Christmas holidays are coming up and again we can confirm that the cinema theatres are overwhelmed with productions for children and youngsters. It is very clear that for some years now, the big commercial companies have found the children’s audiences to be a very profitable target group. And of course some of these productions are well made, but a lot of the films are of lower quality. The market is free, but it makes it always harder for smaller distribution companies who are working with quality films for children to find valuable screens. This is just one observation.

On the other hand we see that also governments that used to support the cultural and educational aspects of the work with quality films for children also measure more and more with economical standards. A quite shocking example was the decision of the Dutch government to reduce expenses also in the cultural film sector. The Dutch Institute for Film Education saw the national grant for the next four years reduced to 20% of the former support, alternative distributors were reduced to 25% or even completely eliminated.

We don’t know how the situation is developing in other countries, but we certainly know that within the new European Commission there is a small, but perhaps not so unimportant change. From now on the European Commissioner, Mrs. Viviane Reding is no longer responsible for Media and Culture, but only for Media. This means that Film and Media now are separated from Culture (= Commissar is Jan Figel) and this certainly won’t make it easier for development in the field of children’s film, that are mostly in some way culturally inspired, to find support.

We just want to insist that everybody who is concerned with the production, distribution and exhibition of quality films for children or involved in the educational part, to stay alert and to put pressure on national authorities to keep on supporting this necessary work within the actual media landscape.

The most ambitious films for children and young people can be found at the film festivals for young audiences all over the world. European productions usually rank among the top titles, not only in their programmes, but also among the awards’ winners. Not all of these films make their way on to the cinema or TV screens, often they are only screened in their countries of origin, sometimes not even there. Therefore it is important to take a look at the best films for young people from time to time to see if children have the chance to see them.

How ever, the rest of Europe is alive as well. Bernd Sahlings Blindflyers (in many countries also screened with the original title „Die Blindgänger“) according to our information was the children’s film with the highest number of festival participations this year - and collected awards by the dozen. A great success for this ambitious movie from Germany, which until now has been or will be distributed in Belgium, Netherlands, Norway and Germany.

Also the French animation Raining Cats and Frogs by Jacques-Rémy Girerd travelled to many festivals all over the world and received numerous prizes. It is one of the few films mentioned here that already has had a very successful distribution: One million admissions in French cinemas! Theatrical releases have been or will be in Belgium, Denmark, Germany Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden Switzerland...

Continued on page 2

Let Us Stay Alert! by Felix Vanginderhuysen, ECFA’s General Secretary

Christmas holidays are coming up and again we can confirm that the cinema theatres are overwhelmed with productions for children and youngsters. It is very clear that for some years now, the big commercial companies have found the children’s audiences to be a very profitable target group. And of course some of these productions are well made, but a lot of the films are of a quite deplorable quality.

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On the other hand we see that also governments that used to support the
The News Section: Films, Festivals, Prizes

Children’s Film Fest Hamburg/Germany


Contact: Filmfest Hamburg
Children’s Film Festival
Sabine Kaulitzki, Steinortweg 4
D-20099 Hamburg
Phone: ++49-40-399 19 00 21
Fax: ++49-40-399 19 00 10
E-Mail: kaulitzki@filmfestivalhamburg.de
Internet: www.filmfestivalhamburg.de

“Schlingen“ - Int. Film Festival for Children, Chemnitz/Germany


Best child Actor: Klara Døving (”Fia“ by Elsa Kvanme, Norway 2003).
Audience Award: „Max Rules“.
Contact: Sächsischer Kinder- und Jugendfilmdienst e.V.
Neeestr. 99, D-09119 Chemnitz
Phone: ++49 - 371 - 444 74 49
Fax: ++49 - 371 - 444 74 49
E-Mail: info@kinderfilmdienst.de
Internet: www.kinderfilmdienst.de

Int. Film Festival „du grain à démoudre“, Conflenville l’Orcher/ France.
Contact: Association du grain à démoudre
Maison d. Associations, BP 95
F-67600 Conflenville l’Orcher
Phone: ++33 - 2 35 47 12 85
Fax: ++33 - 2 35 13 16 47
E-Mail: contact@dugrainademoudre.net
Internet: www.dugrainademoudre.net

Ulisses Global Kids Int. Film Festival, Mulhouse & Internet


Contact: Ulisses Global Kids Int. Film Festival, Leslie K. Sullivan
11, Rue des Frères Lumiere
F-60893 Mulhouse
P & F: ++33 - 38 - 942 10 25
E-Mail: info@globalkidsfest.com
Internet: www.globalkidsfest.com

Continuing from page 1

The Best European Films for Children 2004/2005

From the film „Fourth Floor“ by Antonio Mercero, Spain 2003

After her success „Madeleine - Scratches on the Table“ Ineke Houtman’s new film Polleke was expected with high anticipa-
tion in the beginning of this year. Even this film touches on some hard topics for child-
ren it has been shown with great success in many festivals and - which proves that children also appreciate reality even if it is not always amusing - received numerous awards especially from children’s and young audience’s juries. In Dutch cinemas this film also was a very respectable box office success: 100,000 admissions is an excellent result.

