

No. 1 / 2012

FEBRUARY

EDITORIAL

And the winner is...

In these Oscar nomination times it is absolutely thrilling to think that we will soon be able to present our first ECFA Award for Best Children's Film in 2012! This is only one example of the many diverse projects that the organization has been working on throughout the year. Involving 25 members in jury duties and the entire membership list for the final voting, it is indeed safe to say that this is the project that effected most members.

A year ago I wrote about the Rainbow project that was about to start. Now this enormous project is showing concrete results, short films addressing the subject of homophobia are collected on a DVD, study guides to follow the films are ready to be tested with both teachers and children all over Europe. And it has been decided that this year's ECFA seminar during the Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival will focus on how our membership festivals can implement the Rainbow project and its films in their event.

Another major project for ECFA last year was the attempt to establish an online platform for professionals working with children's films. In spite of the excellent idea and hard work, it proved impossible to find funding for the project. Nevertheless it gave the organization many valuable experiences.

To sum it up, 2011 was a hectic, but exciting year, and I look forward to presenting and discussing all our projects at our AGM on Saturday February 11th in Berlin. Hope to see you all there!

Tonje Hardersen
President

ECFA AWARD 2012

In 2011 ECFA launched the first edition of the ECFA Award, the election of last year's Best European Children's Film. Throughout the year 9 different children's film festivals (from Oulu to Pyrgos, from Bucharest to Giffoni) have hosted an ECFA Award jury. Now we've entered the final round, in which the ECFA Award winning film will be chosen from the shortlist of 10 nominees. The 60 plus members of ECFA, all of them children's film professionals, were invited to cast their votes, and now we have a winner!

The winner of the first ECFA Award will be announced in the award ceremony during the Children's Film Community Party (Treffen der Kinderfilmszene) at the International Film Festival of Berlin, on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 9:30 pm in the Homebase Lounge, Köthener Strasse 44, 10963 Berlin.

The Best European Children's Film in 2011 will be chosen from the 10 following nominees:



WAYS TO LIVE FOREVER
(Gustavo Ron, UK)

Diary of a boy suffering from cancer as a touching farewell to life.
Awarded in European Youth Film Festival, Antwerp / Bruges.



TOMBOY
(Céline Sciamma, France)

A tender perspective on gender diffusion by a stunning young actress.
Awarded in Festival Ciné-Jeune de l'Aisne, Saint-Quentin



THE LIVERPOOL GOALIE
(Arild Andresen, Norway)

A tragic-comical guidebook through the best intentions, wildest dreams and silliest mistakes of a young teenager.
Awarded in BUFF Filmfestival, Malmö



HOLD ME TIGHT
(Kaspar Munk, Denmark)

Confronting story about peer pressure and the importance of taking responsibility for your actions.
Awarded in Festival Ciné-Jeune de l'Aisne, Saint-Quentin

ECFA SEMINAR KRISTIANSAND

In the good old ECFA tradition the Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival once more will host the annual ECFA seminar. On account of ECFA's involvement in the Rainbow Project, this year's seminar will give educators and media professionals an opportunity to gain an insight in to the topic of 'Fighting homophobia and building an open-minded world through the use of children's films'. We invite all professionals to attend this conference on April 27th. To all ECFA members attending ECFA offers one night's hotel accommodation free of charge. Read more about the ECFA Seminar on page 9.

**LOST IN AFRICA****(Vibeke Muasya, Denmark)***Entertaining chase for a boy who got lost in the Nairobi slums.*

Awarded in Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival

**SOME DOGS BITE****(Marc Munden, UK)***A group of overlooked youngsters are challenging the strength of family ties.*

Awarded in Schlingel Film Festival for Children & Young Audience, Chemnitz

**THE RUNWAY (Ian Power, Ireland)***Heart-warming comedy with colourful characters gathered in an isolated Irish town.*

Awarded in Kinodiseea, Bucharest

**WUNDERKINDER****(Marcus O. Rosenmüller, Germany)***The horrors and absurdities of war, seen through the eyes of three musical child prodigies (see interview page 3).*

Awarded in Giffoni International Film Festival

**ON THE SLY (Olivier Ringer, Belgium)***A privileged view inside the mind of a brooding but determined little girl.*

Awarded in Oulu International Children & Youth Film Festival

**THE STORYTELLER (Nandita Jain, UK)***Short film about a girl's attempt to grapple with the demons of her grandfather's dementia.*

Awarded in Olympia Youth Film Festival, Pyrgos

The goal of the ECFA Award was not only to find the best European film but also to generate an exchange of persons among ECFA's members. It looks as if this goal was reached: in 9 festival juries ECFA was represented by 25 different members. Come and join ECFA in the first ECFA Award Ceremony. See you all on Saturday, February 11 in the Homebase Lounge, Berlin!

DIGITAL DIARY

For the first edition of the 2012 ECFA Journal I thought we would start the digital year off with a general round up of conferences, events and festivals to look forward to in 2012. With these difficult financial times it is essential to carefully choose the right events to attend so here is a brief overview of some of the best, biggest and important digital events to come...

Nordic Game 2012**Malmö, Sweden, 23-25th May 2012**www.nordicgame.com

The ninth annual Nordic Game conference brings together developers in the region to showcase their latest projects. The event will include an Indie Night, the Nordic Game Awards, as well as the main conference tracks.

E3 Expo**Los Angeles, USA, 5-7th June 2012**www.E3Expo.com

E3 Expo is the world's premier trade show for computer and video games and related products. Dedicated to serving the business and public affairs needs of the companies, publishing interactive games for video game consoles, handheld devices, personal computers, and the Internet.

Edinburgh Interactive 12**Edinburgh, UK, 9-10th August 2012**www.edinburghinteractive.co.uk

Edinburgh Interactive exists to celebrate the social, creative and cultural building blocks of the interactive entertainment and media sectors. Edinburgh Interactive does this with both a conference and a series of public events focusing on the skills and creativity of those working in the industry and the strong tradition of Scottish innovation. The event has consistently kept its agenda ahead of the game!.

