



Press Release

Třeboň, Czech Republic, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015

## Anifilm 2015 knows its winners

The sixth edition of the **International Festival of Animated Films Anifilm 2015** knows its winners of the festival competitions have been announced. The award in the International Competition of Feature Films for Adults went to the Spanish director **Sam Conflictivos** for his film **Possessed** produced in his studios Conflictivos Productions. The special mention of the jury was awarded to animator Signe Baumann for her **Rocks in my Pockets**. The jury of the International Competition of feature films for children has decided to award **The Tale of Princess Kaguya** by the Japanese director **Isao Takahata** from the renowned Ghibli Studio. Irish director Tomm Moore's **Song of the Sea** produced by the Irish Cartoon Saloon studio was awarded a special mention.

The winner of the International Competition of Short Films is **The World of Tomorrow** by **Don Hertzfeld**. The special mention of the jury was awarded to the Czech film **Anatomy of a Spider** by **Vojtěch Kiss**.

The jury of the International Competition of Student Films awarded **Daisy Jacobs**, director and National Film and Television School student at the University of Hull, for her film **The Bigger Picture**, which was also nominated for the Academy Award. Another student film called **Food** by **Siqi Song** from the California Institute of the Arts was awarded the special mention.

The first winner of our new International Competition of Non-narrative, Experimental and Boundary Forms of Animation is the famous Polish director **Jerzy Kucia** and his **Fugue for Cello, Trumpet and Landscape**. The special mention of the jury went to the film **Fok Nabo Distorio** created at the Estonian Academy of Arts by **Francesco Rosso**. The second new category introduced at this year's Anifilm is the International Competition of Music Videos was won by **Tomek Ducki** from Poland and his music video for the song **Zhu: Paradise Awaits**.

Apart from financial rewards, the winners also received **Animorpha**, a crystal award designed by the **Morphe** studio.

One of the jury members, **Bastien Dubois**, who was nominated for an Academy Award a few years ago, commented his work and role in Třeboň: *"We all enjoyed being jury members. The hospitality of the festival was incredible. We have seen lots of great films and their selection is a reminder that animated film is not only for children, it can be enjoyed by all age groups."*

These were not the only awards the festival awarded. At the opening ceremony, Anifilm awarded the "first lady of Czech animation," director, screenwriter and animator **Vlasta**

**Pospíšilová** with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. The festival dedicated several accompanying screenings to her work.

And as the festival is coming to an end, it's time to summarise it: more than **25 000 viewers** came to see individual film, professional and accompanying programmes, more than 800 film professional participated in the festival, six competition categories included **100 films, 9 of which were full features, 28 short film, 33 student films, 14 films in the category of non-narrative, experimental and boundary forms of animation and 14 music videos**. The **accompanying programmes** screened another almost **400 films** and included more than **30 workshops, lectures and presentations**.

And what other things has Anifilm prepared for its guests and visitors? The festival and Czech Television have this year celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Večerníček / The Little Eveninger**. In several showcases and lectures, Anifilm has introduced the phenomenon of **applied animation** – interactive applications, computer games, commercials, spots, jingles, education films etc. – the visitors had a chance to see the best foreign animated works as well as the history of Czech animation in commercials and school films and also contemporary interactive games and educational projects. Another phenomenon addressed by this year's Anifilm is **street animation** which is slowly flooding and animating the real streets that surround us. On the occasion of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first animated film made in Sweden, we have introduced **Swedish Animation** to our audiences. Our programme again included the best films nominated for the **European Cartoon d'Or Award**. The popular section **Taking Stock** introduced five full features: **The Boxtrolls, Shaun the Sheep Movie, How to Train Your Dragon 2, Big Hero Six and The Penguins of Madagascar**.

The jury members, who rank among leading professionals in the world of animation, have also introduced their films and expert programmes. Our authors were not ignored and had a chance to present their projects in development in our section **Work in Progress**. We have learned at what stage of development are the projects **Insects** by Jan Švankmajer and the Athanor Studios, **The Heart of the Tower** by the Slovak director Budínský and the animated series **Great Adventures of Rosa and Dara** by Martin Duda and Studio Bionaut.

