In recent years the situation of the European children’s film festivals has changed significantly. On one hand more of these festivals have been established to promote high quality films for children. But on the other hand the chances for precisely these films to find their way to the young audiences in cinemas or on TV-screens have decreased to a remarkable extent. From the European point of view another most significant change happened in the year 2004, when ten central and eastern European countries finally entered the European Union.

In the rapidly changing European media landscape children’s film festivals constantly have to question their purpose and they have to establish their position between producers, distributors, cinemas, TV-stations and other media. What is the current situation regarding the promotion of films for children? It is essential that the children’s film festivals strengthen their position and find solutions for their specific problems by exchanging experiences.

To discuss these issues ECFA and the European Co-ordination of Film Festivals organize this conference of children’s film festivals. Representatives from the different areas that contribute to a festival are invited. Additionally, the national importance of festivals is considered and the different profiles of each festival are established. In order to deal with all these subjects, the main tasks of the conference will be:

1. Regarding the new EU-countries:
   After the political changes around 1990 the former world famous children’s film culture in several Eastern European countries broke down. The festivals in Poznan and Zlin for many years were the only places where we could get an idea what festivals.

   Continued on page 2

Interview with the Norwegian director and writer Torun Lian

Significance Beyond the Moment

For several months now Torun Lian’s new film „The Colour of Milk” has collected awards at festivals around the world. Jan Erik Holst, director of the Norwegian Film Institute’s international department, interviewed this outstanding artist.

Torun Lian, you have developed a distinct film style, in which you depict young girls in a painful transition from childhood to adolescence. From where do you draw your material? From yourself, or from friends?

Continued on page 3
The News Section:
Films, Festivals, Prizes

Children's Film Festival "Cinepânz", Cologne/Germany
Main Award: "Beast of Beauty" by Hilde heier, Norway 2003; Children's Jury's Award: "Wolf Summer" by Peder Norlund, Norway 2002.
Contact: Kinderfilmfest Cinepaenz
JFC Medienzentrum Köln
Hansaring 82-86
D-50670 Köln/Cologne
Phone: ++49-221-12 00 93
Fax: ++49-221-12 00 92
E-Mail: cinepaenz@jfc.info
Internet: www.cinepaenz.de

International Children's Film Festival Oulu/Finland
Children's Jury: "Count to 100" by Linda Krosgoe Holmberg and Stefan Jaworski, Denmark 2004;
Contact: Oulu International Children's Film Festival, Oulu Film Center
Hallituskatu 7
SF-90100 Oulu
Phone: ++358-881 12 93
Fax: ++358-881 12 90
E-Mail: oek@oufilmcenter.inet.fi
Internet: www.ouka.fi/lef

Olympia Children's Film Festival Pyrgos/Greece
International Jury:
Best feature film: "The Blindflyers" by Bernd Sahling, Germany 2004
Best Short Film Fiction: "Green Oaks" by Ruxandra Zenide, Switzerland & Romania 2002;
Best Short Film Animation: "Slippery Tale" by Susanne Seidel, Germany 2004;
Best Director, Feature Film: "The Colour of Milk";
Best Screenplay: "Count to 100";
Best Young Actor, Feature Film: Innocent Simango for his role as Sipo in "The Wooden Camera", by Ntshavheni Wa Luruli, South Africa, France, UK 2003
Best Young Actress, Feature Film: Ricarda Ramunke for her role as Marie in "The Blindflyers";
Special Mentions: "Captain Bligh" by Derek Roczen, Germany 2003; "The Northern Star" by Felix Randau, Germany 2003; "Paradise is somewhere else" by Abdorsalol Goblon, Iran 2003; "Love at 16" by Kostas Haralambous, Greece 2004;
CIFEJ Award: "Wooden Camera";
Children's Jury Awards:
Best feature film: "The Northern Star" Best short fiction film: "Rush" by Thodoris Papadoulakis, Greece 2004;
Contact: Olympia Int. Film Festival for Children and Young People

Continuing from page 1

Promoting the best Films for Children all over Europe

was going on there. Recently more festivals in several countries have started and we have to discuss, how can we establish and improve the co-operation among the festivals in the „old“ and „new“ EU-countries.

