



Press release

Třeboň, May 7th 2016

Anifilm 2016 Announces Its Winners

The Award for the Best Feature Film for Grown-ups goes to Charlie Kaufman and Duke Johnson for *Anomalisa*, while Alain Gagnol and Jean-Loup Felicioli's *Phantom Boy* have won the Award for the Best Feature Film for Children. The Best Short Film Award goes to the French film *Peripheria*. *Happy End* has been named the best student film.

The International Festival of Animated Films Anifilm 2016 is nearing its end and has already announced its winners. The main jury award in the *International Competition of Animated Feature Films for Grown-ups* goes to **Charlie Kaufman** and **Duke Johnson** for their film *Anomalisa*. **Jan Bultheel** has received special mention in this section for his film *Cafard*. The French-Belgian film *Phantom Boy* directed by **Alain Gagnol** and **Jean-Loup Felicioli** has been selected as the winner of the *International Competition of Animated Feature Films for Children*. Simon Rouby's *Adama* has received the jury's special mention in this category, confirming the French takeover of the competition.

The main award in the *International Competition of Animated Short Films* has been presented to **David Coquard-Dassault** for his film *Periferia*. The special mention in this category goes to *A Coat Made Dark* by Irish director **Jack O'Shea**.

The main award in the *International Competition of Student Animated Films* remains in the Czech Republic – the jury has selected *Happy End*, a film by Prague FAMU student **Jan Saska**. *Wolf Games* (*Vučje igre*) made by **Jelena Oroz** from the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb has won the special mention in this section.

Austrian director **Nikky Schuster** has taken the laurels in the *International Competition of Abstract and Non-Narrative Animation* section for her film *Absent*. And **Masanobu Hiraoka**'s clip *The Eye of the Storm* made for the band *EZ3kiel* has dominated the *International Competition of Music Videos*.

The Audience Award for the Best Czech Film of the Festival, a new prize introduced this year, goes to *Deep in Moss*, a film by **Filip Pošivač** and **Barbora Valecká**.

However, the list of awards would not be complete without the **Life Achievement Award** given at the very beginning of the festival to director, scriptwriter and artist Václav Mergl. The festival featured his film and artistic work in a special festival section and at an exhibit of his visual works and animated film designs.

The festival has already released some figures: more than **27,000 viewers** attended the various events featured in the film, professional and accompanying programme. The festival hosted more than 1,000 film professionals and its seven competition sections introduced **142 films** which included **10 feature, 34 short, and 41 student films, as well as 25 works in the**

Abstract and Non-Narrative section, 19 music videos and 13 Czech films competing for the Audience Award.

The **accompanying programme** included almost **400 films**. There were **more than 25 workshops, lectures and presentations, 3 exhibitions, 3 theatre performances and 11 music shows during the festival.**

What else did Anifilm 2016 bring to the audience? The viewers had an opportunity to ponder the topic of home and leaving it thanks to the **“Where Is My Home?”** section. This section invited many film-makers whose lives and professional careers have been related to relocation – for example animators **Jakub Pístecký** and **Jan Pinkava** who are both of Czech descent and based in the USA. The audience also had a chance to see both early and recent works of the renowned Czech émigré **Paul Fierlinger**, get to know the Iranian, US-based director **Nourredin Zarrinkelk** and many others. Thanks to the selection of films in this section, the viewers were able to immerse themselves in the life stories of migrants from all over the world. Anifilm also allowed the visitors to travel through the whole history of the **Spanish animated film** in the programme section called **From Doodles to Pixels** dedicated to the best Spanish animated works – from the earliest animated attempts to the most recent feature films widely recognized by both critics and viewers. As usual, the programme also included films nominated for the finals of the **Cartoon d’Or award**. The popular **Taking Stock** section presented several feature films including **Minions, Inside Out** and **Pat and Mat: The Film**.

The **Works in Progress** section focuses on the future – making it possible for film-makers to introduce projects they are currently working on. The viewers were the first ones to see previews of the film **The Odd-Sock Eaters** by the director and graphic artist Galina Miklínová, and they found out about the preparations and shooting of another new Czech feature film **Tonda, Slávka and the Genius**.

ANIFILM did not limit itself to screenings only: animation programmes took place in the square, in the Roháč centre and – for the first time – also in the House of Animation, where 3D animation, computer game animation and puppet-making workshops took place. One floor of the House of Animation was reserved for the **Game Day** programme, where visitors had an opportunity to play video games nominated for the *Czech Game of the Year*. Children and parents went in for animation with the help of instructors in traditional **animation workshops**.

