



The World of Animation will meet in Třeboň 1st May

Třeboň to Welcome Academy Award-Winning Director and Pixar Animators

ANIFILM International Festival of Animated Films

1st – 6th May 2018, Třeboň

www.anifilm.cz

This year's ANIFILM International Festival of Animated Films will take place in the South Bohemian town of Třeboň from 1st to 6th May. As usual, the festival's programme will bring the best from the world of animation. The festival has six competition categories, national competition Czech Horizon with four categories and the International Competition of Independent Computer Games. The festival juries will be composed of renowned international personalities from the world of animated films and other famous animators will present their work. We will welcome for example an Oscar winner, Pixar Studios animators and collaborators of Wes Anderson.

It will be Wes Anderson's *Isle of Dogs* that will start this year's Anifilm on 1st May. The festival programme will focus on several topics with the main one being the phenomenon of 3D animation and contemporary television animation. The festival will celebrate 100 years of Czechoslovakia, take stock of last year's animated feature films, remember some forgotten Czech female directors and, as usual, there is something in store for children – for instance in the Animo programme. The festival jurors will present their own work and other renowned authors will accompany them by leading seminars, workshops and having discussions with the festival visitors. And the visitors are certainly looking forward to hard-boiled and saucy films included in the Midnight Animation programme.

The festival's accompanying programme also includes exhibitions, concerts and theatre performances. As usual, Game Day will focus on computer games and VR Day on virtual reality. Animators and fans alike can visit various seminars, workshops, presentation and discussions organised throughout the whole festival. And if someone would like to find his place in the animation industry or present his project in development, there is AniMarket and the Visegrad Animation Forum. And, like every year, visitors of all age groups can make their own animated films in our Animation Preschools.

Anifilm 2018 Visual

The visual style of Anifilm 2018 was created by the graduate of the Multimedia Art College in Jihlava and the Department of Animation of the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, director, animator and graphic artist **Stanislav Sekela**. He directed films *Simple* and *Entangled (Zápletka)* and his name can be seen in title sequences of many films as he is a sought-after animator focusing on 3D computer animation. His festival jingle is the first ever Anifilm 3D jingle.

He describes the concept of the festival's visual style and jingle: *"Through an infinite universe float water monuments. On the surface of one of them drifts a man stuck in a swim ring. He is a keen spectator and watching water colossi brings him real joy. He is astonished and ponders quietly. He feels like a captain of a space ship. But the reality is different."*



The Elite of Contemporary Animation to Compete at ANIFILM

The latest films from the world of animation will compete mainly in the festival's **international competition** and its sections: **feature films, short film and student films**. These three categories are supplemented by competitions of **abstract and non-narrative films** and **animated music videos**.

Our **competition of feature films for children** includes the film *The Breadwinner* directed by the Irish director Nora Twomey and produced by Angelina Jolie. This film was nominated for a Golden Globe and an Oscar. Swedish director Linda Hambäck will present her new film *Gordon & Paddy* in Třeboň. She competed with her film at this year's Berlinale. Director Benjamin Renner will compete with his film *The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales (Le grand*

méchant Renard et autres contes). The fourth competition film is the French-Belgian co-production **Zombilenium** by Arthur de Pins and Alexis Ducord. The last of the competition films stars a dog lost in space – **Laika** – by Czech director Aurel Klimt.

Also the competition of **feature films for grown-ups** will be very tough. Among the competitors are two Iranian films. **Release from Heaven** was made by Ali Noori Oskouei who used a combination of 2D and 3D animation. Provocative **Tehran Taboo** was made by Ali Soozandeh outside of Iran in a German-Austrian co-production. From Italy, our committee selected a new version of a classic tale **Cinderella the Cat** made by four directors, but bearing predominantly the artistic style of Alessandro Rak. South Korea is represented by **I'll Just Live in Bando** by Youngsun Lee. The last competition film is naturally **Loving Vincent** by Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman.

