

## No. 3 / 2010

September

### EDITORIAL

#### And the ECFA Award goes to...

ECFA has continued to increase its number of members this year, and amongst them we find various children's film festivals. Some of our new and old members have expressed a wish to get even more involved in ECFA and we are proud to inform readers of the ECFA Journal that, for the very first time, there will be an ECFA jury at a children's film festival. The initiative came from Ciné-Jeune de l'Aisne Festival in St. Quentin, France, wondering if it would be possible to host an ECFA jury. The board of ECFA was excited to try this as a pilot project, and we feel that such a jury is a good example of our aim to "coordinate any initiative taken in favour of cinema for children and youth". The first ECFA jury will consist of three ECFA members, awarding the best European film in competition.

The board of ECFA believes that establishing juries in European festivals is both a good way to strengthen the organisation itself by providing new meeting grounds for our members, but it will also help to promote European children's films. We will therefore encourage all our member festivals to consider establishing an ECFA jury in the upcoming year.

The Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival, Norway, will have an ECFA jury in the upcoming May-edition. If enough festivals form ECFA juries in 2011 we plan to nominate all the winners for a yearly ECFA Award for Best European Children's Film, so finally we have found a way to establish such a much needed prize. We hope to present an ECFA Award for Best European Children's Film 2012 at our AGM in Berlin in 2012. I encourage all festivals who are interested in ECFA juries to contact the administration, and thus contribute to make 2011 a continuous festive year for the European children's film.

Tonje Hardersen  
President

### A Festival Focus on the UK, Northern Ireland and Ireland

It seems that we are moving into an age of a real festival culture in the UK and Ireland. After a long period of nobody really knowing what a film festival was about, apart from those working on them, we seem to have moved into an age of having a film festival in every month and every city. With the 20th anniversary of Belfast's Cinemagic Festival and the sad news about the Showcomotion festival in Sheffield coming to an end, it seemed fitting to bring a varied selection of festivals throughout the UK and Ireland to your attention.

#### \* 20th Coca-Cola Cinemagic International Film and Television Festival for Young People, 11th - 26th November 2010. Belfast, Northern Ireland

Cinemagic caters for young people (from 4 to 25 years) with just about every level of interest in film – whether they want to watch and enjoy, create their own work or take things further and find out more about the film industry. Cinemagic strongly believes that moving image offers the most accessible ways of stimulating discussion among young people. Designed for and by young people the festival includes an array of international screenings, premieres, director discussions, special guests, school packages along with an annual Young Filmmaker Competition.

Cinemagic's masterclasses with leading industry professionals have spanned a wide range of genres from Directing, Production, Scriptwriting, Acting, Design (costume and set) right through to Music Soundtracks, 3D Modeling, Cinematography, Visual Effects, Performance Combat, VJing, Animation and Puppeteering.

Programmer Chris Shaw gives insight in the anniversary edition: "We will be programming a number of special events. Throughout the festival we will be offering young people the opportunity to take part in industry events including the Talent Lab masterclass series and our comprehensive education program. An international youth jury will be selecting the best films and the festival will culminate with a gala night at Belfast's historic City Hall."

[www.cinemagic.org.uk](http://www.cinemagic.org.uk)

#### \* Discovery Film Festival, 16th - 3th November 2010. Dundee, Scotland

Discovery Film Festival for Young Audiences is the largest event of its kind in Scotland. The festival is split into Family & Kids focused days and Youth Audience days, and caters to all ages 3 - 18 across the 18 days of the festival.

The opening film in 2010 will be MOOMINS AND THE COMET CHASE. Running in parallel to the film program there is a packed line up of animation, art, drama and dance workshops. A team of Young Ambassadors (aged 12 – 18) helps creating the youth program, invites guests, introduces films, and hosts the events.



#### Cinekid Festival

Cinekid for Professionals, including Screening Club, Junior Film, TV and Cross Media Markets and the first Cinekid for Professionals Conference, from 26 – 29 October. Register now! More information and registration: <http://www.cinekid.nl/en/professionals>.

#### ECFA in the Rainbow project

ECFA announces its participation in the Rainbow project (Rights Against Intolerance – Building an Open-minded World), which will connect EU gay and lesbian associations, schools and media professionals to defend the rights of children and young people to develop their sexual identity and orientation, with children's films as one of the tools in a fight against homophobia. You'll read more about it in the next ECFA Journal.

Discovery Film Festival has a very well attended schools program and supports young film talents with the Discovery Youth Screen Award (annual national awards for films made by under 18s) and Teen Screen (talent campus for teenagers).

[www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk](http://www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk)

**\* 1st Lancaster Children's Film Festival, 23rd - 30th October 2010. Lancaster, England**

The aim of the festival is to engage, entertain and educate children about films and film-making. The program features a range of films from shorts to features and films made for and by children. Screenings and events will be held at various venues across Lancaster.

Local children will get a chance to see their work on the big screen by taking part in a series of filmmaking workshops, exploring what goes on behind the scenes. They can also try their hand at acting, stunts and animation.

[www.lancscff.co.uk](http://www.lancscff.co.uk)

**\* 2nd Kids For Kids UK Festival, 6th - 7th November 2010. Durham, England**

Kids for Kids UK takes place in late autumn in Durham, a beautiful city south of Newcastle. KFK UK was initially set up as a partner project of the International Kids for Kids Film Festival movement with the specific aim of providing young people with the opportunity to showcase their films to their peers, as well as around the world via the international network.

Director Helen Ward: 'Developing a new festival in the midst of the biggest recession our current generation has seen is exhausting and frustrating. However, the need for a national film festival for children and young people in the North of England is great so the festival team have decided to forge ahead regardless and make it happen for the next generation of young filmmakers and animators'.

[www.kidsforkidsuk.org](http://www.kidsforkidsuk.org)

**\* 6th London Children's Film Festival, 30th October - 7th November 2010. London, England**

The festival's line-up consistently boasts a unique mix of films, workshops and hands-on film fun, with the film program including premieres, new world cinema, documentaries, archive titles, shorts, films made by young people and a sing-a-long screening of a favourite film.

Devised by the Cinema Department at the Barbican Centre, London Children's Film Festival takes place at the Centre and reaches out to the capital's diverse communities at nine venues across the city.

[www.londonchildrenfilm.org.uk](http://www.londonchildrenfilm.org.uk)

**\* 12th Leeds Young People's Film Festival, 11th – 22nd April 2011. Leeds, England**

Leeds Young People's Film Festival (LYPFF) annually screens a selection of new films made both by and for young people from around the world, as well as a selection of classic and cult films from the archives. The festival is presented by MediaFish, a group of young people who help select the films, write reviews, design the brochure and website and man the festival.

LYPFF hosts the National Young Filmmakers' Award, which celebrates films made by young people and showcases the very best entries on the big screen to the young filmmakers' peers as well as a jury made up of industry professionals. The festival also presents Film Academy, a series of masterclasses, presented by professionals working in the moving image industry.