GamesCom 2012**Cologne, Germany****15-19th August 2012**www.gamescom-cologne.com

The record-breaking GamesCom event is set to return to Cologne, the debut GamesCom event in 2009 had 245,000 visitors and 458 exhibitors making it the largest games trade fair in the world.

Eurogamer Expo 2012**London, UK****27-30th September 2012**www.eurogamer.net/expo

The event includes a career fair offering students and graduates the chance to meet face-to-face with leading development and publishing companies. The

conference also includes live developer sessions, which have proven to be popular, as well as game demonstrations..

re-new / IMAC 2012**Copenhagen, Denmark****19-24th November 2012**<http://re-new.org/>

The combined media art and conference event is a critical and inclusive project that addresses the use of interactive media in art and everyday use. The scope includes conferences, workshops, featured keynotes, video programs, installations and performance works.

Europrix Multimedia Festival 2012**Austria, November 2012**www.europrix.org/node/8

The Europrix Multimedia Awards invite students and young professionals from 40 countries to a unique showcase. Focusing on innovation, creativity and originality, the main idea is to encourage young talents from all around Europe and establish a Europe-wide platform for promoting the best multimedia projects.

Adam Graham

INTERVIEW

Alice Brauner (CCC Filmkunst), producer for WUNDERKINDER
“Young people can proof their civil courage in every conflict”

In 1941 in Poltava, Ukraine, 3 young and gifted violin players swear a lifelong allegiance to each other's friendship and to music. One of them is a German girl living in Ukraine, the other two are Jewish. As prodigies their future seems bright and shiny, until war closes in and things take a dramatic turn. Their musical talents can secure them for a while, until they face the final challenge: playing the perfect virtuoso concerto. “Perfection separates the strong from the weak,” the Nazi officer says.

WUNDERKINDER confronts you with the absurdity of war. In a remarkable scene refugees gather around a dying deer found on the woodland. One of them stammers: “So this is war?” There the movie touches the heart of war's tragic surrealism.

CCC Filmkunst was founded by your father Artur Brauner, 65 years ago.

Alice Brauner: “My father is a legend. For the Berlinale he will receive the Honorary Membership of the German Producers Guild. He has won two Golden Globes, Gold and Silver Bears and all other prestigious awards. I feel blessed to keep his heritage alive.”

Does this background in cinema history feels more like a blessing than a curse?

Brauner: “Surely. I had my own career, being a journalist and a TV-host. 6 years ago he asked me into the company as he wanted someone to continue his work. ‘Help me not to let it all vanish.’ My father is a self-made man and we all know how they can run offices like dictators. I didn't want to be a marionette, standing in his shadow. Nearly 6 years ago we started our first project together. And only about WUNDERKINDER we had our first big argument. Being a holocaust survivor, he wanted to have plenty of violence in the movie. I didn't see it that way. I didn't want concentration camps, I didn't want any physical cruelty or brutal shooting drenched in blood.. I wanted psychological pressure and terror.”

You want young people still to be aware of the horrors of war?

Brauner: “WUNDERKINDER in the first place is a pledge for tolerance and civil courage. Differences in nationality, religion or culture shouldn't be a barrier for young people to come together. It's not a holocaust movie. This story could take place in India and Pakistan, with Jews and Palestinians in Israel or Sunni's and Shiites in Iraq. Young people can proof their civil courage in every conflict that grew out of the madness and insanity of adults.”

Young Elin Kolev plays the role of Abrascha.

Brauner: “Elin is 15 and is one of the world's best violin players of his age. He played every note in the film himself. He's a real genius. During the Berlinale



Alice Brauner and director Marcus O. Rosenmüller

he'll play a concert in the Berliner Philharmonie. After a day on the set – and those days can be long! – he still practiced for several hours on his violin.”

In the last scenes you bring his character back to life as an old man.

Brauner: “We couldn't make the audience leaving the theatre with nothing but deaths on their mind. It is important to assure them not everybody died. Although nobody ever survived the concentration camps because he played the violin so well. Often in discussions young audiences told us they were grateful that some of the children survived. They understood the story and were sad, but the film didn't make them lose their belief that friendship makes sense and can make things better.”

Is it hard to produce children's films in Germany?

Brauner: “Even to produce films in general. Our job as independent producers, not bound to a major company gets more difficult every day. Everything is in the hands of big companies, closely connected to public broadcasting channels (ARD and ZDF) or private channels. With for instance big corporate groups like Constantin Film or UFA or the daughter-companies of TV-channels like Bavaria as competitors, we have to fight hard for our projects. Luckily I found ARD Degeto willing to participate for 50 % of the budget. Since less people are going to the movies, we depend on those TV-assignments. We need them!” (GH)

The full version of this interview can be found on:

www.ecfaweb.org/projects/filmmaking.

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

Olympia International Film Festival for Children and Young People; Pyrgos, Greece

Children's Jury Awards: Best Feature Film: “Tomorrow Will Be Better” by Dorota Kedzierzawska, Poland, 2011; Best Short Fiction: “Mrs. Peppercorn's Magical Reading Room” by Mike Le Han, UK, 2011; Best Short Animated: „Mobile” by Verena Fels, Germany, 2010.

Best Long Documentary: “Kisses to the Children” by Vassilis Loules, Greece, 2011; Best Short Documentary: “I'm Never Afraid” by Willem Baptist, The Netherlands, 2010.

