



## ANIFILM 2019 Presents the Programme and the Festival Jingle

**ANIFILM International Festival of Animated Films, 7<sup>th</sup>  
– 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Třeboň**

[www.anifilm.cz](http://www.anifilm.cz)

**This year's ANIFILM International Festival of Animated Films will take place from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May in Třeboň, South Bohemia. For its visitors, the festival has prepared programmes filled with the best animated films from the entire world.**

Apart from international competitions with five categories for films and one for computer games, the festival organisers also a national competition. New films from the world of animation will compete in competition categories **for feature, short and student films, non-narrative animations and animated music videos**. Films and games will be judged **by four three-piece international juries**. Each of our jurors will take part in the festival's accompanying programme in one way or another. Among our jurors for this year are renowned personalities such as the most famous Swiss director **Georges Schwizgebel**, Hungarian director of award-winning short films **Tomek Ducki**, Swedish director of animated music videos for Franz Ferdinand and U2 **Jonas Odell**, French producer **Ron Dyens**, one of the most successful young Czech animators **Kateřina Karhánková**, who won an award at this year's Berlinale for her films **Fruits of Clouds**, and Romanian director **Anca Damian** who won an award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

**Anifilm's Lifetime Achievement Award 2019** will be presented to **Zdenka Deitchová**, who worked as and producer in the Bratři v Triku Studios for many decades. She helped to make many significant films and collaborated with Jiří Trnka, Adolf Born, Jiří Brdečka, Zdeněk Miler, Zdeněk Smetana, Václav Bedřich and her partner Gene Deitch. She collaborated on more than a thousand animated films and series.

**The main theme** of this year's ANIFILM is **ani-doc**, a format that combines the film language of animated and documentary films. You will have a chance to see several Czech and

international premiers. The programme will also include the award-winning film **Waltz with Bashir**, Pythonesque **A Liar's Autobiography: The Untrue Story of Graham Chapman** and also some Czech ani-docs such as **Paul Fierlinger's Drawn from Memory** and films by **Jiří Brdečka** and **Michaela Pavlátová**.

In our section **Special Screenings**, you will have a chance to see the Czech premiere of the latest film by **Robert Zemeckis Welcome to Marwen** and the tongue-in-cheek film **Seder-masochism** (2018) by **Nina Paley**, a significant representative of American independent animation. In other professional and accompanying programmes, the visitors will have a chance to get acquainted with the phenomenon of **hyperlapse** (non-phased, for example touchless animation) that festivals don't usually reflect. Each festival evening, the Třeboň square will host an open-air screening of last year's animated blockbusters. Anifilm will also screen the new digitally restored version of **Journey to Prehistory** and with the stroke of midnight, audiences will be shocked by our blocks of midnight animation that is certainly not suitable for children. But the children will have something to look forward to – our programme **Animo** and popular **animation workshops**. Exhibiton **AnimaCZE after 89** will map Czech animation after the Velvet Revolution and another exhibition – organised in collaboration with Linzer organisation and festival **Ars Electronica** – will introduce Austrian animation and the work of animation **Reinhold Bidner**. The foyer of the Třeboň theatre will traditionally belong to the author of the festival visual – this year it's **Veronika Zacharová**.

And for all fans and film professionals alike, there are also plenty of other programmes – **ANIMARKET**, lectures, workshops and presentations of projects in development, animation studios, schools and festivals. In collaboration with Anifilm, Třeboň will also host the **CEE Animation Forum 2019** with a record number of participants – among 33 selected projects, there will be 6 Czech projects in development.

