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February

Editorial

New Opportunities

In the October issue of the ECFA Journal (3/2009) we proudly mentioned signs of growing appreciation for our work. This was also confirmed by the addition of 6 new members from various backgrounds (festivals, producers, cinema archive) and different countries (Italy, Portugal, Germany, Romania, Ireland, Denmark).

Our continuous efforts to maintain the flow of information on quality films for children and our role in the networking among the various players in this field now also meets with recognition outside Europe. Over the past months we have received repeated requests from organisations and companies outside Europe to become a member of ECFA!

This issue will be discussed during the next Annual General Meeting. The decision can only be taken by ECFA's members. Personally I think our association shouldn't miss this opportunity. It's not just a matter of expansion. The main goal of ECFA after all is the "promotion of European quality films for children and youngsters" and if non-European organisations can clearly prove that they not only subscribe this goal but effectively make efforts in this field, we should accept these chances for new cooperation. I am certain that, perhaps on a longer term, this will also create new opportunities for our actual European members.

Hoping to meet you all in Berlin,

Felix Vanginderhuysen
General Secretary

The International Children's Film Festival, Hyderabad, India

Nandita Das: "Children's film as a genre in India is underdeveloped"

For travellers Hyderabad is possibly not the most popular destination. But India's 4th biggest city is working its way up, with help from the fast growing IT-industry, granting the city its nickname 'Cyberabad'. The city is also hosting a biennial International Children's Film Festival, in a country where film is a very vivid part of everyday life.

Nandita Das isn't just one of India's most famous and dazzling actresses, she's also the chairlady of the Children's Film Society, India (CFSI) that organizes the Children's Film Festival in Hyderabad. Today the patroness feels sick and over-fatigued: a sniffing pitiful girl who can hardly keep her eyes open. But as soon as she gets out of the car, with fans circling around her she undergoes a metamorphosis: with radiating smile she's shaking hands and giving autographs, drudging herself for the benefit of the festival.

Nandita Das: "After my studies I worked for an NGO aiming to 'make education more fun'. More or less by accident I debuted as an actress in FIRE (in the FIRE / EARTH / WATER trilogy by Deepa Mehta), a film raising quite some controversy in India. I'm not a Bollywood actress and have acted in about 30 independent films. After I directed my first feature film FIRAAQ I took a break to read scripts. That was when I was asked to become the chairperson of CFSI. I have always been concerned about the kind of films children have to grow up with and this was a good opportunity to make a difference.

I felt the right intent and experience of working with children and films would help me take on this responsibility. I have taken it up rather seriously and I want to make all possible efforts."

(continued on page 2)



Nandita Das (© Uta Beth)

The Perfect Tool

ECFA co-organizes inspirational seminar on film study guides

In cooperation with Film & Kino, ECFA co-organizes a seminar in Kristiansand (Norway) on film study guides, focusing on innovation and discussing hands on examples, in an attempt to inspire teachers, pedagogues and film professionals.

Why should we produce study guides? The practice of making film study guides started when film was a relatively new medium, without a dedicated place in the curriculum. Today film has gained footing in both schools and curricula. Knowledge about film is easily accessible - a special edition DVD gives more production information than one could ever cram into a two pages teachers guide.

Do we still need study guides? Do we need them for the teachers, if students have access to films and interactive tools? Do we still need teachers if such tools can easily eliminate them? And what do teachers expect from 'the ideal study guide'?

The seminar will confront innovative cases with different "devil's advocates" to kick-start the discussions.

Seminar 'The Perfect Tool', Kristiansand Kino, Friday April 30th, 09.00 – 14.00.
ECFA provides a free hotel night for ECFA-members attending the seminar.

New Indian Titles for Children

KIDS (PASANGA)



Since the day of his arrival Anbu impresses his teachers with his good manners and school results. Jeeva, ruling the school campus, takes up a hatred for Anbu as he snatches his leader position. Rivalry makes the two boys compete in every possible matter, dragging their families into a war. Meanwhile, within both families a love affair grows. Set in a small village KIDS is referring to director Pandiraj's childhood memories. With an authentic feel the film depicts a playful tough realistic image of Indian semi-rural life and offers children a subtle solution on how to deal with familial quarrelling. Pandiraj: "The film was considered lacking commercial elements and spun around kids, which was considered a risk. Deprived of star value and fight sequences, the script was evaluated a total offbeat one but KIDS proved to be commercially successful as well as critically acclaimed." KIDS is a charming introduction to Indian cinema for a family audience.

Contact: Company productions, companyproductions@gmail.com

HARUN-ARUN



HARUN-ARUN (by Vinod Ganatra) comes up with an important question: what do borders mean when they only exist on a map and not in the hearts and minds of people?

The partition of India in 1947 caused the migration of thousands of people on both sides of the Indian-Pakistan border. One man separated from his motherland is Rashid, now living in Pakistan with his grandson Harun. Rashid had long harboured hopes of visiting his family again. Now an old man, he plans to cross the border. All the while Harun lives his life in a hostile environment, dreaming about visiting his Indian family too. Crossing the border he meets three children who take him under their protection.

In the Chicago International Children's Film Festival HARUN-ARUN won the Liv Ullmann Peace Prize, given to a film that brings children closer to an understanding of the global culture.

Contact: Vinod Gantra, vinodganatra@gmail.com

You have already put your mark on this festival edition.

