



Anifilm 2025 Reveals This Year's Festival Theme and Introduces Animated Films and Games Competing in the International Competition

The 2025 Anifilm International Festival of Animated Films will take place in Liberec from 6th to 11th May. As every year, the competition programme will present the very best of contemporary Czech and international animation. The selection committees have finished picking the films and games that the juries and festivalgoers will get to see in the individual competition categories. Anifilm has also already announced its main theme – science-fiction animation – and revealed this year's visual identity, which draws on this genre. And Anifilm 2025 also knows its first awarded filmmaker, who is none other than graphic designer, illustrator, and author of original film posters Vratislav Hlavatý.

You can browse all the films and games competing in the international competition [here](#).

This year's Anifilm will explore the fascinating world of **science-fiction** – a genre that combines dreams, technology, and deliberation about the future of human existence. Festivalgoers will have the opportunity to find out how sci-fi resonates in animation all over the world.

Anifilm will present pivotal films by **René Laloux**, including the restored feature film ***Fantastic Planet***. Other cult feature classics of the genre on the menu will include the iconic ***Ghost in the Shell*** and the visually stunning ***Chronopolis***. But we will also be screening short films by **Piotr Kamler** and a selection of **independent American sci-fi films** as well as science fiction animation from the Eastern Bloc. And, of course, we will thoroughly explore **Czech science fiction animation**. Moreover, we will also showcase a variety of **contemporary animated science fiction series and films**.

Liberec will also host a number of prominent guests, such as the renowned French historian and author of a book on ***Fantastic Planet*** **Xavier Kawa-Topor**. Science fiction will permeate the entire festival and has already been reflected in the visual identity of the festival created by artist, director, animator, illustrator and comic book author **Marek Berger**, whose work includes the well-known student film ***The Shadow over Prague***. Last year, he won the Anifilm Award for the Best Czech Commissioned Work for ***Rychlé šípy slaví 85 let***. He also co-created the comic ***Octobriana*** with Ondřej Kavalír, which was nominated for the 2023 Muriel Award.

“I chose retrofuturistic aesthetics and the motif of an obsolete Verne-esque rocket from the era of naive ideas about the future colonisation of space flying towards new space adventures,” commented Berger on his take on the visual identity of Anifilm 2025.

What feature films will be competing at this year’s Anifilm?

The International Competition of Feature Films, which is one of the most popular parts of Anifilm’s programme, separately awards best films intended for adults and best films for children and young audiences. This year, the selection committee evaluated a wide range of entries and picked a total of 10 films, five for each category.

Adult viewers can look forward to ***Memoir of a Snail*** by the Oscar-winning Australian director Adam Elliot, who was a guest at Anifilm a few years ago. French filmmaker Michel Hazanavicius, who will be competing with ***The Most Precious of Cargoes*** (*La plus précieuse des marchandises*, France, Belgium), also already has an Oscar at home. They will be joined in the competition by ***Flavours of Iraq*** (*Le Parfum d’Irak*, directed by Léonard Cohen, France), ***Boys Go to Jupiter*** (directed by Julian Glander, USA), and ***Sanatorium Under the Sign of the Hourglass*** (directed by Stephen Quay and Timothy Quay, UK, Poland, Germany).

The selection of feature films for children and young viewers includes Kristina Dufková’s puppet film ***Living Large***, which will be representing Czech animation in the competition. Her film will compete with the recent Oscar winner ***Flow*** by Latvian director Gints Zilbalodis, the Japanese-French story ***Ghost Cat Anzu*** by Yoko Kuno and Nobuhiro Yamashita, and the film ***Savages*** (*Sauvages*, Switzerland, France, Belgium) by Swiss director Claude Barras. And the quintet of films that will be competing for the favour of both the jury and our young visitors would not be complete without ***Into the Wonderwoods*** (*Angelo dans la forêt mystérieuse*, France, Luxembourg) by French directors Vincent Paronnaud and Alexis Ducord.

