



Press Release, March 15, 2021

ANIFILM Postponed to June

Given the fact that the situation is unfortunately not improving as everyone would like it to, just like many other festivals and cultural events, also the organisers of Anifilm International Festival of Animated Film have decided to postpone the festival. **It will be taking place from 22nd to 27th June.** Purchased festival passes remain valid. In case you will not be able to use them in the new date, you will be refunded.

One of the many reasons behind this decision is our effort to guarantee the safety of the visitors and organise the program in full extent so people can visit all festival screenings, lectures, workshops, game days, exhibitions, concerts and theatre performances. After all, it is the main purpose of a festival to create a space filled with culture where people could meet. And without people who feel safe, culture loses its purpose.

And as we all know, there is much to look forward to. The festival has already selected competition films for most of its categories. For instance, the Anifilm Competition of Short Films will this year include 38 films which even in these challenging times don't lack humour, even though it's often ironic, absurd or black. Among them are such films as *Comeback* by Vladimir Leschiov and *Affairs of the Art* by Joanna Quinn. Among 32 competing student films are 4 Czech films which prove that our animation is on the rise: *Old Gramophone's Ghostly Tones* from students of the Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín and three films by students of the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague: *Red Shoes*, *Love is Just a Death Away* and *Ant Hill*. Categories for music videos and abstract and non-narrative animation are also full of excellent animation. The final selection process is still ongoing in categories for feature films, VR films and computer games which will also include the best of Czech and international animation.

Each year, Anifilm chooses a theme for its non-competition programme. This year, the theme is called Planet A and focuses on our entire planet. Planet Earth and life on it in all its forms and environments is second to none of the fantastic worlds that are so typical for the medium of animation. Nature and environment form inseparable parts of our everyday lives, are becoming more and more important in public discourse and for some time now have also been resonating in animation. By turning

attention towards our home, Anifilm supports the need for a deeper reflection of the often creeping and ignored problems that have for decades been affecting the world as we know it. Thanks to its specificity and possibilities, animation offers a much more broad and attractive interpretation of the phenomenon of life on Earth than we are used to see in live-action and documentary films. An interpretation that will appeal to those who are traditionally reserved or sceptic towards environmental issues. Our varied selection of feature and short films includes testimonies of real problems, metaphoric essays, celebrations of nature and life on Earth and also parodies and subversive ironic and even midnight films.

In line with the festival theme is also its visual identity created by animators Eliška and Lee Oz from Oz Animation. “Thanks to clay, we discovered a style of animation which gives us a chance to have real fun. The focus of this year’s Anifilm will be films with environmental themes and we would like to address that in the festival jingle. We don’t want to be too didactic and so we’re looking to find a perfect balance between humour and a message. How else could we describe it without revealing too much? We will play with clay and eventually, it will move. We’ll have a shot and we’ll get to it,” says the Moravian-Israeli animator duo. Eliška and Lee Oz began their professional careers in 2016 and have been focusing on stop-motion, classical and 2D vector animation. And according to their own words, they enjoy every second of their work. Many of you already know their work thanks to Anifilm. Last year, they won the Anifilm Award for Best Czech Music Video.

We believe that the upcoming edition of Anifilm will be successful and its visitors will have an opportunity to enjoy the unrestrainedness of animation in all its form. To pass the time while waiting for Anifilm, you can visit our specialised online videotheque <https://aniont.com/>.

Best Regards

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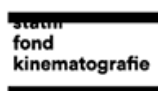
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