International Jury Awards: Best Feature Film: “Tomorrow Will Be Better”; Best Short Fiction: “Mokhtar” by Halima Ouardiri, Canada / Morocco, 2010; Best Short Animated: “The Farmer and the Robot” by Abdollah Alimorad, Iran, 2011; Best Director: Marco Chiarini for „The Thin Match Man”, Italy, 2009; Best Screenplay: Olivier & Yves Ringer for „On the Sly” by Olivier Ringer, Belgium / France, 2010; Best Young Actor: Sandor Toth for “Vespa” by Diana Groo, Hungary, 2010; Best Young Actress: Sara Mellezi for “Run Sister Run” by Marja Pyykkö, Finland, 2010.

ECFA Award: “The Storyteller” by Nandita Jain, UK, 2011.

Awards Kids and Docs: Best Long Documentary: “Kisses to the Children”; Best Short Documentary: “I'm Never Afraid”.

CIFEJ Award: “Lost in Africa” by Vibeke Muasya, Denmark, 2010.

Greek Committee of UNICEF Award: “Playing with Dolls” by Georgy Negashev, Russia, 2010.

<http://olympiafestival.wordpress.com>

International Young Audience Film Festival Ale Kino!; Poznan, Poland

Best Feature Film for Children: “Totally True Love” by Anne Sewitsky, Norway, 2011. Best Feature for Teenagers: “Breathing” by Karl Markovics, Austria, 2011.

Best Animated Film for Children: “A Cat in Paris” by Alain Gagnol & Jean-Loup Felicioli, France / Belgium, 2010. Best Animated Film for Teenagers: “Swimming Pool” by Alexandra Hetmerova, Czech Republic, 2010.

Children's Jury for Feature Films: “Tomorrow Will Be Better”. Children's Jury for Animated Films: “A Cat in Paris”.

Teenagers Jury for Feature Films: “Dusk” by Hanro Smitsman, The Netherlands, 2010. Teenagers Jury for Animated Films: “The Rabbi's Cat” by Antoine Delesvaux, Joann Sfar, France, 2010.

<http://www.alekino.com>

The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

Dubai International Film Festival; Dubai, United Arab Emirates

People's Choice Award: "When Santa Fell to Earth" by Oliver Dieckmann, Germany, 2011.

<http://www.dubaifilmfest.com>

Forthcoming Festivals

Youth Film Festival; Glasgow, UK

February 5 to 15th 2012

http://www.glasgowfilm.org/festival/information/festivals_within_the_festivals/gyff

International Children's Film Festival (ICFFCY); Nikosia, Cyprus

February 12 to 19th 2012

www.icffcy.org

Europees Jeugdfilmfestival Vlaanderen; Antwerp & Bruges, Belgium

February 18 to 26th 2012

www.jeugdfilmfestival.be

SehPferdchen – Kinderfilmfest; Hannover & Braunschweig, Germany

February 19 to 29th 2012.

www.filmfest-sehpferdchen.de

International Children's Film Festival; New York, USA

March 2 to 25th 2012

www.gkids.com

International Children's Film Festival (FIFEM); Montreal, Canada

March 3 to 11th 2012

www.fifem.com

First Light Movies Award; London, UK

March 5th 2012.

www.firstlightmovies.com

Cartoon Movie; Lyon, France

March 7 to 9th 2012

www.cartoon-media.eu

BUFF – International Children & Youth Film Festival; Malmö, Sweden

March 13th to 17th 2012

www.buff.se

Kinderfilmfest; Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany

March 15 to 18th 2012

www.kikife.de

Kinderfilmfest; Augsburg, Germany

March 17 to 25th 2012

www.filmfest-augsburg.de

Youngabout – International Film Festival for Young People; Bologna, Italy

March 19 to 24th 2012

www.youngabout.com

PRODUCTION INFO

SWCHWRM

SWCHWRM is a new Dutch family film about a 9 year old boy who wants to become a writer of books, so amazing that they would make an end to wars and cure the sick. He only has one problem; he has trouble finding this great opening sentence. But a pseudonym he already has: V. Swchwrn, sounding like a breeze, a starting engine or whatever your imagination comes up with. And that's exactly what this film is about: how imagination can create a better world.



Through the eyes of V. Swchwrn we see the world and the stories he invents and simultaneously experiences; about being almighty for one second, a teacher doubting everything, a girl with an eighth sense, his dad winning a camel, a queen wanting him to write a story which will make her cry and also about the saddest day of his life. Then he realises the first sentence he was looking for, was always there... at the beginning!

A philosophical children's movie, an ode to fantasy with a refreshing glance at life's big questions. Director is Froukje Tan (LEFT) after a screenplay by Helena van der Meulen (JOY, BLUEBIRD).

Produced by Flinck Film (www.flinckfilm.nl) SWCHWRM is a family art house film, primarily targeting (grand) children and (grand) parents who are fond of books and papers. SWCHWRM premieres on April 4th in Dutch cinemas and is hoping for an international festival career, with the help of Delphis Films as a sales agent. Contact: info@flinckfilm.nl.

HOCUS POCUS ALFIE ATKINS

Alfons Åberg (aka Alfie Atkins) is one of the most famous Nordic icons, known to children and parents for generations through the best-selling series of books by writer and illustrator Gunilla Bergström, Sweden's most popular writer of children's literature after Astrid Lindgren. She has written about Alfie for 40 years (24 books) and is still active writing and illustrating books. Alfie Atkins is hugely popular in the Nordic countries and Germany. He is a 6 year old role model: a real boy living an ordinary life in a world of real human beings. This very likable character with a big heart and a clever mind will soon star in a TV-series (by Karsten Killerich & Liller Møller) and a feature film ('72), directed by Torill Kove.

When he's not playing at pirates with his friends, Alfie Atkins dreams of having a dog of his own. A terrier, just like the one the old magician has. Alfie thinks magic is just a matter of make-believe. But his dream can only come true in the most unexpected way. HOCUS POCUS, ALFIE ATKINS is a humorous and thought-provoking film for pre-schoolers, reflecting a 6 year old child's ideas on the differences between what is real and what is not.