Das: "There's not much I could do in 3 months time. But I do have some ideas for the future and in this edition we already took the first steps by re-modelling the competition. If India wants to promote its film culture, we shouldn't hide in the corner. We should step out. In the next edition I want to find the right place for Indian films to compete with the other countries. But before that we have to encourage film makers in India to make good films for children"

The festival is ambitious. All over the city huge billboards are put up. For the opening and closing ceremony in flabbergasting Bollywood style a big crowd gathers in a public park for a spectacular event: a dazzling extravaganza. Politicians' speeches are interrupted by a screaming crowd every time a movie star arrives. With dozens of photographers and TV-cameras around, the stage is secured by security guards with machine guns – quite an unreal sight in a children's festival! Dressed in colourful costumes hundreds of children are dancing to 'Jai Ho' (SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE), India's new hymn of hope. On stage: popular actors with big moustaches, a former Miss Universe and K Rosaiah, chief minister of the state of Andhra Pradesh.

How about Indian children's film production?

Das: "With economics interfering with the arts, there is a lack of children's films in India. Producers and directors think they know what the public wants. They all want to make 'viable' films. Yearly, 1000 films are produced in India and many of them never make it to the cinemas. Isn't that enough proof that the industry doesn't always know what works? For children there are very few films, they are mostly animated mythological stories that sometimes become commercial blockbusters. Some films are so violent that it is shocking that parents take their kids to watch them. Out of 60 Indian films that were sent to us for selection, only a handful were found appropriate for the festival. The type of quality films that we present in the festival (A LETTER FOR THE KING, THE CROCODILES,...) as a genre in India is underdeveloped."

Though you have CFSI standing behind you as a powerful promotional organisation.

Das: "CSFI is the driving force behind this government-supported festival. But the CFSI functionaries don't come from the world of cinema; they lack international expertise and experience. It's not enough to invest money in production. CSFI could be the catalyst, investing in new impulses. The intent is there, but much needs to be done."



Children on stage at the Hyderabad Festival

Who's your festival audience?

Das: "We invite a children's delegation from every state in India and every district of Andhra Pradesh to watch the films and participate in workshops. And of course it is a big treat for the children of Hyderabad. Children from all social classes use this opportunity. For many of them it was the first time they stepped out of their village, just as for many it was their first trip to the cinema. That creates an exciting atmosphere in the theatre. Today after a screening the crowd chanted: "Once more, once more!" Special efforts are also made for disabled children. In the whole region children with sight disabilities are invited to see a movie with audio description. That's a clear statement from the festival: all children have the right to quality entertainment."

The festival shows a huge social commitment. Representatives of children and women's rights associations are part of the jury. The Open Forum debates are attended by a large motivated audience and even children fire sharp questions at the panels

How can this festival somehow influence the Indian film landscape?

Das: "By drawing the attention of the national film industry. When the word spreads that children's films are taken seriously, hopefully it would motivate talents in the industry. We introduce children to the world of cinema by organizing workshops. The press covers it well, helping the message to spread."

During festival debates one topic always comes to our attention: the situation of Indian child actors.

Das: "Someone once said that animals are better treated than children because of the lobbying of animal rights' associations that have guidelines about how to treat animals on the sets. While children are still dependent on the kind of production they work in. Sometimes one hears of horror stories of children being exploited. The chairperson of children's rights' organisation NCPDR, who was part of the jury, is currently negotiating with all stakeholders. Hopefully results will soon be visible on film sets." (GH)



School Children at the Hyderabad Festival

Polish Must-Sees

'Polish Must-Sees' is a project launched by the 27th International Young Audience Film Festival Ale Kino! (Poznań, December 2009), promoting the latest Polish productions for children and youngsters among foreign distributors, producers and festival organisers.

In 2009 2 new films for children were released on the national screens.

- **THE MAGIC TREE** (Andrzej Maleszka), a long-awaited live-action feature based on a television series for children that won an Emmy Award. (Lunapark: +48/22-323-67-05).



The Magic Tree

- **COPERNICUS' STAR** (Zdzisław Kudła & Andrzej Orzechowski) is a full length animation telling the story of 10 year old Nicolaus Copernicus. (Filmów Rysunkowych Studio: +48/033-81-250-56; filmrys@poczta.petex.com.pl)

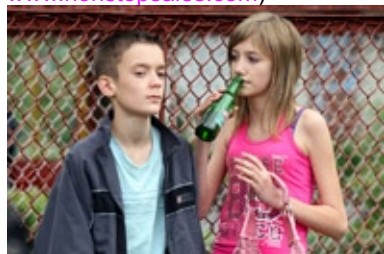
Remarkable titles for a young audience were:

- **MALL GIRLS** (Katarzyna Roslaniec) depicts the world of teenage girls spending their leisure time in shopping malls hunting down rich "sponsors" ready to satisfy their whims.

(Warszawska Szkoła Filmowa; +48/22-543-55-99; info@szkolafilmowa.pl; www.szkolafilmowa.pl)

- **PIGGIES** (Robert Glinski) portrays the boys from the Western borderland, providing sexual services to German clients.

(NonStop Sales; +46/8-673-999; info@nonstopsales.com; www.nonstopsales.com)



Piggies

- **ALL THAT I LOVE** (Jacek Borcuch, released in January 2010) tells of four teenagers setting up a punk rock band in spring 1981, just before martial law is imposed in Poland. (Prasa i Film; +48/22-85-110-37;

Kamila.polit@pifpartners.pl)

2010 will bring another interesting premiere: **TOMORROW WILL BE BETTER** (Doroła Kedzierszawska) about three homeless boys living at a railway station in a Russian town. (Kid Film Arthur Reinhart; +48/226-157-223)

Polish Animation 2010

The production of animated films in Poland has a strong tradition to defend. For 2010 Studio Miniatur Filmowych in Warsaw plans two feature animations: **THE ROSE AND THE RING** (4+) revolves around the fortunes of four royal characters. By using magical objects – a rose and a ring – the heroes get involved in exciting adventures.

