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AUGUST

## EDITORIAL

## Rainbow is needed

In 2010 ECFA and some of its members agreed to engage themselves in the Rainbow Project, initially set up by LGBT organisations in their fight against homophobia. Rainbow wanted to carry out its message with strong (film) images and therefore asked ECFA to come on board.

Recent incidents in Belgium unfortunately have proven the need for this kind of project. Within the last few months, a number of homophobic attacks have cost the lives of two men and serious injuries to four others. Even without exact statistics from other countries at hand, we cannot believe that Belgium is an isolated case. With gay people represented at the highest national political level, Belgians like to see themselves as quite progressive in this regard.

These dreadful events have re-opened the public debate and suddenly placed homophobia on the political agenda. Tragically enough, Rainbow couldn't have come at a better moment in Belgium, now the problem has reached a high priority status in the Parliament. The cry to punish "homophobic crimes" more severe than "normal crimes" is currently discussed. Still we're convinced that such repressive legislation needs to be supported by information, commitment and education. That should be the first step to be taken.

And this exactly is the goal of the Rainbow Project that will be launched in November, during the 11th Brussels 'Pink Screens' film festival (8 – 17th November) in Brussels.

Felix Vanginderhuysen

## KAUWBOY wins 1st EFA Young Audience Award

10th of June wasn't an ordinary Sunday. On the Young Audience Film Day, it was KAUWBOY who won the first European Film Academy Young Audience Award. Boudewijn Koole's story about a boy, the troubled relationship with his dad and his friendship with a young jackdaw was chosen by an international jury of 10 – 13 year old youngsters, simultaneously gathering in 6 European cities.

Competing with BLUE BIRD (Belgium, Gust Van Den Berghe) and L'ENFANT EN HAUT (France / Switzerland, Ursula Meier), the three films were seen, discussed and judged by young audiences in Amsterdam, Belgrade, Copenhagen, Erfurt, Norrköping and Turin, a network of 6 partnering cities on the occasion of the 25th European Film Awards. TV-crews reported about the event. Moderating the award ceremony from Erfurt, German TV-host Juri Tetzlaff welcomed young cinema-lovers from every participating country.



Foto: Daniel Bouquet

Kauwboy

The European Film Academy Young Audience Award is a prestigious award in a truly European context, presented by the European Film Academy and EFA Productions with the support of the Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (MDM). KAUWBOY's co-author Jolein Laarman came to collect the prize and was very pleased: "It is so important that the European Film Academy gives a voice to all the children in Europe!"

## ELIOT &amp; ME

Director Fintan Connolly: "A bit of a family affair"

**ELIOT & ME is a remarkable film. This Irish family project and live action feature for a young audience might mark the start of a new tendency in children's film.**

Recent technological innovations made it possible for filmmakers to undertake independent film projects, cheap and basic in the making, but with an artistic value and an outspoken independent feel. When it comes to children's films, this often seems to result in small family projects in which movie making parents include their own children, like last year's ON THE SLY. ELIOT & ME is another particular example of a charming father-daughter project.

More than anything else Lucy wants two things in life: she wants her mum and dad not to divorce and she wants a dog. In comes Eliot, looking like a street-dog, making Lucy the proudest, most devoted dog-owner in the world. One day Eliot disappears, knowing that all parents have worries of their own, Lucy is determined to solve this case all by herself.

This doesn't sound like the biggest story ever told, and the apotheosis might even look a bit doltish through the eyes of a grown up. But it has been a long time since a live action film could be understood so easily and totally by even the youngest audience. We spoke with director Fintan Connolly and his family: "After playing a spooky kid in the Hammer horror WAKE WOOD, Ella wanted to be in a film she could watch. First we thought about ELIOT & ME as a short film but then it grew out till what it has become now. Compared to a horror movie, involving prosthetic's and special effects, this was relatively straightforward. Ella dug deep to give this little girl a vulnerability and strength in keeping with the story. She was a joy to work with, and I'm not just saying that because I'm her dad."