A surprise came from Spain this year: 4th Floor by Antonio Mercero until now has made it to at least a dozen European children’s film festivals – and with more than 1 million admissions in Spain it was one of the most successful films of the year. So let us hope that despite this serious topic - children in a hospital – such an optimi-
sitic and humorous movie will make its way onto the screens all over Europe.

Coming Attractions
One of the festival hits in 2005 definitely will be Torun Lián’s new film The Colour of Milk (Norway 2004). Already in her last film „Only Clouds Move the Stars“ this writer and director surprised audiences with how she could bring the feelings of children onto the screen. Her new film describes the mixed feelings of a 12-year-old girl towards boys. No one can treat this subject in a more sensitive way than Torun Lian, who, by the way, will be advis-
or for children’s films at the Norwegian Film Fund for the next two years.

Certainly another coming attraction will be Danny Boyle’s Millions (UK 2004), a „drama“ full of British humour, that has just had its premiere at the London Film Festival.

From the film „Polleke“ by Ineke Houtman, Netherlands 2003

What to do if the films don’t come?
In Germany some of the best films for children from the past years did not appe-
ar in the cinemas. Friedemann Schuch-
ardt, managing director of Matthias Film, a non-profit distribution company for edu-
cational media, wanted to do something about it. Therefore he gathered partners to start something new: Together with public TV programmes (who broadcasted these films and thus handled the dubbing) Matthias-Film and the German federation of Children’s and Young People’s Film Clubs (Bundesverband Jugend und Film e.V.) decided that German children should have the right to see these films and published them directly on DVD, together with educational materials for teachers and everyone who screens films for children in educational and cultural projects. This way the films Ikingut (Gisli Snaer-Erlingsson, Iceland 2000), Send More Candy (Caecilia Holbek Trier, DK 2001), Marken (André van Duren, NL/B 2000), Wallah Be (Pia Bovin, DK 2002), Elina – As if I was not there (Klaus Härö, S/SF 2002) and Who Kisses an Iguana (Karola Hattop, D 2003) finally are available in Germany. Sometimes, if the market does not work for culture, ambition and new technologies can help ;-) More information on the films mentioned here you will find at www.ecfaweb.org

In Poznan/Poland, June 11th & 12th 2005:
ECFA’s 3rd Conference of European Film Festivals for Young Audience

Together with the European Co-ordination of Film Festivals ECFA brings the film festivals for children in the focus of attention. Those invited to participate are not only the traditional children’s and young people’s film festivals, but also organizers of arthouse film festivals for adults who think about opening an additional program section with films for children.

Furthermore of course directors, produ-
cers, distributors, TV programmers, world sales agents and media educators will par-
ticipate to discuss the different aspects of festivals for young audiences. The pro-
gram will be developed at the beginning of 2005.

ECFA-Journal 4/2004
Films on the Horizon

New European films for children which are ready to be discovered for your programmes. More information and more films can be found at www.ecfaweb.org. Of course we can never guarantee that we cover all important new films. Producers, distributors and sales agents are kindly invited to inform us of their new releases.

Bombay Dreams
Feature Film, Sweden 2004
Director: Lena Koppel
Production: Fladen Film AB, Stockholm
Festival: Cinekid Amsterdam 2004
World Sales: Nordisk Film Internat. Sales
Halmtoret v 29
DK-3700 København V
phone: ++45-33-266880
fax: ++45-33-266889
E-Mail: contact@nordiskfilm.com
Internet: www.nordiskfilm.com

The Junior Olsen Gang Rocks it
Feature Film, Norway 2004
Director: Arne Lindtner-Næss
Production: Nordisk Film
World Sales: Nordisk Film Internat. Sales

Millions
Feature Film, Great Britain 2004
Director: Danny Boyle
Production: Mission Pictures
Festival: London IFF 2004
World Sales: Pathe International
Kent House
14-17 Market Place
GB-London WIN 8AR
phone: ++44-20-74624427
fax: ++44-20-74367891
E-Mail: internationalsales@pathe.co.uk
Internet: www.pathe.co.uk