[www.leedsyoungfilm.com](http://www.leedsyoungfilm.com)

**\* 5th Zoom Wales International Young People's Film Festival 2011. Pontypridd, Blackwood, Merthyr Tydfil, Abertillery and Blaenavon, Wales**

Zoom is a registered charity helping children and young people from disadvantaged communities in the South Wales Valleys to overcome the obstacles of social and economic disadvantage. Zoom works with young people aged 8 to 18 and provides them with access to a year-round program of film and digital media activities, and pathways to training, education and employment. Zoom also has a Young People's Film Council. This is a consultative forum with a core representation of young people from the local communities.

New Director Matt Redd: "We have formed a strategic partnership with the PICS festival in North Wales, with the long-term goal of expanding our reach across the country to create a truly international festival for Wales. Our focus remains with children and young people, and so we are now developing a wide program of training activity that will run year round."

[www.zoomcymru.com](http://www.zoomcymru.com)

**Other Festivals:**

\* 3rd Glasgow Youth Film Festival 6th - 16th February 2011. [www.gftf.org.uk](http://www.gftf.org.uk)

\* 12th Animated Exeter 14th - 26th February 2011.

[www.animatedexeter.co.uk](http://www.animatedexeter.co.uk)

\* 15th Fresh Film Festival 28th - 31st March 2011. [www.freshfilmfestival.net](http://www.freshfilmfestival.net)

\* Buzz Festival, Scunthorpe.

[www.thebuzzwebsite.co.uk](http://www.thebuzzwebsite.co.uk)

\* Coop Young Filmmakers Festival, Bradford.

[www.filmfestival.co-operative.coop](http://www.filmfestival.co-operative.coop)

\* Cambridgeshire Young People's Film Festival, Cambridge.

[www.filmstarz.org.uk](http://www.filmstarz.org.uk)

Unfortunately it seems that Showcotion (Sheffield) is no longer with us. After trying to confirm this but with no one commenting on the status of the festival it can only be assumed that Showcotion has closed its doors – at least for the moment. Former Director Kathy Loizou now heads the Children's Media Conference in Sheffield and Gez Walker has moved on from The Showroom. I was unable to obtain confirmed information from host venue The Showroom on the situation of the festival.

As I write this, it has just been announced that the UK Film Council is to be shut down by the new government during its regime of extensive budget cuts. This is a disastrous situation for the film industry in the UK as the UKFC is the national funding body. It has been widely discussed by colleagues and the media of the cuts in the budgets for the arts as the 2012 Olympics is drawing more and more funding to cover its excessive costs. Asking the festivals to comment on this it seemed that it was a 50/50 split of people who agreed and felt the consequences of this and others who had no experience of a loss in funding to sport and the Olympics.

As you can see there is no shortage of festivals. During this economic recession organizations have proved themselves surprisingly resilient. How has the economic downturn affected the festivals? Across all of these festivals budgets have either been frozen or cut which has had consequences on the size of programs being delivered. However, from responses I have received this has only increased the passion, pride and need for these festivals to exist. (Adam Graham)

The full version of this report can be found on:

[www.jekino.be/doc/ukfilmfestivalfocus.doc](http://www.jekino.be/doc/ukfilmfestivalfocus.doc).

**NEW DUTCH PRODUCTIONS**

**The Dutch children's film industry keeps on surfing on waves of success. Since they annually provide us with large amounts of interesting titles, we asked two leading Dutch producers and one newcomer about their production plans for the near future.**

**BOS BROS.**

[www.bosbros.nl](http://www.bosbros.nl)

**Bos Bros. will present 4 new films for a young audience in 2011.**

- THE ZIGZAG KID (after a book by David Grossman) is Vincent Bal's first film since MINOES. Nono takes advice from his father – the world's best policeman – but usually ends up in trouble. During a train journey to see his uncle, Nono enters a world full of disguises and mysterious women.

In 2011 Vincent Bal will adapt another Annie M.G. Schmidt (MINOES) book: WIPLALA lives in a kitchen behind the peanut butter jar. TOM SPACE is another project with Vincent's name on it. In a 3D sci fi adventure, a 12 year old boy takes a group of retired people on a trip through the outskirts of the universe.

- ALFIE THE LITTLE WEREWOLF is a well known hero among the very young readers. When gentle Alfie, on his seventh birthday, suddenly turns into a werewolf he learns to accept his new identity.

- ALLEZ EDDY! is a Belgian co-production by Gert Embrechts about 11 year old promising cycling talent Freddy. At the dawn of a new era (the first supermarket is coming to town) Freddy prepares for his first race. The winner will shake hands with the great Eddy Merckx.

- BRAM THE MAN (by Anna van der Heide) can't sit still. That usually doesn't cause too much problems until he ends up in the class of a very strict teacher.

**Plans for 2011:**

- Bos Bros. plans a remake of the Spanish PLANTA 4A, Antonio Mercero's film about the brave bold heads in the hospital's cancer section.

- "Sometimes I am a frog. Nobody knows but you..." The teacher is probably joking. Until he arrives in class one day all wet and his hair covered in duck-weed. Elm attack! THE FROG TEACHER is written by Mieke de Jong (BONKERS, LEPEL,...)



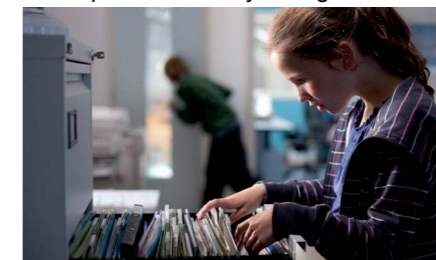
Alfie the little Werewolf

**LEMING FILM**

[www.lemmingfilm.com](http://www.lemmingfilm.com)

**Lemming is planning 2 more Dutch releases in 2010:**

- In THE SECRET LETTER Eva had enough squabbling at home. She runs away, hides in the attic at a friend's house and finds a letter leading towards a criminal organization. After FROGS AND TOADS director Simone van Dusseldorp will drastically change her tone.



The Secret Letter

- GRACE AND GERRIT is a musically inspired film by Ineke Houtman (THE INDIAN). Grace would take her granddad out on a trip to Suriname to find out more about her dad... if only she could afford it. Together they can think of only one solution: robbing a bank.

**Meanwhile Lemming Films has more projects in development:**

- TONY TEN is almost 10. His dad worked his way up from crane-driver to minister, but now has left his family. Has he fallen in love with the Queen? Director is Mischa Kamp (WINKY'S HORSE), intended release by the end of 2011.

- AN ELK DROPPED IN is an absurd Christmas fantasy. Imagine an elk landing on your roof one night. More over, the animal can talk! He claims to have dropped down during a test drive with Santa. Max adores his new best friend's sense of humor. Intended release: Christmas 2012, directed by Lourens Blok.

- AS BOYS GROW (Charlotte van Otterloo) tells about Ben who starts sneezing every time he meets a girl. He has almost given up all hope when one day, in the distance, he spots a girl sneezing as he never saw anyone sneezing before.

