



Press Report

Třeboň, 10 May 2014

Anifilm 2014: And the Winners Are...

The 5th edition of the **International Festival of Animated Films, Anifilm 2014**, is drawing to a close, announcing the winners of all festival competition categories. The Main Prize in the International Competition of Feature Films for Grown-ups has gone to the American director **Bill Plympton** for ***Cheatin'***. The Main Prize for the best film in the International Competition of Feature Films for Children has been awarded to **The Boy and the World** (*O menino e o mundo*) made by the Brazilian director **Alê Abreu**. The film **Approved for Adoption** (*Couleur de peau: miel*) directed by Jung a Laurent Boileau has received the Special Mention of the Jury.

The International Competition of Short Films has been won by the Estonian film **The Worst-Case Scenario** (*Must Stsenarium*) directed by **Kristjan Holm**. The Main Prize in the International Competition of Student Films has been awarded to the director and student of Lucerne University **Michael Frei** for **Plug and Play**. The student film **Symphony No. 42** directed by **Réka Bucsi** from the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design in Budapest has received the Special Mention of the Jury. Apart from the prize money, each winner will be taking home the ***Animorph***, a crystal glass trophy from the design studio **Morphe**.

And in the beginning of the festival, the **Lifetime Achievement Award for Animation** went to **Zdeněk Smetana**, a director, screenwriter and designer, whose films have been screened in the non-competition section of the festival.

The juries have consisted of distinguished film professionals and original artists, who have evaluated the films in competition but who also agreed to take part in deciding on our non-competition and accompanying programme. Thus, we have had the opportunity to present blocks of films by **Florence Mialhe**, **Kristina Dufková**, **Phil Mulloy**, **Mark Skrobecki** or **Ferenc Cakó**, who has given a live performance of his sand animation. The director **Haiyang Wang** has presented a block of films reflecting Chinese contemporary independent production. The animator and director **František Váša** has led a puppet workshop. **Philippe Moins**, a co-founder of the renowned ANIMA festival in Brussels, has arrived with the selection of films from the last edition of the festival. **Eija Saarinen** has prepared the presentation of student films from Turku University, Finland. **Mark Shapiro** from the LAIKA animation studio has given a lecture about the development of their latest puppet feature film, *The Boxtrolls*; other films made by the studio include *Coraline: A Handmade Fairy Tale*, a film that has been screened on the crowded square in Třeboň.

Kristina Dufková, a juror of the International Competition of Feature Films, says, "As for the winner of the best children's feature film, we all agreed almost from the start. With the films for grown-ups, we also agreed fairly quickly who the winner would be, but we had a rather lengthy discussion about the special mention of the jury for which we were deciding

between two candidates. And even though we were able to decide in both categories with little doubt, the films in competition were really very good – and that’s obviously great to see.”

And with the festival nearly over, we already know some figures: the festival events including screenings, professional lectures and other programme have been attended by over **23,000 visitors**; four competition sections have featured **seventy-three films: ten feature films, thirty-two shorts and thirty student films**. Another almost **three hundred films** have been screened in the non-competition section. And there have been almost **twenty workshops, lectures and presentations**.

And what else have the audience seen and experienced? This year’s Anifilm has dedicated several blocks and one exhibition to the phenomenon of **total animation**, giving the audience a unique opportunity to meet its leading artists, including Pavel Koutský and Igor Ševčík. The festival has also offered **Chinese independent animation** to broaden our horizons and has presented the famous artist **Caroline Leaf** (USA). The French director **Sylvain Chomet** has prepared the screening of his favourite animated films. The festival has also celebrated **100 years of Finnish animation** together with Finnish artists and their films. And apart from that, Anifilm has featured the films nominated for the final of the **European award “Cartoon d’Or”**.

Animo TV has presented the latest TV animation projects (not only) for children as well as children’s films made by students and foreign animation studios. **Taking Stock** has offered nine animated blockbusters from the years 2013 and 2014.

The festival has hosted for the second time the **Visegrad Animation Forum**, a three-day professional programme organized by Anifilm in the co-operation with the Association of Czech Animation Film, with the objective to encourage production of animated films in the Visegrad region. The forum has been attended by around hundred foreign guests.

Anifilm’s **Works in Progress** has presented feature films in development. The audience have learnt more about the development of following films: **Living Large** by the director Kristina Dufková, **The Oddsocketers** by Galina Miklíková, **Cactus Man Trilogy** by Jan Bubeníček and **The Little Fishgirl** by Jan Balej.

Game Day, organized as a part of the festival accompanying programme, has been dedicated to PC game animation, both existing once and those in development.

For more on the programme, go to www.anifilm.cz

Find out more about the winning films on the following pages!

WINNING FILMS OF ANIFILM 2014

International Competition of Feature Films for Grown-ups:

Main Prize

Cheatin'

Directed, written and designed by
Bill Plympton
USA, 2013, 76 min
Studio: Plymptoons



Jury Statement:

The jury awards Best Feature Film Award to 'Cheatin'' for the originality of its graphic style. The film's extraordinary freshness and specific approach to animation are the hallmarks of this director, whose personality shows in all his films. Every moment of the film brings something new.

Synopsis:

A story about love, jealousy, vengeance and murder for adult audiences – filled with nudity, violence and virtuoso surreal jokes by the animator Bill Plympton, who draws inspiration from hardboiled novels by James M. Cain *Double Indemnity* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, which also inspired classic noir films. A fateful bumper cart collision puts together Jake and Ella who fall in love at first sight. They become the most loving couple in the history of romance. But suddenly a scheming "other woman" appears and drives a wedge of jealousy and insecurity into their perfect courtship. With only the help of a disgraced magician and his forbidden "soul machine", Ella is able to fight through lies and deceits and try to reclaim her luck. The seventh feature film by the uncrowned king of independent animation Bill Plympton (he makes and funds his own films) is the first to be completely hand drawn, frame after frame. He has created over 40,000 drawings coloured by watercolours, which give the film almost an impressionist style.