KOZIOLEK MATOLEK AND THE TOY KIDNAPPERS (4+) tells a funny story full of twists and turns about billy-goat Koziołek Matolek who, with the help of brave toys, stands up against a ruthless corporation. (+48/22-845-53-45)



Koziołek Matolek

The Se-Ma-For Studio in Lodz has impressive production plans for two features. **SWITEZ** (Kamil Polak, premiering in 2011) is a picturesque adaptation of a ballad by Adam Mickiewicz about the decline of the ancient town of Świtez. Trying to escape death, the citizens entrust themselves to God. They are turned into water lilies and thus immortalised. **HEART IN THE WALL** (Balbina Bruszezewska, premiering in 2012) tells about an unusual friendship. By means of a magic diary, a girl gets in touch with young Frederic Chopin, spending his holidays in Szafarnia in 1824. This encounter forever changes the lives of the two heroes. (+48/042-681-54-74; j.rucinska@se-ma-for.com)

Marta Grzesiuk
Programmer of the Ale Kino!

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

Interfilm Short Film Festival / KUKI, International Short Film Festival for Children and Youth Berlin, Germany

International Competition, best film: „Missen“ by Jochem de Vries, The Netherlands 2009.

KUKI-Awards:

Best short film for children: „The Problem with Pets“ by Catriona Craig, Scotland 2008;
2nd prize: „Signalis“ by Adrian Flücker, Switzerland 2008;

Best short film for young people: „The Ground Beneath“ by Rene Hernandez, Australia 2008.

www.interfilm.de

Olympia Int. Film Festival for Children and Young People, Pyrgos, Greece,

Best feature film: „A Time to Love“ by Ebrahim Forouzesh, Iran 2008;

Best short feature film: „Kavi“ by Gregg Helvey, USA 2009;

Best short animated Film: „Elephants“ by Sally Pearce, UK 2008;

Best short digital film: „Black Birdie“ by Pal Toth, Hungary 2009;

Best film direction: „Tricks“ by Andrzej Jakimowski, Poland 2007;

Best feature film screenplay: „A Cargo to Africa“ by Roger Cantin, Canada 2009;

Best young actor: Mohsen Tanabandeh in „A Time to Love“;

Best young actress: Elif Bulbul in „Mommo“ by Atalay Tasdiken, Turkey 2009;

special mentions: „The Other Bank“ by George Ovashvili, Georgia-Kazakhstan 2009;

„Winter in Wartime“ by Martin Koolhoven, The Netherlands 2009;

„The Crocodiles“ by Christian Ditter, Germany 2009.

Children's Jury Awards:

Best feature film: „The Crocodiles“;

Best short feature film: „Love Child“ by Daniel Wirtberg, Sweden 2009;

Best short animated Film: „Fishing with Sam“ by Atle S. Blakseth, Norway 2009;

Best short digital film: „Defective“ by Juan Sebastian Diaz Santaella, Colombia 2008.

CIFEJ-Award: „The Eagle Hunter's Son“, by Rene Bo Hansen, Germany/Sweden 2008;

UNICEF-Award: „ Mommo“.

www.neanikoplano.gr

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

Int. Young Audience Film Festival Ale Kino!, Poznan, Poland

International Jury's Awards:

Best live-action film for children:

„It's not me, I swear!“ by Philippe Falardeau, Canada 2008;

Best live-action film for young people:

„Accidents Happen“ by Andrew Lancaster, Australia 2009;

Best animation for children: „The Most Scary Animal“ by Dmitry Rezchikov, Russia 2008;

Best animation for young people:

„Rubout“ by Hwangbo Sae-Byul, South Korea 2007;

Special mention: „Gone Fishing“ by Chris Jones, Great Britain 2008.

CIFEJ-Award: „Teo's Journey“ by Walter Doehner, Mexico 2008.

Award of the Association of Polish Film-makers: „Piggies“ by Robert Gliński, Poland 2009

Children's Jury Award: „It's not me, I swear!“; special mentions: „A Shine of Rainbows“ by Vic Sarin, Canada/Ireland 2009 and „Through The Glass, Darkly“ by Jesper W. Nielsen, Noway 2008.

Young People's Jury Award: „The Rabbit Case“ by Jakub Wronski, Poland 2009;

Special mention: „My Only Sunshine“ by Reha Erdem, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria 2008.

www.alekino.com

Forthcoming Festivals

Children Film Festival - Cine Junior, Val-de-Marne, France

Feb. 3rd to 16th 2010.

www.cinemapublic.org

Animex - Int. Festival of Animation & Computer Games, Middlesbrough, Great Britain,

Feb. 8th to 12th 2010.

www.animex.net

Anima - Festival du Dessin Animé et du film d'Animation, Bruxelles, Belgium

Feb. 10th to 20th 2010.

www.awn.com/folioscope

International Filmfestival Berlin, Generation, Berlin/ Germany,

Feb. 11th to 21st 2010.

www.berlinale.de

Reel Fun Film Festival, Calgary, Canada, Feb. 15th to 21st 2010.

www.reelfunfilmfest.com

New Norwegian Children's Films

EAST END ANGELS

EAST END ANGELS ('Asfaltenglene') by Norwegian director Lars Berg (SCARS, MAJA STONEFACE) will have its national premiere on 26 February. There will be action and excitement in East Oslo, in a well made film for a 7-13 audience.