The festival jingle of **ANIFILM 2019** can be found here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fV-fnOtGr\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fV-fnOtGr_c)

and you can download it here:

<http://84.42.215.157:5000/sharing/OkqWAKiLy>

## ANIFILM 2019 Programme in Detail

### Ten Films to Compete in the Prestigious International Competition of Feature Films

The competition of feature films includes ten unusually strong titles. You will see a thrilling film by Slovenian director Milorad Krstić **Ruben Brandt, Collector** filmed in Hungary. Also the Goya-award-winning ani-doc **Another Day of Life** by Damian Nenow and Raúl de la Fuente about a renowned journalist staying in Angola during the civil war in 1975. The French drama **Funan** by Denis Do, the winner of last year's festival in Annecy, happens to be set in the same year. The film set in Cambodia follows a young mother who doesn't lose her courage despite bloody events taking place in the country. The atmosphere of revolution plays a big part also in the intimate Canadian film **Ville Neuve** by Félix Dufour-Laperriere taking place against the backdrop of the fight for the independence of Québec. A more experimental approach is represented by Chilean film **The Wolf House** by Christobal León and Joaquin Cociña. Another competitor is the anticipated Estonian puppet film **Captain Morten and the Spider Queen** by Kasper Jancis, Riho Unt and Henry Nicholson. One of the representatives of CGI animation in our feature film competition is **Marnie's World** by Christoph and Wolfgang Lauenstein. The

second one is **Pachamama** about an Inca boy living in a remote village in the Andes who dreams of becoming a shaman. It was made by Argentinian director Juan Antin. The sensitively made anime film from the world of children **Mirai** by Mamoru Hosoda will represent Japanese style. The film was nominated for a Golden Globe, Oscar and won an Annie Award. **The Tower** by Mats Grorud following the story of a Palestinian's girl family in a refugee camp will represent Scandinavia.

### Short Films and Daring Student Films

The Short Film Competition is traditionally the most sought-after programme of the festival as it offers films that the audiences have a very little chance to see elsewhere.

This year, you can look forward to the latest film by such authors as **Bill Plympton, Vladimir Leschiov, Anca Damian, Donato Sansone, Michael Frei, Luca Tóth and Géza M. Tóth, authorial duos Alain Gagnol & Jean-Loup Felicioli, Marc James Roels & Emma De Swaef** and the Academy Award-nominated duo **Alison Snowden & David Fine** and also one famous trio – **Job, Joris & Marieke**.

The student selection will once again present films by students from prestigious animation schools – from the **British National Film and Television School** through **the French La Poudrière** all the way to the **Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts** in Prague which will have three titles in the competition. The first one is **Hideout** by Barbora Halířová, which will have its world premiere in Třeboň; the other two films have already celebrated some success at various festivals: **Apart** (dir. Diana Cam Van Nguyen) and **The Kite** (dir. Martin Smatana).

### Tough Competition of Non-Narrative Animation and Music Videos

From more than 250 submitted music videos and non-narrative films, 44 have made into the final competition. This year, 4 Czech representatives (a new record) will compete for the Animorpha for the best Abstract and Non-Narrative animation.

They will have to compete for instance against renowned experimenters **Paul Bush** and **Thomas Renolder**. Also **Faiyaz Jafri**, who was a member of our jury last year, returns with his latest film.

The selection of 29 music videos will be very diverse this year – not only artistically, but also musically. Let us mention one big comeback – a new music video for a song by **The Beatles**. But also music videos of Czech bands **Khoiba** and **Boris Carloff** have a chance to win.

### Czech Competition

This year's **Czech Horizon** competition will include 70 commissioned works, music videos, TV series and student and short films. This section of the festival will offer a comprehensive overview of domestic animation). And, same as last year, the winner of each of the five competition categories will be picked by dozens of domestic professionals and journalists from the Council of Animated Film.

A new common trend we can observe is a rising number of co-productions. In short films, we have for instance **Ceva** by Romanian director Paul Mureşan co-produced with Maur Film and **Fleeting Fall** by Vojtěch Domlátil which was filmed in Japan. In works for television, apart from a traditional participation by Czech Television, we can find the Czech-Slovak TV special **Mimi and Lisa – The Christmas Lights Mystery**. The Prague studio Ealinn in cooperation with Slovenian authors made the series **Muri the Cat**.