**Who else was involved in this project?** Connolly: "It was a bit of a family affair. Ella's mother, Fiona Bergin produced the film and co-wrote the story and our friend Owen McPolin was DOP. We shot at weekends and school holidays, casting actors we had worked with before. It was a real labour of love. We filmed all over the city, but mainly in Kilmainham where we live."

**Even Eliot, the dog, was a member of the family. How was it to have him on the set?** Ella Connolly: "He's completely untrained, he hasn't got a clue, he didn't do anything he was asked. I thought that was hilarious. But he is the best thing in the film."

**Did he enjoy himself on the set?** Ella: "He enjoyed the sausage treats! Afterwards, we noticed he likes to watch himself in the film. He goes wild barking at all the other dogs in the scene at the animal shelter but he goes quiet when he sees himself on screen."

**Over the last year did the entire family have time for anything else than the film project? Or was everyone captured by it completely?** Connolly: "We did other things but this was the most fun. We continued work on our company's film and television projects, Ella was busy at school and Eliot was doing pretty much what he does in the film – eating, sleeping and walking"

**How did you succeed to make the film so understandable by even the youngest audience?** Bergin: "We decided to try to tell the story from the point of view of a 10 year old girl and chose a deliberately ordinary, everyday series of themes – parental separation, most kids' desire for a pet, bullying at school. Many kids can relate to these issues as they experience them in their own lives. With Ella carrying the picture, her desire for a dog

and her relationship with him are entirely believable."



**Was Ella already involved in the script writing process?** Connolly: "Ella wasn't directly involved in the writing but she inspired a fair bit of it. We built a couple of things into the story, like the Tae Kwon Do, that Ella does in real life but the rest is just simple storytelling. Ella interpreted what we wrote in her own, unique way. She knew her character inside out."

**Lucy insists on solving all problems herself without the help of a grown-up.** Bergin: "Following her parents separation Lucy doesn't really trust 'adults' much at all. Her relationship with her mother is strained by their shared loss of the father and her father is now completely absent from her life. Her response to the sudden change in her domestic circumstances is to rely on herself to solve her own problems and this is what she does."

**There is a small but alarming extra storyline about a gloomy character chatting with Lucy on the internet.** Connolly: "It's a plotline that is never resolved, but we felt it added to the story. Kids are on the internet a lot in a

way you couldn't even conceive of ten years ago. This character of 'Mike' who Lucy begins chatting with on the internet is exactly that: a deliberate attempt to make children think about who they are in fact chatting to when they are online. We didn't extend the storyline to involve any actual meeting of the characters (although that is what 'Mike' suggests) as we thought that would be too frightening for a very young audience. We do want kids to be aware about the dangers and this is why it is Lucy's friend Ben, and not an adult, who warns her of 'freaks' on the net."

**How does it feel as a father to hear all the time the – well deserved – compliments for your daughters acting?** Connolly: "It feels good. She is a wonderfully natural actor and we enjoyed doing this film together. She likes acting but she likes other things too – drawing, reading, sport..." (GH)

Contact Sales: Network Ireland Television, Derry O'Brien, +353-1-67-97-309, [info@network-irl-tv.com](mailto:info@network-irl-tv.com); [www.network-irl-tv.com](http://www.network-irl-tv.com); <http://www.facebook.com/eliotandme>.



**DIGITAL DIARY**  
Summer is a great time for getting together your festival diary and discovering films, ideas and new experiences. This is also true for developing your digital media and video game experiences as Autumn holds some of the best events across Europe and further afield.

**Events**  
**Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival**  
**Berwick upon Tweed (UK), 19-23rd September**  
[www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com](http://www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com)  
This media arts focused festival brings to the north of England a theme to explore the relationship between photography and film using some of the most inventive locations throughout the historic town.

**Tokyo Games Show**  
**Tokyo (Japan), 20-23rd September**  
<http://tgs.cesa.or.jp/english>  
The biggest games expo in Japan returns for its 21st year! Last year 222,668 people attended CESA, which features seven public areas covering every aspect of the modern international games industry, from conception to sales. There is no better reason to book that trip to Japan!

**Euro Gamer**  
**London (UK), 27-30th September**  
<http://expo.eurogamer.net>  
The fifth annual Eurogamer Expo returns with speaker sessions and game demo. The event includes a career fair offering students and graduates the chance to meet face-to-face with development and publishing companies.

