE, ONLINE+ and ONLINEPRO categories as part of the competition and supporting programmes and broadcast in the free online live stream. The six-day live stream, running daily from Tuesday to Sunday, successfully conveyed the Schlossplatz feeling to all visitors at home and disseminated by numerous streaming partners. International animation celebrities and promising young filmmakers presented themselves and their work in numerous talks, lectures, master classes and workshops, including **David Silverman** ("The Simpsons"), **Tomm Moore** ("Wolfwalkers"), **Shoko Hara** ("Just a Guy"), **Regina Pessoa** ("Uncle Thomas: Accounting for the Days") and **Jalal Maghout** ("Have a nice dog!"). Both the general public and industry professionals such as distributors, world sales agents, festivals and filmmakers made full use of the available programme – the short films have totalled more than 16,000 views so far, the feature films were watched more than 5,000 times. Almost 8,000 viewers watched the live stream between Tuesday and Saturday, and around 500 users logged onto the ITFS VR Hub during the festival. The workshops for children and young people inspired more than 200 participants. 1,400 accredited professionals attended the lectures available on ONLINE PRO. Over 160,000 page views were recorded on the festival website OnlineFestival.ITFS.de: 5,500 users* from a total of 59 countries since May 3. The projected revenue was exceeded by 20 percent and almost doubled compared to the year before.

Ulrich Wegenast, Artistic Managing Director of ITFS: *"We have professionalized our online festival. Initially planned as a hybrid event, the complete changeover to an online only ITFS21 may have been unfortunate at first glance. However, we have been able to hugely benefit from last year's experience. We succeeded in creating glamour at the galas and personal interaction through our ITFS VR Hub as well as numerous interactive lectures. Those formats created the possibility of excellent face-to-face discussions and chance encounters – in a much more pleasant atmosphere than created through video conferences! Regarding the programme line-up, we are pleased to have been able to represent diversity not only in gender and sexuality, but also in ecological, social and, above all, aesthetic terms. This year, we also witnessed an incredible variety of animation techniques, which honestly didn't make the task of our juries easier. Content-wise, the corona crisis has been reflected in animation production: ITFS has seen many grave animated films that dealing with illness and care.*





Dieter Krauß, Commercial Managing Director of ITFS: *"For quite a long time, we have kept our hopes up for organising a hybrid festival, in line with last year's announcements. Once again, we enjoyed the advantage of reaching people all around the world with the second online edition – visitors that would otherwise not have been able to attend the festival at all. And we were able to try out different ways of translating various parts of the programme into new digital formats. Thanks to the support of our fans from all over the world as well as our partners and supporters, we were able to master the challenge and put on a great festival. Nevertheless, we look forward to the **upcoming edition of ITFS from May 3 to 8, 2022**, allowing audiences and industry representatives alike to be able to meet in person."*

The official award ceremony on May 9, 2021

The core of the **Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film** are the competitions – their results were announced on Sunday evening, as every year. The lucky winners joined via video message or live in the studio, where they were able to receive their prize in person. Selected competition films were shown in full length. The **FANtastic Award, AniMovie, Trickstar Nature Award, Young Animation, Lotte Reininger Promotion Award for Animated Film** and the **Grand Prix** were awarded – the latter, by the way, qualifies the winning film directly for the Oscar longlist! Either digitally via video message or live in the studio were, among others, State Secretary **Petra Olschowski**, Stuttgart's Mayor **Fabian Mayer** and **Carl Bergengruen**, CEO of MFG Film Funding Baden-Württemberg. The awards ceremony reception took place in the ITFS VR Hub at 20:30 pm (CET), musically accompanied by Linda & Andrew.

At the **SWR OnlineFilm Audience Award**, the audience chooses its favourite from all the entries in the International Competition, sponsored by SWR (Südwestrundfunk). The films will be screened within different programme blocks that started on different days of the festival week. To ensure equal opportunities, voting will remain open until Sunday, May 16 (until this date the films will be available on ONLINE+). The winning film will be announced after 16 May.

The winner of the competitions **Tricks for Kids, Animated Games Award, German Animation Screenplay Award und Trickstar Business Award** were already awarded on May 7 and 8.