### Thirteen Titles from the Whole World Compete for the Award for the Best Game

Among the thirteen chosen titles are several games by Czech developers. Apart from the famous **Beat Saber** that we had a chance to see in Třeboň already last year (out of

competition), two online games produced by Czech Television will compete. This proves that the word “computer” doesn’t define the exclusive platform for games in our competition. That means that we will see mobile games, classical PC and console games and also VR games. Other competition games include titles such as ***Return of the Obra Dinn***, ***Homo Machina*** and ***FAR: Lone Sails***. All competition games will be available in the festival's gaming zone throughout the duration of the whole festival. Anifilm organises the Competition of Independent Computer Games in collaboration with Jakub Dvorský from Amanita Design.

### Competition Films to be Judged by Four International Juries



The jury of the International **Competition of Feature Films** will include Romanian producer and director **Anca Damian**, author of successful animated documentaries ***Crucic – The Path to Beyond*** and ***The Magic Mountain***. The second member of the jury is French producer **Ron Dyens**, the founder of Sacrebleu Productions, whose portfolio includes a number of short festival hits and the feature film ***Long Way North***. Last but not least, there is Anna Vášová, dramaturge and screenwriter (*The Websters*, *Mimi and Lisa*) with experiences from the Czech Television, European Broadcasting Union and the Visegrad Animation Forum (now CEE Animation).

The jury for the short and student films competitions will include probably the most famous contemporary Swiss director **Georges Schwizgebel**, famous for his captivating award-winning films. Second member is the Swedish ani-doc specialist **Jonas Odell** whose work has influenced a whole generation of filmmakers. His style is appreciated also by band such as Franz Ferdinand and U2 – Odell made music videos for them. The third member of the jury for the competition of short films is one of the most successful representatives of the new generation of Czech animation **Kateřina Karháňková**. Her film ***The Fruits of the Clouds*** is probably the most screened and praised contemporary Czech animated film.

The best abstract and non-narrative animations and music videos will be picked by the Hungarian author of award-winning short films (e.g. *Life Line* and *Baths*) and music videos (e.g. for Basement Jaxx and LCAW) **Tomek Ducki** and the long-term curator of the DOK Leipzig Festival and the former director of the Filмест Dresden Festival **Annegret Richter** from the German Association of Animation Film. They will be joined by another German, **Max**

**Hattler**, a renowned experimenter. He has won many international awards including the Animorpha for his 2017 film ***Divisional Articulations***.

Journalist and researcher in the field of game studies **Tereza Krobová** will have to find her way through the jungle of all the selected games. She will get help from graphic artist, animator and for the last few years primarily a game developer **Jaromír Plachý**. He worked on such titles as ***Botanicula*** and ***Chuchel***. The third member of the jury of the International Competition of Independent Computer Games will be the renowned Dutch game developer **Adriaan de Jongh** who won over the independent scene with his game ***Hidden Folks*** (that also won an award at Anifilm).

### **Ani-doc – The Main Theme of this year’s Anifilm**

Ani-doc is a unique film format that combines the film language of animated and documentary films. The authors thus have new possibilities. On one hand, they are limited with the reality of the documented situation or event, but on the other hand, they can use the unlimited possibilities of animation techniques and methods. Both approaches eventually create a new unique whole. Combination of animation and documentary enables a unique method of storytelling and visualisation of real stories using animation shortcuts and visual metaphors.

It has been 101 years since Winsor McCay made his film ***The Sinking of the Lusitania*** which is considered to be the first animated document. Since then, this “hybrid” genre has gone through many transformations and developments. But during the last several decades, ani-doc has become extremely popular. In this year’s edition, Anifilm therefore decided to focus on ani-doc in its accompanying programme.