**Cinekid**  
**Amsterdam (The Netherlands), 13-26th October**  
[www.cinekid.nl](http://www.cinekid.nl)  
One of the most established festivals on the circuit for professionals and young film fans alike, Cinekid's medialab grows year on year with an education, film professionals and public programme. This is a great festival for discovery and business networking.

**Smartphone & Tablet Games Summit**  
**London (UK), 15th November**  
[www.mediabistro.com/smartphonegames-summitlondon](http://www.mediabistro.com/smartphonegames-summitlondon)  
A single day conference. With the continued rise of the iPhone, iPad, and Android, 2012 will be a defining year for the world of smartphone and tablet games. Could this be a format of digital interaction you could incorporate into your programmes?



## MEDIA EDUCATION in Argentina

Roxana Morduchowicz: "Argentine adolescents discover the secret of cinema"

The Argentine national Media Literacy program wants to strengthen young people's relationship with media. Originally developed by Roxana Morduchowicz for the city of Buenos Aires, the program was picked up in 1995 by the national Ministry of Education who installed it in all primary and secondary schools in the 24 Argentine provinces and still coordinates it. It's the Ministry's priority to offer every student, particularly the ones in a difficult financial situation, a chance of a well-filled cultural backpack.

Project manager Roxana Morduchowicz speaks with great dedication about her mission: "We develop all our initiatives in close partnership with the media industry: filmmakers, producers, scriptwriters and especially the cinemas. We're strongly supported by the CAEM (the chamber of Argentine multiplex owners). For instance in September and October all secondary school students can go to the movies for half the price (which is also a way to battle with school drop outs), 50 % of their ticket is compensated by the private cinema companies." Roxana is a strong persuader, that also shows in a project like the 'School, Camera, Action' Festival. "We invite teenagers from 5,000 public grammar schools to write a short story on a chosen subject. The best three stories are produced as short films by well known filmmakers and screened for a whole month in all Argentine cinemas before the regular blockbuster program. Those filmmakers are willing to work for free. This project reinforces teenagers' connection with cinema from the producer's perspective." In all these activities the Ministry of Education takes the initiative but can't invest financially. "That's why private sponsors are so important, like the CAEM, offering us their cinemas for free. Luckily Argentines give a great importance to 'social responsibility'."

The program's most appealing project is a book: '20 Películas Para Descubrir' (20 films to discover). "To 20 well known Argentine filmmakers, representing all genres and generations, we asked the question: 'Which film has left a trace on your life?' When going to the movies or renting a DVD, 95% of the Argentine adolescents chose movies from the US. Only 3 % chose an Argentine film and not a single one mentioned a European or Latin American production, although the access to a diversified cinema landscape is essential to build a strong culture capital. How could we explain that in this diversity maybe they could discover a film that would leave a trace on their lives forever?"

The titles selected by the filmmakers came from Argentine, the US, Europe, and Asia. They all came up with different reasons to explain their preference. Some filmmakers spoke in cinematographic or moral terms: 'because of



the values it reflects' or 'because it's a master piece'. Others had personal reasons: 'because it made me decide about my career', 'because it helped me to grow up', 'because it was the first time I saw my father cry'. Lucia Puenzo (XXY) chose EDWARD SCISSORHANDS, Pablo Trapero (FAMILIA RODANTE) picked Chaplin's MODERN TIMES, Paula Hernandez (HERENCIA) was touched by the brothers Dardenne's THE SON,... "Their personal testimonies proved how a single film can mark a person's life and career."

The book was sent to all secondary schools. "If when reading the book, adolescents decide to see one of the 20 films mentioned, we have achieved our initial goal: to widen young people's choices. But more important: by reading the filmmakers' testimonies, adolescents might understand to which extent a movie can affect one's life and they might discover the magic of the big screen... In other words, they might discover the secret of cinema."

The book (in Spanish) can be found on [www.me.gov.ar/escuelaymedios](http://www.me.gov.ar/escuelaymedios). Clicking on 'Materiales de Capacitación' you'll find training materials going alongside the book.

