

**Communication & Creativity**

Kid Screen represents a precious opportunity for exploring crucial issues linked to the influence of media on the development of the personality and for updating and training all those interested in the development of media education. Under this year’s headline „Communication and Creativity“ Kid Screen will reflect upon questions like „What is an interactive spectator?“ or „What influence does media have on the construction of the individual?“ – „Can cinema and new media forms in school be a good vehicle to transmit positive values and codes of behavior?“ – „How do young people express their creativity today through the use of media?“ – „Who guides their individual choices?“ – „Who protect them from ‘dangerous surfing’?“ – „Can we help them through the promotion of quality products?“.

See page 31-4 for the complete programme.

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**Documentary Films for Children – Call for Papers**

Reality in the virtual World?

Documentary films for children can hardly be found in any festival or television programme, even less in the commercial distribution in the cinemas or on video cassettes. Does this genre still exist at all? What is the meaning of reality in film, when everything else is turning into virtuality?

Dokumentarfilminitiative (dfi) at Filmbüro of Northrhine-Westfalia – in cooperation with ECFA, Stiftung Goldener Spatz and Bundesverband Jugend und Film – is researching the European situation of documentary films for children (up to the age of 12 or 13 years): in production, at festivals, in distribution and TV-programmes. The results of this research will be presented and discussed during a European conference on documentaries for children, which is planned for September 2001 at Cologne.

During the conference we want to
- discuss the meaning of documentary films for children;
- develop strategies for their production and programming;
- create ideas, how festivals for children’s films can open their programmes for these films;
- present examples for successful funding and distribution of documentary films for children;
- have a look at the film schools to find out if they can have some special attention in teaching how to make documentary films for children.

Everybody who is working in the field of documentary films for children, who has made special experiences or who is interested in doing something about it is invited to contribute: film funders, producers, documentary film directors, festival organizers, distributors, TV-programmers or film school teachers and film students from all over Europe.

Send your reports, projects or notes to
DFI - Dokumentarfilminitiative im Filmbüro Nordrhein-Westfalen
Petra L. Schmitz, Postbox 100 534
D-45405 Mühlheim an der Ruhr
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E-Mail: dfi@filmbuero-nw.de
www.filmbuero-nw.de/dfi

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**New ECFA-Journal: Results of the Questionnaire in Nr. 182/2000**

ECFA-Journal now reaches 250 professionals working in the fields of production, festivals or distribution of films for children, media education and children’s television programmes all over Europe. Half of ECFA-Journal’s circulation is already sent via E-Mail.

The results of the questionnaire enclosed in the last issue were very positive. Almost 20% of the readers returned the questionnaire. They all appreciated the E-Mail version, especially the pdf-format which can be read on the screen or printed out in the same layout as the papermail-version.

Some readers missed the announcements of brand new films for children. Unfortunately this information is not available directly from the producers on an European basis (or at least we have no knowledge of it). Therefore we mention new films, when they appear at the festivals and include them into the European Children’s Film Distribution Network:

www.bjf.bjk.de/ecfnet/

If you have heard about promising new productions just send us a mail.
Cow Maeva opened „Lucas 2000“
The International Children’s and Youth Film Festival at Frankfurt/ Germany had its 25th anniversary

The „Lucas“-Festival became a biannual event in 1998, this year’s issue was the first since that time. With a festival every two years the organisers tried to improve their financial basis, but they did not succeed. Among the major festivals for children’s films in Europe „Lucas“ is still suffering from limited means - even the new organisers tried their best to solve the situation. But obviously it is very hard to establish this festival in the social life of „Bankfurt“.

The festival now is organized by a team directed by Ralph Foerg, Volker Kul and - since the beginning in 1975 - under the presidency of Walter Schober, director of the German Film museum at Frankfurt.

Besides a competition with 13 films and a special programme called „Kids, Drugs and the Street“ for the first time „Lucas“ invited local filmmakers to present their works. In fact the Frankfurt region turned out to be one of the most productive spots in Germany when it comes to animation films for TV. Production companies like Madbox or Clayart are working on serials like „Paradiso“ or „Max & Co“ and the examples they presented at the festival proved that they do not only know business but also love to make films for children.