The competition of **short films** will present films by authors such as Dennis Tupicoff, Don Hertzfeldt, Nikki Lindroth von Bahr, Rostom Chintis Lundgren and Réka Bucsi with his **Solar Walk** which recently won the award for best short film at Berlinale. The competition of **student films** includes Paulina Ziolkowska's **Oh Mother!** which won the Emile Award for the best European student film. The festival visitors can see the progressive approaches in animation and cheeky directorial boldness in other 42 student films including 8 Czech films. The category for **abstract and non-narrative animation** includes films by Paul Bush, Max Hattler, George Schwizgebel and Koji Yamamura. The variety of our competing **music videos** is evidenced by the music artists who have chosen animation to accompany their music. You can look forward to music videos for songs by Fergie, Bára Poláková, Shanghai Restoration Project and Opak Dissu.

National Competition Czech Horizon this Year with Four Categories

For the first time, the National Competition Czech Horizon is divided into four subcategories. The final competition selection of **student films** includes 29 films and almost all Czech animation schools are represented. The **short films** category has nine original films. In total six films will compete in the category for **television and online animation**. The biggest number of films will compete in the category combining **music videos and commission works** with 32 various contributions ranging from commercials and spots to opening title sequences. The winners will be picked by the newly formed Council of Animated Films in an online voting.

Competition of Independent Games will Bring Treats from the Whole World

The final shortlist of the international competition of independent computer games lists 20 titles. The Czech Republic will be represented by logical game **CHUCHEL** by Amanita Design's Jaromír Soukup, who won the game "Oscar" at the Independent Games Festival (IGF) for Excellence in Visual Art. Train lovers will surely appreciate the strategic game **Mashinky** by Jan Zelený. A three-piece competition jury will pick winners in two categories: **Game for Children** and **Visual Art**. Anifilm's international competition of independent computer games has no match on the European level. The only comparable event is held at the aforementioned IGF in San Francisco.

Competition Winners to be Picked by Four International Juries

The winners of our international competition will be picked by our juries composed of renowned personalities from the animation world. Anifilm has several competition categories and our festival will have four juries, each with three members. The winner of the feature film category will be picked by animator **Elie Chapius** from Switzerland, who worked on the films *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *My Life as a Zucchini* and most recently also *Isle of Dogs*; American **Robin Cooper**, who worked for the famous Pixar Studios as an Art Designer; and French producer and collaborator of Wes Anderson, **Ben Adler**. The fate of the short films will be in the hands of Hungarian producer **Brigitta Iványi-Bitter**, the person behind the original co-production series *Candide*; famous director **Chris Landreth** who focuses on CGI animation and who won an Oscar for his film *Ryan* and Czech director **Libor Pixa**, author of successful

authorial and commissioned films. Also our non-narrative / abstract competition jury can boast interesting jurors. The winning films will be picked by American director **Faiyaz Jafri** who is known for his original CGI films; Czech journalist and theorist **Kamila Boháčková** and the internationally renowned director of French origin **Boriss Labbé**, author of non-narrative animated films and many artistic installations. The jury of the International Competition of Independent Games is composed of **Ricky Hagget** (Hollow Ponds), **Luke Whittaker** (State of Play) and **Vojtěch Vaněk** from the Czech studio Paperash who developed the successful game Dark Train. As every year, Anifilm visitors will have a chance to visit our jury members' programmes. Each of our aforementioned jurors is looking forward to pass on their experience during workshops, lectures, commented screenings and master classes.



Elle Chapuis



Robin Cooper



Ben Adler



Brigitta Iványi-Bitter



Chris Landreth



Libor Pixa



Faiyaz Jafri



Kamila Boháčková



Boriss Labbé



What else does this year's Anifilm have in store?

Anifilm to Screen Czech Premiere of Wes Anderson's *Isle of Dogs*

The visitors of this year's Anifilm are in for a treat – the festival will screen the Czech premiere of the latest puppet film *Isle of Dogs* by the renowned director Wes Anderson. After *The Fantastic Mr. Fox*, this adventure comedy is the second animated film made by the six-time Academy Award-nominee Anderson. The film will be presented by its co-authors and our jury members – animator **Elie Chapuis** and co-producer **Ben Adler**. Both of them will share their experiences from working on this anticipated film with the festival visitors.