It's vacation. 12-year-olds Maja, Rikke and Ohna have ambitions to not lift a single finger this summer, but then the police find some drugs hidden in the restaurant Saigon House resulting in Ohna's brother getting arrested. He won't get out of jail before the drug league is exposed. It's a case for the Asphalt Angels, who soon end up in the middle of human trafficking, car chases, karate kicks and romance. The three girls balance both on high fences and the edge of the law to resolve the situation. Blazing heat in the centre of Oslo!

Director Lars Berg: "My angle on this project was to make sure it didn't concern itself with any drug-issue at all. Rather its been to focus on what would be important for the young heroines; the complications it leads to within their friendship. I've tried to put some heart into it as well as pushing the story forward and making it entertaining. It's my first fully digital film shot with two SI2K cameras – which was interesting. But as always the most rewarding aspect is working with the actors. Those three East End Angels have been great fun to work with. I expect the audience to notice some of this fun has found its way up on the screen."



Contact & sales:

TrustNordisk,

+45/36-86-8788

info@trustnordisk.com

www.trustnordisk.com

Norwegian children's films boost cinema attendance

2009 was a top year for Norwegian children's films on national screens. Five movies together sold over one million tickets, breaking the record from 2007. Two titles driving up admissions were MAGIC SILVER and KNERTEN, based respectively on a popular TV series and on literary classics by Anne Cath Vestly.

MAGIC SILVER (Roar Uthaug & Katarina Launing) sold over 350,000 admissions. KNERTEN, the feature debut of stand-up comedian Engmark Åsleik, tells the story of a little boy who creates an imaginary friend, made of firewood. With 360,000 admissions sold producer Paradox Film is already preparing a sequel. KNERTEN will make its international premiere at the Berlinale in the GenerationKPlus section.

Two more Norwegian children's films passed the 100,000 admissions mark in 2009: THE JUNIOR OLSEN GANG & THE BLACK GOLD (Arne Lindtner Naess, 189,054 admissions) and ORPS: THE MOVIE (Atle Knudsen; 106,603 admissions). Christian Lo's RAFIKI is the only one based on an original script (43,000 admissions) and will also have its international premiere in the Generation KPlus section at the Berlinale.



Magic Silver

MAGIC SILVER

MAGIC SILVER is set deep in the Norwegian woods where a small community of gnomes live, responsible for the transition from daylight to night. In this 'magic hour' they use a magic crystal, but when the object is stolen, the world is condemned to eternal darkness.

World sales: NonStop Sales; +46/8-67-39-999; E-Mail: info@nonstopsales.net;

www.blaanisse.no.

RAFIKI

Julie, Mette and Naisha are best friends living in a small village, until one day Naisha and her mother suddenly disappear. Their refugee status application has been rejected and they will be sent back home – if the police find them. Julie and Mette decide to find their friend. With a secret address as their only clue, they sneak off on a train to the city. The problem is that Julie's dad is a policeman, Julie and Mette are only nine years old and Oslo is a long way from home.

World Sales: Svensk Filmindustri, +46/8-680-35-00; international@sf.se; www.filmbin.no; www.bestevenner.no.

Production News

EEP

In the Dutch movie EEP (competing in the Berlinale) a little creature, half girl half bird, is found and adopted by a middle-aged couple. In some sweet scenes they grow into being a happy family, but Viegeltje has a mind and wings of her own and her wanderlust can't be curbed. One day the little bird-girl leaves to fly south, dragging along a bunch of people with her. In a slightly absurd, unreal world, they traverse the countryside and sleepy cities where only docile people seem to live. The film does not focus on Viegeltje but on the people circling around her, all trying to get a grip on her. Author Joke van Leeuwen: *"Everyone sees something in Viegeltje to fill up his own misses but nobody can really own her. The film kept alive the original story's humour, poetry and emotion."* Scriptwriter Mieke de Jong agrees: *"Simplicity is the basis of the book and I made it the basis of the script too. EEP isn't built upon bewildered action scenes but on the poetry of all things normal, the astonishment in looking at the surrounding world."*

Producer Leontine Petit (Lemming Film): *"Viegeltje's character was partly performed live, partly animated by the Swedish Fido Studios. With animatronics, make up, 3D animation and digital effects they created a character as well credible, astonishing and deeply moving."*

About the turbulent release Leontine Petit states: *"In the editing of the project the producer and the director had a profoundly different opinion about the final cut. After long discussions with all stakeholders we decided to edit a shorter version for the theatrical release. Not everyone agreed upon that."*

World Sales: Delphis Films. +1/514-843 3355;
distribution@delphisfilms.com
www.delphisfilms.com



Albert Espinosa's new projects

The name of Albert Espinosa (scriptwriter for PLANTA 4A) is connected to two new projects. PLANTA 5A is the sequel of PLANTA 4A, picking up the storyline 10 years later. PLANTA 4A was a box office hit in Spain and for sure many people are curious to find out what happened to the protagonists and their struggle for health in a life clouded by cancer.