**FLINCK FILM**

[www.flinckfilm.nl](http://www.flinckfilm.nl)

Flinck Film is a relatively new name on the Dutch market. The company is preparing its first productions for a younger audience. SUBSIDY FOR SWCHWRM tells about a writer's huge ambitions: writing a book that leaves people astounded and make even the Queen weep.

Another title in Flinck's pipeline is DEESJE, about a young girl writing stories based on her whoknowswhere-book, until one day she finds out her stories are worth being heard by everyone. (GH)

**The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards**

**50th International Film Festival for Children & Youth Zlín; Zlín, Czech Republic**

International Experts Jury: Golden Slipper Feature Film for Children: „The Magic Tree“ by Andrzej Maleszka, Poland 2009.

Golden Slipper Feature Film for Youth + Ecumenical Jury's Award for Youth: „Sebbe“ by Babak Najafi, Sweden 2010.

Main Prize Children's Jury + City of Zlín Award: The Crocodiles“ by Christian Ditter, Germany 2009.

Miloš Macourek Award for Youth: „Dear Lemon Lima“ by Suzi Yoonessi, USA 2009.

International Jury for Animated Films: Golden Slipper: „Lost and Found“ by Philip Hunt, UK 2009. Hermína Týrlová Award for Young Artists: „The Employment“ by Santiago Bou Grasso, Argentina 2008.

International Experts Jury for European Debuts: „If I Want to Whistle, I Whistle“ by Florin Serban, Romania 2010.

Special Award: „Silent Voices“ by Léa Fehner, France 2009.

Czech Minister of Culture Award for Feature Films from the Visegrad Countries: „Mall Girls“ by Katarzyna Roslaniec, Poland 2009.

FICC Jury's Don Quixote Award: „Karla and Jonas“ by Charlotte Sachs Bostrup, Denmark 2010; Ecumenical Jury's Award for Children: „The Indian“ by Ineke Houtman, The Netherlands 2009.

International Children's Jury: „Echoes of the Rainbow“ by Alex Law, Hong Kong/China 2010.

Audience award for a Feature Film: „Storm“ by Giacomo Campeotto, Denmark 2009. Audience award for an Animated Film: „Hip.Hop.Hippity-hop.“ by Ralf Kukula, Germany 2009. [www.zlifestz.cz](http://www.zlifestz.cz)

**Int. Short Film Festival Hamburg; Children's Film Festival „Mo&Friese“; Hamburg, Germany**

Children Jury Awards: Mo-Award for children - 9 years: „Angry Man“ by Anita Killi, Norway 2009. Friese-Award for children + 9 years: „Free Chips Forever!“ by Claire Dix, Ireland 2009.

[www.moundfriese.de](http://www.moundfriese.de)

**Animafest – World Festival of Animated Film; Zagreb, Croatia**

Children's Film Award: „Lost and Found“ by Philip Hunt, UK 2008.

[www.animafest.hr](http://www.animafest.hr)

## The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

### Plein la Bobine – Sancy Film Festival for Young People; Massif du Sancy, La Bourboule & Le Mont-Dore, France

Short films for children 3 years +:  
Professional Jury Award: „Pig’s Happiness” by Dace Rīdūze, Latvia 2009.  
Young Jury Award: „Whistleless”.  
People’s Choice: „Pig’s Happiness”.  
Short films for children 7 years +:  
Professional Jury: „Angry Man”.  
Young Jury Award: „Angry Man”.  
People’s Choice Award: „Runaway”.  
Short films for children 12 years +:  
Professional Jury, Young Jury & People’s Choice: „Children in Trees” by Bania Medjbar, France 2009.  
[www.pleinlabobine.com](http://www.pleinlabobine.com)

### Kinderfilmfest; München, Germany

Audience Award: „The Magic Tree”.  
[www.filmfest-muenchen.de](http://www.filmfest-muenchen.de)

### Cartoon Club – International Festival of Animation Cinema & Comics; Rimini, Italy

Signor Rossi-Award: „Bob” by Jacob Frey & Harry Fast, Germany 2009.  
[www.cartoonclub.it](http://www.cartoonclub.it)

### Giffoni Film Festival; Giffoni Valle Piana, Salerno, Italy

Long films:  
Jury’s Grand Prix: „Cracks” by Jordan Scott, UK, Ireland, Spain 2009.  
6+ award: „Here comes Lola” by Franziska Buch, Germany 2009.  
10+ award: „The Crocodiles Strike back” by Christian Ditter, Germany 2010.  
13+ award: „Oscar and the Lady in Pink” by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, France, Belgium, Canada 2009.  
16+ award: „Blessed” by Ana Kokinos, Australia 2009.  
Audience awards: „The Perfect Game” by William Dear, USA 2009; „The Round Up” by Roselyne Bosch, France 2010 & „Udaan” by Vikramaditya Motwane, India 2009.  
CIAL Aluminum Gryphon Award: „Bo” by Hans Herbots, Belgium 2010.  
Short films:  
3+ award: „Precise Peter” by Martin Schmidt, Germany 2010.  
6+ award: „The Fantastic 3” by Esben Tønnesen, Denmark 2010.  
10+ award: „My Cardboard Dad” by Siri Rutlin, Norway 2009.  
13+ award: „The Game” by Adriano Gianni, Italy 2009.  
16+ award: „Habibi” by Davide Del Degan, Italy/Lebanon 2010.  
Troubled Gaze: „Transit” by Chris Roche, UK 2009.  
[www.giffoniff.it](http://www.giffoniff.it)

## A SELECTION OF WORLD CINEMA

Open Doek, a Belgian festival in the city of Turnhout, programs ‘world cinema’. The festival has an extended program for young people. Programmer Greet Stevens intensively searches around the globe for new films and has a clear view on ‘world movies for children’ in 2009/2010. These were her 8 favourite titles:

**BOY** (New Zealand, Taika Waititi, +11 feature)  
Young Alamein has huge expectations about his father, but is highly disappointed when meeting his superhero in real life.  
Greet Stevens: “*Dreams are blown to smithereens but a young boy comes out a stronger person. A powerful emotional theme in a well balanced movie, humorous in its smallest details.*”  
**Contact:** New Zealand Film Commission; [marketing@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:marketing@nzfilm.co.nz); [www.nzfilm.co.nz](http://www.nzfilm.co.nz)

**OBLIVION ISLAND** (aka Haruka & the Magic Mirror) (Japan, Shinsuke Sato, +7 animation)  
Young Haraku ends up in a bizarre parallel world where creatures live on what humans seem to have lost or forgotten.  
GS: “*Seeing is enjoying. This cute film tells us to cherish our memories.*”  
**Contact:** Production I.G.; [info@production-ig.co.jp](mailto:info@production-ig.co.jp); [www.productionig.com](http://www.productionig.com)

**WILD HORSE FROM SHANGRI-LA** (China, Gigo Lee, +8 feature)



To save his dying sister, a boy from a mountain village leaves on a long trip to the city where he wants to win the racing contest and take home the prize money.  
GS: “*This film has all what is needed to mesmerise an audience: a true hero, good versus evil, a well built climax and a happy (however unexpected) ending. A true crowd-pleaser.*”  
**Contact:** Golden Network Ltd; Elise Wong; [info@goldnetasia.com](mailto:info@goldnetasia.com)