What other ways is Roxana Morduchowicz considering to get her message through? "The Ministry organised a national survey to explore young people's relationship with film in general and with Argentine films in particular. And for the Argentine Cinema Academy (under the presidency of Oscar winning director Juan Campanella) I'm working on new actions promoting youth and cinema. Therefore, it is important to exchange information as sometimes we feel as if we're far away, isolated from the outside world, but we have an enormous eagerness to learn and share experiences."

If you're interested in cooperating with the Ministry of Education or the Argentine Cinema Academy, please contact Roxana Morduchowicz on:

[roxana.morduchowicz@gmail.com](mailto:roxana.morduchowicz@gmail.com).

## The News Section: Films, Festivals, Awards

### Cannes Cinema: Ecrans Juniors; France

Grand Prix: „Omblin” by Stéphane Cazes, France, 2011.

[www.cannes-cinema.com](http://www.cannes-cinema.com)

### Int. Festival for Children & Youth; Zlín, Czech Republic

Children's Jury: Best Feature for Youth:

„Death of a Superhero“ by Ian Fitzgibbon, Ireland / Germany, 2011; Best

Feature for Children: „Chubby Drums“

by Arne Toonen, The Netherlands, 2011.

Int. Expert Jury: Best Feature for Children:

„Famous Five“ by Mike Marzuk,

Germany, 2011; Best Feature for Youth:

„Death of a Superhero“.

Town of Zlín Award (for Children): „The

Blue Tiger“ by Petr Oukropec, Czech

Republic, 2012. The Miloš Macourek

Award (for Youth): „Off White Lies“ by

Maya Kenig, Israel, 2011.

ECFA Award: „Death of a Superhero“.

Int. Jury of Children & Adults for Animated

Films: „Harbor Tale“ by Yuichi Ito,

Japan, 2011; Hermína Týrlová Award for

Artists aged -35: „The Itch“ by Patrick

Schoenmaker, The Netherlands, 2011.

Int. Expert Jury for European First Films:

„Wild Bill“ by Dexter Fletcher, UK, 2011.

Audience Awards: Best Feature: „Death

of a Superhero“; Best Animated Film:

„Harbor Tale“.

Ecumenical Jury's Award: „Punch“ by

Han Lee, South Korea, 2011.

[www.zlinfest.cz](http://www.zlinfest.cz)

### Int. Festival of Short Films for Children „Mo&Friese“; Hamburg, Germany

Friese Award for children -8: „Julian“ by

Matthew Moore, Australia, 2011;

Mo Award for children 9+: „Missing“ by

Cristian Wiesenfeld, Chile / Germany,

2011.

[www.moundfriese.de](http://www.moundfriese.de)

### Animafest; Zagreb, Croatia

Best Film: „Second Hand“ by Isaac King,

Canada, 2011;

[www.animafest.hr](http://www.animafest.hr)

### Prix Jeunesse Int. – Children's TV Festival; Munich, Germany

Category 12-15 y, Fiction & Non-Fiction:

„Two and a Half Heroes“, by Filmakademie

Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Cat-

egory 7-11 y, Non-Fiction: „Two Brothers“,

by KRO/RKK, The Netherlands;

Fiction: „The Amazing World of Gumball

– The Quest Episode“, by Turner Broad-

casting, UK. Category -6 y, Non-Fiction:

„Ene Mene Bu (and it's up to You)“ by

KI.KA - ARD & ZDF, Germany; Fiction:

„Waffle Heart“ by NRK, Norway. Theme

Prize: „Design Ah“ by NHK, Japan.

[www.prixjeunesse.de](http://www.prixjeunesse.de)

## Plein la Bobine – Film Festival for Young People; Massif du Sancy, La Bourboule & Le Mont-Dore, France

Short films for 3+: Young Jury & People's Choice: „Corida“ by Janis Cimermanis, Latvia, 2012; Professional Jury: „The Little Bird and the Leaf“ by Lena von Döhren, Switzerland, 2012.