[Press Release Tricks for Kids Award](#)

[Press Release Trickstar Professional Awards \(Animated Games Award, German Animation Screenplay Award and Trickstar Business Award\)](#)

The winners of 28th Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film 2021:

Grand Prix – Grand Award for Animated Film, State of Baden-Württemberg and the City of Stuttgart with a cash prize of 15,000 €

Precieux // Precious

France 2020, 14:00 Min.

Director: Paul Mas

Producer: Perrine Capron, Marc Jousset

Production: Je Suis Bien Content



Jury statement:

"Tackling subjects familiar to all of us, that of being othered and misunderstood, of bullying and of friendship, 'Precious' skilfully handles the sensitive narrative with subtlety and a gentleness of expression. The story presents complex layers of social forces in a seemingly simple narrative. The gentle pace, quiet atmosphere and minimalism of the Mise en Scène, not only gives a sense of isolation, but holds the attention of the viewer, pulling them closer to evoke a deeper sense of empathy. Through the story, there is gradual accumulation of pressure and tension borne by the protagonist as the masterfully constructed narrative presents her painful lessons, yet leaves the viewer to wonder whether the experience has changed her for the better or for the worse. "Precious" is a timeless animation that touched us all and kept us thinking."

Special Mention

Only a Child

Switzerland 2020, 6:00 Min.

Director: Simone Giampaolo

Producer: Gabriella de Gara

Production: AMKA Films Productions

Jury statement:

"Only a Child' deserves the honour of receiving the Special Mention of the 28th Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film, because it is a collaborative project, celebrating the plethora of designs, styles, and techniques, that a century of animation has brought to the World. By adding animation to an important voice from the past, 'Only a Child' reminds us all, that only by believing in and acting as one responsible global community, there is a way forward for humanity on earth. Some may comment that 'Only a Child' is part of a campaign, but this campaign, this movement, that unites young people across countries, cultures, and nationalities, is exactly what we need right now, to understand how humanity can succeed in the great game of evolution."

Jury: Candice Gordon (Berlin), Anita Killi (Norway), Anna Mantzaris (Sweden), Monique Renault (The Netherlands), Morten Thorning (Denmark)

Lotte Reiniger Promotion Award for Animated Film– Award for best graduation film with a cash prize of 10.000 €, sponsored by MFG Filmfunding Baden-Württemberg

Have a Nice Dog!

Germany, Syria 2020, 13:00 Min.

Director: Jalal Maghout

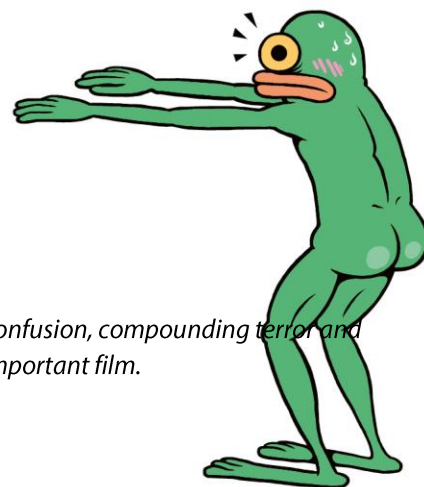
Producer: Karsten Matern

School: Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF

Jury statement:

"In 'Have a Nice Dog!' we are dragged into a waking nightmare, a reality for many people in the world, but which is unimaginable to most. This is therefore an extremely valuable story, told in imaginative ways to express the horrors of war and the desperation of fleeing in an over-crowded rubber dinghy. This is an uncomfortable film to watch. The deformed characters, the woozy, morphing visions. The world appears to be made from fragile paper-mâché, cut-up and distorted. This is Guernica of a modern age, where dreams are Facebook posts and nightmares are at your door. This intelligent film is full of visual metaphors that





intensify the viewers interest with every revisit. The aesthetic choices creatively express the confusion, compounding terror and the sense of hopelessness. The Jury found 'Have a Nice Dog!' to be a highly impressive and important film.

Special Mention

Jestem tutaj // I'm here

Poland 2020, 15:00 Min.