Later this year the soccer story WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS should go in production for Filmax (www.filmax.com). *"I don't know what is happiness, but I can see it when a ball is given to a boy,"* says Espinosa about his script targeting an international family audience. Mark treasures his soccer dreams, never to be achieved: he is simply not good enough. For Mark's birthday grandfather gives him an old ball with signatures of all the star players in soccer history. At night the ball comes alive...

Sequels for Lotte, Crocodiles and Karla

Some recent successful films for a young audience have a sequel in the making.

After the success of the first CROCODILES (Christian Ditter) a sequel was made by the same director with a fairly similar cast. THE CROCODILES STRIKE BACK (Westside & Rat Pack Filmproduktion) premiered in Germany on 21 January. The inauguration of the gang's new headquarters leads to yet a new adventure. Investigating an act of industrial sabotage, the Crocodiles slowly turn into teenagers with an interest in the other sex.

World Sales: Delphis Films. +1/514-843 3355; distribution@delphisfilms.com;
www.vorstadtkrokodile2.film.de.



Crocodiles 2



Karla & Jonas

KARLA & JONAS (in post-production), the 3rd edition of the KARLA-series (Charlotte Sachs Bostrup) will be a further exploration of the 'teenagers in love' phenomenon. World Sales: TrustNordisk Film Int. Sales, +45/36-86-8788; info@trustnordisk.com.

In 2011 Lotte (from Gadgetville) will make her return in LOTTE AND THE MOONSTONE SECRET, setting off to another animated adventure: Lotte and her uncle Klaus come to rescue the moon rabbits in their search for the lost moonstones. An Atrix Films production (info@atrix-films.com).

The News Section: Forthcoming Festivals

**Europees Jeugdfilm-
festival Vlaanderen,
Antwerp & Brugge, Belgium,**
Feb. 13th to 21st 2010.
www.jeugdfilmfestival.be

**Sehpferdchen - Kinderfilmfest Han-
nover, Germany,**
Feb. 21st to March 3rd 2010.
www.filmfest-sehpferdchen.de

**Vittorio Veneto Film Festival di
Cinema per Ragazzi, Vittorio Veneto,
Treviso, Italy,**
Feb. 25th to 28th 2010.
www.vittoriofilmfestival.com

**New York International Children's
Film Festival
New York, USA**
Feb. 26th to March 14th 2010
www.gkids.com

**Montreal International Children's
Film Festival (FIFEM), Montreal,
Canada**
Feb. 27th to March 3rd 2010
www.fifem.com

**Cartoon Movie – Co-Production
Forum for Animated Features, Lyon,
France**
March 3rd to 5th 2010
www.cartoon-media.eu

Kikife, Gmünd, Germany
March 4rd to 7th 2010
www.kikife.de

**Youngabout - International Film
Festival for Young People
Bologna, Italy**
March 8th to 13th 2010
www.youngabout.com

**BUFF - Internat. Children's & Young
People's Film-Festival
Malmö, Sweden,**
March 16th to 20th 2010
www.buff.se

**Festival de Cinéma d'Alès Itiner-
ances, Alés, France**
March 19th to 28th 2010
www.itinerances.org

**Children's Film Festival Berimora
Kino („Berimor's Cinema“), Riga/
Latvia,**
March 27th to April 4th 2010
www.arsenals.lv

**Taiwan Internat. Children's TV and
Film Festival, Taipei, Taiwan,**
April 1st to 11th 2010
www.ticff.org.tw

The News Section: Forthcoming festivals

**Leeds Young People's Film Festival,
Leeds, Great Britain**
April 2nd to 10th 2010
www.leedsyoungfilm.com

**International Children's Film Festival,
City Montessori School Films Division,
Lucknow, India,**
April 6th to 12th 2010
www.cmsfilms.org/iecff

**Reel 2 Real – International Film Festival
for Youth Vancouver, Canada,**
April 9th to 16th 2010
www.r2rfestival.org

**Sprockets - Toronto Internat. Film
Festival for Children Toronto, Canada,**
April 17th to 23rd 2010
www.sprockets.ca

**Stockholm Film Festival Junior
Stockholm, Sweden,**
April 19th to 24th 2010
www.stockholmfilmfestival.se/junior/

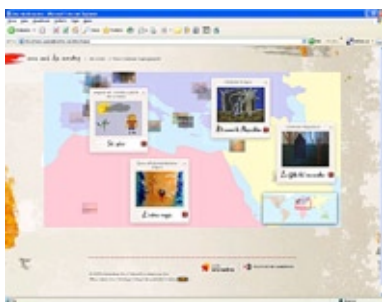
**Indie Junior
Lisboa, Portugal,**
April 22nd to May 2nd 2010
www.indielisboa.com

**Goldener Spatz, Deutsches Kinder-
Medien-Festival
Erfurt & Gera, Germany,**
April 25th to May 1st 2010
www.goldenerspatz.de

**Kristiansand International Children's
Film Festival
Kristiansand, Norway,**
April 27th to May 2nd 2010
www.kicff.no

**International Short Film Festival
Oberhausen
Oberhausen, Germany,**
April 29th to May 1st 2010
www.kurzfilmtage.de

**International Festival of Animated
Films, Stuttgart, Germany,**
May 4th to 9th 2010
www.itfs.de



Screenshot 'Una mà de contes'

Festivals, Events & Education IndieJúnior (Lisbon)



From 22 April – 2 May 2010 there will be another edition of the IndieJúnior Festival in Lisbon, Portugal. As a new ECFA-member this film festival briefly introduces you to its main trumps.