Producer is Kristin Ulseth for Maipo Film, one of Norway's leading production companies.



Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins

Kirstin Ulseth: "Our Oscar nominated film ELLING (Petter Næss) is a reference for Maipo's vision: producing quality films for a large audience." The company has built a strong foundation in the Nordic market with films such as HAPPY HAPPY (Anne Sewitsky), SVEIN AND THE RAT (Magnus Martens), JUST BEA (Petter Naess) and EAST END ANGELS (Lars Berg). Besides ALFIE ATKINS Maipo currently have the puppet animation feature SOLAN AND LUDVIK'S CHRISTMAS IN PINCHCLIFFE in production and more titles in development such as EGGG and DOCTOR PROC-TOR'S FART POWDER.

Made on a € 2,56 million budget HOCUS POCUS ALFIE ATKINS will premiere in September 2013. International Sales: TrustNordisk ApS.

FESTIVALS

30th EDITION CINE-JEUNE

Festival Ciné-Jeune in Saint-Quentin was the first festival of its kind in France and is now celebrating its 30th anniversary from 11 – 17 April with 3 international competitions, 120 titles and 28 locations in the Aisne, the region surrounding Saint-Quentin.

Alongside the international competition (presenting e.g. LEA AND DARIJA, Croatia; SILBERWALD, Switzerland and MONIKA, Germany) Ciné-Jeune will present special focuses on the Aardman Studios and on Romanian animation film (in co-operation with the Bucharest Anim'Est Festival) and an anniversary retrospective with the most remarkable films from 3 festival decades, such as THE DOG WHO STOPPED THE WAR (André Melançon, 1984), LE BALLON D'OR (Cheik Doukouré, 1994) and VIVA CUBA (Juan Carlos Cremata Malberti, 2004). In the neighboring city of Laon, former home base of Ciné-Jeune an exposition takes you into the festival's history through pictures and anecdotes.

There are also sessions to spoil other senses than just the eye! Combining cinema with a delicious taste for food, 'Images Gourmandes' will tickle your taste-buds with classics like DELICATESSEN (Jean-Pierre Jeunet) and BABETTE'S FEAST (Gabriel Axel). And maybe not only the children will enjoy animations with honey and chocolate! More information and the complete programme: www.cinejeune02.com.

The French Touch

For the 30th edition, Ciné-Jeune has composed in collaboration with the French Short Film Agency a special program of the Best French Animated Shorts for young people. This one hour programme compiles 8 short films previously screened at Ciné-Jeune, all of them with a typical 'French Touch': 'Ben Hora', 'The Swimming Lesson', 'Hai Puka', 'Parade', 'Oktapodi', 'The Level Crossing Keeper', 'The Silence Beneath the Bark' and 'Delights'.

This special program, targeting a 5 – 11 audience, is available from March 1st on DVD, also for international festival screenings. If you want to offer your audience a special 'French touch', please contact the festival Ciné-Jeune: +33-323-79-39-37, contact@cinejeune02.com.

CMS ORGANIZES LUCKNOW FESTIVAL

CMS Films & Radio Division is a unit of the City Montessori School in Lucknow, the capital city of Uttar Pradesh, India. City Montessori School (the world's largest school in terms of pupils enrolled, as per the Guinness Book of World Records) and its founders Drs Jagdish and Bharati Gandhi believe that films leave an indelible mark on the minds of children. That's why the CMS Films & Radio Division came into existence, producing community radio and films touching various aspects of a child's development and psychology. So far CMS has produced 34 films.

With great enthusiasm and purpose, CMS Films Division has already organized three editions of the International Children's Film Festival (ICFF). The 2011 festival was highly successful with film entries from 31 countries. Movies such as I AM KALAM (Nila Madhab Panda), THE UGLY DUCKLING (Garri Bardin) and KRISH, TRISH & BALTI-BOY were awarded by CMS. Festival Director and Head of CMS Films & Radio Division Mr. Varghese Kurian: "In a world full of hatred, the promotion of 'World Peace and Unity through children's films' is the main motive behind organizing the Lucknow festival. The films that are screened at the festival showcase the culture and ethos of their

country of origin. With the festival we aim to introduce different cultures and spread a message of brotherhood amongst children." He added that so far 100,000 children have attended this festival.



The 4th International Children's Film Festival will be held from 10–16th April, 2012 in Lucknow. Awarded films in various categories will receive cash prizes. More info: www.cmsfilms.org/iecff.

DOCUMENTARIES FOR YOUNGSTERS

As part of the 36th Duisburger Filmwoche (November 5-11th 2012), the documentary film section for youngsters 'doxs! Kino' will present a selection of European documentaries for an audience aged 6-18 and hand out the second European 'Grosse Klappe' award. Preview copies of short and long films that were not shown in public before June 2011 can be sent in until June 16th 2012.

Contact: doxs! / Duisburger Filmwoche, Larissa Braunöhler / Daniel Hermsdorf, c/o VHS Stadt Duisburg, Steinsche Gasse 31 D-47051 Duisburg. office@do-xs.de, www.do-xs.de; entry form on www.do-xs.de/english.html.