Who will win in the best short and student film categories?

With 34 competitors, the **selection of short films** is as diverse as ever. The competing authors include a number of renowned animators, such as Florence Mialhe, Gianluigi Toccafondo, Edmunds Jansons, Nicolas Gebbe, Yoriko Mizushiri, Roberto Catani, Izabela Plucińska, and Olga and Priit Pärn. Czech animation is represented in this category as well – our “home team”, whose members will be vying for the Animorph award, consists of Magdalena Hejzlarová with ***Hun Tun***, Jan Saska with ***Hurricane***, and Anastasia Falileieva with ***I Died in Irpin***.

A total of 31 films will be competing in the **International Competition of Student Films**, including five Czech films (***You Are My Light***, ***Stone of Fate***, ***Weed***, ***Beet***, and ***Stray***). This is a new Czech record in our international competition and a proof that Czech student animation is thriving.

Let’s check out the competition selection of music videos

Music videos provide animators with an attractive opportunity to try out different techniques, genres, visual styles, narrative techniques, and ways of matching the atmosphere

with the audio – as demonstrated by the 27 selected music videos covering a plethora of music styles and with tracks by authors ranging from alternative bands to household names. This year's lineup once again includes **Czech music videos** as well, meaning that Michaela Matějková with Ida the Young or Jaromír Plachý and the band DVA will get to go up against, for example, Vuk Jevremović with Laibach or Raman Djafari with Coldplay.

Competitors in the abstract and non-narrative animation category have also been selected

This category provides an exceptional space for boundary-pushing forms of animation. Among the 17 selected pieces, we find both admiration for digital visuality and love for “analogue” aesthetics. The selection includes renowned authors, such as Boris Labbé, Mykyta Lyskov, Nicolas Brault, and Gina Kamentsky.

The festival will also feature a computer game competition and a separate competition for Czech animation

The International Competition of Computer Games will feature gems from the indie scene as well as bold pieces by studios that aren't afraid to innovate on the medium. The experimental stop-motion RPG *Judero*, for example, will go head-to-head with a collage of medieval paintings *Death of the Reprobate* or a series of “music boxes” *Oddada*. The quality of Czech and Slovak gaming industry will be showcased by *Microcivilization*, *Playing Kafka*, and *Felvidek*.

This year, Anifilm will also open its door to a new generation of game designers from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Germany. For the first time, we will hold a **separate competition for computer games made by students** of various fields. Moreover, together with the Cyber Sail Festival and with the support of the PPF Foundation, Anifilm will also be holding a **game pitching event**, at which studios will get a chance to win financial support for the development of their new games.

With its wide range of categories, the **Czech Horizon** competition will once again offer an inspiring overview of contemporary Czech animation. The competition will include categories for short and feature films, student films, TV series, commissioned works, and music videos. As usual, the student category has the most entries, including films not only by students from the Film and TV School of Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, the Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design in Prague or Tomas Bata University but other Czech schools as well. The winners will be chosen by the **Council of Animated Film**, and the results will be announced at the festival opening ceremony in Liberec on Tuesday 6th May. In addition to awards in the individual categories, RAF will also award the grand prize for the best Czech animated creation.

This year's Anifilm Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Vratislav Hlavatý

This year's Anifilm Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is none other than Vratislav Hlavatý, a legend of Czech animation, graphic design, and hot air ballooning. As a graphic artist with an unmistakable and distinctive style, he worked on films by Jiří Brdečka, Gene

Deitch, Václav Bedřich, Jiří Tyllér, and Michaela Pavlátová. The public knows him best as a graphic artist, illustrator, and designer of original film posters. His filmography, which Anifilm will present in the form of a retrospective, includes titles such as *My Darling Clementine* (1959), *The Giants* (1969), *Carnival of Animals* (2006), and the series *From the Diary of a Third-Grade Pupil, or Edudant and Francimore* (1993). Anifilm's tribute to Hlavatý's work will also include an exhibition in the Regional Gallery Liberec.

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