The Mystry of the Blue Mountain
Feature Film, Russia 2004
Director: Jewgenij Sokolow
Production: Kinokompanija Cinebridge
Festival: Chemnitz 2004
World Sales: Mark Levin
Kinokompanija Cinebridge
Ismaïlowski Boulevard 24, str. 1, RUS-105043 Moscow
phone: ++7-095-1811779
fax: ++7-095-1811779
E-Mail: support@prostye.ru

The News Section:
Films, Festivals, Prizes
Cinekid - Int. Film, TV + New Media Festival for Children & Young People, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Cinekid Jury Awards; “Fourth Floor”;
Special Mentions: “Misa Mi” and “Blindflyers”.
Young Audience Award: “Bombay Dreams”
by Lena Koppel, Sweden 2004
Contact: Stichting Cinekid, S. Naëy
Korte Leidsewarstraat 12
NL-1017 RC Amsterdam
Phone: ++31 - 20 - 531 78 90
Fax: ++31 - 20 - 531 78 99
E-Mail: info@cinekid.nl
Internet: www.cinekid.nl

Chicago Internat. Children’s Film Festival
Best Film: “Blizzard” by Le Var Burton, Canada 2003
Contact: CIFFFF, Kathleen Beckman
1517 W. Fullerton
USA-Chicago IL 60614
Phone: ++1 - 773 - 281 90 75
Fax: ++1 - 773 - 292 02 66
E-Mail: kidsfest@facets.org
Internet: www.cicff.org

First Children & Youth Int. Film Festival, Madrid/Spain
Children’s Jury: “Homerun” by Jack Neo, Singapore 2003
Young People’s Jury: “Beat the Drum”
Contact: 1st Children & Youth International Film Festival Tambor de Hojalata Association
Marques de Valdeiglesias, C/ n° 5 1er izq, E-28004 Madrid
Phone: ++34 - 91 - 522 89 76
Fax: ++34 - 91 - 181 23 38
E-Mail: fci@shangri-la.jazztel.es
Internet: www.fci.info

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The News Section: Films, Festivals, Prizes

**Nordic Filmdays Luebeck/Germany**
- Adults’ Jury, Best film for children: *The Colour of Milk*
- Children’s Jury: „Nasty Brats“ by Giacomo Campetto, Denmark 2003
- Contact: Nordic Filmdays Luebeck
  - Linde Fröhlich, Schildstr. 6-8
  - D-23599 Luebeck
- Phone: ++49 - 451 - 122 41 09
- Fax: ++49 - 451 - 122 41 06
- E-Mail: info@filmtage.luebeck.de
- Internet: www.filmtage.luebeck.de

**Castellinaria Festival int. del cinema giovana Bellinzona/Switzerland,**
- Children's Jury, 6 - 15 years:
- Young People's Jury, 16 to 20 years:
  - Tre Castelli for the best feature film:
    - "Dias de Santiago" by Josué Méndez, Peru 2004; Special Mention: L'esquive", Christian Wagner, Germany 2002.
- Life Quality Award: „Schizo“ by Guka Omarova, Russia, Kazakhstan, France, Germany 2004
- Contact: Festival int. del cinema giovane c/o Esopo Centro, Via Cattori 3
  - CH-6502 Bellinzona-2
- Phone: ++41 - 91 - 825 28 93
- Fax: ++41 - 91 - 825 36 11
- E-Mail: info@castellinaria.ch
- Internet: www.castellinaria.ch

**International Children's Film Festival Vienna/Austria**
- Children’s Jury's Awards: „An Angel For May“ by Harley Cokeliss, GB
- Contact: Festival int. del cinema giovane c/o Esopo Centro, Via Cattori 3
  - CH-6502 Bellinzona-2
- Phone: ++41 - 91 - 825 28 93
- Fax: ++41 - 91 - 825 36 11
- E-Mail: info@castellinaria.ch
- Internet: www.castellinaria.ch

Forthcoming Festivals
**Children Film Festival - Cine Junior '94 Val-de-Marne/ France,**
- February 2nd to 13th 2005
- Contact: Children’s Film Festival - Cine Junior ‘94, Mr. S. Larère
  - 52, rue Joseph de Maistre
  - F-75018 Paris
- Phone: ++33 - 142 26 02 06
- Fax: ++33 - 142 26 02 15
- E-Mail: cinejun94@club-internet.fr
- Internet: www.cinejunior94.org