Forthcoming Festivals

International Film Festival Junior; Stockholm, Sweden

March 26 to 31st 2012

www.stockholmfilmfestival.se/junior

Young People's Film Festival; Leeds, UK

March 26 to April 6th 2012

www.leedsyoungfilm.com

International Children's TV & Film Festival; Taipei, Taiwan

March 30 to April 7th 2012

www.ticff.org

Kinderfilmfest; Kassel, Germany

April 4 to 15th 2012

www.filmladen.de

International Children's Film Festival; City Montessori School, Lucknow, India

April 10 to 16th 2012

www.cmsfilms.org/iecff

Sprockets –International Film Festival for Children; Toronto, Canada

April 10 to 22th 2012

www.sprockets.ca

Ciné-Jeune – Festival International de Cinéma; Saint-Quentin, France

April 11 to 17th 2012

www.cinejeune02.com

Festival di cinema per ragazzi - Kids & Teens Film Festival; Vittorio Veneto, Italy

April 18 to 21st 2012

www.vittoriofilmfestival.com

International Children's Film Festival (KICFF); Kristiansand, Norway

April 24 to 28th 2012

www.kicff.no

Indie Junior; Lisboa, Portugal

April 26 to May 6th 2012

www.indielisboa.com

Golden Sparrow – Festival for Children's Media; Erfurt & Gera, Germany

May 6 to 12th 2012

www.goldenerspatz.de

International Festival of Animated Films, Section "Tricks for Kids"; Stuttgart, Germany

May 8 to 13th 2012

www.iffs.de

Kids Festival; Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

May 27 to June 3rd 2012

www.kidsfest.ba

Int. Festival of Short Films for Children "Mo&Friese"; Hamburg, Germany

May 28 to June 3rd 2012

www.moundfriese.de

Forthcoming Festivals

Animafest; Zagreb, Croatia
May 29 to June 3rd 2012
www.animafest.hr

Prix Jeunesse International – Children’s TV Festival; Munich, Germany
June 1 to 6th 2012
www.prixjeunesse.de

51st International Festival for Children & Youth; Zlin, Czech Republic
June 8 to 12th 2012
www.zlinfest.cz

Plein la Bobine – Film Festival for Young People; Massif du Sancy, La Bourboule & Le Mont-Dore, France
June 9 to 14th 2012
www.pleinlabobine.com

Kinderfilmfest; Munich, Germany
June 29 to July 7th 2012
www.filmfest-muenchen.de

More information on all these festivals you will find on our website:
www.ecfaweb.org/ecfnet/festivals.php.

MANUSHA GOES CROWDFUNDING



Manusha © www.knutogris.tv

Vienna based film producer Knut Ogris is currently trying to finish MANUSHA – The Little Gypsy Witch; a children’s film that should run in the theatres later this year. To overcome the financing problems he started an ambitious crowdfunding campaign. Crowdfunding is an innovative format of project financing getting more and more attention since the concept recently found its way from the US to Europe. Crowdfunding turns the audience into sponsors by collective co-operation to make a certain project happen.

Producer Knut Ogris explains: “MANUSHA is the story of a little Roma girl entering a great adventure in the world of Roma, together with her pet ferret Balthasar and her friend Zdenko. With music, fantasy and a glimpse of magic she touches the heart of so many people and achieves more than most grown-ups can: gaining tolerance, love and respect.

ANNETTE BREJNER ABOUT BUFF FINANCING FORUM AND KIDS REGIO WORKSHOP

For the 6th time BUFF:ff Malmö is inviting TV- and film-producers to present their projects for a young audience, not only in one to one meetings with financiers but also in a public pitching session.

Annette Brejner: “Pitching can help a film in many ways. Even at the stage of submitting a project, producers have to consider various elements in order to be able to meet our demands. Describing your project in just a few lines forces you to sharpen up your ideas. Only by understanding the core of your project and by being absolutely sure that your idea, your financing plan and your team are solid, you can convince other people about it in less than 5 minutes.”

Pitching is as much about getting advice as it is about finding money?

Brejner: “When pitching in the open arena – as we call it – you get loads of feedback on how to develop a project according to the needs of the audience or the financiers. We’re having our audience even more engaged this year, inviting them to twitter during the pitching, simultaneously projecting their messages on a big screen. Gathering an audience of professionals, all these messages could be considered as advices.”

Also the Cuban Hat idea is about involving the audience.

Brejner: “The Cuban Hat is an audience based prize, awarding the best pitching session. The idea was born in the Toronto Documentary Forum when filmmakers spontaneously started to collect audience votes and cash (www.cubanhathat.tv) – co-‘inventor’ Giulia Frati will join us at the forum and personally collect donations. It will be great fun, engaging not only the jury panel. These are our steps towards a further professionalizing of the industry.”

Is that your ultimate goal?

Brejner: “We’re aiming for a better status for films for youngsters. I consider the fact that all Nordic film Institutes now have representatives in the BUFF:ff

In times of drastically increasing intolerance against Roma and Sinti we find it important to bring this film into the theatres, as it shows – in an entertaining way – how prejudices are born.”

On <http://www.mysherpas.com/de/projekt/Manusha-die-kleine-Romahexemoechte-ins-Kino/> Knut Ogris calls out to the masses to support his project. As compensation you’ll receive a unique reward, varying from a simple ‘Thank you very much’ or a downloadable file



steering group a strong signal of support.”

Are there certain aspects in pitching that gained more importance over the years?

Brejner: “Cross media of course. The target group of our industry is a generation of children, used to using all these media tools. We can no longer deliver quality products if we do not understand the storytelling of modern cross media. That’s also why in the workshop that we organize together with KIDS Regio we’ll teach producers and distributors how to use cross media. Seen from a marketing point of view, these strategies can save you a lot of money.”

Viola Gabrielli (KIDS Regio): “The KIDS Regio Meeting Point and Workshop on March 14th will start with a highly profiled keynote session and a joint workshop. Both are designed particularly for independent producers and distributors of children’s films and cover cross and trans media marketing trends, strategies and consumer research. Marketing and cross media specialists will share their expertise, present the latest research on the target group and demonstrate trans and cross media opportunities for film marketing. Participants can meet the industry pros in small groups and discuss their own projects, exploring the potential of social media channels (viral marketing) as a promotional tool. Exclusive one on one meetings will help to flesh out ideas on designing new business models for each project.”

Further information and application:
www.kids-regio.org.

