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## ANIFILM 2018 Nears its End and Knows its Winners

The award for the Best Feature Film for Children went to Irish director Nora Twomey for her film *The Breadwinner* and Korean director Yongsun Lee with his film *I'll Just Live in Bando* won the award for the Best Feature Film for grown-ups. The winner of the International Competition of Short Films is Chintis Lundgren with her film *Manivald*. The Best Student Film is the British film *Enough* by Anna Mantzaris. The winner of the Competition of Abstract / Non-narrative Films is the renowned experimenter Max Hattler with his film *Divisional Articulations* and the award for the Best Music Video went to Chinese director Lei Lei for his rather atypical music video for the song *I Don't Like the Comics You Drew* by *The Shanghai Restoration Project*.

This year, Anifilm introduced a new national competition *Czech Horizon*. In its Competition of Short Films, the jury chose Vít Pancíř's *Walking and Running* as the best film. The award for the Best Student Film went to Dávid Štumpf from the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague for his film *WOO-HOO!*. From the Competition of TV and Online Films, the jury picked *Hungry Bear Tales: Blueberries!* by Alexandra Májová and Kateřina Karhánková. The Best Commissioned Work is Michal Žabka's spot for *Jupí Hot Drink* and the Best Music Video was made in Czech production by Japanese director Kosuke Sugimoto for Barbora Poláková's song *Krosna*.

The winners of the International Competition of Independent Computer Games are *GNOG* – for the Best Artwork – and Czech game *Chuchel* – the Best Game for Children.

These were not the only festival awards – during its opening ceremony, 88-year-old Czech screenwriter, director, animator and pedagogue Libuše Čihařová received the festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. She began her career in 1951 in the studio *Bratři v Triku*. This year's Anifilm screened not only her films, but also the films made by her students whom she taught and inspired.

## This Year's ANIFILM – Few Facts in a Nutshell

We can already summarize some statistical facts about the festival: the total number of people who visited our screenings and professional and accompanying programme exceeded **30 000**. More than **1 400 film professionals and game developers** participated in the festival, **129 films** competed in our international competitions: 9 feature films, 37 short films, 43 student films, 22 music videos and 18 abstract/non-narrative films. In the five categories of our national competition **Czech Horizon** competed in total **76 films** by Czech animators. And lovers of games full of animation had a chance to see **20 projects** in our International Competition of Independent Computer Games.

But Anifilm is more than just competitions and awards. This year's accompanying programme focused on **3D Computer Animation**. Anifilm explored more than thirty years of history of this technique – the predominant approach of contemporary animation with a wide range of alternative forms. Screenings were accompanied by meetings with authors such as renowned 3D CGI specialists **Faiyaz Jafri** and **Chris Landreth** who won the Oscar for his film *Ryan*. **Job Roggeveen**, member of the Dutch trio Job, Joris & Marieke, presented their studio's original approach and **Nikita Diakur** talked about his revolutionary film *Ugly*. One of the most famous 3D studios in the world was introduced by **Rich Quade** who worked for Pixar Animation Studios in its beginnings together with one of our jury members, art director **Robin Cooper**.

Anifilm's invitations were also accepted by animator **Elie Chapius** and producer **Ben Adler**. These two jury members presented Wes Anderson's latest film *Isle of Dogs* and shared their experiences from working on the film with the festival visitors. **Dorota Kobiela**, author and co-director of the project *Loving Vincent* took us behind the scenes of this unique film made using 65 000 oil paintings. Apart from these programmes, Anifilm also explored contemporary television animation, reminded forgotten Czech female directors and celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of independent Czechoslovakia. **Animarket** held a fair of job opportunities and game developers from the whole world presented their games in development at **Game Day**.

As usual, the festival organised popular **Animo** programmes for children who also had the opportunity to try and create something themselves at **ČEZ – School of Animation**.

## Results of ANIFILM 2018 Competition Sections

### International Competition of Feature Films – Awards go to Ireland and Korea

The winners of our international competitions were once again picked by three juries. And their job certainly wasn't easy. The festival's feature film competition divided into two categories (films for grown-ups and film for children) was full of extraordinary titles. The jury composed of Elie Chapius, Ben Adler and Robin Cooper chose the emotion-filled film **The Breadwinner** set in war-torn Afghanistan as the best film for children. *"This film is an obvious choice for the jury and stands out for all its impressive merits. From the voice directing to the music, from the design to the animation, the movie reaches level rarely achieved in 2D animation. All of these qualities serve a profound subject and make The Breadwinner an important film that tells simply and with great subtlety a very complex and serious story. Avoiding all exaggerations and simplifications, it completely transported us into Parvana's powerful and moving journey."*

Special mention of the jury goes to the humorous French film **The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales**: *"This film was delightful from start to finish. The character design, fun story and bold*