2. Overall topics:
In relation to the new festivals, it will be especially interesting to hear about the experiences and different possibilities of organizing a festival. But also the experienced organizers will be surprised about the youngsters’ new ideas.

Subjects will be:
- selection of films/ programming: a wide variety or a distinct profile?
- programme decisions made by a selection committee or by an individual artistic director?
- A claim to producers: small children want to see films too!
- Screening fees for producers or sales agents?
- Competition: yes or no? How important are awards? Children’s or experts’ jury or audience award? Awards donated with money or not?
- How can children participate actively in the festival?
- Presentation: Open screenings and/or school screenings? Presence of casts and crews of the film participating? Communication among the professionals and guests during the festival?
- Language problems: subtitling systems and/or voice over?
- Public relations: press information, media coverage etc.
- Which materials are necessary: catalogue, brochure, posters?
- Financial matters: public subsidies (EU, national, regional, local sources), private funds, sponsorship.

New ideas and projects, for example:
- 1st Kid’s Festival Bosnia (Viacult, Sarajevo)
- Databases (www.ECFAweb.org, European Film Promotion)
- Website stories (Academia Promotion, Poland)
- Special screenings for handicapped (blind or deaf) people.

You will find the detailed programme of the conference in the next issue of ECFA-Journal in the beginning of May.

Participation fees: 150,- Euro for members of ECFA or the Coordination of European Film Festivals 200,- Euro for others.
These fees include: opening night (= closing ceremony of the Festival), the conference, hotel (3 nights) and meals, transfer from airport to conference. Travel to the conference has to be arranged by participants themselves.

For more information and to register yourself for the conference please contact ECFA’s office in Brussels (see page 6 for contact details).
Significance Beyond the Moment

The material in itself is not derived from me. I draw it, or rather find it, or, even more precisely, I just recognize it. And I am not the first one. This is nothing new. I am doing the same thing as thousands of other writers have done before me. I am writing, and in the process it becomes more and more obvious that I am only writing an old myth anew, and the same old archetypes yet once more. Externally, I draw the stories from my surroundings, but basically I am engaged in archetypes and myths. I make use of them. Or they utilize me. I think that is what makes me a writer.

In your tales, the journey makes up the story. You are developing from a classical conflict/solution model. Therefore, your films leave a lasting impression. I suppose it is the mythical material which possibly provides them with a certain permanent importance. A significance beyond the moment. The closer you get to the intrinsic human stories, the longer they last. For instance, fairy tales are simple, but they are valid at all times. Over and over again.

"The Colour of Milk", written and directed by Torun Lian

Both "Straight from the Heart" and "The Colour of Milk" are based on your own books. Why do you use this method? It is a natural choice for me. I am a writer, and I want to write stories. If they prove to be of a high enough quality to be converted into films, I start over again. I write them once more. As films. But while writing, I am not conscious of the fact that they may/should become films. "The Colour of Milk", by the way, started out as a short story, located in Italy in the 8th century? But it didn't turn out to be a film from the 8th century?

That brings me to certain questions concerning your new job, as feature film consultant in the Norwegian Film Fund. What makes you wish to be in this position, when you are destined for a splendid career as writer and director? I am fascinated by stories. Other people's stories, too. I could not resist the attraction of working with storytelling within such a position. And after three years of hard work with my own films, I decided it would be wonderful to have a job with fixed working hours and salary. I was too tempted to postpone the agonizing state of mind which I, for one, enter when I write or develop something that only may turn out to be a book or a film.

In this position will you be able to search for stories?

I will have to relate to what the producers come up with. But of course I will search for stories inherent in the material I get to read, in the sense that I will choose which projects are granted support or financial means for further development.

In the past, film consultants were often production workers. At the moment three writers are in the position of feature film consultants to the Fund. Does this mean the films will turn out to be different? It may be significant. In any case, we are looking for good stories. Maybe writers are highly qualified for this kind of work. Whoever is involved in the evaluation, the task will still be to wash out the gold from the stream that rushes by.