Short films for 7+: Young Jury: „Bad ones“ by Stéphane Demoustier, France, 2011, and „The Stubborn Mule and the Remote Control“ by Helio Villela, Brazil, 2011. Professional Jury: „Kali the Little Vampire“ by Regina Pessoa, France / Portugal / Canada, 2012.

People's Choice: „Nikita the Tanner“ by Iouri Tcherenkov, Russia, 2012.

Short films for 12+: Young Jury: „Luminaris“ by Juan Pablo Zaramella, Argentina, 2011; Professional Jury: „Being Bradford Dillman“ by Emma Burch, UK, 2011; People's Choice: „Junior“ by Julia Ducournau, France, 2011.

[www.pleinlabobine.com](http://www.pleinlabobine.com)

## Kinderfilmfest; Munich, Germany

Audience Award: „Tom and Hacke“ by Norbert Lechner, Germany, 2012.

[www.filmfest-muenchen.de](http://www.filmfest-muenchen.de)

## Film Festival; Giffoni Valle Piana, Salerno, Italy

Elements 3+: „Spycat and the Paper Chase“, Darren Lim, Singapore, 2011.

Elements 6+: „Famous Five“ by Mike Marzuk, Germany, 2012; Best Short: „Mina Moes“ by Mirjam de With, The Netherlands, 2011.

Elements 10+: „Victor and the Secret of Crocodile Mansion“ by Cyrill Boss & Philipp Stennert, Germany, 2012; Best Short: „Kidnapped“ by Sarak Winkensette, Germany, 2011; Amnesty International Award: „Stay!“ by Laurens Blok, The Netherlands, 2011.

Generator 13+: „Frisson des Collins“ by Richard Roy, Canada, 2011; Best Short: „Nani“ by Justin Tipping, USA, 2011.

Generator 16+: „A Bottle in the Gaza Sea“ by Thierry Binisti, France / Israel / Canada, 2011; Best Short: „Punched“ by Michael Rittmannsberger, Austria, 2012.

Generator 18+: „Barbie“ by Sang-Woo Lee, South Korea, 2011; Best Short: „Short“ by Angelo Cretella, Italy, 2011, and „Tuba Atlantic“ by Hallvar Witzø, Norway, 2011.

Amnesty in Short Section: „Heimatland“ by Loretta Arnold, Andrea Schneider, Marius Portmann, Fabio Friedli, Switzerland, 2010.

[www.giffoniff.it](http://www.giffoniff.it)

## Film Festival; Pula, Croatia

Children Jury: „Zarafa“ by Rémi Bezaçon & Jean-Christophe Lie, Belgium / France, 2011, and „The Crocodiles Strike Back“ by Christian Ditter, Germany, 2010.

[www.pulafilmfestival.hr](http://www.pulafilmfestival.hr)

## PRODUCTION

### MY MOMMY IS IN AMERICA AND SHE MET BUFFALO BILL

Jean is a 6 year old little boy, ready to go into his first grade. Soon he'll be able to read and write... so he might be able to read the postcards that his mom sends him from all over the world. Mom is never there, Jean knows very little about her. But the postcards he receives, which are read to him in secret by his neighbour Michelle, come from far away countries: America, Switzerland, Spain, even from Africa... In his mind Jean makes up the wildest stories to fill in the absence gap.

MY MOMMY IS IN AMERICA AND SHE MET BUFFALO BILL, based on the comic book by Jean Regnaud & Emile Bravo and directed by Marc Boréal and Thibaut Chatel, tells a delicate and moving story about the need for parental tenderness in a beautiful graphic style and gives a poetic approach to the traditional western myth. Producer of the 75' animated film is independent French studio Label Anim. MY MOMMY IS IN AMERICA... targets a 6 - 10 year old audience with an intended release in October 2013.

Contact at Label-Anim:  
Guillaume Galliot,  
[guillaume.galliot@label-anim.com](mailto:guillaume.galliot@label-anim.com);  
[www.label-anim.com](http://www.label-anim.com).



### FIDGETY BRAM

Six-year-old Bram is always puzzling about the ways of the world. Now a new era will start: in the classroom of Mr. Fish, Bram will learn to read and write. But Bram simply can't sit still; always fidgeting and unfocused, never capable of fitting in with the others. His mind is going all directions and the stiff school system isn't prepared for Bram's battering approach. When even his parents might give up on him, Bram becomes terribly unhappy.