ANIFILM organised not only screenings, we also animated – the artistic group **KREUS** took over the square and along with volunteers created a unique animated film. Children with parents in collaboration with the Ultrafun Association also took part in our traditional **Animation Workshops**.

Our festival hosted the third edition of the **Visegrad Animation Forum** professional programme (Anifilm organises it in collaboration with the Association of Animated Film) that aims to develop cooperation in the field of animated film in our region. The winner of the short film competition of this forum became **Operation Burning Closet** by directors Zsuzsanna Kreif and Eva Katinka Bognár. The competition of TV series in development was won by the Czech project **Kitchen Tales** by Vojtěch Domlátil.

**Game Day** organised as a part of our special programme focused on game animation in existing games and projects in development.

The festival programme also included exhibitions – group **Sedum** consisting of graphic artists with experiences from animated film has introduced their paintings and second exhibition called **Re-cycling** introduced a film project by ten prominent European animators.

More information at: [www.anifilm.cz](http://www.anifilm.cz)

**You can find the list of the award-winning films below!**

# ANIFILM 2015 WINNERS

## International Competition of Feature Films for Adults:

### Main Award

## **Pos Eso**

*(Possessed)*

Director, Screenwriter: **Sam Conflictivos**

Graphic Artists: Aitor Herrerro, Flora

Cuevas, Vic Carrascoa

Spain, 2014, 82 min 12 sec

Studio: Conflictivos Productions



### **Jury Statement:**

*For the respectful treatment of a homage to great classical films. To a film that delivers on its promises and is guaranteed to give the audience a really good time.*

### **Synopsis:**

The best Spanish matador Gregorio and the world-famous flamenco dancer Trini are an admired couple followed by the whole nation. The birth of their only child Damian is covered extensively by the media. But a tragic accident happens, Gregorio dies, and Trini, much to the sadness of her fans, retires. The older Damian gets, the clearer it is that something is wrong with him. It turns out that he is possessed by a malicious devil that makes him do the most bloody and cruel misdeeds. In his feature debut, director Sam Conflictivos has capitalised his experiences from the British claymation studio Aardman. His film *Possessed* is an excellent example of claymation accompanied by resourceful decorations and set. Conflictivos has chosen a quite atypical topic for an animated film. He was inspired for example by *The Exorcist*. The film goes straight to the point with bare knuckles, it depicts bloody atrocities and criticises the church but rather than being a horror, it is characterised by its detached view.

### Special mention of the Jury

## **Rocks in My Pockets**

Director, Screenwriter, Graphic Artist: **Signe Baumane**

USA, Latvia, 2014, 88 min

Studio: Signe Baumane



### **Jury Statement:**

*For the gut-wrenching baring of the animator's soul with humour that still made us laugh at a serious subject.*

### **Synopsis:**

Latvia, the late 1920's. Anna, a young woman, pretty and educated, falls in love with an adventurous entrepreneur, thirty years her senior. But with marriage comes great jealousy, and the entrepreneur hides Anna away in the forest, far from other men, where she bears him eight children. The Great Depression hits them hard. Then Latvia is overrun with invasions by the Soviets, then the Nazis, then the Soviets once again. Anna is a pillar of strength, defying the hardships. But something inside her is terribly wrong. Years later, Signe, a young artist, asks her father, "How did my grandmother die?" Her father is evasive. His seven siblings are evasive, as well. Signe strongly suspects that her grandma committed suicide. Clues of mental illness had always leaked through the family stories. Signe suffers from depression herself. Three of her cousins, all women, battle madness, as well. Could there be a link between Anna and the four granddaughters? The feature debut by the famous New York based Latvian animator takes us on a journey through her depression. The journey is humorous as she has found her liberty in her work.