Do you appreciate your films being branded as children's films? Doesn't this label them as films of a slightly inferior status? I do observe this fact. Family film might be a better description of my films, or coming of age. I regard them as films for ordinary people. I know that is too vague in our segmented culture, but never mind that. The inferior status attached to children's film does not bother me much. Many people are striving to maintain this status; bureaucrats, festival people, school personnel, intermediaries... Probably many more people than those involved in making children's film. What maybe most important is that those of us who create films for children and youth carry out our task in a serious way and allow ourselves to be challenged by it, not only in relation to commercial parameters, but also artistic ones. And permanent ones. Only this will make it possible to keep defending and maybe further improving the status of films for children and youth among the Nordic countries. And to maintain the respect our films for young people are treated with by the rest of the world...
The News Section: Films, Festivals, Prizes

Phone: +44-3-23 26 409
Fax: +44-3-23 21 31 492
E-Mail: pieter@jeugdfilmfestival.be
Internet: www.jeugdfilmfestival.be

International Film Festival Berlin, Kinderfilmfest 14plus
February 11th 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, Feb. 27th to March 6th 2005
Contact: SehPferdchen - Kinderfilmfest
Podbielskistr. 30
D-30163 Hannover
Phone: ++49-511-667792
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
Schroecstr. 8
D-86112 Augsburg
Phone: ++49-821-3495218
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 Festival „Film Berry”
c/o Arsenal, Marstalu 14
LV-1053 XX Amsterdam
Phone: +371-722-1620
Fax: +371-722-1620
E-Mail: programm@arsenals.lv
Internet: www.arsenals.lv

Leeds Children’s Film Festival, March 17th to 25th 2005
Contact: Leeds Children’s Film Festival
The Town Hall/The Headrow
GB-Leeds LS1 3AD
Phone: +44-113-247 8998
Fax: +44-113-247 8494
E-Mail: debbie.maturi@leeds.gov.uk
Internet: www.leedsfilm.com

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.

Hidden Flaws
Feature Film, Netherlands 2004
Director: Paul van der Oest
Production: De Luwte BV
World Sales:The Sales Company
62 Shaftesbury Avenue
GB-London GB-W1V 7DE
phone: +44-171-4349061
fax: +44-171-4943293
E-Mail: andrew.hewitz@filmsalescorp.com

“Eric in the Land of Insects”

Bluebird
Documentary, Netherlands 2004
Director: Mijke de Jong
Production: Egmond Film & TV
Festival: Kinderfilmfest Berlin 2005
World Sales:Egmond Film and Television
Potgieterstraat 38
NL-1053 XX Amsterdam
phone: +31-20-589 0909
fax: +31-20-589 0901
E-Mail: info@egmondfilm.nl
Internet: www.egmondfilm.nl

Falling Beauty
Feature Film, Norway/ Sweden 2004
Director: Lena Hanno Clyne
Production: Gilda Film
World Sales:NonStop Sales AB
Döbelnsgatan 24
SE-11325 Stockholm
phone: +46-8-6739998
fax: +46-8-6739998
E-Mail: info@nostopsales.net
Internet: www.nostopsales.net

Felix
Animation, Germany 2004
Director: Giuseppe Maurizio Laganà
Production: NDF Neue Deutsche Filmgesellschaft mbH
World Sales:NDF Neue Deutsche Filmgesellschaft mbH
Kanalstr. 7
D-85774 Unterföhring
phone: +49-89-958260
fax: +49-89-950 16-0
E-Mail: info@nordfilm.com
Internet: www.nordfilm.com

Eric in the Land of Insects
Feature Film, Netherlands 2004
Director: Gidi van Liempd
Production: Egmond Film & TV
World Sales:Egmond Film and Television
(address see above)

Love at 16
Feature Film, Greece 2004
Director: Kostas Haralambous
Production: Greek Film Centre, ERT S.A
Festival: Olympia 2004
World Sales:Greek Film Centre
10, Panepistimou Avenue
GR-10671 Athen
phone: +30-1-3617653
fax: +30-1-3614336
E-Mail: info@gfc.gr
Internet: www.gfc.gr