6th BUFF:ff for Co-production of Film, TV and Cross Media for Children and Youth. March 14 – 16, 2012 in Malmö, Sweden. Contact: Annette Brejner, annette.brejner@buff.se or Annika Gustafson, annika.gustafson@buff.se. Contact KIDS Regio: Viola Gabrielli, gabrielli@kids-regio.org.

up to a private screening. Whoever can’t afford financial participation is still invited to promote the project through their own communication channels.

Every form of attention can bring the project closer to its target of € 49,000, equaling a proper cinema career.

www.manusha-derfilm.at/film/trailer/;
www.manusha-derfilm.at/presse/
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/romahexe>

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. Producers, distributors and sales agents are kindly invited to inform us of their new releases.

The Children from the Napf

Documentary, Switzerland, 2011
Director: Alice Schmid
Production & World Sales: Ciné AS
Am Wasser 55; 8049 Zürich,
Switzerland
phone: ++41-44-202-49-69
E-Mail: cineas@cyberlink.ch
www.aliceschmid.ch

The Crown Jewels

Feature Film, Sweden, 2011
Director: Ella Lemhagen
Production & World Sales: Filmlance
International
Box 27156; 10252 Stockholm, Sweden
phone: ++46-8-45-97-380
E-Mail: hq@filmlance.se
www.filmlance.se

Fourteen

Documentary, Germany, 2012
Director: Cornelia Grünberg
Production & World Sales: Kinderfilm
GmbH
Richard-Breslau-Str. 9; 99094 Erfurt,
Germany
phone: ++49-361- 658-660
E-Mail: info@kinderfilm-gmbh.de
www.kinderfilm-gmbh.de

The Ice Dragon



Feature Film, Sweden, 2012
Director: Martin Högdahl
Production & World Sales: Illusion
Film & TV
Tredje Långgatan 13; 41303 Göteborg,
Sweden
phone: ++46-31-775 28 50
E-Mail: info@illusionfilm.se
www.illusionfilm.se

Jelly T.



Animation, Denmark, 2012
Director: Michael Hegner
Production: Crone Film
World Sales: Sola Media GmbH

Filderhauptstr. 49; 70599 Stuttgart, Ger-
many
phone: ++49-711-479-36-66
E-Mail: post@sola-media.net
www.sola-media.net

Jensen & Jensen



Animation, Denmark, 2011
Director: Frank Craig
Production: Miso Film ApS
World Sales: TrustNordisk
Filmbyen 28; 2650 Hvidovre, Denmark
phone: ++45-36-86-87-88
E-Mail: nicolai@trustnordisk.com
www.trustnordisk.com

Kauwboy

Feature Film, The Netherlands, 2012
Director: Boudewijn Koole
Production & World Sales: Waterland Film
De Kempenaerstraat 11a;
1051 CJ Amsterdam, The Netherlands
phone: ++31-20- 68-22-164
E-Mail: mail@waterlandfilm.nl
www.waterlandfilm.nl

Love is in the Air

Feature Film, Denmark, 2011
Director: Simon Staho
Production: Zentropa
World Sales: TrustNordisk
(address see above)

Manusha – The Little Gypsy Witch



© www.knutogris.tv

Feature Film, Croatia, Austria, 2011
Director: Tomislav Zaja
Production: Formula Film, Knut Ogris Films
World Sales: Knut Ogris Films
Hamburgerstraße 20/3; 1050 Wien, Austria
phone: ++43-1-58-12-091
E-mail: knut.ogris.films@aon.at
www.formulafilm.hr;
www.manusha-derfilm.at

Max Embarrassing 2

Feature Film, Denmark, 2011
Director: Lotte Svendsen
Production & World Sales: Asta Film,
Per Holst
Livjærggade 23/3; 2100 Copenha-
gen, Denmark
phone: ++45-35-55-93-66
E-Mail: ph@astafilm.dk
www.astafilm.dk

My Sister's Kids Home Alone

Feature Film, Denmark, 2012
Director: Martin Miehe-Renard
Production: Obel Film A/S
World Sales: TrustNordisk
(address see above)

Sams im Glück

Feature Film, Germany, 2012
Director: Peter Gersina
Production & World Sales: Collina
Filmproduktion GmbH
Franz-Joseph-Str. 15; 80801 Munich,
Germany
phone: ++49-89-55-06-180
E-Mail: info@collinafilm.de
www.collinafilm.de

Victor and the Secret of Crocodile Mansion



Feature Film, Germany, 2012
Directors: Cyrill Boss & Philipp
Stennert
Production: Rat Pack Filmproduction
World Sales: Sola Media GmbH
(address see above)

Zarafa

Animation, Belgium / France, 2011
Directors: Rémi Bezançon & Jean-
Christophe Lie
Production: Prima Linea Productions
World Sales: Pathé International
Kent House, 14-17 Market Place
London W1N 8AR, UK
phone: ++44-20-74-62-44-27
E-Mail: internationalsales@pathe.co.uk;
www.patheinternational.com

VIKING FILM

Viking Film is an Amsterdam based film production company recently founded by Marleen Slot. International in scope, Viking Film wants to make high-quality films for both Dutch and international audiences with a special focus on children's and family films, animation and artistic genre films. Viking Film's basic principle is to work with young as well as established directors, screenwriters and crew. Viking Film wants to be cross-border and intends to enter into cooperation with producers and makers from Europe, Latin America and Asia.

Currently Viking Film has two films in production: the short animated 'As Boys Grow' (Charlotte van Otterloo) and the co-production LEONES by Argentine director Jazmin Lopez. Both films are being made in cooperation with Lemming Film, the company Marleen worked for as a producer for years. Her productions at Lemming Film include the feature films TONY 10 (Mischa Kamp, release February 2012), TAKING CHANCES (Nicole van Kilsdonk, Berlinale Generation K+ 2012) and SNACKBAR (Meral Uslu, Berlinale Generation 14+ 2012).