**AFRICA UNITED** (UK/Rwanda/South-Africa, Debs Gardner-Paterson, +10 feature)  
On a long walking trip to attend the Soccer World Cup, 3 children come across well know problems (HIV, poverty, abuse) and a colourful bunch of people.  
GS: “*An original narrative format: a feature road movie with some additional story telling in animation. A light tone, great music and astonishing landscape photography.*”

**Contact:** Pathé; [tessa.williams@pathe-uk.com](mailto:tessa.williams@pathe-uk.com)

**CHILDREN OF GOD** (Nepal, Yi Seung-jun, +12 documentary)  
Two brothers and their baby sister live as street children at the banks of the Bagmati river in Katmandu. They survive on money and food that people offer in the nearby sanctuaries.  
GS: “*This doesn’t make you happy, but it makes you hopeful. These children are full of joy. They make a heart melt and extort a powerful feeling of respect.*”  
**Contact:** Creek & River; [petersong@crikorea.com](mailto:petersong@crikorea.com); [www.crikorea.com](http://www.crikorea.com)

**GARUDA DI DADAKU** (Indonesia, Ifa Isfansyah, +9 feature)



Young Bayu chases a big dream: becoming a football player and hearing the national anthem ring through the stadium when joining the national team.  
GS: “*Doing everything to make a dream come true, even going against your parents’ will. Naïveté is an important aspect of the childhood experience.*”  
**Contact:** Salto Films; [kresenda@saltofilmcompany.com](mailto:kresenda@saltofilmcompany.com); [www.sbofilms.com](http://www.sbofilms.com)

**EL VIAJE DE TEO** (Mexico, Walter Doehner, +10 feature)  
Teo’s peaceful life comes to an end when he finally meets with his father who takes him on a trip. Illegally crossing the US border will bring a sudden end to Teo’s childhood years.  
GS: “*A tough theme seen through the eyes of a child, made digestible for a young audience.*”  
**Contact:** Ondamax Films; [eric@ondamaxfilms.com](mailto:eric@ondamaxfilms.com); [www.ondamaxfilms.com](http://www.ondamaxfilms.com)

**HANDS UP** (aka Les Mains en l’Air) (France, Romain Goupil, + 10 feature)  
Sixty years from now, a retired woman looks back upon her youth and tells in a flash back how it was to build up a new life as a refugee in Paris in 2009.  
GS: “*An original way to tell a story, although the tone and atmosphere are rather serious.*”  
**Contact:** Films du Losange; [a.valentin@filmsdulosange.fr](mailto:a.valentin@filmsdulosange.fr); [www.filmsdulosange.fr](http://www.filmsdulosange.fr)

## PRODUCTION NEWS

### IN FOCUS: WILLY AND WILDA

Willy, whom we met in the short ‘Willy and the Wild Rabbit’ (2006) will soon get a new life on the big screen. In WILLY AND WILDA the two well-known protagonists build up their life in the wild woods. But the dream of freedom is easier than living it. Willy decides to return to the farm, only to get a new shock: a new rabbit has moved into his cage! Only after overcoming many barriers (including saving a bullied pheasant called Franz), Willy can truly say: I am now a rabbit standing on its own feet and I deserve the heart of Wilda, who turns out to be the most faithful friend that any rabbit can wish for.  
Director and scriptwriter Lennart and Ylva-Li Gustafsson: “Several years ago we wanted to do a story about what happens when one loses a belonging to a group, a secure identity, and instead finds it in oneself. In those days we spent a lot of time hunting down one of our rabbits which all the time ran away to meet a rabbit girl further down the street...”

Flightplan Film started shooting in April with hand drawn 2D backgrounds based on real photography. The result will be a 74’ animated feature, “still sweet but not sugared”. Made on a € 2,2 million budget WILLY AND WILDA should premier in 2012. Flightplan will also create a TV-series based on the same characters.



**Contact:** Flightplan Film, [tony@flightplanfilm.com](mailto:tony@flightplanfilm.com); [www.flightplanfilm.com](http://www.flightplanfilm.com)

### THE SANDMAN AND THE LOST SAND OF DREAM

THE SANDMAN AND THE LOST SAND OF DREAM (by Sinem Sakaoglu & Jesper Møller, 72’) is a partly 3D-animated, partly live action film, based on the popular Sandman-character, an ‘institute’ in Germany’s children TV culture. It’s like he always has been around since he was introduced in a German TV-show in 1959. In numerous European countries children were sent to bed after his daily appearance on the screen. Sinem Sakaoglu: “*He is a myth, almost sacred, and in this film for the first time we get to know more about him. He didn’t even have a voice. We can’t unveil the mystery too much. Although he is there throughout the whole movie, the story is developed around other characters.*”  
**Contact:** Falcom Media; +49/30.695.188.28; [office@falcom.ch](mailto:office@falcom.ch); [www.falcommedia.de](http://www.falcommedia.de)

### FRATELLI D’ITALIA

The title FRATELLI D’ITALIA – ‘Brothers of Italy’, the Italian national Hymn – reveals a certain irony. The film shows the difficulties, love and conflicts in the lives of immigrant teenagers, captured by the respectful camera of young Claudio Giovannesi. “*I adopted the documentary approach*”, he says, “*but wanted to build a film narrative*”. Before the shooting, the crew spent 3 weeks ‘assimilated’ into the classroom, until they became almost invisible. This was an opportunity for the director to understand the fragile scenario of multi-ethnic integration, reflected in the identity formation of teenagers. Their natural behavior in front of the camera makes it difficult to understand whether it is a documentary or a fiction. Claudio is working on a new film with non-professional adolescent actors.

ALI OF THE BLUE EYES is a fictional follow up on his interest in the multicultural Italian youth society.  
Digibeta documentary (’90).  
**Contact:** CinecittàLuce; [www.fratelliditaliafilm.it](http://www.fratelliditaliafilm.it); +39/06.7228.6231/408.

