

# Anifilm Announces Competition Films and Introduces its Visual Identity

This year's Anifilm International Festival of Animated Films will take place in Liberec from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May. Like every year, the festival's competition programme will present the best titles in contemporary Czech and international animation. The festival's selection committees have chosen the competition films and the festival now introduced films the visitors will see in individual competition categories. Anifilm also presents this year's visual identity and its author.



The complete list of competition films, VR films, and computer games can be found at the festival webpage [here](#). In addition to all the categories of our international competition, the list includes also all films competing in the National Competition Czech Horizon.

## Final Selection of Ten Competition Feature Films

Anifilm's Competition of Feature films is traditionally one of the most attractive festival sections. No wonder. The competing films are usually remarkable works of art, some of which have been eagerly anticipated by the professional public for several years. That is the case of Alberto Vázquez's disturbing film *Unicorn Wars* which transfers the bloody reality of war into a pink-violet world of fluffy bears without compromising the strength and urgency of its message. Another eagerly anticipated film is the autobiographical opus by Latvian-American independent filmmaker Signe Baumane *My Love Affair with Marriage*. Autobiographical

elements are also present in ***No Dogs or Italians Allowed*** by Alain Unghetto, which won an award at the Annecy Festival. Hungarian film ***Four Souls of Coyote*** by Áron Gauder is a mystical spectacle just like ***Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman*** by Pierre Földes based on the stories by the most popular contemporary Japanese writer Haruki Murakami.

Children will appreciate the charming French film ***Yuku and the Himalayan Flower*** by Rémy Durain and Arnaud Demuynck; adventurous film ***Perlimps*** by Brazilian Academy Award winner Alê Abreu; wacky Norwegian puppet comedy ***Three Robbers and a Lion*** by Rasmus A. Sivertsen; and a sequel to the successful film ***Ernest & Celestine*** titled ***Ernest & Celestine: A Trip to Gibberitia*** by Julien Chheng and Jean-Christophe Roger. Also Czech Republic is represented in the Competition of Feature film thanks to its co-production participation on Slovak film ***The Websters Movie*** by Katarína Kerekesová.

### **Academy-Award Nominees and Artificial Intelligence in our Short Films and Student Films Competitions**

This year's selection of **36 short films** is more varied than it used to be. Not only does it include films nominated for the Academy Award (*The Flying Sailor* and *Ice Merchants*), films by classics and renowned masters (such as Priit Tender and Debra Solomon) as well as up-and-coming talents (Nikita Diakur, Lucie Mrzljak), but this year it includes also films made in part by artificial intelligence. Anifilm visitors will (perhaps for the first time in their lives) have a chance to see a film cut into wood (*Of Wood*) and an atypical anidoc set in a computer game (*Hardly Working*). Some competition films were made in Czech co-production. These include the BAFTA-nominated atmospheric film *Middle Watch* (John Stevenson, Aiesha Penwarden), psychological drama *Scale* (Joseph Pierce) and the remarkable puppet film *Salvation Has No Name* (Joseph Wallace). And as Anifilm is now an Oscar® qualifying festival, the winning short film will compete for the Academy Award next year. The students, whose films compete this year, cannot be denied vigour and courage to experiment. In addition to a traditionally big number of French entries, this year saw an increase in Hungarian submissions. Czech film schools are represented thanks to FAMU and films *Dede is Dead* (Philippe Kastner) and *Rising Above* (Natálie Durčánková). In total, Anifilm visitors can look forward to **35 competing student films**.

### **Music Videos and Abstract and Non-Narrative Films**

Fans of these increasingly progressive categories can look forward to two blocks of **22 music videos** and **23 non-narrative films** once again representing various artistic styles and approaches. The blocks represent classic experiments as well as complicated CGI films. The competitions include filmmakers known to Anifilm visitors from previous years (e.g. Réka Bucsi and Caibei Cai, who won the Animorpha in 2019) and also fresh faces. Czech filmmakers in the category are represented by Viktorie Štěpánová, Kamila Müllerová, Tan Lui Chan and Veronika Chocenská, in the category of Music Videos it's Eliška & Lee Oz, Tomáš Hájek and Miroslav Frič.