Officially we are not a "real one". IndieJúnior is just one "branch" on a large tree called IndieLisboa – Independent International Film Festival (attended yearly by more than 40.000 people). In all its singularity over the last 6 years this section achieved a unique personality and an international dimension.

Every year thousands of children from all over Portugal participate in a 10 day program, divided by age and school grade with screenings in theatres all over the city. Films like SUNNY DAY (Gil Alkabetz) started their international career premiering in IndieJúnior. It's true that we're pretty much short film fans and most of our programming reflects that preference.

But other formats like the animated features THE THREE ROBBERS or BRENDAN AND THE SECRET OF KELLS were welcomed enthusiastically. Audience Awards were given to SON OF RAMBOW (2008) and NO NETWORK (2009). Furthermore a youth jury hands out the IndieJúnior Best Film Award (+ prize money) eligible for each short or feature in competition.

Workshops (animation, documentary, fiction) and film concerts (dedicated to e.g. Buster Keaton, the animator Fyodor Khitruk) complete the special program. A video library with all films entered in the festival (approx. 3.000) is open for the guests.

Of course on top of the program the beauty and good weather of the Lisbon spring season are valid reasons for producers and programmers to visit IndieJúnior 2010. (Possidónio Cachapa)

Turning tales into a tool

While a voice over tells a tale a camera shows an artist's hands giving shape to the story, wrapped in music, composed to reinforce the magic of the moment. This is the deceptively simple TV format of "Draw me a story", a programme that has been successfully on air for the last seven years on the children's channel of Televisió de Catalunya (TVC).

"Draw me a story" now offers its Internet version in a new format designed with an educational purpose. The idea is based on the exploiting of two sources of creation: the narrative power of traditional storytelling and stimulating children's imagination. Thus literature, art and creativity melt into a website that offers children computerized tools to enhance their imagination.

With www.unamadecontes.cat children can enjoy over 120 tales online having the possibility of playing with them, creating alternative pictures, altering the meaning of the tales through a subtitle workshop or binding a book by combining the pre-existing tales with their own texts and images. Another advantage of this website lies in its possibilities for cooperative work since the users' documents can be shared and modified by others. A tale which may originally begin anywhere in the world can be continued in any other place on the planet.

"Draw me a story" is a production of TVC's children's channel fostering the combination of its audiovisual production via TV and the Internet. Right now the children's websites of TVC receives over one million visits every month. Check it out on www.unamadecontes.cat. (Pere Arcas).



Screenshot 'Una mà de contes'

KIDS Regio & BUFF Financing Forum



For the 4th time the BUFF Festival in Malmö will host a Financing Forum for children's film and new media (17–19 March 2010). In pitching sessions, one-to-one meetings, work-in-progress, seminars, filmmakers, producers and financiers all get a chance to meet. Meanwhile in the Cross Media Innovation Hub partners can be found for cross-media projects.

Within the BUFF Financing Forum and initiated by Film i Skane the 2nd KIDS Regio Forum will take place on 17 March 2010. Last year's 1st KIDS Regio Forum in Erfurt was designed to discuss general conditions for the development of children's films in Europe and to define basic proposals to meet these challenges. Building on the Erfurt Declaration, these issues will now be taken on to a next level. The focus will be on financing and co-production on one hand and new, experimental strategies for marketing and distribution on the other.

The forum and conference are by invitation only. Contact: Annette Brejner, + 46/733-612-619; annette.brejner@buff.se or Dana Messerschmidt, messerschmidt@kids-regio.org.

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=173022012931&ref=ts.

The News Section: Forthcoming festivals

Festival Int. du Film de Cannes
Cannes, France,
May 12th to 23rd 2010
www.festival-cannes.fr

Cannes Cinema: Ecran Junior
Cannes, France,
May 12th to 23rd 2010
www.cannes-cinema.com

Prix Jeunesse International
München/Munich, Germany,
May 28th to June 2nd 2010
www.prixjeunesse.de

International Film Festival for Children and Youth Zlín:
50th Anniversary!
Zlín, Czech Republic,
May 30th to June 6th 2010
www.zlinfest.cz

Int. Short Film Festival Hamburg;
Children's Film Festival „Mo&Friese“
Hamburg, Germany,
May 30th to June 6th 2010
Deadline for film entries:
February 15th 2010
www.moundfriese.de

Animafest - World Festival of Animated Film
Zagreb, Croatia,
June 1st to 6th 2010
www.animafest.hr



Knerten



Rafiki



Copernicus' Star

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. Obviously 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.

East End Angels

Feature Film, Norway 2010
Director: Lars Berg
Production: Maipo Films
World Sales: TrustNordisk Film Int. Sales,
Filmbyen 12, DK-2650 Hvidovre
Phone: +45/36-86-8788
E-Mail: info@trustnordisk.com
www.trustnordisk.com;
www.asfaltenglene.no



My Only Sunshine

Crying for Love

Feature Film, Denmark 2008
Director: Christian E. Christiansen
Production: Filmfabrikken, Zentropa
World Sales: TrustNordisk Film Int. Sales
(see address above)

Super Brother

Feature Film, Denmark 2009
Director: Birgr Larsen
Production: Nordisk Film
World Sales: TrustNordisk Film Int. Sales
(see address above)

Zoomers

Feature Film, Denmark 2009
Director: Christian E. Christiansen
Production: Zentropa
World Sales: TrustNordisk Film Int. Sales
(see address above)