## International Competition of Feature Films for Children:

### Main Award

## **The Tale of Princess Kaguya**

*(Kaguya-hime no Monogatari)*

Director, Graphic Artist: **Isao Takahata**

Screenwriters: Isao Takahata, Riko

Sakaguchi

Japan, 2014, 137 min

Studio: Studio Ghibli



### **Jury Statement:**

*The jury gave the prize to *The Tale of Princess Kaguya* for its lyrical beauty that carries the audience away. The Princess brings us into her visually stunning world accompanied by a perfect musical score.*

### **Synopsis:**

The original animated film by the master of Japanese anime Isao Takahata tells a very unusual story. Its heroine is the beautiful princess Kaguya who is found one day by a bamboo cutter in a glowing bamboo shoot. He takes her home and together with his wife decides to raise the fast growing beauty as their own. The mysterious princess is apparently of divine origin and marvels everyone she meets but the course of events forces her to confront punishment for her wrongdoing. This dramatic film full of fantasy has charmed the audiences as well as the critics of the whole world and brought the author – apart from other awards and several dozen nominations – an Academy Award nomination. Isao Takahata is a renowned anime director and producer but his last film partly defies this genre and uses the aesthetics of hand drawing created with distinctive draws. Isao Takahata has together with the world-renowned Hayao Miyazaki founded the Studio Ghibli. *The Tale of Princess Kaguya* is his first film after 14 years.

## Special Mention of the Jury

### **Song of the Sea**

Director, Screenwriter, Graphic Artist:

**Tomm Moore**

Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, France,  
Luxembourg, 2014, 93 min

Studio: Cartoon Saloon



#### **Jury Statement:**

*A traditional film that combines a legend with modern day life and delivers a beautiful visual impact.*

**Synopsis:** A father with his children, a daughter and a son, live in a lonely lighthouse in the mythical land of old Celts. Their lives are turned upside down when they find out that the daughter is the last of the selkies. Only she and her song of the sea can save all the fairy creatures turned into stone by the witch Macha. The children are torn from their lives at the sea and look for the way back. Their loyal dog is a faithful helper and companion on their voyage and together they embark on a big adventure. After the highly praised animated film *Brendan and the Secret of Kells* (Academy Award nomination for best animated film), brings Tomm Moore another magical story. With a gorgeously animated mythical world and a story full of hope about the power of paternal and sibling love, *Song of the Sea* brought the director his second academy award nomination and comparison to the biggest masters of animated film. The magnificent visual style of the film resembles hand drawing in spite being rendered digitally. The author uses a nostalgic story with subtle humour and darker undertones evoking a mysterious world.

## International Competition of Short Films

### Main Award

### **The World of Tomorrow**

Director, Screenwriter, Graphic Artist: **Don Herzfeldt**

USA, 2015, 16 min 30 sec

Studio: Bitter Films



#### **Jury Statement:**

*The jury unanimously awarded the Best Short Animated Film to The World of Tomorrow. A prediction of an unpleasant future, told with sophisticated humour and minimalistic design, makes this film truly refreshing. We were enchanted by the charming science fiction field trip, seen through the eyes of a child.*

**Synopsis:**

The visionary film by Don Hertzfeld *World of Tomorrow* is a story of a little girl who goes on a “field trip” to the distant future. The film about a highly technologized world builds on a simple graphic design with a clear authorial style.

**Special Mention of the Jury****Mr. Spider's  
Anatomy**

*(Anatomie pavouka)*

Director, Screenwriter, Graphic Artist:

**Vojtěch Kiss**

Czech Republic, 2014, 27 min 26 sec

Studio: nutprodukce

**Vyjádření poroty:**

*A dark journey through a modern society without compassion. An inferno of one man's struggle with loneliness and despair, told in astonishing artwork.*

**Synopsis:**

The film presents a vision of a gloomy city. Mr. Spider is a clerk working in a huge office, a voluntary slave, a lonely person lost in a maze of streets, corridors and his own mind infused with alcohol. But somewhere, much deeper, in places where the sense is about to crumble and dreams begin, there is an endless space in which fragile power beams.