My Summer of Love
Feature Film, GB 2004
Director: Paul van der Oest
Production: Apocalypse Productions
World Sales:The Works
4th Floor, Portland House
GB-London W1V 8QJ
phone: +44-20-76121080
fax: +44-20-76121081

Oscar and Josefine
Feature Film, Denmark 2005
Director: Liisa Helminen
Production: Cosmo Film
World Sales:Nordisk Film Internat. Sales
(Adress see above)

Pelicanman
Feature Film, Finland 2004
Director: Liisa Helminen

Little Big Mouse
Animation, Denmark 2004
Director: Janik Hattrup
Production: Dansk Tegnefilm 2
World Sales:Nordisk Film Internat. Sales
Mosedalvej 14
DK-2500 Valby
phone: +45-3618 8200
fax: +45-3618 9550
E-Mail: contact@nordiskfilm.com
Internet: www.nordiskfilm.com
www.cirkeline.dk

Little Big Mouse
Animation, Denmark 2004
Director: Janik Hattrup
Production: Dansk Tegnefilm 2
World Sales:Nordisk Film Internat. Sales
Mosedalvej 14
DK-2500 Valby
phone: +45-3618 8200
fax: +45-3618 9550
E-Mail: contact@nordiskfilm.com
Internet: www.nordiskfilm.com
www.cirkeline.dk

Felix
Animation, Germany 2004
Director: Giuseppe Maurizio Laganà
Production: NDF Neue Deutsche Filmgesellschaft mbH
World Sales:NDF Neue Deutsche Filmgesellschaft mbH
Kanalstr. 7
D-85774 Unterföhring
phone: +49-89-958260
fax: +49-89-950 16-0
E-Mail: info@nordfilm.com
Internet: www.nordfilm.com

Love at 16
Feature Film, Greece 2004
Director: Kostas Haralambous
Production: Greek Film Centre, ERT S.A
Festival: Olympia 2004
World Sales:Greek Film Centre
10, Panepistimou Avenue
GR-10671 Athen
phone: +30-1-3617653
fax: +30-1-3614336
E-Mail: info@gfc.gr
Internet: www.gfc.gr

My Summer of Love
Feature Film, GB 2004
Director: Paul van der Oest
Production: Apocalypse Productions
World Sales:The Works
4th Floor, Portland House
GB-London W1V 8QJ
phone: +44-20-76121080
fax: +44-20-76121081

Oscar and Josefine
Feature Film, Denmark 2005
Director: Liisa Helminen
Production: Cosmo Film
World Sales:Nordisk Film Internat. Sales
(Adress see above)

Pelicanman
Feature Film, Finland 2004
Director: Liisa Helminen

Oscar and Josefine
Feature Film, Denmark 2005
Director: Liisa Helminen
Production: Cosmo Film
World Sales:Nordisk Film Internat. Sales
(Adress see above)
Films on the Horizon

Production: Lumifilm Oy, Migma Film
World Sales: NonStop Sales AB
(address see page 4)
Internet: www.pelikaanimies.fi

"Stolen Childhood"
Stolen Childhood
Feature Film, Italy 2004
Directors: Andrea & Antonio Fraazi
Festival: Antwerp/Brugge 2005
World Sales: Mikado Film
Via Vittor Pisani 12
I-20124 Milano
phone: +39-02-67070665
fax: +39-02-66711488
E-Mail: mikado@tin.it
Internet: www.mikado.it

Wanted: Man
Feature Film, Netherlands 2004
Director: Patrice Toye
Production: Waterland Film & TV

Kids For Kids Festival 2005

Kids For Kids Festival is an independent festival of films made by and for children and a meeting place for young filmmakers, media experts and the interested public.

What messages would children themselves want to convey? Can children construct meaningful films with the same tools as media professionals? This is what Kids For Kids Festival is all about: a unique opportunity to screen and promote audiovisual messages created by children for children. This film festival is managed by CIFEJ in co-operation with ECFA, for the AGORA meeting, the Annual Mediterranean Regional Summit produced by ECTC. Last year, the 2nd edition took place in Athens, Greece, where 400 films from 37 countries were submitted for the official competition. The 3rd edition will take place in Greece, from June 16 to 18, 2005. We are now inviting new entries from young filmmakers, so participate now!