Piggies

Feature Film, Poland 2009
Director: Robert Glinski
Production: Widark
World Sales: NonStop Sales AB
Döbelnsgatan 24, SE-11352 Stockholm
Phone: +46/8-67-39-999
E-Mail: info@nonstopsales.net;
www.nonstopsales.net

Magic Silver

Feature Film, Norway 2009
Director: Roar Uthaug & Katarina Launing
Production: Storm Rosenberg AS
World Sales: NonStop Sales AB
(see address above)

My Only Sunshine

Feature Film, Turkey/Greece/Bulgaria 2008
Director: Reha Erdem
Production: Atlantik, Cinegram, Kaboal
World Sales: Ostrow & Company
468 N. Camden Third Floor
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Phone: +1/310-276-5007
E-Mail: info@ostrowandcompany.com
www.ostrowandcompany.com;
www.hayatvar.com.t

Rafiki

Feature Film, Norway 2009
Director: Christian Lo
Production: Filmbin
World Sales: AB Svensk Filmindustri
Greta Garbos Väg 13, SE-16936 Solna
Phone: +46/ 86-80-3500
E-Mail: international@sf.se
www.sfindernational.se

Copernicus' Star

Animation, Poland 2009
Director: Zdzislaw Kudle & Andrzej Orzechowski
Production & World Sales: Studio Filmow Rysunkowych
Cieszynska 24, PL-43-300 Bielsko-Biala
Phone: +48/33-8125-63-41
E-Mail: filmrys@poczta.petex.com.pl
www.sfr.com.pl

From Time to Time

Feature Film, Great Britain 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
www.ealingstudios.com

Knerten (Twigson)

Feature Film, Norway 2009
Director: Åsleik Engmark
Production: Paradox rettigheter AS
World Sales: Paradox Productions
Grønlandsleiret 25, NO-0190 Oslo
Phone: +47/23-22-71-50
E-Mail: firmapost@paradox.no
www.paradox.no; www.knertenfilmen.no

Young reporters from the Oulu Festival have a say about A TOWN CALLED PANIC (Stéphane Aubier & Vincent Patar)

"Absolutely insane, however very funny. A bit strange animated world! Suitable for young and old!" - "These jokes were not meant for my age-group. Very tasteless"

**Barnefilm
FESTIVALEN**

**Kristiansand
April 27th - May 2nd 2010**

www.kicff.no

**The 13th
Kristiansand International**

CHILDREN'S

**film festival
2010**

Welcome to six festive days packed with children's and youth films in Kristiansand, situated on the coast of southern Norway.

PROGRAM

The Main Program is devoted to new feature films for children to be released in theaters and on DVD. Titles are selected on artistic merit. The sidebars will consist of **Panorama, Youth Program (14+), Documentaries and Short films.**

AWARDS

FILM&KINO'S CHILDREN'S FILM AWARD

A professional jury awards the best film in the Main Program with NOK 75.000, to support distribution in Norway for the film. Presented by FILM&KINO.

THE LUDI AWARD

Audience award for best film in the Main Program.

THE CIFEJ AWARD

A professional jury awards the best film in the Main Program with a CIFEJ statuette and diploma.

THE DON QUIJOTE AWARD

The International Federation of Film Societies FICC (Fédération internationale des ciné-clubs) jury awards the best film in the Youth Program.

PROFESSIONAL DAYS

NEW NORDIC CHILDREN'S FILMS

From Thursday 29th of April until Saturday 1st of May **Professional Days - New Nordic Children's Films** is the place to be for anybody involved in children and youth films. Use the opportunity to see the best and latest Nordic and international productions!

Films on the Horizon

A work-in-progress presentation of upcoming Norwegian and Nordic films for children and young people (on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th of April).

Video bar

Distributors, sales agents, television buyers and other international festivals will be able to view the entire festival line-up in our video bar.

ECFA Seminar

"The perfect tool" - Inspirational seminar on film study guides.

Together with Film & Kino, The European Children's Films Association organizes a seminar on this topic on Friday 30th of April.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

E-mail: festival@krskino.no
Tel: + 47 3810 4205 /09
Fax: + 47 3810 4201

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
www.kicff.no

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 **KINO**



ECFA in persons

Annual Meeting / Goodbye to Agnieszka Piechnik

ECFA invites all members to the next Annual General Meeting in Berlin. This meeting will take place on Saturday February 13, 2010 at 16.00 in the Salon Bellevue at the Savoy Hotel, Fasanenstraße 9-10 in 10623 Berlin. Afterwards a drink will be offered.

In this meeting new board members will be elected, replacing Agnieszka Piechnik, who joined the board last year and now resigns to start working (promotion & distribution) for the Polish computer animation studio Platige Image. We thank Agnieszka for her dedication towards ECFA up till the last moment and wish her good luck in her future career. Contacts with Ale Kino and the Children's Art Centre in Poznan should be maintained by jmoszkowicz@alekino.com.

Together with our German children's film partners ECFA welcomes you that evening for a party in a new location: Homebase, Köthener Straße 44 in 10963 Berlin.

* El Meu Primer Festival – Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain)



MODIband is a non-profit association launched in 2001 by three friends with the aim of setting up an open-air film festival in Barcelona. Since the success of the first edition we decided to slowly drift away from our jobs and concentrate on the production of cultural events, keeping in mind our original ambition to 'democratize culture' and make it accessible to a wider range of people without giving up on quality or professionalism.