The competition was dominated by films showing the hard life of children and young people around the world, like „Garage Olimpo“ (Marco Bechis, Argentina/ Italy/France 1999), telling a story of youngsters living during the years of military dictatorship in Argentina, or the Portugese boy „Jaime“, who has to earn his family’s income even though he is only 13 years old.

The Lucas Awards 2000:
The children’s film jury awarded two very opposite films: „The Cart“/ „Charkh“ by Gholam Reza Ramezani (Iran 1999) is a simple and therefore strong story on the relation between a father and his son and on what is really important in life. The other prize winner, „Paul is dead“ by Hendrik Handloegten (D 1999), is a charming detective adventure, where a young boy in the eighties suddenly finds evidence that Beatle Paul McCartney might have died years before.

In the category of films for young people „Garage Olimpo“ took the prize. The Prix CIFEJ went to „A Summer Tale“ („Den bästa Sommaren“) by Ulf Malmros, S 2000.

The audience voted „The Cow and the President“ („La Vache et le President“, Philippe Muyi, F 2000) as the best film in the programme. The film’s screening on the first day of the festival was introduced with a big surprise: the main actor Maaeva, a veritable Galloway cow, welcomed the children in the hall of the film museum. The festival organisers found out, that Maeva has been brought from France to a farm near Frankfurt and of course ... they found an excellent way to introduce a film where children (and adults as well) surely will find some moments to laugh straight from the heart.

A word of deep truth came from the children working on the jury: „We have seen so many good films. It is a shame that most of them will never be shown in our cinemas on TV.“ Let us hope the Frankfurt children will have at least the chance to see more of these films at the „Lucas“- festival next year. Wolfgang Borgfeld from the post production company Das Werk, one of the festival’s sponsors, demanded of the local politicians and media people to give „Lucas“ a chance every year.

Contact: Lucas, c/o Deutsches Film museum, Schaumainkai 41
D-60596 Frankfurt/M.
Phone ++49-69-21238835
Fax ++49-69-21237881
E-Mail: lucas@deutsches-filmmuseum.de
Internet www.deutsches-filmmuseum.de/lucas
The Programme of Kid Screen 2000: Communication and Creativity

Varese/Italy, October 29th - 31st 2000

Oct. 29, Villa Ponti, Plenum Room
9.30 am Welcome by Ettore Albertoni, Councillor for Cultures, Identity and Autonomies at the Lombardy Region - by Massimo Ferrario, President of the Province of Varese - by Cristina Scolari, Councillor for Culture of the Province of Varese - by Domenico Lucchini, President of ECF - by Dario Guidali, President of the Camera di Commercio di Varese.

10.00 am Derrick de Kerckhove, McLuhan Programme, University of Toronto/Canada: Kids of the Third Millennium: images users or repeaters of the media „thinking“?

10.30 am Tony Charlton, Centre for Behaviour Studies at Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education/UK: A longitudinal study of children’s communication style in playgrounds across the availability of broadcast TV

11.00 am Break

11.30 am Flavia Alman, Maria Coleman, Maurizio Fani, Sabine Reiff, Carla Rossi, authors and producers of „The S.G.A.M.O Game”: An application to help children to establish positive communications with others - the CD-ROM produced with the support of the Lombardy Region.


3.00 pm Mia Lindrup, Norwegian Screen Education: Helping Kids to express themselves through media, examples from Norwegian projects

3.15 pm Ana Sola, Drag Magic, Barcelona/Spain: The analysis of a film: from individual introspection to collective confrontation

3.40 pm Annette Eberle, Matthias Film, Baden-Württemberg: The model of Matthias Film: distribution and consultant of media literacy and pedagogics

4.00 pm Emmanuelle Ferrari, Mediterranean Pole of Cinematographic Education, Institut de l’Image, Aix en Provence/ France: In the chaos of the audiovisual world, cinema is still the “cheekiest” medium.

4.30 pm Screening of a film

Oct. 30, Villa Ponti, Plenum Hall
9.30 am El St John, President of Silverttech, San Francisco/USA: E-kids: Internet and safe access.