Three categories:
Animation, Live action, 1 minute film

Choice of subject: free
Duration: maximum 10 minutes (except for the 1 minute film category)

Two age groups:
6 to 12 years and 13 to 16 years old
Deadline: March 15, 2005

For more information, entry forms etc. please visit our website. There you will find all details about the festival’s ‘rules & regulations’: www.kidsforkidsfestival.org

The Best of the Kids-For-Kids-Festival 2004 for Sale
‘The Best of KidsForKids 2004’ is a compilation of 20 films, including all award winning films. Running Time: 154 minutes. The following formats are available:

VHS - NTSC Euro 20,00
VHS - PAL Euro 25,00
DVD - NTSC Euro 65,00
DVD - PAL Euro 70,00
Shipping fee: Euro 12. All taxes included.

Order your copy at:
European Children’s Film Association
Rue des Palais 112, B-1030 Bruxelles
Phone: ++32 - 2 - 242 54 09
Fax: ++32 - 2 - 242 74 27
E-Mail: ecfaj@ekino.be

ECFA’s Conference of International Children’s Film Festivals in Europe
Poznan/Poland, June 10th to 13th 2005

The News Section:
Films, Festivals, Prizes

Stockholm Film Festival Junior, Stockholm/Sweden, April 10th to 17th 2005
Contact: Stockholm Film Festival Junior
Box 3176, S-10362 Stockholm
Phone: ++46-8-6775951
Fax: ++46-8-200590
E-Mail: Junior@filmfestivalen.se
Internet: www.filmfestivalen.se/junior

Vilnius Film Festival for Children and Young People, Vilnius/Lithuania, April 15th to 20th 2005
Contact: Lina Uzkuraité
E-Mail: kidsfestival@hotmail.com

Krivjansd International Children’s Film Festival, Kristiansand/Norway, April 26th to May 1st 2005
Contact: Kristiansand International Children’s Film Festival
Kristiansand Kino
P.O.Box 356
N-4663 Kristiansand
Phone: ++47-38-10 42 07
Fax: ++47-38-10 42 01
E-Mail: rune@krskino.no
Internet: www.filmweb.no/kristiansandkino/barn

International Film Festival for Children and Youth, Zlin/Czech Republic, May 29th to June 4th 2005
Contact: Int. Film Festival for Children and Youth Zlin, Filmfest, s.r.o.
Filmová 174, CZ-75179 Zlín
Phone: ++420-57-7592300
Fax: ++420-57-7592442
E-Mail: festival@zlinfest.cz
Internet: www.zlinfest.cz

International Young Audience Film Festival "Ale Kino!", Poznan/Poland, June 7th to 11th 2005
Contact: International Young Audience Film Festival "Ale Kino!", Children’s Art Centre
St. Marcin Street 80/82
PL-61809 Poznan
Phone: ++48-61-6454 471
Fax: ++48-61-6454 472
E-Mail: alekino@alekino.com
Internet: www.alekino.com

ECFA-Journal 1/2005 - 5 -
**ECFA in Persons:**

**Margret Albers, Erfurt & Gera/Germany**

Although the Golden Sparrow Foundation is a national organisation, in Margret Albers’ opinion it is necessary to join in and contribute to international networks as ECFA: “In several European countries – including Germany – children’s media is regarded as a minor niche within the media business. To improve this situation of developing children’s media on a national and European level it is crucial to exchange experiences and ideas – to simply learn from each other.”

Furthermore Margret Albers sees ECFA as quite helpful to get information about new films and the activities of the festivals. „ECFA’s activities are a good platform – there you have the opportunity for exchange, can work out which issues are common and develop further activities and strategies. Last but not least you meet your colleagues in person.”

From ECFA Margret Albers would like to have more opportunities to meet and discuss important topics, e.g. marketing and distribution.

The next Golden Sparrow spreads its Festival-wings in Erfurt and Gera (Thuringia) from April 24th to May 4th 2005.

www.goldenerspatz.de

---

**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. 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, Matthias-Film, MDC International Film Distribution and Stiftung Goldener Spatz.

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

**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 of 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