**International Competition of Student Films****Main Award****The Bigger  
Picture**

Director, Screenwriter, Graphic Artist:

**Daisy Jacobs**

United Kingdom, 2014, 7 min 5 sec

Skola: NFTS, University of Hull

**Jury Statement:**

*The jury awards the Best Short Student Film Award to The Bigger Picture. An amazing execution of a very touching story. We loved the integration of the characters into real environments and the combination of the 2d painting and 3d stop motion. A truly inventive film.*

**Synopsis:**

The Bigger Picture combines painted life-size characters with real decoration to tell a sad story of two brothers and their ageing mother who needs to be looked after. The film full of black humour deals with the right to fickle parental love.

## Special Mention of the Jury

### **Food**

Director, Animator, Graphic Artist: **Siqi Song**  
China, 2014, 3 min 32 sec  
School: California Institute of the Arts



#### **Jury Statement:**

*The jury decided to give a special mention to the film Food. Vegans and carnivores, portrayed intelligent and funny. The interviewee replaced by the actual subject. A talking head becomes a talking hamburger.*

#### **Synopsis:**

The animated document Food is based on real interviews with people who have different relations to food and environment, from vegans to carnivores. The author managed to use playful stop-motion animation to capture serious topics and raise many important questions.

## International Competition of Non-narrative, experimental and Boundary Forms of Animation

### Main Award

### **Fuga na wiolonczelę, trąbkę i pejzaż**

*(Fugue for Cello, Trumpet and  
Landscape)*

Director, Graphic Artist: **Jerzy Kucia**  
Screenwriters: Jerzy Kucia, Agnieszka Kucia  
Poland, 2014, 18 min  
Production: Jerzy Kucia – Produkcja Filmów



#### **Jury Statement:**

*This utterly artistic film stood out for us with its impressively emotive nature, where one's memories and the physical landscape make up an utterly dense and intertwined, synesthetic audio-visual material, which stimulated our minds throughout the whole film, despite it's unusual length for a short film.*

**Synopsis:**

The classic of Polish animation returns after thirteen years with a new film. Once again, he focuses on the relation of music and image in a meditative story and a loosened form of a poetic film. It depicts the tender process of expressing emotions and looking for specificity of the land in events it once witnessed.



## Special Mention of the Jury

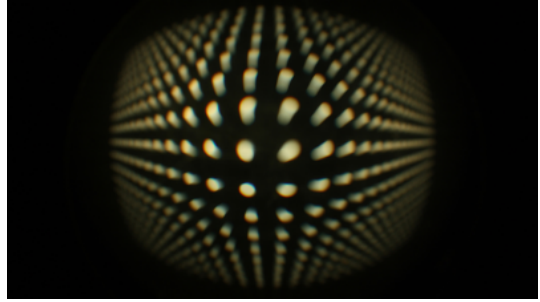
### **Fok Nabo Distorio**

Director, Screenwriter, Graphic Artist:

**Francesco Rosso**

Estonia, 2014, 7 min 4 sec

Production: Estonian Academy of Arts



#### **Jury Statement:**

*Special mention for revealing the world of macro details where a close-up doesn't necessarily reveal specific objects but hides their true form. Fak Nabo Distorio is a mysterious lens experiment and an improvised interplay between musical and visual rhythms of out-of-focus things.*

#### **Synopsis:**

This experimental abstract animation is based on the piece Liivaterade Raamat composed by the Estonian harpist Liis Viira. It is an improvised stop-motion animation of various objects seen through optical lenses. Cold and technical camera shots are combined with organic elements such as running colours.

## International Competition of Music Videos

### Main Award

### **Zhu: Paradise**

### **Awaits**

Director, Screenwriter, Graphic Artist:

**Tomek Ducki**

Poland, 2014, 3 min 27 sec

Production: Kurban Kassam



#### **Jury Statement:**

*We were very impressed by the way this music video mixes traditional handmade technique with clean, vector-based visuals. It is figurative and abstract, expressive and poetic at the same time and the music has been translated into visuals in a masterful way.*

#### **Synopsis:**

Another music video by the young Hungarian artist Tomek Ducki. Once again, he works with vivid colours and elaborates the story of the original sin of Adam and Eve. In his version, the woman is a very important character and his method reminds of watercolour paintings.

**The jury chose not to award a special mention in this category**

hlavní partner / main partner



hlavní mediální partner / main media partner



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