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Films on the Horizon

**Sergeant Pepper** by Sandra Nettelbeck

*The Nutcracker and the Mouseking*
- Animation, Germany 2004
- Directors: Michael Johnsen & Tatjana Ilyina
- Production: MC One, Stuttgart
- World Sales: Telepool
  - Sonnenstr. 21
  - D-80333 München
  - Phone: ++49-89-5587656
  - Fax: ++49-89-55876188
  - E-Mail: telepool@telepool.de
  - Internet: www.telepool.de
  - www.nussknackerderfilm.de

*Sergeant Pepper*
- Feature Film, Germany 2004
- Director: Sandra Nettelbeck
- Production: M TM Media & Television
- Festival: Lübeck 2004
- World Sales: Bavaria Film International
  - Bavariafilm Platz 8
  - D-82031 Gerolgsedelle!
  - Phone: ++49-89-64992686
  - Fax: ++49-89-64993720
  - E-Mail: Bavaria.international@bavaria-film.de
  - Internet: www.bavaria-film-international.de

*Spoon*
- Feature Film, NL, D, UK 2004
- Director: Willem van de Sande
- Production: Lemming Film, Amsterdam
- Release: February 2005

**Supertramps**
- Animation Film, Spain 2004
- Director: Iñigo Berasategi & José Maria Goenaga
- Production: Iruiso, San Sebastian & Barton Films, Bilbao
- Festival: Gijon 2004
- World Sales:Barton Films
  - C/ Uribitarte, 8, 4º dcha.
  - ESP-48001 Bilbao
  - Phone: ++34-94-424 0359
  - Fax: ++34-94-423 8957
  - E-Mail: bartonfilms@bartonfilms.com
  - Internet: www.bartonfilms.com

**Strings**
- Animation Film, Denmark 2004
- Director: Anders Rønnow Klarlund
- Production: Bald Film Production ApS
- Festival: London IFF 2004
- World Sales:Trust Film Sales (see above)

**110 % Suburbia**
- Documentary, Denmark 2004
- Director: Jesper Jack, Vibe Mogensen, Mette-Ann Schepelern
- Production: Koncern TV- og Filmproduktion
- World Sales:Koncern TV- og Filmproduktion
  - Esromgade 15, 0pl 1. 5.
  - DK-2200 Kopenhagen V
  - Phone: ++45-3582 8221
  - Fax: ++45-3582 9182
  - E-Mail: koncern@koncern.dk
  - Internet: www.koncern.dk

**Supertramps**
- Animation Film, Spain 2004
- Director: Iñigo Berasategi & José Maria Goenaga
- Production: Iruiso, San Sebastian & Barton Films, Bilbao
- Festival: Gijon 2004
- World Sales:Barton Films
  - C/ Uribitarte, 8, 4º dcha.
  - ESP-48001 Bilbao
  - Phone: ++34-94-424 0359
  - Fax: ++34-94-423 8957
  - E-Mail: bartonfilms@bartonfilms.com
  - Internet: www.bartonfilms.com

**Strings** by Anders Rønnow Klarlund

Your Advertising in ECFA-Journal and on www.ecfaweb.org!
ECFA-journal is published and distributed both on paper and as pdf-file in 600 copies and reaches almost everybody involved in the production, distribution, broadcasting and exhibition of films for children in Europe. It is an effective publication for you to inform the scene of new productions, sales offers, festival datas or distribution programmes.

**Prices:**
- full page (267 x 180 mm): 200 Euros
- half page (133 x 180 mm): 120 Euros
- column (267 x 53 mm): 70 Euros

Special formats on request. If artwork is necessary it will be charged extra.

For more details and for advertising on ECFA’s website please contact the editor.
Europees Jeugdfilmfestival Vlaanderen, Antwerp & Brugge/Belgium
February 6th to 13th 2005
Contact: Europees Jeugdfilmfestival
Vlaanderen, Bisschopstraat 67
B-2060 Antwerp
Phone: ++32-3-23 26 409
Fax: ++32-3-21 31 492
E-Mail: kidfilm@skynet.be
Internet: www.kidfilm.be

International Filmfestival Berlin, Children’s Film Festival
February 10th to 20th 2005
Contact: Int. Filmfestival Berlin
Children’s Film Festival
Potsdamer Str. 5
D-10785 Berlin
Phone: ++49-30-25920420
Fax: ++49-30-25920429
E-Mail: kids@berlinale.de
Internet: www.berlinale.de