### THE MAGIC CRYSTAL

The team from NIKO – THE WAY TO THE STARS teams up again. Did you know that Santa has an evil twin brother? When Santa develops a magic crystal that makes it possible to multiply his efforts (and bring happiness to even more children), his brother Basil comes up with a diabolic plan. Thanks to the courage of a human boy, the crystal is saved by Santa’s elfish crew. Even if the film fits into the Scandinavian Christmas tradition, THE MAGIC CRYSTAL (Antti Haikala & Igor Boris Bertolucci; 75’) is closer to science fiction than to the classic Nordic mythology.  
The story about a young outcast getting a favoured position in Santa’s elite troops looks very similar the story of young reindeer Niko. With Epidem ZOT, Skyline Entertainment and ConnecToon as producers, the same players are involved. THE MAGIC CRYSTAL will run in the theatres around Christmas 2010.  
**Contact:** Mikael Wahlforss; Epidem ZOT, [wahlforss@epidem.pp.fi](mailto:wahlforss@epidem.pp.fi); [www.epidemzot.com](http://www.epidemzot.com); [www.themagiccrystalmovie.com](http://www.themagiccrystalmovie.com)



## The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

### Lola Kenya Screen – Audiovisual Media Festival for Children & Youth; Nairobi, Kenya

Golden Mboni Award for best children’s film: „Champions of Our Time” by Mak’ Kusare, Nigeria 2009. 2nd Award: „The Crocodiles”, 3rd Award + Best Animation Film: „Lost and Found” by Philip Hunt, UK 2009.  
Best film for Young People (14+): „Seasons of a Life” by Charles Shem Joyah, Malawi 2009. 2nd Award: „We Were Young” by Philippe Talavera, Namibia 2009. 3rd Award: „En Mode Ailleurs” by Vincent Chabrilat, France 2009.  
Best Documentary: „Big Sister Punam” by Lucian & Natasa Muntean, Serbia 2009.  
[www.lolakenyascreen.org](http://www.lolakenyascreen.org)

### Kodomotachino Kinder Film Festival; Tokyo, Japan

Children’s Jury: „Wicky the Mighty Viking” by Michael Bully Herbig, Germany 2009.  
Audience Award: „Super Brother” by Birger Larsen, Denmark 2009.  
[www.kinder.co.jp](http://www.kinder.co.jp)

### Nuevamarada – International Film Festival for Children and Youth; Buenos Aires, Argentine

Young People & Children’s Jury:  
Best Feature Fiction: “The Other Bank” by George Ovashvili, Georgia 2009.  
Best Feature Animation: “The Tale of Soldier Fedot, the Daring Fellow” by Ludmila Steblyanko, Russia 2008.  
Signis Argentina Jury:  
Best Feature Film: “The Apple and the Worm” by Anders Morgenthaler, Denmark 2009.  
ASIFA Special Award for short animation: “The Necktie” by Jean-François Lèvesque, Canada 2008.  
Fiction Jury:  
Best short fiction for children: “The Scarecrow Girl” by Cássio Pereira dos Santos.  
Best short fiction for young people: “The sweet but somehow also bitter ballad of Milos Laska” by Arne Kohlweyer, Czech Republic 2008.  
Best feature fiction for children: “The Indian” by Ineke Houtman, The Netherlands 2009.  
Best feature fiction for young people: “The Eagle Hunter’s Son” by Renè Bo Hansen, Germany 2009.  
Animation Jury:  
Best short animation for children: “Spot and Splodge in Snowstorm” by Uzi & Lotta Geffenblad, Sweden 2008.  
Best short animation for young people: “Sunday Drive” by José Miguel Ribeiro, Portugal / Belgium / Netherlands / France 2009.

## The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

Best feature animation for children: "Jasper, journey to the end of the world" by Eckart Fingberg, Germany / France, 2009.

Best feature animation for young people: "Goat Story" by Jan Tománek, Czech Republic 2008.

[www.nuevimirada.com](http://www.nuevimirada.com)

### Lucas - International Children's Film Festival; Frankfurt/M., Germany

Lucas-Jury (children & professionals): Best Feature Film + Don Quijote Prize by the International Filmclub Federation FICC: „I Am Kalam“ by Nila Madhab Panda, India 2010. Best Short Film: „Kavi“ by Gregg Helvey, USA 2009.

Best Animated Film: „The Silence Beneath the Bark“ by Joanna Lurie, France 2009.

CIFEJ-Jury Award: „My Good Enemy“ by Oliver Ussing, Denmark 2010. Audience Award: „White Lion“ by Michael Swan, South Africa 2009. [www.lucasfilmfestival.de](http://www.lucasfilmfestival.de)

### Buster - International Film Festival for Children and Youth; Copenhagen, Denmark

Best Film for Children: "The Crocodiles". Best Child Actor: Jules Ritmanic in "Hands Up" by Romain Goupil, France, 2010. Audience Award: "The Round-Up" by Roselyne Bosch, France 2010. Danish Directors Best Film for Children: "Eep!", The Netherlands 2009. Best Film for Youth: "Vegas" by Gunnar Vikene, Norway 2009. Best Short Film: "Lost and found" by Philip Hunt, UK 2008. FAF's Best Documentary: "Neukölln Unlimited" by Agostino Imondi and Dietmar Ratsch, Germany 2010. [www.buster.dk](http://www.buster.dk)

## Forthcoming festivals

### KINOdiseea – International Children' Film Festival; Bucharest, Romania

Sept. 24th to Oct. 2nd 2010  
[www.kinodiseea.ro](http://www.kinodiseea.ro)

### Carrousel International du Film; Rimouski, Canada

Sept. 25th to Oct. 3rd 2010  
[www.carrousel.qc.ca](http://www.carrousel.qc.ca)

### Schlingel - International Film Festival for Children and Young Audience; Chemnitz, Germany

Sept. 27th to Oct. 3rd 2010  
[www.ff-schlingel.de](http://www.ff-schlingel.de)

## FESTIVALS



### FESTIVAL CINE-JEUNE DE L'AINSE

The Festival Ciné-Jeune de l'Aisne has set an extraordinary ambition: organizing two festivals within half a year. The 28th edition starts on 15th October, but walking in the trail of the former Festival Ciné-Jeune de Laon (in the same region), the festival in 2011 will move on to the spring season. The 29th edition will open already on April 8th.

The festival takes place in 25 locations in the Aisne department. The central city Saint-Quentin will host the competition and the evening events.

The forthcoming autumn edition includes a cart blanche for the Zlin Festival presenting a selection of Czech classics (like Svankmajer's ALICE), the Spanish compilation CAPELITO (a 40' program for 3+, by Rodolfo Pastor), the new French animations UNE VIE DE CHAT (Jean-Loup Felicoli & Alain Gagnol, 70', 5+) and ALLEZ RACONTE (Jean-Christophe Roger, 76', 6+) and workshops on Jean-François Laguionie's classic BLACK MOR'S ISLAND (2004).

[www.cinejeune02.com](http://www.cinejeune02.com)

### FIFEM GOES SCHLINGEL

The 15th Schlingel Festival (27 September – 3 October) in Chemnitz offers a focus on youth film production in Quebec, Canada, in cooperation with the Montreal International Children's Film Festival (FIFEM).

For almost 30 years, children films made in Quebec were the work of one man, producer Rock Demers, creator of the famous 'Tales for all' series. Nowadays, one young filmmaker, Xavier Dolan, seems to have single-handedly changed the local film scene. I KILLED MY MOTHER managed to win all the honors. Together with Christian Laurence (THE DIARY OF AURELIE LAFLAMME) they are a living proof of Quebec's vibrant children's films scene! Other titles in this carte blanche to FIFEM are RUNAWAY TRAIN (Cordell Barker) and

NOEMIE – THE SECRET (Frédéric d'Amours). Schlingel will also present some of these filmmakers. Programmer of the event is FIFEM's president Jo-Anne Blouin. For FIFEM's next edition (26th February – 6th March 2011) the exchange will be completed when 5 German films and directors will be hosted in Montreal.