Director: Julia Orlik

Producer: The Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School Lodz

Producer: The Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School Lodz

Jury statement:

"Our special mention goes to 'I'm here'. The film has a clever film language that never let's us look away from the main character. While life is moving around her she is always in the centre of our view, and with a minimalistic expression she, and the film, still expresses incredible emotional depth. The jury found this film very touching and empathetic.

A film sensitive and intelligently told, cutting into our deepest fears and emotions about death and loss.

Young Animation – Award for the best student film with a cash prize of 2,500 €, sponsored by the Landesanstalt für Kommunikation Baden-Württemberg and MFG Film Funding Baden-Württemberg.

Have a Nice Dog!

Germany, Syria 2020, 13:00 Min.

Director: Jalal Maghout

Producer: Karsten Matern

School: Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF

Jury statement:

„A disturbing exploration of a man's deteriorating psychological state caused by the ravages of war.

Boldly drawing a dotted line between war and the refugee crisis, the film follows the disintegration of the wall between reality and nightmare, leading to isolation and the search for escape that is forever elusive. 'Have a Nice Dog!' is layered, atmospheric, visually and emotionally full of grit. It often toys with the right juxtaposition of dynamism and phantasmagorical imagery. However, its real mastery is in its coherence articulation of the consequence of war on the individual. The sound design is bold and its absorbing parallel narratives and scenic nuances will yield on repeat festival viewings."

Special Mention

The Song of a Lost Boy

UK 2020, 10:00 Min.

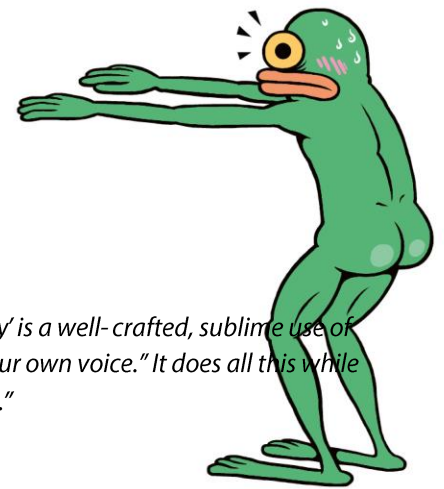
Director: Daniel Quirke

Producer: Jamie MacDonald

School: NFTS - National Film and Television School Beaconsfield Film Studios

Jury statement:

„A light-hearted, finely animated, somewhat ironic look at the sudden emergence of puberty in a young choirboy.



Playing with the simple metaphor of the protagonist losing his voice, 'The Song of a Lost Boy' is a well-crafted, sublime use of puppetry, light, movement and sound to illustrate themes of self-discovery and "finding your own voice." It does all this while heavily leaning on themes of the divine with post-futuristic apocalyptic tropes, and it works."

Jury: Akin Akinsiku (London), Daniel Höpfner (Berlin), Daria Kashcheeva (Prague)

AniMovie – Award for the best animated feature film

Wolfwalkers

Ireland, Luxembourg, USA 2020, 103 Min.

Director: Tomm Moore, Ross Stewart

Producer: Paul Young, Nora Twomey, Tomm Moore, Stéphan Roelants

Production: Cartoon Saloon, Melusine Productions

World sales: Cartoon Saloon

Jury statement:

"WolfWalkers' is the third in a series of animated films by Tomm Moore in which Irish-Celtic motifs from art and myth are translated into stylish animated films. For us, this film, which he directed with Ross Stewart, represents a new high point in this series because it now adds depth to the level, ornamental style without appearing conventional. Almost every shot could be a painting in itself. The cooler colours of the city and interiors contrast with the intoxicating colours of autumnal nature. And even the special perception of the world of wolves, who sense smells much more strongly than humans, is visualized in a surprising and convincing way and the feeling of walking on four legs through the dynamic camera movements. The score and the song about the wolves are the perfect accompaniment. With just a few strokes and excellent voice acting, four strong characters are depicted in a drama about life and death: the foreign English girl who wants to escape the preordained role as a servant, the funny, wild nature girl who needs help and friendship so much, the father, torn between duty to the Lord Protector Cromwell and concern for the disobedient daughter and Cromwell, who does what he believes is his job: to bring order and economic progress to Ireland, which also means to tame and subjugate nature, and, should it not be possible, to destroy it. All this is told in this film at an increasing pace leading up to a furious showdown which breathlessly carries away and emotionally touches the audience, children and adults alike. In the guise of a semi-historical fantasy film, a highly topical message is conveyed to us, namely that we must rethink our relationship to nature. That we must dare to allow wilderness - and also wildness - into our hearts. With the wolves, the filmmakers have chosen the perfect symbol for this message."