### **National Competition Czech Horizon to Award the PPF Foundation Award and the Czech Television Award**

In the **National Competition Czech Horizon**, Czech filmmakers compete against but also draw inspiration from each other. It also gives the viewers an opportunity to see what the Czech film industry has produced in the previous year. The competition has several categories: Short Film, Student Film, Series, Music Video and Commissioned Work. The viewers will have a chance to be the first ones to see a new series by renowned Czech director Lucie Sunková titled **Vicky, the Sleepy-Bye Owl**; and for the first time in the Czech Republic, children will see Jan Míka's **The Goose** which was screened at the prestigious Clermon-Ferrand Festival. The winners are picked by the **Council of Animated Film** with more 100 members and the results will be announced and awards presented at Anifilm's opening ceremony on 2<sup>nd</sup> May in the F.X. Šalda Theatre in Liberec. The winner of the award for Best Czech Student Film traditionally wins also sound post-production time in **BEEP Studio**, the partner of the award for the Best Short Film is the **PPF Foundation** and the award for the Best Czech Creation is the **Czech Television Award**.

### **Virtual Reality and Computer Games**

This year is the fourth year that Anifilm organises a competition for the medium of **virtual reality**. The competing projects include for instance the winner of last year's Venice Festival, German project *From the Main Square*, successful British VR film *In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats* working, among other things, with haptic perception of music, and acclaimed Czech film *Darkening* about dealing with depression. **International Competition of Computer Games** has been an inseparable part of Anifilm for quite some time. This year, the jury picked fifteen titles to compete for two awards – Best Visual Art and Best Game for Children. Anifilm visitors will have a chance to play all competition games in the festival Game Zone in Chateau Liberec.

### **Anifilm 2023 Visual Identity Was Designed by Filip Pošivač**

The author of the visual identity of the upcoming edition of our festival is graphic artist, director, animator and illustrator **Filip Pošivač**. Fans of Czech animation are certainly familiar with his puppet films (co-directed by Barbora Valecká) *Deep in Moss* (Až po uši v mechu, 2015) and *Overboard!* (Přes palubu, 2019) and series *Live from Moss* (Živě z mechu, 2016). Children surely know the Czech Lion-nominated film *The Hungry Bear Tales* (Mlsné medvědí příběhy, 2020) on which he worked as graphic artist. And young readers enjoy his playful watercolour illustrations for instance in books *Od žezulky k Mikuláši* (2016) and *Paví očko, dobrý den* (2022). For the visual identity of ANIFILM 2023, Filip used his trademark style and created a mossy micro-world about which he says: *"I drew inspiration from the nature of the Jizera Mountains – the grassy ridges, mosslands, brooks with their jewels, woods and meadows with the ubiquitous glass shards and pebbles. While strolling through the beautiful landscape of the Jizera Mountains, people can still find these colourful pebbles. Even though they are glass shards, they belong there. They resist the elements and have become a part of the place's genius loci. That's why I chose them as the main theme of the visual identity. Despite outside influences, we can find these pebbles on mountain paths and in woods and meadows and we will keep finding them for a long time. This year, these pebbles, highly stylised and in a half-dreamy atmosphere, become a part of a magical festival and can together celebrate animation which for me means infinite and unrestricted imagination."*

*ANIFILM is a unique film festival which, just like the pebbles from the Jizera Mountains, belongs to the esprit of our culture."*



**ANIFILM**

**MEZINÁRODNÍ FESTIVAL ANIMOVANÝCH FILMŮ**  
2. – 7. května 2023, LIBEREC  
[www.anifilm.cz](http://www.anifilm.cz)

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