We will map the key moments in the history of this genre. In cooperation with German curator and the dramaturge of the DOK Leipzig Festival **Annegret Richter** our festival has prepared a comprehensive showcase of animated documentaries – short documentaries in particular. But we will naturally include also feature length documentaries that have popularized this genre such as ***Waltz with Bashir*** depicting its authors experiences from the Lebanon War (directed by Ari Folman, 2008). Classical ani-docs include also the film ***Drawn from Memory*** by Czech director Paul Fierlinger from 1995. In it, he describes his extraordinary story from his birth in Japan through childhood in the US, growing up in Czechoslovakia and escape back to the US. A different and humorous view will be offered by a showcase of animated mockumentaries, i.e. “documentaries” documenting fake events. Among them will be the feature film ***A Liar’s Autobiography: The Untrue Story of Monty Python’s Graham Chapman*** (directed by Bill Jones, Jeff Simpson, Ben Timlett, 2012). Its main protagonist is Graham Chapman, whom everyone probably knows as “**the dead Python**”.

As ani-doc is gaining popularity in the Czech Republic as well, a part of the programme will map the history of this genre in Czech animation. Czech authors who made ani-docs include for example **Jiří Brdečka** and **Michaela Pavlátová**.

Main part of the programme will be as usual connected to the guests of our festival. Among them will be for example **Anca Damian** and **Jonas Odell** who will present their genre defining films and shed some light on their methods of work in their lectures. Filmmaker **Marina Scarpelli** will introduce the legendary Danish creative platform ANIDOX.

**Festival’s Special Screenings Programme Will Include an Exclusive Screening of Robert Zemeckis’ latest film Welcome to Marwen**

The visitors of this year's Anifilm will have a unique chance to see feature film **Welcome to Marwen** (2018), the latest film by Robert Zemeckis who regularly switches from live-action films to animated films or uses a unique combination of both. Apart from some cult classis such as **Back to the Future** and **Forrest Gump**, his filmography includes innovative animated films such as **Who Framed Roger Rabbit**, **Polar Express**, **Beowulf** and **Christmas Carol**. His latest film belongs to both groups of his work – it combines live-action passages with animation and has something in common with Forrest Gump as it was inspired by a true story of artist Mark Hogancamp who was brutally assaulted, suffered brain damage, and is trying to put together pieces of his lost memories and find a new life with the help of puppets living in the fictitious town of Marwen.

Apart from Robert Zemeckis' latest film, section Special Screenings will present feature film **Seder-Masochism** (2018) by American director **Nina Paley** who craftily and humorously works with the theme of the Passover Seder during which Jews retell the story of the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. But in this case, the narrator is her father who is not a dogmatist so we will hear non-traditional stories as well as music by **Louis Armstrong** and **Led Zeppelin**. Both feature films will be accompanied by a showcase of three short anime film by the Japanese studio **Ponoc** and also films nominated for the 2018 **Emile Animation Award**, the most prestigious European award for animated films. The viewers can also look forward to a "best of" selection from Austrian Ars Electronica. And representatives of Israeli award for young animators – Tal Yakovson Student Film Award – will present the best from the history of this award.

### What is Hyperlapse & Co.?

The programme called **Hyperlapse & Co.** Focuses on films made with techniques of non-phased animation. Until now, such films have appeared in festival sections mapping experimental and non-narrative animation. This year, Anifilm has decided to concentrate these films into one programme section and draw attention to the possibilities of such techniques – timelapse, landscape pixilation, nature animation and replacement. The authors deliberately give up the possibility to phase their films and choose objects (from small objects to huge buildings) and drawings that by definition cannot be moved or touched. The resulting movement is created by other ways – editing, changing angles and distances etc. The term hyperlapse first appeared in connection with Canadian film **Pacer** from the 1990s. Czech animation uses also the term "**touchless animation**" that appeared in connection with the work of Matyáš Trnka. It means that the author is animating without even touching the animated material. Hyperlapse is often used in real urban environment but appears also in **Gil Alkabetz's** famous film **The Da Vinci Timecode** in which the author finds hidden movements and new meanings in Leonardo Da Vinci's fresco.