Special Mention

Josep

France, Spain 2020, 72 Min.

Director: Aurel

Producer: Serge Lalou

Production: Les Films d'Ici Méditerranée, Imagic TV

World sales: The Party Film Sales

Jury statement:

"Josep' by the director and illustrator Aurel sheds light on a largely unknown chapter from the time of European fascism: the fate of the Catalan illustrator Josep Bartoli, who, fleeing from Franco, is imprisoned in a French concentration camp where





hunger, disease and violence reign. In a half-documentary, half-fictional narrative framework that spans its arc to the present day, the film portrays one of the former camp guards, who tells his grandson about his friendship with the painter on his deathbed.

The film is appropriately complex in its design, both through the different layers of the narrative and in the artwork, which in the biographical flashbacks is largely based on the impressive drawings by Bartoli, which he made in the camp. The somber, often sketchy, still images of captivity are followed at the end by scenes in the bright, warm colors of Mexican exile.

‘Josep’ surprises with many historical details, it shocks, moves and stimulates reflection, about European history, xenophobia, about courage in difficult times - and about the role of art.”

Jury: Reza Memari (Berlin/New York), Hideki Nagaishi (London), Irene Wellershoff (Mainz)

Trickstar Nature Award – Award for the best international animated short film that deals with the topics of climate protection, biodiversity, environment, and sustainability, with a cash prize of 7,500 €, sponsored by Verband Region Stuttgart.

Migrants

France 2020, 8:20 Min.

Director: Hugo Caby, Zoé Devise, Antoine Dupriez, Aubin Kubiak, Lucas Lermytte

Producer: Carlos De Carvalho

„Climate change is one of the biggest issues we’ll be facing in the coming decades. Melting glaciers and rising sea levels are just a few of the countless facets which comes along by global warming. Times are changing and many of us won’t have the same environments and societies anymore as they used to know. In order to survive, people need to leave their beloved homelands, so it is the job of the privileged ones to help them to find their new places in our community. Once more the key is cohesion instead of supremacy to overcome this challenge, because we’re all on the same raft.

That’s why the jury chooses ‘Migrants’ as the winner of the Trickstar Nature Award 2021.

This film convinced us not only how the story showing the many levels of this frightening topic. But also in which unique style the film was realized. The film is warming but simultaneously uncomfortable. He is touching but also contradictory. He is on point but leaves enough space too to build our own interpretation about this issue. In other words ‘Migrants’ will stay in our minds and leave a lasting impression. That’s what good films do.”

Special Mention:

Haboob

Iran 2020, 9:00 Min.

Director: Mahsa Samani

Producer: Mahsa Samani

„We decided to give a special mention to ‘Haboob’ because we found it to be a very sensitive and touching film with a very clever use of the material it’s talking about as the medium of the film. The ending was especially putting the all film together and shared a light on the phenomenon of the Haboob in south Iran.”

Jury: Caroline Attia (Paris), Kay Hoffmann (Stuttgart), Pascal Shelbli (Zürich)





Fantastic Award – Award for the best animation talent, with a cash prize of 1,000 €, sponsored by the FANTastic jury, the most faithful fans of ITFS

Cha

UK 2020, 8:20 Min
Director: Gagandeep Kalirai
Producer: James Bowsher
School: NFTS - National Film and Television School Beaconsfield Film Studios

Jury statement:

"Sometimes a smell is enough to reactivate memories. Like in our winning film 'Cha' by Gagandeep Kalirai, where a cardamom capsule evokes the Sikh massacre in Delhi in 1984. The unagitated yet haunting narrative style convinced us just as much as the elegant lines, the flowing transitions, the interweaving of then and now, animations and photos and, last but not least, the conciliatory ending. At a time when conflicts between different groups of people are fought out with all vehemence, this personal memoir is a reminder to finally overcome these rifts."