### PLEIN LA BOBINE CULINAIRE

The theme "food & cooking" was extremely visible in this year's June edition of the festival Plein la Bobine in La Bourboule. By choosing plenty of films about eating and by doing a lot of cooking at the festival, in screenings, workshops and diner events. There was even a real 'cooking battle': for the 'joutes culinaires' a famous chef and a local slow food organisation were sent to the market to buy ingredients and make the audience the judge of their cooking contest. In the workshops children made snacks, potted with vegetables or made Arcimboldo-like food portraits that were animated in film clips. Films made by children about/with food were screened and a screening of WE FEED THE WORLD (Erwin Wagenhofer) was followed by a debate and a slow food diner.

Festival director Florence Dupont: "Such an initiative is not only possible in France. But it's true that the French perception of a festival helps to install such an event, since French festivals usually present a lot of archive films and retrospectives. We have a basic kitchen at the festival centre; all we needed were a few ovens and a good partnership, like we had with the slow food organisation.

The audience's reactions were very positive. We finally could attract and involve the grown-ups and parents, which is something we've aimed for for years."

[www.pleinlabobine.com](http://www.pleinlabobine.com)

### HIGH FIVE RESULTS

Nordisk Film & TV Fond announced that its High Five International Cinema Distribution Support scheme has given out 44 grants towards the theatrical release of 19 Nordic films outside of the Nordic region.

High Five supports the international distribution of Scandinavian films and enables their release in European art house cinemas. Hanne Palmquist, head of Nordisk Film & TV Fond, said that the results show that "distributors have embraced this new incentive". Amongst the 19 films granted there were 5 children and youth films: KNERTEN, MAGIC SILVER, RAFIKI, SEBBE and PLODDY THE POLICE CAR. The grants were allocated based on the criteria specified in the High Five International Cinema Distribution Support guidelines, and in particular according to the distributors' Minimum Guaranties, the size of the P&A budgets and the innovative launch strategies.

Next deadline for a High Five support application is February 1st 2011.

(Source: High Five)

## FILMS ON THE HORIZON

New European films for children or young people which are ready to be discovered for your programmes. More information and more films can be found at [www.ecfaweb.org](http://www.ecfaweb.org). Producers, distributors and sales agents are kindly invited to inform us of their new releases.

### Animals United (Konferenz der Tiere)

Animation (3D), Germany 2010  
Director: Reinhard Klooss, Holger Tappe  
Production: Constantin, Ambient Entertainment  
World Sales: Timeless Films, Canon House, 27 London End, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2HN, UK  
E-Mail: [ralph@timelessfilms.co.uk](mailto:ralph@timelessfilms.co.uk)  
[www.timelessfilms.co.uk](http://www.timelessfilms.co.uk)  
[www.kdt.film.de](http://www.kdt.film.de)

### Belka and Strelka – Space Dogs

Animation (3D), Russia 2010  
Director: Inna Evlannikova, Svyatoslav Ushakov  
Production: Centre of National Film  
World Sales: CNF, Valdaiskiy proezd, 125445, Moscow, Russia  
Phone: ++ 7/495-455-92-13  
E-Mail: [cnf@cnf.ru](mailto:cnf@cnf.ru)  
[www.cnf.ru](http://www.cnf.ru) - [www.belka-i-strelka.ru](http://www.belka-i-strelka.ru)



Belka and Strelka

### The Secret Letter

Feature Film, The Netherlands 2010  
Director: Simone van Dusseldorp  
Production: Lemming Films, VPRO  
World Sales: Lemming Films, Valschermarkade 36F, 1059 CD Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Phone: ++31/20-66-10-424  
E-Mail: [info@lemmingfilm.com](mailto:info@lemmingfilm.com)  
[www.lemmingfilm.com](http://www.lemmingfilm.com)

### Eleanor's Secret

Animation, France 2009  
Director: Dominique Monféry  
Production: Alphanim  
World Sales: Films Distribution, 20 rue Saint-Augustin, 75002 Paris, France  
Phone: ++33/1-53-10-33-99  
E-Mail: [info@filmsdistribution.com](mailto:info@filmsdistribution.com)  
[www.filmsdistribution.com](http://www.filmsdistribution.com)

### Karla and Jonas

Feature Film, Denmark 2010  
Director: Charlotte Sachs Bostrup  
Production: Nordisk Film, DFI  
World Sales: TrustNordisk Film Filmbyen 12, 2650 Hvidovre, Denmark  
Phone: ++45/36-86-87-88  
E-Mail: [info@trustnordisk.com](mailto:info@trustnordisk.com)  
[www.trustnordisk.com](http://www.trustnordisk.com)

### Kooky

Animation, Czech Republic 2010  
Director: Jan Sverak  
Production: Biograf Jan Svěrák s.r.o., Phoenix Film, Czech TV  
World Sales: Fandango, Viale Gorizia, 19, 00198 Roma, Italy  
Phone: ++39/068-521-85  
E-Mail: [fandango@fandango.it](mailto:fandango@fandango.it)  
[www.fandango.it](http://www.fandango.it)  
[www.kukysevraci.cz/en/](http://www.kukysevraci.cz/en/)

### From Time to Time

Feature Film, UK 2009  
Director: Julian Fellowes  
Production: Lionhead, Ealing  
World Sales: Ealing Studios, Ealing Green, London W5 5EP  
Phone: ++44-20 8584 6753  
E-Mail: [info@ealingstudios.com](mailto:info@ealingstudios.com)  
[www.ealingstudios.com](http://www.ealingstudios.com)

### The Round Up

Feature Film, France 2010  
Director: Roselyne Bosch  
Production: Légende Films  
World Sales: Gaumont S. A., 30, Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France  
Phone: ++33/1-464-32-000  
E-Mail: [info@gaumont.com](mailto:info@gaumont.com)  
[www.gaumont.com](http://www.gaumont.com)  
[www.larafle-lefilm.com](http://www.larafle-lefilm.com)

### Twigson Gets Married

Feature Film, Norway 2010  
Director: Martin Lund  
Production: Paradox rettigheter AS  
World Sales: Sola Media, Filderhauptstr. 49, 70599 Stuttgart, Germany  
Phone: ++49/711-479-36-66  
E-Mail: [post@sola-media.net](mailto:post@sola-media.net)  
[www.sola-media.net](http://www.sola-media.net)  
[www.knertenfilmen.no](http://www.knertenfilmen.no)

### The Ugly Duckling

Animation, Russia 2010  
Director: Garri Bardin  
Production: Animated film studio "Stayer" Ltd.  
World Sales: Animated film studio "Stayer" Ltd. Bl. 6a, 28 Otkrytoye sh.; Moscow 107143, Russia  
Phone: ++7/499-167-01-54  
E-Mail: [garry@bardin.ru](mailto:garry@bardin.ru)  
[www.bardin.ru](http://www.bardin.ru)