10.15 am Giorgio Simonelli, School of Communication, Catholic University of Milano/Italy: Cinema as an archive for kids’ creativity

11.00 am Break

11.30 am Issy Harvey, Institute of Education, University of London/UK: Creativity, technology and culture: a case study of young people learning to make digital videos

12.15 pm Inge Vrancken, Editor of „My Opinion“ Ket Net, Belgium: Let the children speak for themselves!

1.00 pm Break

2.30 pm Paolo Rosa, artist, and Andrea Lissoni, researcher & organiser, Studio Azzurro Italy: What is art. The importance of promoting the knowledge of new artistic forms among young people, through the exploration of contemporary art. Screening of the video produced with the support of the Lombardy Region

3.10 pm Digital Kids - Edouard Lussan, Publishing Director of Index, Paris: Case history: Publisher of „Interactive stories”

3.40 pm Patrizia Canova, Luigi Corselli, Alessio Surian, authors, Cinema - videoscuola, Bergamo/Italy: „Sguardi in ascolto (Listening looks)”: the multimedia project produced with the contribution of the Lombardy Region, to educate to multiculturalism through the exploration of ethnic, cultural and religious differences.

4.30 pm Screening of videos

5.00 pm Screening of a film

Best early works:
„Juvenile“ (Takashi Yamazaki, Japan 2000)
„John Henry“ by Mark Henn, USA 1999

Special mentions:
„Purely Belter“ (Mark Herman, Great Britain 1999)
„The Colour of Paradise“ (Majid Majidi, Iran 1999)
„Marty’s World“ (Denis Bardiau, France 2000)
„Running Free“ (Sergei Bodrov, USA 1999)
„Eraser Wrestling“ by Min Dong-Hyun, Corea 1999 (for debut).

Internet: www.giffoniff.it

Forthcoming Festivals

Ulisses, International Children’s Film and Television Festival, Lisbon/Portugal 17. - 21. 10. 2000
Contact: Ulisses, Leslie Sullivan
Tv. da Saúde Nr. 2 A
1449-002 Lisboa, Portugal
Phone: +351 - 21 - 302 03 30
Fax: +351 - 21 - 302 05 76
E-Mail: ulisses@ulissesfest.com
Internet: www.ulissesfest.com

Okomedia
Freiburg/Germany, October 18th to 22nd 2000: Features, shorts and documentaries on ecological topics incl. films for children and young people.
Contact: Okomedia Institut,
Nussmannstr. 14,
D-79098 Freiburg
Phone: ++49-761-520 24,
Fax: ++49-761-55 57 24,
E-Mail: oekomedia@tonline.de
Internet: www.oekomedia-institut.de

Cinekid – Int. Film, Television and New Media Festival for children and young adults, 21.10.2000 - 29.10.2000
Among the films in competition are „Blinker“ by Filip van Neyghem (Belgium 1999), „A small Christmas Story“ by Åsa Sjöström & Mari Marten-Bias Wahlgren (Sweden 1999), „A Witch in the Family“ by Harald Hamrell (Sweden 1999) and „Petson and Findus“ by Albert Hanan Kaminski (Sweden/Germany 1999). A special programme is dedicated to Japanese films and TV-programmes for children.

Contact: Cinekid
Weteringschans 249
NL-1017 XJ Amsterdam
Phone: ++31-20-624 71 10
Fax: ++31-20-620 99 65
E-Mail: engel2x@xs4all.nl
Internet: www.cinekid.nl
The Programme of Kid Screen 2000:
Communication and Creativity

October 31, Villa Recalcati, Varese
9.30 - 12.30 am
Kids on the Net held by Digital Kids
(Giuseppe Romano, Stefania Garas-sini)

During the session the "Report Digital
Kids 2000", the first guide to
Italian multimedia productions for
kids will be presented, and the prize-
giving. "Kid Screen - Digital Kids"
will take place, with presentation of
the winner productions and Award
Ceremony.

Closing of works by the President of ECFA,
Domenico Lucchini

International Children’s Film Show

In co-operation with the Province of
Varese some screenings will be orga-
ized for schools of the territory,
in original language with simulta-
neous translation. Some films, already
dubbed, are part of the new pro-
gramme of the regional circuit
“Arrivano i film” for the school year
2000/2001. Among the films in the
programme are „Tsatsiki“, „Man of
Steel“, „A Witch in the Family“ and
the Italian productions „I prefer the
Sound of the Sea“ (Mimmo Calo-
prestì, 2000) and „Come te nessuno
Mai“ (Gabriele Muccino, 1999).

