

ANIFILM 2024 — LIBEREC

7–12 May 2024, LIBEREC

Anifilm Has Begun and Presented First Awards

This year's edition of the International Festival of Animated Films Anifilm opened on Tuesday, 7 May. The winners of Czech Horizon were announced and the Life Achievement Award was presented during the opening ceremony. The 2024 Anifilm will not only see a rich selection of films in competition but will also discuss the influence of visual art in animated film. In addition, the festival will focus on films made with the technique of manipulated puppet animation. Anifilm in Liberec will take place until Sunday, 12 May.

The 2024 national competition **Czech Horizon** knows its winners. The award for the Best Czech Music Video went to the visually distinctive *Prezident Lourajder: Lunapark* directed by **Matej Mihályi**. The award for the Best Czech Commissioned Work was presented to **Marek Berger** for his compelling *The Rapid Arrows Celebrates 85 Years*. The Best Series Award went to the pilot episode of *Veggierado* directed by **Jan Bubeníček**. The award for the Best Student Film was presented to **Daria Kashcheeva** for her film *Electra*, which already won her a Czech Lion. The **PPF Foundation Award** for the Best Short and Feature Film was given to **Filip Pošivač**, the author of the 2023 Anifilm's visual design, for his puppet film *Tonny, Shelly and the Magic Light*. The film also won the **Czech Television Award** for the Best Animated Work, an award spanning all categories. The winners of Czech Horizon were selected by 132 members of the Council of Animated Films made of animation professionals.

At the start of the opening ceremony, the **Life Achievement Award** in the field of animated film was presented to screenwriter, dramaturge and lecturer **Jiří Kubiček**. Having held various positions, his contribution to Czech animation has been remarkable. No one keeps a better track of its history and development and only few have been behind so many great films by legendary directors or recognised the talent of future stars. From 1973, he worked at Krátký film, where he gradually worked his way up to chief dramaturge of animation. He also co-founded the Animation Cabinet at FAMU, which in 1989 became an independent department, and served as its head until 2006.

The Best of This Year's Anifilm

The **International Festival Competitions** will be held in traditional categories of feature films, short films and student films; the three categories will be further enriched by the addition of competitions in abstract and non-narrative animation, music videos, VR and computer games. The winners of the international competitions in all the categories will be chosen by renowned **jurors**, whose work will be presented at the festival. This year's jurors include Canadian experiment filmmaker **Steven Woloshen**, known for his films made directly on celluloid, or Belgian director **Emma de Swaef**, who works with felt puppets. Regular Anifilm audience will be familiar with her thanks to her award-winning films *Oh Willy...* and *This Magnificent Cake*. Among the jurors, we'll also welcome **Milorad Krstić**, the director of the feature film *Ruben Brandt, Collector*, British director **Hugh Welchman**, a co-author of *Loving Vincent* and *The Peasants*, and producer **Alena Vandasová**, whose projects include *Daughter* and *Electra* by Daria Kashcheeva and many others.

The **Czech Horizon** section will introduce all the feature films, short films, student films, series, music videos and commissioned works selected for the national competition.

The seven festival days will feature the competition sections as well as a number of attractive and unique film, music and exhibition events. The festival's non-competition programme will primarily focus on the themes of **hand-manipulated puppets in film** and **visual art in animation**. The visitor can also look forward to the festival's traditional programme for children and families, **Animo**. Of course, the festival did not omit to include the popular **Midnight Animation**, the one thing *not* recommended for kids. **Taking Stock** will sum up last year's animated features and **Eastern Promises** will present films from Georgia. The programme will include newly renovated films in the **Rebooted Classics** section as well as **short films nominated for this year's Academy Awards**. **Animation Workshops** are always a big hit with children and grown-ups alike as they provide an opportunity for everyone to make their own animated film. The festival is a fun place to present computer games both in and outside the competition; the games will be available for try-outs in the **Game Zone**. In addition, the festival will offer **exhibition, concerts, theatre performances** and **foley and dubbing studios**. Anifilm will host the second edition of pitching for the **Czech Horizon Grant supported by the PPF Foundation**, whose objective is to support production of Czech auteur professional short animation. The pitching is part of the **Industry Programme**, which includes lectures, masterclasses and round tables.

Liberec Chateau will once again serve as the festival centre and should be the first place to check out for all festival visitors. Apart from festival accreditations and ticketing, it will also offer several exhibitions. Other venues include Varšava Cinema, Cinema City, Small Theatre (Malé divadlo), Naïve Theatre (Naivní divadlo), Pavilion I at the Liberec Exhibition and Trade Centre, Liebieg Villa, North Bohemian Museum, Grandhotel Zlatý lev, Dr. E. Beneš Square and Liberec Regional Gallery.

For more, go to www.anifilm.cz

For Anifilm daily schedule, click [HERE](https://vp.eventival.com/anifilm/2024/film-schedule) (<https://vp.eventival.com/anifilm/2024/film-schedule>)

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