



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ANIMATED FILM

ANIFILM

10th – 15th MAY 2022, LIBEREC

ANIFILM 2022 Presents its Programme

This year's ANIFILM International Festival of Animated Films will be held in Liberec from 10th to 15th May. After two years affected by various restrictions and changes, this celebration of animation will finally introduce itself to visitors and guests in its favourite May time slot. What can the festival visitors look forward to? The festival's competition sections will introduce the best from the world of animation and the accompanying programme will thematically focus mainly on animated humour, present many renowned authors and films of various origins. There will also be a chance to see the films nominated for this year's Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film. Our special film programme is dedicated to Ukraine, the festival will present the best from contemporary Ukrainian animation and a special programme block will screen Ukrainian films for children who found a temporary safe haven in Liberec.

Come to ANIFILM and Have a Laugh!

There will be plenty of chances! This year, Anifilm offers the laughter treatment: slapsticks, comedies, jokes, satire, gags, black humour and classic as well as new stuff. The theme of this year's ANIFILM is **Animation & Humour**. Even the very first

animated films made fun of their protagonists and, as you will see in Liberec cinemas, the history of this medium contains much more than just humorous shorts and wacky slapsticks (even though that's where several generations first saw the Looney Tunes characters which this year's ANIFILM will include as well). Animation knows no bounds and has facilitated the development of many genres and sub-genres. Some of them are defined by showcases of crazy gags, others are full of satire, parodies, and subversive and political jokes. A specific combination of comedy and gloom spawned animated tragicomedies; and morbid, black and saucy humour characterises many pieces for shockproof audiences who will seek out our **Midnight Humour** sections. The festival programme includes loads of feature and short films in various thematic blocks including proven classics by studios like Aardman Animation, National Film Board and DreamWorks; the bittersweet story of Mary and Max and some nutty Estonian humour. You will witness the encounter of Bambi and Godzilla and experience the biting satire by Iija Novák, 'the rebel from Ostrava.' This year's theme Animation & Humour will naturally be reflected in the composition of our guests, juries, industry programme and programme for children. Liberec will for instance welcome the legend of American independent animation Bill Plympton. He will bring his short films known for their biting humour. This will be the first time Czech audiences will have a chance to see them in a comprehensive showcase. Our Czech guests include for instance Jan Saska whose original animated joke Happy End (2015) was one of the 10 nominees for the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film.

International Competition is Traditionally Packed

This year, we had 40 submissions to our prestigious **competition of animated feature films**. The final selection of 11 competition films includes award-winning films as well as brand-new releases. The award-winning films include for instance **The Ape Star** by Swedish director Linda Hambäck; and the winner of three European Film Awards and nominee for three Academy Awards, **Flee** by Danish director Jonas Poher Rasmussen. Czech animation is represented by Michaela Pavlátová's **My Sunny Maad** and Czech animators also contributed to French director Florence Miailhe's **The Crossing**. The competition includes also brand-new feature films, some of them in their Czech premiere. You can look forward to Japanese film **Dozens of Norths** (Ikuta no kita) by Koji Yamamura. Some of the films for younger audiences were made by directors whose previous films were screened by Anifilm. We're talking about Swedish director Michael Ekblad and his latest film **Best Birthday Ever!**; Japanese director **Mamoru Hosoda** and his opulent anime **Belle**; and Israeli director Ari Folman with his animated drama **Where is Anne Frank?** Anifilm visitors may know also Italian director Alessandros Rak who will personally present his latest film **Yaya e Lennie: The Walking Liberty**. French duo Anne-Laure Daffis and Léo Marchand will present their film **Neighbours of my Neighbours** (*Les voisins de mes voisins sont mes voisins*). Satomi Maiya and Yutaro Kobo from Japan will personally introduce their film **The Girl from the Other Side** (Totsukuni no Shōjo) which will have its **world premiere** at ANIFILM.

In total 31 films out of 513 submissions will compete in the **competition of short films**. The competition includes films from countries with strong animation industry such as France and Canada but also non-traditional countries such as Mexico, Iran and Chile. Chilean Oscar-nominated film **Bestia** portrays the brutality of the country's former military dictatorship. A pleasant surprise are two competition films from Slovenia. One of them is **Steakhouse** by the renowned director Špela Čadež. Other renowned directors in the competition are for instance Marta Pajek, Atsushi Wada, duo Aubier + Patar with their latest instalment of **A Town Called Panic**, and Nieto, whose film **Swallow the Universe** will definitely stir up the audience. Ukrainian director Nata Metlukh has two irons in the fire. Also Czech animation has a film in the competition thanks to Lucie Sunková and her film **Susie in the Gardens**. Last but not least, we also need to mention Slovak-Polish ani-doc by Joanna Kozuch **There was Once a Sea...** about the Aral Sea and life around it.

From nearly 500 submitted **student films**, our selection committee picked 33 films. 'The window to the future of animation,' as student films are often called, will be presented in three programme blocks. Czech Republic has two representatives in the competition – two directors from the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague – **Diana Cam Van Nguyen** with her acclaimed ani-doc **Love, Dad** and **Andrea Szelesová** with her film **Sisters**.

In addition to feature, short and student films, Anifilm traditionally organises competition categories for **music videos, abstract and non-narrative animation, VR films** and **computer games**. Czech animation will compete in the national competition **Czech Horizon**.

A complete list of competing films can be found [HERE](#).

A Taste of the Accompanying Programme

The **Anifilm Lifetime Achievement Award** will go to editor **Jiřina Pěčová**. She worked on many successful films and series with directors like Gene Deitch, Pavel Koutský, Václav Bedřich and Vlasta Pospíšilová. We can name for instance *Maxipes Fík*, *Fimfárum*, *Fireflies*, *the Adventures of Sophie* and *The Great Cheese Conspiracy*.

Our **accompanying film programme** will explore contemporary **Ukrainian animation** and we naturally can't forget about our popular and wide-ranging **programme for children** including but not limited to a section titled **Animo**. In the programme, we will also screen films for Ukrainian children, whether containing no dialogues or with Ukrainian dubbing. Most of the films in our programmes will naturally be in line with the main festival theme of Animation & Humour.

Our section **Born in Liberec** will commemorate **Vlasta Burian** and his work in animation including the only dubbing credit of his career. The festival commemorates the 60th anniversary of the death of this exceptional Liberec native.

Animation workshops are popular events where children, under the tutelage of film professionals, can make an animated film of their own or try the work of a sound designer. In the festival's **Game Zone**, you can test the competition games and VR projects. Last but not least, the programme also includes **exhibitions, concerts and puppet theatre**.

The author of this year's **visual identity and jingle** is **Jaromír Plachý**. The graduate of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague and winner of many awards for his short films has recently been focusing on book illustration and game design. Working for Amanita Design, he's probably even more successful than as a filmmaker. *Botanicula*, *Chuchel* and recent *Happy Game* are so popular that they need no further commentary. Jaromír helped to organise the first Anifilm in Třeboň and now, after 12 years, he's back.

The festival centre will once again be located in **Chateau Liberec** and every visitor's first steps should lead there.

ANIFILM became another cultural event that can be organised thanks to the **PPF Foundation**. ANIFILM isn't a project that would complain on lack of resources, but this year, it was a real possibility that the festival programme would have been limited and its quality decreased. Luckily, the PPF foundation offered a helping hand and ANIFILM became another project it supports in the role of a general partner (after the exhibition Worlds of Czech Animation). The Foundation's considerable support enabled ANIFILM to be held in full scale this year. Thank you!

More at www.anifilm.cz

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