For more details about the programme, please go to www.anifilm.cz

The overview of the awarded films is available on the following pages.

AWARDED FILMS – ANIFILM 2016

International Competition of Feature Films for Grown-ups

Jury members: Jakub Pístecký, Javier Mariscal, Nouredin Zarrinkelk

Winner

Anomalisa

(*Anomalisa*)

Director: **Duke Johnson, Charlie Kaufman**

Screenplay: Charlie Kaufman

Art designers: John Joyce, Susan Donym

USA, 2015, 90 min

Studio: A Starburns Industry, Snoot Entertainment



Jury statement: *A very unique film with a tone seldom expressed in animation, utilizing a technique that was stylized and yet disturbingly realistic to tell the story.*

Synopsis:

Anomalisa is the second film directed by famed screenwriter Charlie Kaufman, this time co-directed by Duke Johnson. The main hero of the film is a middle-aged man named Michael Stone, author of a best-selling book about customer service and how to run a call centre. As a renowned speaker, Michael is invited to a convention where he is to deliver a speech on this subject. But Michael is, quite paradoxically, a man who sees communication with others as a huge problem. In his hotel – the main setting of the film – he runs into Lisa, who may be just the cure to his negative approach to life. Through animation, this familiar plot takes on an interesting dimension. The authors decided to come clean and uncover their animation techniques, neglecting for example to erase spaces between detachable parts of characters' faces, as is usually done. The film itself plays out under a sort of dreamlike shroud. The sarcastic and melancholic world ruled by Michael who is suffering from the rare Fregoli delusion (whereby essentially everyone looks identical to him) seems to lack credibility. A combination of live-action techniques and animation reinforces a sense of enticing tension in which we don't know whether to take the film as a metaphor or not, or when it is a dream and when it is a peculiar "live-action film."

Honourable Mention

Cafard

(*Cafard*)

Director, screenplay: **Jan Bultheel**

Art designer: André Ferwerda

France, Belgium, Netherlands, 2015, 86 min

Studio: Tondo Films, Topkapi Films



Jury statement:

A very painterly and beautifully told tragic tale set in the first world war.

International Competition of Feature Films for Children

Jury members: Jakub Pístecký, Javier Mariscal, Nouredin Zarrinkelk

Winner

Phantom Boy

(Phantom Boy)

Director: **Alain Gagnol, Jean-Loup Felicioli**

Art designer: Alain Gagnol

Screenplay: Jean-Loup Felicioli

Belgium, France, 2015, 84 min

Studio: Folimage Studio, Lunanime, France 3 Cinéma



Jury statement:

A sweet and powerful story that takes on some difficult themes while taking the audience on a magical journey filled with action and imagination while infused with a child-like sense of wonder. This beautifully crafted film is an accomplishment both technically and aesthetically.

Synopsis:

Czech viewers probably know Jean-Loup Felicioli and Alain Gagnol in particular for their charming Academy Award-nominated feature *A Cat in Paris* (*Une vie du chat*, 2010) which was also screened at Anifilm. Now the writing- -directing team is back with yet another remarkably captivating story. In this thrilling superhero film, the authors once again focus on a crime plot while remaining faithful to their very original and stylized animation. This time, the story is set in an alternate version of New York. The main hero is the 11-year-old bedridden Leo. Hospitalized Leo meets an unsuccessful police officer Alex who is confined to wheelchair after his injury at the hands of an evil mob kingpin. Leo reveals to him that his illness gave him a power to leave his body and fly around the city, passing through walls just like a phantom. And as the boy longs to be a policeman himself, they team up and decide to solve the case “remotely” with the help of Alex’s girlfriend. The story is full of suspenseful and almost horror-like scenes, but also humour and irony used to portray the unlucky policeman and the “dangerous” mobster. One of the characters is voiced by Audrey Tatou (known from *Amelie from Montmartre*).

Honourable Mention

Adama

(Adama)

Director: **Simon Rouby**

Screenplay: Julien Lilti

Art designer: Simon Rouby

France, 2015, 82 min

Studio: Naïa Productions, Pipangai France 3 cinéma, Philippe Aigle



Jury statement:

A beautiful and original story that transported the viewer into a very painterly and richly textured world which had a raw and authentic sensibility in its delivery.

International Competition of Short Films

Jury members: Chintis Lundgren, Jan Pinkava, Rosto

Winner

Peripheria

(Periferia)

Director, art designer: **David Coquard-Dassault**

France, 2015, 12 min

Studio: Autour De Minuit, Schmuby Productions



Jury statement:

A masterful portrayal of abandonment. With each irresistible image the atmosphere builds and the narrative moves forward almost by itself. Perfect.