### Midnight Animation

One of the popular programme blocks of Anifilm is the Midnight Animation programme. For three nights, at the stroke of midnight, Anifilm will bring something that the audiences can look forward to and fear. First block, **From Bohemia's Woods and Swamps**, will present exclusively Czech, in particular student, films. Another – horror – block is called **Blood** and will present horror films. Some serious and full of mystery and horror, other ironic, parodic and with perverted exaggeration. Their authors take us to mysterious settings – we see a world where raw meat grows rampant, we explore a nightmarish forest, the Wild West and a garden where one can grow zombies. **Body** is the name of the third midnight block that focuses on the body

and flesh and not only in an erotic context: from pure sexuality to the circumstances of experiencing it. Some authors try to push the limits of what they can depict in their portrayals of the body and their audiences will tolerate. They examine deviations and obscure behaviour and situations. Even the classic of Dutch animation, **Paul Driessen**, explores uncharted waters with his humorous new film ***The origin of sounds***.

### **Animo – Programme for Children and Young Adults**

In order to balance the festival programme and its content, it has become a good tradition that Anifilm has a section for children and young adults in which it presents the best new as well as older animated films. This year, Czech Television is represented by a new series named ***The Kokoška Family on the Road*** and series made to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of independent Czechoslovakia called ***Stars*** and ***Speaking of Our Country***. Slovakia will be represented by an educational series called ***Ka-Boom*** and new spider episodes of ***The Websters***. The programme can't omit a showcase of classical and legendary series and films by **Zdenka Deitchova** who as a producer helped make such immortal series such as ***Little Mole, Maxidog Fik, Poppy-Seed Girl and Butterfly Emanuel*** and the Academy Award-winning short film ***Munro*** directed by her husband Gene Deitch. The programme will also present films from the Pilsen festival **Animania** and two showcases will commemorate the 30th birthday of one of the least expected animated heroes – **SpongeBob Squarepants**.

### **Exhibition AnimaCZe after 89 and Other Exhibitions**

Exhibition **AnimaCZe after 89**, prepared by Anifilm International Festival of Animated Films in collaboration with the Aleš South Bohemian Gallery, maps **the last 30 years of Czech animation**. It is the first exhibition recapitulating the last three decades in detail. It recounts the modern milestones of our animation in the form of feature films, successful television series and in particular short and student films. Apart from giving a comprehensive reflection, the exhibition aims to relativise the generally acknowledged notion of "the end of the golden era" and the claim that Czech animation hasn't achieved any success during the last thirty years. The exhibition will be hosted by the Dům Štěpánka Netolického at the Třeboň square from the first festival day until 1st September 2019.

This exhibition will be accompanied by an Austrian audio-visual exhibition prepared in collaboration with Linzer organisation and festival **Ars Electronica** and will introduce the work of graphic artist and animator **Reinhold Bidner** and the artistic group **gold extra**.

### **ANIFILM 2019 to Present Zdenka Deitchová with the Lifetime Achievement Award**

Anifilm's Lifetime Achievement Award 2019 will be presented to Zdeňka Deitchová, who worked as a line producer and producer in the Bratři v Triku Studios for many decades. She started right after its founding in 1945 and left in 2006.

Thanks to her enthusiasm, diligence and perseverance that marked her professional career, hundreds of often very significant animated films for television and cinemas were made.

Among them are for example films **Why UNESCO, Munro, Bartakiáda, The Giants and A Lot** and series such as **Little Mole, Maxidog Fik, Poppy-seed Girl and Butterfly Emanuel** and thanks to American commissions also **Popeye the Sailor** and **Tom & Jerry**.

Anifilm would like to appreciate not only an important personality to whom animation was everything, but also draw attention to the often-ignored work of a producer, without whom there would be no professional films.