Media Salles at Kid Screen 2000: Euro Kids Network

Media Salles will be present at Kid
Screen with a series of specific ac-
tivities:

- The meeting of the Euro Kids Net-
work members offering tools to en-
courage initiatives liaising cinemas
and schools, the presentation of the
“European Cinema On-line-Database”
and a seminar with the presentation
of experiences focussed on the pro-
motion of films for the younger audi-
ce.

Italian Workshops (Only Italian speaking, no translation)

Oct. 29, Villa Ponti, Chaplin Hall
2.30 - 4.30 pm
Workshop of Centro Studi Educazione
all’immagine, Italy: Short trip
along the cinema avenues to disco-
very possibilities of „crossing” the
screen. The luggage: the multimedia
packs on cinema language of the
project “Here come the videos”, the
catalogues and the exercise-game
pack produced in connection with the
circuit “Here come the films”
(part one). Teachers: Patrizia Canova
& Giancarlo Zappoli

Oct. 29, Villa Ponti, Truffaut Hall
2.30 - 4.30 pm
Workshop of Centro Studi Educazione
all’immagine, Italy: “Itineraries in
the world of image”. An amazing uni-
verse made up of many different ele-
ments such as signs, meanings, hu-
man echoes, communication tools
and ingenious linguistic innovation.
Laboratory experiences. Teachers:
Camillo Basciulli & Mariolina Gamba

Information and bookings:

Kid Screen Organizing Secretary
c/o Provincia di Varese, Assessorato
Cultura, Turismo, Sport e tempo libero.
Piazza Libertà 1, I-21100 Varese
Tel. +39-031-225322;
Fax +39-031-22532244.
e-mail: kidscreen@reteculturale.
regione.lombardia.it

The application fees are 100.000 Ita.Lir.
to be paid into the account number
15087/13 AIBI 1043, CAB 109000, CIBI
at Banca Popolare per il Commercio e
L’industria, Como (Italy), in the name of
Comitato Italiano per Kid Screen
Discussion:

What does Quality mean in Films for Children?

The discussion what is a good film for children has been going on for many years. Many controversial arguments have come up, mostly from the negative side, trying to explain from which kind of films do we have to protect our children.

One of the results of the 1st Conference on the Distribution of Films for the Young Audience at Konstanz/Germany in 1999 was to define positive criteria for the quality of films for children. Those films that meet these criteria should receive a certain label of quality in order that this label can be used as an instrument for promotion.

However: Films basically are individualistic and can hardly be compared to one another. And one half of the film is created in the mind of the viewer, who is an individual as well. Knowing that films create emotions, entice the taking on of new identities and give information we must not define strict rules for high or low quality, but have to find an open collection of ideas which can bring us closer to a common valuation of a film.

ECFA wants to start this as an open discussion on an international basis and invites everybody to contribute - either by mail to the editor or directly via E-Mail to the European Children’s Film Distribution Network, where we intend to collect all contributions: www.bjf.bkj.de/ecfnet/

As a start and to provoke contributions we want to give some - at the moment very unsorted - examples:

High quality films for children

✗ should take the view of the children instead of watching children from the perspective of adults;

✗ should tell their stories in a way that children can understand them: related to their own experiences, with a mostly straight story and without or with not too many backflashes;

✗ should show children that they are not alone with their problems and offer them opportunities to solve these problems;

✗ should point out the children’s special power, phantasy and spontaneity as their advantage in the world of adults;

✗ should create communication among the children and between children and adults;

✗ should respect that especially younger children do not want to sit in front of the screen for more than an hour;

✗ should show the reality of life, even if it is hard, but leave the children some hope at the end;

✗ can help the children to understand even complicated interrelationships in their lives;

✗ can give the children the chance to confront and experience different cultures, to identify themselves with people who live in other countries or societies;

✗ may give the children the chance for pure entertainment, pleasure, fun and or suspense

✗ may lead them away from their reality into a world of phantasy;

✗ should tell their stories in characters that are able to develop themselves (as the children develop themselves) instead of static clichées;

✗ should convey some basic standards within our society as for example liberty, tolerance towards those who are different, non-violence, anti-racism, solidarity;

✗ should respect that children can identify better with one or a few strong main character(s) than with a larger number of characters;

✗ should pay attention to the fact that half of the viewers are girls who need their movie heroes as well as the boys.