*animation make this film more than just the sum of its three tales. This animation needed no translation and we are happy to award it with the Jury Special Mention.*“

The award to the Best Film for Grown-Ups went Korean film ***I'll Just Live in Bando***. *“Using bold animation, stark design and frenetic pacing this film expertly takes the viewer through a man’s free fall. It is a very human study of not living up to expectations. Its well-constructed plot intimately connects the audience to each of Jun Koo Oh’s new setbacks and trials.”* The special mention of the jury was awarded to the daring film ***Tehran Taboo***. *“The special mention goes to a first feature that inventively interweaves the stories of three women struggling with their conservative and hypocritical environment. A film that uses animation out of political necessity, and draws fantastic performances from its entire cast. A brave, provocative, and narratively audacious film: Tehran Taboo.”*

### **European Female Directors Took the Competition of Short and Student Films by Storm**

The jury of the Competitions of Short Films and Student Films was composed of American Animator Chris Landreth, Hungarian producer Brigitta Iványi-Bitter and Czech director Libor Pixa. Awards for short films were taken home by Nordic directors – original Estonian director Chintis Lundgren won the Best Short Film Award for her tragicomic film ***Manivald***, and the Special Mention of the jury was awarded to ***The Burden***, a brilliant puppet musical by Swedish director Niki Lindroth von Bahr. *“This outstanding short builds upon a very personal and never before seen universe, created for Manivald, a troubled mama’s boy. The special universe of Manivald has been building up slowly in the past years, to which the animation world has reacted with absolute enthusiasm. We adore the thoroughly elaborated characters, the deep understanding of relationships and the description of universal human motivations, like laziness and the craving for love. The Burden shows us a part of our humanity we may be uncomfortable with: those of us who dwell in permanent night, in isolation, on the edge of freeway rest stop. With a surprising sense of humour and immaculate technique, this film shows that even these dark corners have a place for faith and empathy.”*

The Student Films Competition also has female winners – ***Enough*** by British-based director Anna Mantzaris. *“We awarded this film because it has outstanding qualities in character design, storytelling and sound design. This is a savage take on reacting to constant rush and overwhelming stress. There was only one problem with the film, it was not ENOUGH watching it for 2 minutes, we could have watched for an even longer time, how people get on each other’s nerves as a chain reaction.”* The Special Mention of the Jury went to ***Pumped Up*** by Marion Ichard. *“With a daring combination of irony and unsettling character design, PUMPED UP presents a world that blurs the line between utopia and dystopia. We appreciated the film’s absurd humour--that it both embraces and mocks this world that strangely resembles our own.”*

### **Awards for Abstract Animation to Renowned Masters**

The winners of the competition categories for Abstract/Non-narrative Films and Music Videos were picked by directors Boris Labbé, Faiyaz Jafri and journalist Kamila Boháčková. The winner of the first category – which is quite unique in the context of international festivals in the world – is the renowned experimenter Max Hattler with his film ***Divisional Articulations***. Special mention of the jury was awarded to another renowned artist – Japanese director Mirai Mizue for his French-produced film ***Dreamland***. With his atypical music video ***The Shanghai Restoration Project: I Don’t Like the Comics You Drew***, Chinese director Lei Lei won the award for the Best Music Video. The jury also decided to award a special mention French music video ***Antoine Debarge: Dolly.Zero*** by Ugo Bienvenu.

## **Czech Films Considered by the Council of Animated Film Committee**

This year, Anifilm introduced a new national competition **Czech Horizon**. This competition enabled Czech authors to compare their work with their rivals on the home scene, and the winning films will compete for the prestigious European award Emile. The jury of this competition was composed of the members of the Council of Animated Film.

In the Competition of Short Films, the jury chose Vít Pancíř's **Walking and Running** as the best film. The award for the Best Student Film went to Dávid Štumpf from the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague for his film **WOO-HOO!**. From the Competition of TV and Online Films, the jury picked ambitious series *Hungry Bear Tales: Blueberries!* by Alexandra Májová and Kateřina Karháňková. The Best Commissioned Work is Michal Žabka's spot for *Jupí Hot Drink* and the Best Music Video was made by Czech studio Eallin and by Japanese director Kosuke Sugimoto for Barbora Poláková's song **Krosna**.

## **Czech Game Chuchel the Winner of the International Competition of Independent Computer Games**

The award for the Best Artwork went to **GNOG** by American studio Ko-op Mode and **Chuchel**, by Czech studio Amanita Design, was picked as the Best Game for Children.

**You can download the photographs of all awarded films and games here:**

<https://we.tl/rmSpchzVok>

**... or we will be happy to send them to you upon request!**

More about the festival at [www.anifilm.cz](http://www.anifilm.cz)

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