Marleen Slot

Marleen Slot attended MEDIA's EAVE producer's training. She was president of the Association of New Film and Television Makers and presently is a member of the Board of the European producers' network ACE.

Website: www.vikingfilm.nl

CTFB BANGLADESH

Children's Television Foundation of Bangladesh is the outcome of a united effort of a group of TV personalities starting their TV-career as adolescents. Their experience made them committed to support children to raise their voice in media. A common TV platform should help to create such opportunity to speak out of their interests and rights. CTFB has evolved into a platform supporting disadvantaged children in building up their confidence and presenting their voice to the nation through electronic media. Secretary General Fahmidul Islam Shantonu: *"The goal of this organization is to empower children to have access to media and participate in media communication. CTFB constantly provides child friendly information to a young audience. It will empower Bangladeshi children to gain enduring living skills and knowledge through value-based entertainment."*

In January 2012 the first OneMinutesJr Festival was organized in Dhaka (a format invented by the Dutch OneMinutesJr Foundation and supported by UNICEF). CTFB will continue this concept in a South-Asian OneMinutesJr Festival (December, 2012) and an international festival (2013). Furthermore CTFB will organize a seminar on the impact of climate change on children in April, 2012 and a countrywide research on children's favourite books.

Fahmidul Islam Shantonu: *"Meanwhile we'll continue our regular activities like workshops on news, camera operation technique, scriptwriting, editing etc, and we're hoping to strengthen our contacts for a better exchange with European organizations."*

Contact: Secretary General Fahmidul Islam Shantonu (CTFB), 0088-017-11-596-426; ctfb2005@gmail.com.

Barnefilm FESTIVALEN

Professional Days:

- New Nordic Children's Films
- Films on the Horizon
- ECFA-seminar:
The Rainbow Project

Kristiansand International
CHILDREN'S
film festival

Norway | 24 - 28 April 2012 | www.kicff.no

ECFA Annual Seminar as part of The Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival

Throughout 2011 ECFA has been participating in a Europe wide project to fight homophobia and gender stereotypes. The RAINBOW project (Rights Against Intolerance – Building an Open-minded World) connects EU gay and lesbian associations, schools and media professionals promoting the rights of children and young people to their identity, in order to study stereotypes and challenge them with educational tools.

ECFA has been a key partner in this project, selecting and presenting relevant short films to participate in the educational toolkit to be used throughout the partnering European Countries. ECFA will continue their involvement through promotion and distribution of the films across the festival circuit after completion of the project.

The annual seminar on April 27th in Kristiansand will give educators and media professionals an opportunity to gain an insight into the reasoning behind the project, previews of films and educational material and to meet the professionals involved in this ambitious pan-European undertaking.

The final programme is still in progress but we expect the half day seminar to include a presentation of the project, results of research into stereotypes, a preview of the study guides and the experiences of educators working within this field.

NEW MEMBERS: 3 FESTIVALS

PULA FILM FESTIVAL

Pula Film Festival is a cultural institution managing the Pula Film Festival and Kino Valli in Pula, Croatia, organizing a variety of artistic programmes and offering technical support to cultural events.

In 1938 the first film showcase took place in the historic Roman Arena in Pula. The great audience turnout set the foundation for the Pula Film Festival in 1953. Ever since then Pula has been a place to enjoy a film under the stars. It holds the title of the oldest national film festival in the world and is the most visited cultural event in Croatia (more than 73,000 visitors in 15 days packed with events). Next Pula Film Festival will take place from 14-28th July, 2012.

Another prestigious project was the reopening of Kino Valli in 2008 after a complete makeover. Being Pula's only cinema, over the last few years it has gained its old/new audience and become a place of social interest. Kino Valli loves film in all its forms and gives insight into undiscovered film cultures.



In 2008 Pula Film Festival launched Puplica, a programme for youngsters. The fact that children have great emotional and cultural needs, made us realize that we should act throughout the whole year. In the project 'Film in School' a number of educational seminars are adjusted to regular school subjects such as history, literature, ecology and arts. Study guides and film professionals are supporting the teachers in their efforts. Cinema manager & festival producer Tanja Miličić: "Being a member of ECFA

means we can share experiences with colleagues throughout the EU. With a better access to European films we can work together to bring films closer to children, and to bring children closer to films."

Contact Kino Valli & Pula Film Festival: Tanja Miličić, +385-52-222-703; info@kinovalli.net, tanja@pulafilmfestival.hr; www.kinovalli.net; www.pulafilmfestival.hr.

MUNICH CHILDREN FILM FEST

The Munich Children Film Fest is fully embedded in the famous International Filmfest Munich, a popular German summer festival which will celebrate its 30th birthday in the last week of June this year.

For children more or less 10 feature films are in the programme, alongside shorts and with a strong effort to integrate documentaries. The festival guests have the possibility to meet producers and colleagues from throughout the world. In cooperation with a pedagogic society children produce a trailer for the Children Film Fest. Some screenings go with special workshops and young reporters are reporting on the event for the whole week.

Katrin Hoffmann: "For the children film society we are organizing seminars for people with an interest in film and pedagogic. My focus in programming lies on European and German children's films. This is the reason for becoming a member of ECFA, as I hope to get more in contact with the European Film business."



I have been running the Munich Children Film Festival since 2005 and it's a great honor to share this important part of educating children in film aesthetics."

Contact: Katrin Hoffmann, Children Film Fest Munich, Germany. +49-(0)89-38-19-04-25; katrin.hoffmann@filmfest-muenchen.de; www.filmfest-muenchen.de

INTERNATIONAL VILNIUS FILM FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



The International Film Festival for Children & Youth continues the tradition of quality cinema for children in Lithuania. The festival presents more than 30 films from all over the globe in an International Competition, Panorama and other festival sections. Awards are given by a children and youth jury.