To some of you these examples may appear old as the hills. But for one of ECFA’s main goals is to promote high quality films for children it is useful to have a collection of criteria defining this quality. Finally ECFA has the advantage to bring together cineasts, businesspeople and media educators. This wide range of experience offers the unique chance for criteria that are adequate to the variety of good films for children. So if you feel inspired to add some more ideas or are provoked to contradict any, please send us your mail.

Festival Internazionale del Cinema Giovane „Castellinaria“ Bellinzona/Switzerland November 18th - 25th 2000. Contact: Castellinaria Giancarlo Zappoli c/o Espocentro Via Cattori 3 Casella postale 1239 CH-6902 Bellinzona Phone: ++41-91-825 2893 Fax: ++41-91-825 3611 E-Mail: info@castellinaria.ch Internet: www.castellinaria.ch

International Children’s Film Festival, Oulu, Finland, November 20th - 26th 2000. Contact: International Children’s Film Festival Pentti Kejonen, Eszter Vuojala Oulu Film Center, Torikatu 8 FIN-90100 Oulu Phone: ++358-8-881 1293 Fax: ++358-8-881 1290 E-Mail: oek@oufilmcenter.inet.fi Internet: www.ouka.fi

Buster – Copenhagen’s new international Children’s Film Festival:
Copenhagen/Denmark, Nov. 28th to Dec. 2nd 2000 The new founded Buster (see ECFA-Journal Nr. 18/2000) has a new address even before the first festival started:
Buster - International Children’s Film Festival, Ola Tedin Vogtmangergade 10, 3rd floor DK-1120 Copenhagen K Phone: ++45 - 3374 3545 Fax: ++45 - 3374 3595 E-Mail: info@buster.nu Internet: www.buster.nu

Cinemagic, Belfast, Northern Ireland November 30th to December 10th Contact: Cinemagic, Fountain House 17-21 Dunegall Place GB-Belfast BT1 SAB Phone: ++44 - 1232 - 311 900 Fax: ++44 - 1232 - 319 709 E-Mail: info@cinemagic.org.uk Internet: www.cinemagic.org.uk

Olympia International Filmfestival for Children and Young People, Greece 2. - 9. 12. 2000 Contact: Olympia International Filmfestival for Children and Young People 18, Rodos, Str. GR-11252 Athen Phone: ++30-1-856 44 70 Fax: ++30-1-856 23 44 eMail: olyffest@otenet.gz
Felix Vanginderhuysen, born in 1954, is managing director of Jekino-Films, a national youth service recognized by the Flemish government. Jekino is mainly dealing with film and media education for children and young people. Internationally Felix Vanginderhuysen is better known as a distributor of films for children in his function as delegated administrator of the Flemish Centre for Children and Youth Film. This centre is also recognized by the Flemish government as an alternative distribution company. Films in distribution are, for example „The Daughter of the Puma“, „The Pickpocket“ or „Blinker“ which was a big box office success. A special division of the centre is dedicated to first movies of Flemish film directors. „Man of Steel“ by Vincent Bal has been released in this context. The centre distributes films to schools, film clubs, arthouse cinemas as well as multiplexes and on video for non-theatrical and private use.

After the successful distribution of „Blinker“, which was achieved in close co-operation between the producer and the distributor, Vanginderhuysen is working on a vertical platform for children’s film production, distribution and exhibiting in Belgium. So he is involved in the production of „Blinker 2“ and planning to take over a three-screens-cinema-complex at Antwerp. According to his plans this cinema will not only attract the Flemish audience (and their parents) – in Belgium, and together with many more dreamers from different countries, all over Europe.

For the future of ECFA Felix Vanginderhuysen is dreaming of a permanent ECFA office with one or two people employed there... „Is a dream a lie if it doesn’t come true...?“, B. S.)

Portrayed in the next ECFA-journal: Domenico Lucchini