When starting to study the possibility of implementing a children's film festival in Barcelona the reactions from public administrations were extremely positive. "My first festival" – as we named it (www.elmeuprimerfestival.com) – was born in 2008 and took its inspiration from "Mon Premier Festival" (Paris). El Meu Primer Festival promotes children's film in all its variety, showcasing a selection of films from all over the world and from throughout cinema history, aiming to entertain and to educate, stimulate creativity and awaken critical spirits.

The festival is divided into several sections: 'A window onto the world', 'Films from all times' (classics), 'Animation focus on a specific country', 'Film concerts' (silent films with live music) and 'For a very young audience' (2+), the last section being the most successful with families queuing to let their children live their first cinema experience. The festival also features family workshops.

For the last November edition we are proud to have doubled the number of visitors (4.800). Now we join ECFA to create partnerships and stay updated about European production. We are open to any kind of proposal concerning children's cinema. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help! (Nathalie Modigliani)

Associació cultural MODIband, modiband@modiband.com; www.elmeuprimerfestival.com

* Cineteca di Bologna (Bologna, Italy)



Established in the sixties, Cineteca di Bologna (Bologna Film Archive) is now a municipal institution and a member of ACE (Association des Cinémathèques Européennes). Cineteca di Bologna has an archive of 30.000 prints and a huge patrimony in books, magazines, photographs and posters all dedicated to cinema and its relationship with other arts. It also fosters film restoration projects (such as the Chaplin Project) thanks to Immagine Ritrovata Laboratory.

Amongst the activities promoted by Cineteca (screening film classics and contemporary movies, Q&A's with directors, publishing books and DVDs, supporting local film production) the project 'Schermi e Lavagne' ('Screens & Blackboards') provides cinema education for children and young people: screenings, school workshops and teacher training. We consider the production of short films with children an important tool to improve the knowledge and passion towards cinema. For a family audience every weekend we screen unreleased movies and compilations in the original version with a live voice over. Over the last years this successful initiative made it to a fixed appointment in the agenda of many children.

In this context we are glad to have joined ECFA: an association including so many realities – from production to exhibition, from festivals to education – guarantees a useful variety of viewpoints about our common interest: promoting European movies for children. We think that sharing ideas and programs could be the best way to improve each other's activities.

For more information: www.cinetecadibologna.it; elisa.giovannelli@comune.bologna.it.

Young reporters from the Oulu Festival have a say about THE MAGIC TREE (Andrzej Maleszka)
"I liked the lion that didn't kill anyone. It was just like a watchdog. After the screening I had the impression that some adults forever want to remain as children."



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

The European Children's Film Distribution Network:
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

Ineke Houtman's THE INDIAN

"In our modern society we partly choose our own family"

THE INDIAN is yet another success for director Ineke Houtman (**SCRATCHES IN THE TABLE, POLLEKE,...**). Koos is a Peruvian boy adopted by a Dutch family, he simply admires his father and wants to resemble him. But when mum gets pregnant, Koos is confronted with his roots: maybe he is still more of an Indian than of a Dutchman. Renowned producer Burny Bos: "The film has an authentic feel and an original story. **THE INDIAN** is an exciting and clear depiction of the vulnerable position of every adopted child. Ineke Houtman gave the film a heart."

Houtman: "The movie's theme is universal. Many adoptive children one day look into the mirror expecting to see a 'European' face. The confrontation with 'being different' makes them wonder: who are my parents and why did they give me away? With a new baby coming Koos' parents react a bit clumsy, creating some misunderstandings and making Koos rebel against his dad by saying: '*Indians don't like motorbikes*'."

Was it fun working with a gang of bikers?

Houtman: "Tremendously funny. They were such sociable men telling the silliest jokes. At the premiere I was invited to sit on the back of a bike, which was lovely."

It was essential to create a warm family bonding on the screen.

Houtman: "The story raises this question: who is your family and why? In our modern society we partly choose our own family. They are the ones you love and the ones who love you. Like every child hero Koos goes his own way, but finally he realizes how much they all care about each other. Especially with granddad Koos has this intimate bond. He is a matured version of the father: still playful and tough but understanding exactly how Koos feels."

Matthias den Besten (Koos) did a good job!

Houtman: "He is charming and got along very well with Bastiaan Ragas (Father). They both liked to cuddle so a physical bond grew easily between them. Matthias is not Peruvian. He is from Guatemala, being a Maya-descendant instead of an Inca. But the Indian tribes got scattered over the entire Andes so the differences are not too big. We had a Peruvian advisor on the set supervising the story's correctness. I consider that was essential. I would get rather angry if a foreign film showed all Dutch people still walking on wooden shoes."

In the closing scenes you create a dramatic storm, making the sky turn dark and grey. A gift from the weather gods?



The Indian

Houtman: "Not at all! Those scenes were the most difficult ones to shoot. To depict the turn of the weather and the darkening sky we used colour filters and special effects. Those wind machines only have a limited range. That's why I keep the frames close; I couldn't put any depth in those pictures."

By the way: thanks for making us listen again to Boney M's 'Daddy Cool'!

Houtman: "That wasn't so obvious. Finally we didn't use the original song but we had a version made by REC Sound, who did the soundtrack for **THE INDIAN**. I'm so happy with their score, sounding truly magisterial and almost mythical."

You started working on a new film already?

Houtman: "I'm currently doing a family film about a girl searching for her father and robbing a bank with her granddad. That's all I can unveil about the story. It's called **BEAUTIFUL LIFE** and contains some singing and dancing. We were shooting for 30 days and I'm now leaving for Suriname to finish it. The film will be released for Christmas 2010." (GH)



Ineke Houtman