The festival's educational programme 'European cinema - intercultural dialogues' seeks to strike up the dialogue, introducing various European cultures by means of cinema. Events like this make the festival a space for discussions between children, parents, teachers and film makers. The International Festival complements the Lithuanian cultural context and reflects challenges of modern-day life. The next festival will take place in the autumn of 2012.

Contact: Lina Uzkuraitytė, kidsfestival002@lvjc.lt, lina@kidsfestival.lt; www.kidsfestival.lt.

ECFA AGM

The European Children's Film Association has the honour of inviting all its members for the next Annual General Meeting, taking place on Saturday February 11th, 2012 at 16.00 in DIE WILLE, Wilhelmstrasse 115 – 10963 Berlin (New venue, walking distance from Potsdammer Platz).

On that occasion ECFA's activities in 2011 will be reported and new projects will be discussed. Members will have the chance to present some of their projects and activities and to mingle during an informal drink.

Later that day the ECFA reception (with the announcing of the final ECFA AWARD 2012) will take place at 9.00 pm in Homebase, Köthener Strasse 44, 10963 Berlin! ECFA is looking forward to welcome you all.



ECFA Journal

Published by ECFA
European Children's Film Association
Rue du Pavillon 3
B-1030 Bruxelles
Phone: +32 (0)2 242 54 09
Fax: +32 (0)2 242 74 27
E-mail: ecfa@jekino.be
www.ecfaweb.org

Please send press releases, advertisements, questions & information to Jekino - Gert Hermans
See address above
E-mail: gerth@jekino.be

Contributors to this issue:
Adam Graham, Reinhold Schöffel, Felix Vanginderhuysen, Renate Zylla, Alice Brauner, Nina Cetinic, Kristin Ulseth, Céline Ravenel, Varghese Kurian, Daniel Hermsdorf, Annette Brejner, Viola Gabrielli, Wolfgang Gumpelmaier, Marleen Slot, Fahmid Islam Shantonu, Even Thunes Jensen, Katrin Hoffmann, Tanja Milicic, Lina Uzkuiraitytė, Nicole van Kilsdonk, Eva de Vree.

Corrector: Adam Graham
Design: Sam Geuens & Mecca Henneco
ECFA website: Udo Lange

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):
ECFA
European Children's Film Association
Phone: +32 (0)2 242 54 09
E-mail: ecfa@jekino.be
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.

IN FOCUS

Nicole van Kilsdonk's TAKING CHANCES "The 4 o' clock candy box"

Young Kiek is really worried when her dad travels to a warzone as a doctor while she stays in Holland with mum. When dad is missing and leaves her without news for days, Kiek's whole world is tumbling down.

To reduce dad's chances of bad luck, she starts doing stupid things, like almost throwing her dog from a bridge. When rehearsing the school play she can't focus, as if only news from dad can get her back on track. Kiek's darkest fantasies are depicted in colourful animated sequences that keep her spleen lightly digestible.

TAKING CHANCES starts with the story of the fearful man, always hiding inside his house, until a tree crushes the roof. Kiek says it's a stupid story... but I didn't think so.

Nicole van Kilsdonk: "Actually it isn't. There are lots of scared people, stuffing their houses with cans in case a war might break out. Fear is talked into us in so many ways. While I think 'go out and discover the world' is a much wiser message."

Dad is an interesting character: is he a hero or an egoistic hunter for adrenaline? van Kilsdonk: "I don't know if he's a hero but his intentions are noble. Of course he's seeking satisfaction; thrills can be addictive. But he's driven by a higher goal, which is admirable."

TAKING CHANCES is based on a book by Marjolijn Hof. van Kilsdonk: "That book was my unique chance to tell a story that takes children serious. I knew what I wanted: addressing the children in a direct manner, not with a typical girls' story nor in a film about a brooding child. Because we needed some positive energy, we added the elements of skateboarding and the school play."



How did you get into TAKING CHANCES?

Pippa Allen: "At Cinekid Amsterdam I took part in an acting workshop. That's how I got the role. The most difficult were the sad scenes, and there's quite a lot of them in this film. Actually I'm a pretty cheerful child. To get into the right mood, I thought about those 'save a dog' commercials on TV. Those dogs look so pitiful they always make me sad."

How were those skating scenes?

Pippa: "I'm not really good. By the end of the shooting I could ride the half-pipe. van Kilsdonk: "Come on, Pippa, you're a



natural talent. To prepare for the role she took a course in a skate-club; the only girl in a hall full of boys. She was not only an actress but also a stuntwoman

Many thoughts remain unspoken. You need a strong actress to transmit them. van Kilsdonk: "Pippa was fantastic, with or without dialogues. She was good in memorizing texts and she understood everything immediately. Often children get bored after a while but Pippa always could keep going. Which isn't easy surrounded by so many children. The scenes in which the children walk into the classroom we had to re-shoot so many times, since every time there was one kicking over the traces. For the sound-recording it's pure horror: time after time that screeching sound of 30 chairs on a floor."

Allen: "Luckily every day at 4 o' clock the candy box passed."

I thought children on a set never ate candy. It makes them hyper.

Allen: "I always got 4."

van Kilsdonk: "4?! I never knew about this!"

Allen: "Yeah, playing in a movie can make you collect lots of sweets."

Some of the scenes are a bit lugubrious. How to ask understanding for a girl who just tried to throw her dog from a bridge?

van Kilsdonk: "Who wants to be always neat and political correct? That scene was tested, our audience thought it was the most thrilling moment of the movie. It's crucial not to lose your sympathy for Kiek. The film carefully builds up towards that moment, so we all know what drives her that far and immediately afterwards she washes and cuddles the dog."

How did it go, shooting with that dog? Allen: "All the time he was squeaking. Some scenes we had to re-do many times because of that. And he was traumatized by the colour blue. His blue drinking-trough we had to remove because it terrified him." (GH)

The full version of this interview can be found on <http://www.ecfaweb.org/projects/filmmaking>.