This non plot-driven BosBros production by Anna van der Heide (after a scenario by Tamara Bos) truthfully depicts the evolution in the life of a fussy and curious child. Unable to connect with his old-fashioned teacher, Bram becomes school-weary, and even life-weary. Feeling responsible for all things going wrong, only a drastic change might help him getting back on track.



FIDGETY BRAM can be seen by a very young audience – by every child familiar with the demands of tuition. Even when illustrating all aspects of ADHD, the disorder is never called by name. No psychiatrist appears in this movie that focuses instead on the thoughts raging through the Bram's head. The film adequately shows how it feels when 'all those thoughts make your head feel so tired'. Yet FIDGETY BRAM carries a positive message (how hard you might try, in the end you are who you are), has a strong visual comic sense (with Bram at the table whatever can be spilled will be spilled) and is freshened up by funny animated scenes dragging us into Bram's wonderful world of thoughts (as it was done in TAKING CHANCES).

Contact World Sales: Delphis Films Inc., ++1-514-843-33-55,  
[distribution@delphisfilms.com](mailto:distribution@delphisfilms.com); [www.delphisfilms.com](http://www.delphisfilms.com).

Already next month we're awaiting the next BosBros film, the prestigious NONO, THE ZIGZAG KID by Vincent –MINOES– Bal, after a novel by David Grossman.



## PRODUCTION

### LOST CHRISTMAS

Those of you will remember John Hay's festival winner THERE'S ONLY ONE JIMMY GRIMBLE might have wondered when he would return to directing something suitable for families once again. I'm pleased to say that his latest film LOST CHRISTMAS is a bittersweet tale that has a taste of the best of 'A Christmas Carol' blended with a hint of IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE to produce a wonderfully original Christmas story dealing with loss, self-sacrifice and destiny. After losing his parents at an early age and blaming himself for their demise, young Goose turns to a life of petty crime. He meets Anthony, a mysterious, enigmatic character who appears out of nowhere. Anthony reveals an ability to uncover lost truths that will have an impact on Goose, his family and everything that he believes in. LOST CHRISTMAS is a magical and ultimately uplifting story with a fine cast and a welcome return to the family circuit for John Hay. (Justin Johnson, British Film Institute)

Contact: producer Elliot Jenkins (Impact Film & Television Ltd) at [elliottjenkins2004@hotmail.com](mailto:elliottjenkins2004@hotmail.com).

### THE SOUND OF MY FOOT

**Mehrdad Khoshbakht: "Reach out to a bigger world out there"**

Danial is the fastest runner in his village. One day he loses his foot to an exploding landmine. His dad provides him with an artificial foot... that starts talking! The boy and his foot close a pact on running a race in the regional Youth Olympics. During the 52nd Zlin Festival, we confessed to Iranian director Mehrdad Khoshbakht that a talking prosthesis is definitely one of the most bizarre characters we ever saw on screen. Khoshbakht: "I found inspiration in Pinocchio, a lifeless puppet turning into a living creature. The legacy of the Iran-Iraq Wars was another motive to tell this story. It was in a minefield in my country that the first idea for this movie occurred to me. It took me 2 years to develop it into a film."

#### What was the major challenge?

Khoshbakht: "Finding the right balance in the story. To make a happy film out of a rather sad story, we added many positive elements and fantasy scenes. Combining harsh realism with dreams and imagination, it wasn't easy to make the audience understand where reality ends and where fantasy begins. I included small natural elements, adding to the movie's universal tone. Also the animated shots of the moon reach out and make a connection to a bigger world out there, outside the small village. The film stands close to nature, with a concert of singing birds and environmental noise on the soundtrack."

#### Danial's parents are no distant authorities but honestly concerned people.

Khoshbakht: "Iranian family life is very warm, especially in the countryside. The film was shot in a small village near Hamadan, where families still live close together. The family atmosphere in the cities, that you might know from other films, is sometimes a bit different, but



*The Sound of My Foot*

considering the rural setting of our film this type of family life was very realistic."