Zdenka Deitchova (born 18th May 1928) is a very important figure of animated film and this year, she will celebrate her 91st birthday. Her career in animated film began in 1945 when she took up a job as a phasing animator in the **Bratři v triku studios**. Soon she became a producer and in 1959, the head of the entire studio. Apart from Czech animated films, she oversaw the production of foreign commissions including series such as **Tom & Jerry** and **Popeye the Sailor** – on this occasion, she met American director Gene Deitch and in 1964, they got married. As the studio's head, she contributed to making of thousands of animated films and series and collaborated with Jiří Trnka, Adolf Born, Jiří Brdečka, Zdeněk Miller, Zdeněk Smetana and many more. In the 1990s, she lectured at the Department of Animation of the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. She lives with her husband in Prague. The ANIFILM Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to her during the festival's opening ceremony on 7th May.

### **CEE Animation Forum 2019 Reporting a Record Number of Czech Projects**

This year's edition of the pitching forum for animated projects in development CEE Animation Forum will bring a showcase of the best that is currently in development within CEE. Among 33 selected projects, we will see also 6 Czech projects in development, the biggest number in the seven-year history of the event (formerly known as Visegrad Animation Forum). The nominated projects will be judged by an expert jury in three categories: short film, series / TV special and feature film. The audience will consist of almost two hundred producers, decision makers, sales agents, distributors and representatives of public televisions and film funds. CEE Animation Forum is organised in cooperation with Anifilm and is financially supported by the Creative Europe MEDIA programme and co-financed by state funds and professional organisation from the Czech Republic (ASAF, Association of Animated Films). Hungary (MOME ANIM, Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Budapest), Poland (SPPA, Polish Animation Producers Association), Slovakia (APAF, Slovak Association of Animated Film Producers) and Slovenia (DSAF, Slovenian Animated Film Association).

### **ANIMARKET**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Anifilm will for the third time host ANIMARKET - an industry networking event for studios and schools focusing on animation, VFX, game development and VR/AR. It aims to facilitate meetings between professionals in various fields, create opportunities to present new trends and address potential interested parties with job opportunities. It helps to find work for students and increases awareness about the usage of animation outside the scope of authorial work. ANIMARKET will host one-to-one meetings that the festival prepares in collaboration with the ANOMALIA programme. These meetings present an opportunity for authors (graphic artists, animators etc.) with producers and studios.

### **Anifilm Music Programme**

For music-loving audiences, Anifilm has prepared a number of concerts. The performers include bands **TeePee**, **Noví Lidé**, **Ghost of You**, **WWW**, **Čáry života** ft. Slovak singer **Katarzia**, audio-visual duo **Space Love** composed of VJ **AKA 47** and electronic music producer **Voodoo**. On the last festival evening, Saturday 11th May, the festival tent will host shows by music project **Dukla**, half of the indie guitarband **Mayen** and band **Market**. Some performances border on concert and screening – such as the stereoscopic audio-visual performance by our juror Max Hattler **Hattlerizer 4.0** and the performance of the band **DVA** and **Ventolin** who will accompany a screening of a live-played computer game with their music.



## **Visual Design of Anifilm Born in the Hands and Head of Veronika Zacharová**

The new visual identity of this year's Anifilm was created by young director, animator and graphic artist **Veronika Zacharová**. She has drawn attention to herself as a student of animation of the Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín with her humorous films ***The Bearytales***, ***ZOO Story*** and ***Wandering Bondy***. Veronika comments her design with the following words: *"Animation is a medium of endless possibilities. The visual design of Anifilm 2019 works primarily with variety and liberty and is a result of the author's original interpretation of a note from the manual for the new visual design competition participants: "The jury will most likely disadvantage designs with fish motives." Apart from them, the central and unifying motive is expressive and repetitive colourfulness."*

PR / Press Service:

Gabriela Zajicova

GSM: 776 757 546

Email: [gabrielazajicova@seznam.cz](mailto:gabrielazajicova@seznam.cz)

Petr Slavik

GSM: 604 419 042

Email: [petr\\_slavik@seznam.cz](mailto:petr_slavik@seznam.cz)

[www.anifilm.cz](http://www.anifilm.cz)