Special Mention of Jury

Approved for Adoption

(*Couleur de peau: miel / Barva pleti: medová*)
Directed and written by **Laurent Boileau, Jung**
Designed by Jung
Belgium, France, South Korea, Switzerland, 2012,
75 min
Studios: Mosaïque Films, Artémis Productions, Panda Média, Nadasdy Film, France
3 Cinéma



Jury Statement:

This film tells a bittersweet story of the Korean boy who grew up in his adoptive family surrounded by foreign culture. We admired the genuine style and emotiveness of this inspirational documentary film expressed through the animation.

Synopsis:

He is 44 years old now according to his civil status, but the cartoonist Jung prefers to place his birth at the age of 5, when a policeman found him wandering alone on the streets of Seoul. He is one of those 200,000 adopted Koreans spread around the world. Jung decided to return, for the first time, to South Korea, in order to breathe the air of his home country, tread the land of his ancestors, and maybe find traces of his biological mother. This trip of reconciliation with his roots and with himself, shot as a documentary, leads our character to recall the child he once was and the winding path that made him grow up. This travel in time – the current trip and the memory of the past – will push him little by little towards a peaceful cohabitation between his inner diversities. A very original animated biographical documentary depicts adoption issues with tenderness and humour.

International Competition of Feature Films for Children:**Main Prize****The Boy and the World**

(O menino e o mundo / Chlapec a svět)

Directed, written and designed by

Alê Abreu

Brazil, 2013, 80 min

Studio: Filme de Papel

**Jury Statement:**

This film will be truly enjoyed by all, children and adults alike. It tells a universally comprehensible story – a story typical of our modern society – and it does so remarkably well, using a simple style and fitting music.

Synopsis:

A little boy leaves his village to look for his beloved father who left him behind. He starts discovering the world, which he finds both fascinating and scary. He is often surprised but has to overcome many dangerous. He experiences a lot of dramatic situations, meets all kinds of people and learns what obstacles his compatriots have to face. A gentle and poetic film by the Brazilian director Alê Abreu is full of colours and combines several graphic styles – collage, watercolour and crayon. The director draws his inspiration from children's drawing. The film is remarkable for its extraordinary animation which pulls the viewer into the plot, be it a dizzying carnival bustle or a rowboat fighting the waves of a stormy sea. The plot, animation and design are strongly interconnected and absolutely fluid. The film is, however, also critical of the society and deals with environment issues – it depicts unemployment, exploitation as well as ill-conceived interventions in nature. These modern problems are presented with playful seriousness, as seen through the eyes of a child.

International Competition of Short Films

Main Prize

Worst-Case Scenario

(*Must Stsenaarium / Nejhorší možný scénář*)

Directed, written and designed by

Kristjan Holm

Estonia, 2013, 14 min

Studio: Eesti Joonisfilm



Jury Statement:

The jury unanimously awarded the Best Short Animated Film to a wickedly humorous film that combines a sharply observed criticism of bureaucratic decision making with the absurd seriousness with which those decisions are received.

Synopsis:

This film builds on the tradition of typical Estonian absurd humour. In some ways it evokes films by Priit Pärn or Ülo Pikkov. Two managers, Adolf and Rudolf, slowly and in odd ways deal with problems that threaten to ruin their company. The story is composed of a series of grotesque scenes that only gradually start to make sense.

International Competition of Student Films

Main Prize

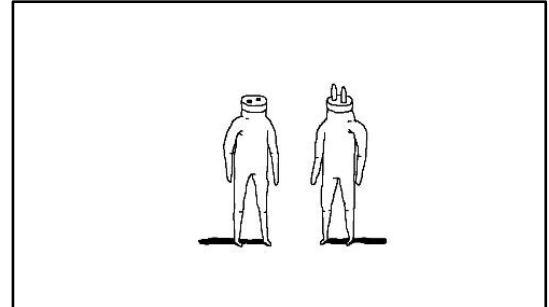
Plug and Play

Directed, written and designed by

Michael Frei

2013, Switzerland, 6 min

School: Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts



Jury Statement:

The jury awards the Best Short Student Film Award to a film maker that understands the pleasure the audience gets from the creation of repetitive structures and their delight when those structures are broken. We loved the film's originality of concept and the simplicity of its execution.

Synopsis:

Plug and Play is another spatialised, visual and layered parable by Michael Frei. A world of humanoid beings who have plugs in place of heads is ruled by almighty fingers. The humanoids are being plugged and unplugged, and subjected to constant discipline by the invisible fingers that switch, decide and manipulate. A strange kind of love? Either way, the film is entirely drawn by an index finger.

Special Mention of Jury

Symphony No. 42

(Symfonie č. 42)

Directed, written and designed by

Réka Bucsi

Hungary, 2013, 10 min

School: Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design Budapest



Jury Statement:

The jury decided to give a special mention to the film Symphony No. 42 for its elegant graphic style, its humour and absurd imagination.

Synopsis:

Consisting of 47 scenes, the film applies an unconventional narrative to present a unique subjective world of the characters. The small events, interlaced by associations, express the irrational coherence of our surroundings. Absurd and surreal situations stem from the interactions of humans and nature. The graphic style of the film works with playful colours and a naive stylization.

<p>pořadatelé / organisers</p>   <p>mediální partneři / media partners</p>       	<p>hostitelé / hosts</p>   <p>hlavní partner / main partner</p> 	<p>za finanční podpory / financial support</p>   <p>hlavní mediální partner / main media partner</p> 
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