#### THE SOUND OF MY FOOT, as many Iranian films, is all about being first, being the champion. Being second best isn't good enough. Is the Iranian society so competitive?

Khoshbakht: "Isn't it so that whoever takes part in a competition dreams of becoming the winner? Everyone wants to be the top student since some facilities are only for the best... The challenge to achieve these limited positions is hard and competitive. "

#### How was the film received so far by the festival audiences?

Khoshbakht: "In Isfahan the audience got so excited by the final race, which is the apotheosis of the film, that during the last 20 minutes children stood up from their chairs, chanting and applauding. It was fantastic. In the Italian Sport Film Festival in Rassegna THE SOUND OF MY FOOT was nominated for 4 awards."

#### Has this film encouraged you to keep on working with children?

Khoshbakht: "I'm really impressed by the films I've seen in Zlin. Me too, I want to make films with a universal impact, not strictly bound to one place or country. I consider this a challenge for my future work." (GH)

## Forthcoming Festivals

**Universal Kids Film Festival; Istanbul, Turkey**  
September 22 - 29th 2012

**Ciné Int. Film Festival; Espoo, Finland**  
August 17 - 26th 2012  
[www.espoo.cine.fi](http://www.espoo.cine.fi)

**Filmfestival Cinemagi & 15+; Hauge-sund, Norway**  
August 17 to 23rd 2012  
[www.filmfestivalen.no](http://www.filmfestivalen.no)

**Int. Youth Film Festival; Seoul, South Korea**  
August 23 to 29th 2012  
[www.siyff.com](http://www.siyff.com)

**Nuevamisra – Festival for Children & Youth; Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
August 30th to September 5th 2012  
[www.nuevamisra.com](http://www.nuevamisra.com)

**Lucas Int. Children's Film Festival; Frankfurt/Main, Germany**  
September 2 to 9th 2012  
[www.lucas-filmfestival.de](http://www.lucas-filmfestival.de)

**Cartoon Forum; Toulouse, France**  
September 11 to 14th 2012  
[www.cartoon-media.eu/FORUM/index.php](http://www.cartoon-media.eu/FORUM/index.php)

**MilanoFilmFestival; Milan, Italy**  
September 12 - 23rd 2012  
[www.milanofilmfestival.it](http://www.milanofilmfestival.it)

**Buster - Film Festival for Children & Youth; Copenhagen, Denmark**  
September 13 to 23rd 2012  
[www.buster.dk](http://www.buster.dk)

**Carrousel Int. du Film – Festival int. de cinéma jeunesse ; Rimouski, Canada**  
September 23 - 30th 2012  
[www.carrousel.qc.ca](http://www.carrousel.qc.ca)

**AniFest ROZAFa– Int. Festival of Animated Films for Children & Youngsters; Shkoder, Albania**  
September 23 to 30th 2012  
[www.anifestrozafa.com](http://www.anifestrozafa.com)

**Children's & Youth Filmfest "Michel"; Hamburg, Germany**  
September 27 - October 6th 2012  
[www.michel-kinderfilmfest.de](http://www.michel-kinderfilmfest.de)

**Int. Film Festival – Section for Children; Beirut, Lebanon**  
October 3 - 11th 2012  
[www.beirutfilmfoundation.org](http://www.beirutfilmfoundation.org)

**Cinemagic – Int. Film & TV Festival for Young People; Belfast, Northern Ireland**  
Programme for children - 12 years: October 5 - 19th 2012  
[www.cinemagic.org.uk](http://www.cinemagic.org.uk)

**Int. Biannual Festival of Animation; Bratislava, Slovakia**  
October 9 - 13th 2012  
[www.bab-slovakia.sk](http://www.bab-slovakia.sk)

**Int. Film Festival; London, UK**  
October 10 - 25th 2012  
[www.bfi.org.uk/lff](http://www.bfi.org.uk/lff)

**Kolibri – Festival Int. del Audiovisual para la Niñez y la Adolescencia; La Paz, Bolivia**

October 10 - 17th 2012  
[www.festivalkolibri.org](http://www.festivalkolibri.org)