Wes Anderson: Isle of Dogs

The Main Theme of this year's Festival is 3D Animation

Three dimensional computer animation is the youngest of animation techniques. Its dominance, mainly in the feature film segment, overshadows other animation techniques. On the other hand, it represents a technique which helped animated films to achieve the biggest popularity in the history of animation. The rich programme of Anifilm 2018 will present several programme blocks mapping more than 30 years of history of this technique. 3D animation is currently the most massive field of contemporary animation, but it has many alternative forms. All these forms will be explored by Anifilm by means of short film showcases and feature film. But there's more in store than the film programme.

This year's programme will draw attention to the strengths and limitations of this technique and its aesthetic development by means of meetings with filmmakers, lectures and presentations. Masterclasses will be held by renowned 3D CGI specialists **Faiyaz Jafri** and **Chris Landreth**, Academy Award winner for his film **Ryan**. Also **Job Roggeveen**, member of the Dutch trio Job, Joris & Marieke – authors of festival hits as **Mute** and **Single Life** – will reveal some of his secrets just as **Nikita Diakur**, author of the revolutionary film **Ugly**. A behind-the-scenes look on the most famous studio and the technique that brought fame will be provided by animator **Rich Quade** who worked for **Pixar Animation Studios** in the 1990s and his filmography includes such films as **Toy Story**, **The Incredibles** and **Monsters, Inc.** **Robin Cooper**, another of our jury members, also used to work for Pixar where she took on the role of art director for films such as **Finding Nemo** and **Wall-E**.



Chris Landreth: *Ryan*



Job, Joris & Mariake: *Mute*

Contemporary Television Animation Panorama

Anifilm has always reflected television animation. Whether in its international competition or accompanying programme. But we are witnessing some changes and much like live-action series slowly overshadows films, television animation becomes more progressive. Anifilm has therefore decided to give it more space. Altogether fourteen programme blocks will present the best there is in contemporary television animation – and most of it in its Czech premiere.

Třeboň will be visited by Academy Award-nominated television films for children **Gruffalo** produced by BBC and **Revolt Rhymes**. Grown-up audiences will certainly appreciate programmes dedicated to animated villains and superheroes including **Archer** and the new series **Black Holes**, and also a block focused on traditional families with **Bob's Burgers**, a sitcom set in a family restaurant, and the popular Netflix series **F is for Family** set in the 1970s. Our programme will introduce the popular fantasy world of the series **Ugly Americans** starring an immigration officer named Mark who helps to integrate immigrants from the realm of fantasy such as wizards and vampires into life in a big city. In another one from a number of television delicacies, we will meet the satirical sourpuss **BoJack Horseman** from the award-winning series of the same name.



Max Lang, Jakob Schuh: *Gruffalo*



Bob's Burgers

Anifilm to Celebrate 100 Years from the Founding of Independent Czechoslovakia

This year, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of independent Czechoslovakia. Anifilm therefore decided to map this historical period in its own way and naturally joined forces with its partner festival Fest Anča in Žilina. In its nature, animation does not tend to document reality so it's not very often that we see it reflect concrete historical events. And yet there are films that directly or indirectly explore them. For the programme screened in Třeboň, we chose films that will take the viewers through 100 years of Czechoslovak and Czech history. Some of them reflect their time better than dozens of pages from history books. Our selection starts 10 years after the republic was founded and ends in the 1990s, not long after our two countries split.

It begins with a public education film *Important Personalities of our Lives* by an unknown patriotic author from 1928 and ends with Švankmajer's goodbye to totality *Death of Stalinism in Bohemia*.