### Simple Simon

Feature Film, Sweden 2010  
Director: Andreas Öhman  
Production: Naïve AB  
World Sales: AB Svensk Filmindustri Greta Garbos Väg 13, SE-16936 Solna  
Phone: +46/86-80-3500  
E-Mail: [international@sf.se](mailto:international@sf.se)  
[www.sfinternational.se](http://www.sfinternational.se)

## The News Section: Forthcoming festivals

Children's and Youth Film Festival „Michel“; Hamburg, Germany  
Oct. 1st to 9th 2010  
[www.kinderfilmfest-hamburg.de](http://www.kinderfilmfest-hamburg.de)

AniFest ROZAF; Shkoder, Albania  
Oct. 4th to 9th 2010  
[www.anifestrozafa.com](http://www.anifestrozafa.com)

Bibiana – International Biannual Festival of Animation; Bratislava, Slovakia

Oct. 12th to 16th 2010  
[www.bab-slovakia.sk](http://www.bab-slovakia.sk)

International Youth Film Festival, Seoul, South Korea,  
July 8th - 14th 2010  
[www.siyff.com](http://www.siyff.com)

International Film Festival for Children & Young People; Yerevan, Armenia

Oct. 12th to 16th 2010  
[www.rolanbf.com](http://www.rolanbf.com)

London International Film Festival; London, UK

Oct. 13th to 28th 2010  
[www.iff.org.uk](http://www.iff.org.uk)

Cine-Jeune – Festival International de Cinéma; San Quentin & Department of Aisne, France

Oct. 15th to 22nd 2010  
[www.cinejeune02.com](http://www.cinejeune02.com)

Discovery – International Film Festival for Children and Young People; Dundee, Scotland

Oct. 16th to November 3rd 2010  
[www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk](http://www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk)

International Children Films Festival; Istanbul, Turkey

Oct. 20th to 22nd 2010  
During the festival will be the International Children and Communication Congress: „Creativity – Ways to Encourage, Improve and Cope Up With“  
[www.tiaistanbul.org](http://www.tiaistanbul.org)

Prix Danube - International Television Festival for Children and Youth; Bratislava, Slovakia

Oct. 21st to 24th 2010  
[www.prixdanube.stv.sk](http://www.prixdanube.stv.sk)

International Children's Film Festival; Chicago, USA

Oct. 21st to 31st 2010  
[www.cicff.org](http://www.cicff.org)

London Children's Film Festival - Barbican Cinema; London, UK

Oct. 30th to Nov. 7th 2010  
[www.londonchildrenfilm.org.uk](http://www.londonchildrenfilm.org.uk)

Nordic Filmdays; Luebeck, Germany

Nov. 3rd to 7th 2010  
[www.filmtage.luebeck.de](http://www.filmtage.luebeck.de)

# International Film Festival for Children and Young Audience in Chemnitz

15.

**SCHLINGEL**  
www.ff-schlingel.de

## Selected films of our programme:

### Children's Film

THE TWELFTH SUMMER, Russia 2009  
THE RAIN FAIRY, Czech Republik 2009  
FLIGHT OF THE DUCKS, Iran 2009

### Junior Film

ALABAMA MOON, USA 2010  
SKELLIG, Great Britain 2009  
NEUILLY MOTHERFUCKER, France 2009

### Youth Film

THE DIARY OF CARLOTA, Spain 2010  
THE BE ALL AND END ALL, Great Britain 2009

### Short and Animation Film

5 exclusive programmes give an overview of current trends

### Focus Germany

AND THEN CAME LOLA, Germany 2010  
DEVILS KICKER, Germany 2010  
THE DISPENSABLES, Germany 2009  
CLOSER THAN BLOOD, Germany 2010

### Panorama

NEW YEAR'S ADVENTURES IN JULY, Belarus 2009  
THE UGLY DUCKLING, Russia 2010

### Homage

THE MOLE – Special Edition, ČSSR 1957 – 2002

27<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October in Chemnitz

## ECFA IN PERSONS

2 new members of ECFA introduce themselves.

### \* CHILDREN AND YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL 'JUST FILM'

For 9 years the Just Film Children and Youth Film Festival has been taking place in Tallinn (as a sub-event of the 'Black Nights Festival') and has become an important cultural event for young people in Estonia. Just Film's selection mainly consists of European films, getting Estonian children to find out more about the language, culture and traditions in other European countries.

Examining the needs of our target group, throughout the years our festival became a vivid link between young people and culture. Via the festival young people communicate and discuss topics that are seldom dealt with at school (drug abuse, sexuality, racism, etc.).

Films screened in the Just Film Festival speak about values and problems that are familiar to all. Watching a movie is like taking part in a simulation program: the viewer plays the same situation through in his/her mind to find multiple solutions to a problem. The themes in modern movie-making are relevant in Estonia too: conflicts at school, trouble with parents, getting used to a new environment, violence, becoming a full member of society, tolerance, finding inner peace. That's why we offer Estonian youngsters an opportunity to watch a modern type of films (VEGAS, SLINGSHOT HIP HOP, CARLITOS) that usually can't be found in our cinemas. (Maarit Männama & Mikko Granström)  
Just Film: 19 - 28 November;  
<http://2010.poff.ee/eng/festival/14-poff>.

### \* KOULUKINO

Koulukino (School Cinema, supported by the Ministry of Culture and Education) contributes to Finnish film education by organizing screenings for children in movie theatre's during school hours and by producing pedagogical material for teachers. All Finnish cinemas made a commitment to arrange reduced-price school screenings on request. Formed in 2002, Koulukino has established its position in media education in Finland, closely cooperating with schools, distributors, producers and cinemas.

Watching a film on a big screen is a great experience and preparation is important. Educators base their choice (from a list compiled by Koulukino) on the given maturity rating. Watching film then becomes a shared, safe experience for children and educators.

Koulukino stresses the importance of processing the film experience in school by use of our pedagogical material. The dossiers for high schools can be combined with various subjects such as history, religion, psychology or art. Material for the small children guides the educator in creating a safe film experience and to process what has been seen through various exercises. The teachers' feedback has been very encouraging: they actively use Koulukino's material and find it helpful. (Marjo Kovanen)

A compiled list of films and all educational material is available free of charge on Koulukino's website:  
[www.koulukino.fi](http://www.koulukino.fi).

www.cinemagic.org.uk

20<sup>th</sup>  
Cinemagic  
Belfast

The Coca-Cola '20th Anniversary' Cinemagic International Film and Television Festival for Young People 2010  
11<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Anniversary

Funders:  
Arts & Business Northern Ireland, ISLAND Arts Centre, LISBURN CITY COUNCIL, JAPAN FOUNDATION, UK FILM COUNCIL LOTTERY FUNDED, Legacy Trust, ODEON, ni4kids, VICTORIA SQUARE, EUROPA, enCORE, bmc, TITANIC QUARTER

Title Sponsor:  
Coca-Cola  
Sponsors:

## The News Section: Forthcoming festivals

**Kolibri – Festival Internacional del Audiovisual para la Niñez y la Adolescencia; La Paz, Bolivia**  
Nov. 3rd to 9th 2010  
Deadline entries: September 30th 2010  
[www.festivalkolibri.org](http://www.festivalkolibri.org)

**Cinemagic – World Screen Festival for Young People; Belfast, UK**  
Nov. 11th to 26th 2010  
[www.cinemagic.org.uk](http://www.cinemagic.org.uk)

**Castellinaria International Children Film Festival; Bellinzona, Switzerland**  
Nov. 13th to 20th 2010  
[www.castellinaria.ch](http://www.castellinaria.ch)

**International Children Film Festival; Vienna, Austria**  
Nov. 13th to 21st 2010  
[www.kinderfilmfestival.at](http://www.kinderfilmfestival.at)

**Festival International de Cinéma du Grain à Démoudre; Gonfreville l'Orcher, France**  
Nov. 14th to 21st 2010  
[www.dugrainademoudre.net](http://www.dugrainademoudre.net)

**FICI – Festival International de Cine para la Infancia y la Juventud; Madrid, Spain**  
Nov. 15th to 20th 2010  
[www.fici.info](http://www.fici.info)

**International Children's and Youth Film Festival; Oulu, Finland**  
Nov. 15th to 21st 2010  
[www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef](http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef)

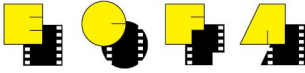
**International Film Festival for Young People; Gijón, Spain**  
Nov. 19th to 27th 2010  
[www.gijonfilmfestival.com](http://www.gijonfilmfestival.com)

**Children and Youth Film Festival Just Film; Tallinn, Estonia**  
Nov. 19th to 28th 2010  
[www.poff.ee/justfilm](http://www.poff.ee/justfilm)

**My First Festival – El Meu Primer Festival; Barcelona, Spain**  
Nov. 20th to 28th 2010  
[www.elmeuprimerfestival.com](http://www.elmeuprimerfestival.com)

**International Young Audience Film Festival Ale Kino!; Poznan, Poland**  
Dec. 6th to 12th 2010  
[www.alekino.com](http://www.alekino.com)

**Within the family – International Children and Youth Film Festival; Yekaterinburg (a.o.), Russia**  
Dec. 7th to 11th 2010  
Deadline entries: September 30th 2010  
[www.vkrugu7i.ru](http://www.vkrugu7i.ru)



## ECFA Journal

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ECFA's goal is to support cinema for children and youth in its cultural, economical, aesthetic, social, political and educational aspects. ECFA since 1988 brings together a wide range of European film professionals and associations, producers, directors, distributors. ECFA aims to set up a working structure in every European country for films for children and young people, a structure adapted to Europe's multicultural interests.

For more information and memberships (€ 200 per year):  
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[www.ecfaweb.org](http://www.ecfaweb.org)

The European Children's Film Distribution Network:  
[www.ecfaweb.org/network.htm](http://www.ecfaweb.org/network.htm)  
Databases on children's film festivals, sales agents, distributors and TV-programmers interested in European films for children.

## FILM IN THE FOCUS

Oliver Ussing's **MY GOOD ENEMY**  
'The innocent always pay the highest price for their innocence'

**MY GOOD ENEMY** takes it one step further than the usual bullying-movies. With small "guerrilla" actions Alf and Toke join forces to take revenge upon their bullies. But the situation grows out of their hands into a real social movement. Revenge turns into war, guerrilla turns into politics. Both boys react in a very different way: one with repulsion, the other enjoys his status as the school's new tyrant.

Oliver Ussing: "I wanted to make a movie about politics, and I wanted to make it exciting and keep it free of fantasy elements: no magic mirrors or supernatural beings."

**'Bullying' is a common theme in films for a young audience. You deal with it in a quite daring way. That makes it hard to find the right target audience.**  
Ussing: "It's an illusion to assume that we can control children's access to movies. Therefore, instead of trying to limit the audience, we should supply them with as much quality content as possible. I try not to think much about "finding the right audience" while making a movie. Others are much better at selling movies than I am."

**Was it clear from the start this story would go deeper than just '2 kids taking revenge on the bullies'?**  
Ussing: "I co-wrote the screenplay with Søren Grinderselv Hansen based on a Danish youth novel, completing the cycle from underdog to kingpin and back down again. There is no right or wrong for the characters. No one wakes up looking in the mirror, saying: "I am evil". We all do what we do for the want of love. I was sure about the ending: it was important that good didn't win over evil. The choices we make as individuals are the only thing that matters. What makes people go different ways? Even the worst dictators once were infants and had a mother who loved them. Power is very enthralling and can become addictive."

**Are you aware of the fact that this film might go down in history as 'the one in which the rabbit got killed'? Is that the consequence of 'staying consequent until the end'?**  
Ussing: "Isn't it interesting that audiences find the rabbit being harmed to be the worst to happen in the movie? The innocent always pay the highest price for their innocence. Although I consider beating up "chief bully" Mathias a much more reprehensible act from a moral point of view. People are shocked because the illusion works: they believe the rabbit is killed and react viscerally towards the film as an "evil film" made by "cruel filmmakers". Of course none of the three stunt rabbits were harmed in any way."



**There is a lot of 'group dynamics' in this movie. Did you study about the power games played within groups of youngsters?**

Ussing: "With my co-writer we spent time at a school, sitting at the back of a classroom. After two days, when the novelty wore off and pupils went about their day as if we weren't there, the power games in the class became blatantly clear. I don't believe teachers who say they cannot see what's going on. It means they don't want to see. I've seen *DIE WELLE* – plus the original version – and *LORD OF THE FLIES*. I wanted this movie to put a blame on "mass psychosis". I think we are responsible towards the community for our actions as individuals."

**Grown-ups are like 99 % absent in this movie. Why?**

Ussing: "I wanted to make a film about the power struggle in a class. So the highest authority needed to be a pupil. If I would suddenly introduce a higher authority from outside (police, parents, teachers), that would be like cheating. The other reason is that, speaking with young people, I realized how little their parents are part of their world. There is a parallel life grown-ups don't have access to. Some types of bullying are easy to talk about: "he took my food, my money, he called me names,..." But there's another type of bullying that is even too humiliating to discuss with grown-ups. Bullies are aware of that. Parents should take so-called "harmless bullying" more serious."

**I particularly liked the scenes in which the comic book came to life. Where do these comic book pictures come from?**

Ussing: "We created the comic book for the movie and had comic book artist Ignacio Ferreras drawing the required pages. We wrote Niccolo's story, based on a mixture of classic hero's journey tales and "The Prince" by Niccolo Machiavelli."

**I was impressed by the movie's sound design.**

Ussing: "The sound designer and I have worked together on all our movies, developing a mutual understanding. We both admire Alan Splet's work. On this movie we contacted his widow who gladly gave us all the insect sounds recorded for *BLUE VELVET*. We used them extensively. There are creepy-crawly beetle sounds everywhere!" (GH)