Special Mention

Mon ami qui brille dans la nuit // My Friend who Shines in the Night

France 2020, 8:40 Min.
Director: Grégoire De Bernouis, Jawed Boudaoud, Simon Cadilhac, H el ene Ledevin
Producer: Moira Marguin
School: GOBELINS, l' cole de l'image

Jury statement:

"Our Special Mention goes to 'Mon ami qui brille dans la nuit' by Gr goire De Bernouis, Jawed Boudaoud, Simon Cadilhac and H el ene Ledevin. We liked the literally friendly shine of the main characters, the helpfulness across the borders of being and the combination of animation and real film."

Jury: Folke Damminger, J rgen Frick, Sebastian Heck, Dorothea Kaufmann, Michaela Rehm, Karen Schmitt, Sven Schoengarth, Sabine Willmann

New World Classic Animation Award – Award for the best use/the best implementation of music in an animated short film with a cash prize of 2,500 €, sponsored by Instant Music Licensing.

Flower Duet

Haemin Ko, UK 2020, 02.27 Min.

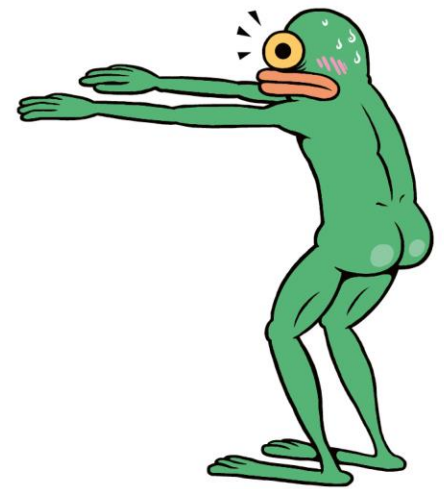
Jury statement:

"'Flower Duet' by Haemin Ko has realised the mood of the given song very aesthetically. Film composer Yin Lu also managed to perfectly integrate the main theme of Leo Delibes Song 'Flower Duet' into the soundtrack. We are pleased to present the 'New World Classic Animation Award' to Haemin Ko, as image and sound create a beautiful symbiosis and perfectly underline the drama of the ephemeral."



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Special Mention

Abadabude

Kim-Quy Nguyen, Germany 2020, 01:20 Min.

Jury statement:

"As a counterpoint, we would like to give a 'Special Mention' to the short film 'Abudabude' by Kim Ngyuen. Naïve animation meets classical music, as well as not quite adult content. This entertains and provokes in equal parts. Amoeba copulations in Tchaikovsky's 'Nutcracker' rhythm, including the inevitable climax ... definitely worth a mention."

Jury: Michael Fakesch (Rosenheim), Elisabeth Jacobi (Vienna), Zeljko Lopivic (Stuttgart), Daniela Schübel (Stuttgart)

The complete ITFS programme can be found on our homepage.

ITFS catalogue: https://www.itfs.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ITFS21_Katalog_WEB_interaktiv_fin.pdf

ITFS 2021 highlights clip with excerpts from selected films: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1n37ZjTtKBI>

Trailer of the Animated Games Award Germany: <https://youtu.be/B951xnl6bx0>

Images are available for download at: www.itfs.de/downloads

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About the ITFS

Founded in 1982, the ITFS is one of the world's largest and most important festivals for animated film. The Festival presents the full range of current animation filmmaking with intersections to visual effects, architecture, art, design, games, and music. In 2019, around 80,000 viewers came to Stuttgart to see around 1,000 films at the Open Air and InnenstadtKinos Stuttgart. The FMX takes place in parallel with ITFS. As Europe's largest conference for animation, effects, games and immersive media, FMX together with ITFS organises the Animation Production Days business platform, the only co-production and financing market in Germany specialising in animation projects. www.ITFS.de