SehPferdchen - Kinderfilmfest
Hannover/Germany, February 27th to March 6th 2005
Contact: SehPferdchen - Kinderfilmfest
Podbielskistr. 30
D-30163 Hannover
Phone: ++49-511-661341
Fax: ++49-511-667792
E-Mail: info@filmfest-sehpferdchen.de
Internet: www.filmfest-sehpferdchen.de

Children’s Film Festival Augsburg
March 6th to 13th 2005
Contact: Augsburger Kinderfilmfest
Filmbüro Augsburg
Schroeckstr. 8
D-86152 Augsburg
Phone: ++49-821-3491060
Fax: ++49-821-3495218
E-Mail: filmbuero@t-online.de
Internet: www.filmfest-augsburg.de

BUFF - Internat. Children’s and Young People’s Film-Festival, Malmö/Sweden
March 8th to 13th 2005
Contact: BUFF, P.O. Box 4277
S-20314 Malmö
Phone: ++46-40-302505
Fax: ++46-40-305 322
E-Mail: info@buff.se
Internet: www.buff.se

Children’s Film Festival „Film Berry“
Riga/Latvia, March 14th to 20th 2005
Contact: Children’s Film Festival
“Film Berry”, c/o Arsenal
Marstalu 14
LV-1050 Riga/Latvia
Phone: ++371-722-1620
Fax: ++371-722-1620
E-Mail: programm@arsenals.lv
Internet: www.arsenals.lv
**ECFA in Persons:**

**Pieter Boeckx, Antwerp/Belgium**

Pieter Boeckx has been working for the European Youth Film Festival Flanders in Antwerp and Brugge for several years. Now he follows Katrijn Korten as the festival’s artistic director. “My main objective, personally and for the Film Festival, is to present all those films that just wouldn’t be able to be seen if we do not make people aware of their existence. When you take a look at the current offer of children’s and youth films on the commercial circuit at most points it is very sad to see what kind of films are offered to the audience,” said Pieter.

Pieter named his strong wish to present all those films that just wouldn’t be able to be seen if we do not make people aware of their existence. When you take a look at the current offer of children’s and youth films on the commercial circuit at most points it is very sad to see what kind of films are offered to the audience. Children are quite intelligent these days and they should be treated as such. I like to show them films which are a bit more challenging, that can evoke some dialogue on certain themes, that are interesting in social and cultural terms.”

Working for an international film festival it is essential for Pieter Boeckx to have a network: “Films for children and young people form a very special and unique part of the film market. To be able to obtain information, it is of course very convenient to have contacts in the different countries and to have this central association, which is ECFA. The Association brings together people from around Europe who work for a common aim: interesting films for children and young people. Not only is it extremely interesting to interact with these people on the level of exchanging knowledge on film sources, but also you can exchange a lot of experience in studying each others working methods and ideas in the various European countries. On a more personal level, it’s also very interesting to be able to meet these people from all those different countries, who work for the same common goal: promoting high quality European films.”

Pieter of course has many ideas on how to improve ECFA’s activities: “I would like to see ECFA’s website evolve in a more active form, with regular news updates, direct links to new films or festivals, maybe a forum, etc. Maybe there could also be a more intense co-operation between the various European youth film festivals. Something like a travelling ECFA programme, for example, with some of the most interesting films of the time, more co-operation on the exchange of information, such as dialogue lists, etc.

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**Get together of the Children’s Film Community at the International Film Festival at Berlin, February 12th 2005**

On Saturday, February 12th, from 9 pm. on there will be the now famous get together for all those working with children’s films, organized by ECFA, Atlas Intermedia, Bundesverband Jugend und Film, Förderverein Deutscher Kinderfilm, Lucas International Children’s Film Festival Frankfurt, MDC International Film Distribution and Stiftung Goldener Spatz.

Location: Café am Neuen See, Lichtensteinallee 2, 10787 Berlin

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**ECFA’s Annual General Meeting in Berlin, February 12th 2005**

The Annual General Assembly of the European Children’s Film Association will be held during the International Film Festival Berlin on Saturday, February 12th, from 4:00 to (approximately) 7:00 pm.

Location: Hotel Unter den Linden, Unter den Linden 14, 10117 Berlin

Preliminary AGENDA:

1. Report on the Annual General Meeting 2004
2. Report on the ECFA-activities 2004
3. Financial report on the year 2004
4. Approval of the reports
5. Election of new board members
6. Projects for 2005, especially The 3rd Conference of European Film Festivals for Young Audiences
7. Proposals from the members for future projects
8. Any other business