Synopsis:

The unusually atmospheric film *Peripheria* explores the life of an abandoned French suburb that gradually changes into an urban wasteland roamed by packs of stray dogs. The film reflects on the current hopeless situation of desolate French housing estates decaying at the outskirts of big cities.

Honourable Mention

A Coat Made Dark

Director, art designer: **Jack O'Shea**

Ireland, 2015, 9 min 56 sec

Studio: Still Films Ltd.



Jury statement:

A pitch black fairy tale lures the viewer into its deep pockets. The stark visual style and clear-headed but suggestive narrative was thrilling and left us eager to see it again.

International Competition of Student Films

Jury members: Chintis Lundgren, Jan Pinkava, Rosto

Winner

Happy End

(Happy End)

Director, screenplay, art designer: **Jan Saska**

Czech Republic, 2015, 5 min 41 sec

School: FAMU Praha



Jury statement:

This film knows what it wants and knows how to get it. With its surprising, adventurous storytelling and clever sense of humour, we enjoyed it as much as it enjoyed itself.

Synopsis:

Happy End is a dark comedy about death but, as the title suggests, with a happy ending. The story revolves around a series of strange accidents connected with the recurring discovery of the same corpse. The individual situations are so specific though, that several suspects come to mind. The filmmaker's original style permeates both the visual aspect and the story of the film.

Honourable Mention

Wolf Games

(Vučje igre)

Director, screenplay, art designer: **Jelena Oroz**

Croatia, 2015, 4 min 40 sec

School: Academy of Fine Arts Zagreb



Jury statement:

The film skilfully plays with the contrast of naive graphic style and primal animalism: domestic vs wild; instinct vs culture; child vs parent – with a gently shocking effect.

International Competition of Abstract and Non-Narrative Animation

Jury members: Vera Neubauer, Carolina López Caballero, Ondřej Švadlena

Winner

Absent

Director, art designer: **Nikki Schuster**
Austria, Germany, 2015, 7 min
Production: Nikki Schuster (fiesfilm.com)



Jury statement:

For making extraordinary the waste and remains giving them a second life through stop-motion. The film underlines the human absence with a great use of sound and picture.

Synopsis:

Austrian animator and sound designer Nikki Schuster draws on Freud's theory about the magical phase of childhood – on a combination of hopes and fears that things are capable of keeping their secrets from us. With stop-motion animation, the film explores the world and a strange subculture of discarded things in derelict houses and other remote places.

International Competition of Music Videos

Jury members: Vera Neubauer, Carolina López Caballero, Ondřej Švadlena

Winner

EZ3kiel: The Eye of the Storm

(EZ3kiel: The Eye of the Storm)

Director, art designer: **Masanobu Hiraoka**
France, Japan, 2015, 5 min 3 sec
Production: Masanobu Hiraoka, Je Regarde



Jury statement:

We expect a music video to catch your eye in a few seconds. This one does the job through beautiful use of animation metamorphosing the figurative with the abstract in an oneiric world of emotions.

Synopsis:

The music video for *The Eye of the Storm* was made by Japanese director Masanobu Hiraoka, a self-taught animator who has achieved a fully professional artistic technique. Fluid imagery smoothly transforms from abstract shapes into concrete ones in this refined Japanese visualisation.

Czech Horizon – Audience Award

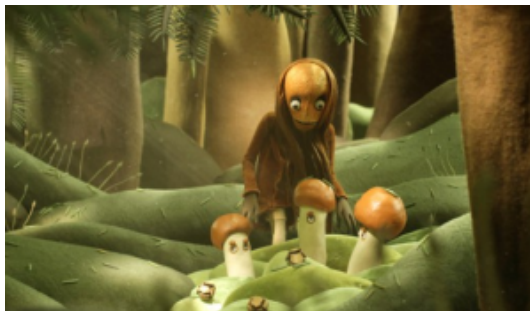
Deep in Moss

Director: **Filip Pošivač, Barbora Valecká**

Art designer: Filip Pošivač

Czech Republic, 2015, 26 min 5 sec

Production: nutprodukce



Synopsis:

Forest elves Bertik and Josefka live in a deep forest. They take care of the forest, Josefka makes hats for sassy mushrooms and Bertik puts out and lights up night-time mushroom lamps. But one day, Bertik's lamps start to go missing... This charming story for children, which was in production for seven years, builds on the poetics of Czech forests and the Czech puppet-film tradition.

hlavní partner / main partner

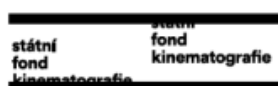


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