Forgotten Exceptional Czech Female Animators

In the 60s, 70s and 80s a number of exceptional female graphic artists and animators appeared, who made one or two (rarely more) animated films before abandoning their careers in animation for various reasons. Their "after-animation" lives have forgotten their work, although - as evidenced by their films - very unjustly as all of them have embedded their original artistic styles in their film. The programme will explore this ignored part of Czech animation in eleven films made by eleven distinct artists who are now mostly demonstrating their talent in other, often artistic, fields. Some of the authors have accepted our invitation and will join a panel discussion and reveal where their career paths took them.

Special Screenings and Taking Stock for Children and Grown-ups

Anifilm traditionally takes stock of the animated films that went through Czech distribution during the preceding year and screens interesting contemporary animated feature films. This year's programme includes e.g. *Insects* by Jan Švankmajer, *Early Man* by Aardman's Nick Park, Pixar's *Coco* and last year's summer hit *Despicable Me 3*. These films will be joined by films that weren't screened in the Czech Republic so far such as the remarkable French film *Mutafukaz*, independent Chinese film *Have a Nice Day* which the government officials withdrew from the Annecy festival, and latest Japanese sci-fi *Kado: Beyond Information*. Two documentaries - *Universum Brdečka* and *Hermína Týrlová* will be screened by Anifilm to remember these important Czech animators.

Films Better to be Screened after Dark

Our *Midnight Animation* programme is a traditional part of the festival. This year, the organisers have prepared two short film showcases. Their names tell it all: *Scary and*

Obscure and Saucy and Disgusting. The third part of *Midnight Animation* that always starts 30 minutes before midnight will be one of the programmes of Television Panorama composed of the hard-boiled production by Adult Swim. The fans can look forward to e.g. *Mr. Pickles* and *King Star King*.

Lifetime Achievement Award will be Presented to Libuše Čihařová

Screenwriter, director, animator and pedagogue Libuše Čihařová will celebrate her 88th birthday this year. She started her career in the Bratři v triku studio as an assistant animator. She was hired in 1951 and under the influence of Czech animation greats such as Zdeněk Miler, Jaroslav Bedřich and Jiří Brdečka, she gradually adopted other professions. She became a renowned and sought-after animator who was always able to cope with various artistic styles. As an animator, she collaborated on more than ten bedtime stories such as: *O makové panence a motýlu Emanuelovi (Miss Poppy)*, *Kosí bratři (The Blackbird Brothers)*, *Bob a Bobek (Bob and Bobby)*, *Štaflík a Špagetka (Štaflík and Špagetka)* and *Maxipes Fík*. Since the 1980s she directed several short films and series. Today, Libuše Čihařová undoubtedly ranks among the legends of Czech animation. Until recently, she was passing on her invaluable experience and passion for animation on to the new generation of animators as a pedagogue at the Department of Animation at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Libuše Čihařová at the opening ceremony of the Anifilm Festival on 1st May.

Animarket and Game Day

Animarket is a job market for studios and schools focusing on animation, VFX, game development and VR/AR with a balanced participation of subjects from CEE countries. The event will take place on 4th May and its aim is to provide long-term support to students and graduates in finding career opportunities in creative industries with natural emphasis on animation and to connect individual studios and motivate them to collaborate. **Game Day** will be held from 5th to 6th May. As a part of the Indie Expo, game developers will present their games in development to the public. We have also prepared a number of lectures by international guests.

Visegrad Animation Forum

VAF Třeboň is the biggest annual event for animation industry within the CEE. This international competition of animated projects in development has three categories: feature film, short film and series / TV special. This year, the VAF organisers have deepened their collaboration with the prestigious **CARTOON** association. Apart from prize money for further development, the winning projects will automatically qualify to the prestigious French event **Cartoon Media** (Bordeaux) and **Cartoon Forum 2018** (Toulouse).

VAF Třeboň 2018 is also a place where you can meet representatives of animation industry not only from CEE. More than 150 film professionals – including producers, TV stations dramaturges, festival directors, distributors, national film funds representatives and many others. All of them will come to Třeboň to talk about new visions and opportunities in their fields, ways of financing and new development strategies. The event puts great emphasis on the meeting of the participants and establishing connections.

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