**Kinderfilmfest; Augsburg, Germany**

October 11 - 21st 2012  
[www.filmfest-augsburg.de](http://www.filmfest-augsburg.de)

**Animation Film Festival; Blackrock, Ireland**

October 12 - 13th 2012  
[www.iloveblackrock.ie/animation-festival](http://www.iloveblackrock.ie/animation-festival)

**Schlingel Int. Film Festival for Children & Young Audience; Chemnitz, Germany**

October 15 - 21st 2012  
[www.ff-schlingel.de](http://www.ff-schlingel.de)

**Cinekid Int. Film, TV & New Media Festival for Children & Young People; Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

October 17 - 26th 2012  
[www.cinekid.nl](http://www.cinekid.nl)

**Discovery Film Festival – Int. Film Festival for Young Audiences; Dundee, Scotland / UK**

October 20 - November 4th 2012  
[www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk](http://www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk)

**Int. Film Festival for Children & Youth; Yerevan, Armenia**

October 21 - 26th 2012  
[www.rolanbf.com](http://www.rolanbf.com)

**Int. Film Festival for Children; Chicago, USA**

October 26 - November 4th 2012  
[www.cicff.org](http://www.cicff.org)

**Filem' On Festival; Brussels, Belgium**

October 27 - November 4th 2012  
[www.filemon.be](http://www.filemon.be)

**Nordic Filmdays; Lübeck, Germany**

October 31 - November 4th 2012  
[www.filmtage.luebeck.de](http://www.filmtage.luebeck.de)

**Int. Festival for Children & Youth Audience „Listapadzik”; Minsk, Belarus**

November 2 - 9th 2012  
[www.listapad.com](http://www.listapad.com)

**Juniorfest – Int. Festival for Children & Youth; Horsovsy Tyn & Pilsen, Czech Republic**

November 3 - 7th 2012  
[www.juniorfest.cz](http://www.juniorfest.cz)

**Doxs! – Documentaries for Children & Young People; Duisburg, Germany**

November 5 - 13th 2012  
[www.do-xs.de](http://www.do-xs.de)

**Interfilm Short Film Festival: KuKi – Short Films for Kids; Berlin, Germany**

November 11 - 18th 2012  
[www.interfilm.de](http://www.interfilm.de)

**Int. Animated Film Festival Cinanima; Espinho, Portugal**

November 12 - 18th 2012  
[www.cinanima.pt](http://www.cinanima.pt)

## FESTIVALS

### LUCAS INSTALLS ECFA AWARD

For its 35th edition, the longest running German children's film festival will proudly bring film highlights from all over the world to Frankfurt. Next to the LUCAS Awards for Best Short Film, Best Short Animated Film, Best Feature Film and the Audience Award, this year - as a novelty - the festival will launch its own ECFA Award. Combined with sections for the youngest and the newly established Youth Film Prize, LUCAS 2012 guarantees cinematic pleasure from 4 - 18 and beyond.

The International Producers Meeting, a Location Tour and the screening club attract actors, directors and producers. More than a meeting place, the LUCAS festival centre in the recently renovated German Museum of Film / Deutsches Filmmuseum offers interesting insights for the audience. Daily film talks, in depth mentoring of film education for teachers, interactive offerings and workshops will add lots of fun to the regular curriculum and promote sustainable comprehension of film culture and media literacy. LUCAS 2012 invites its guests to celebrate children's films at its best! More info: [www.lucasfilmfestival.de](http://www.lucasfilmfestival.de).



### JUNIOR FILMFEST

Since 1998 the unique historical Czech chateau Horšovský Týn is the location of the Int. Film Festival for Children & Youth Juniorfest. Although year by year more visitors attend the event, Juniorfest so far is still a non-competitive festival. According to festival director Judita Soukupová this might change from next year on.

This year's edition (3-7th November 2012) will stretch out its wings from Horšovský Týn to the nearby city of Pilsen, European Cultural Capital in 2015. Therefore the festival will soon be properly introduced to the European authorities in Brussels. "A first visible success after many years of work," says Judita Soukupová.

Juniorfest offers a selection of European films in two age categories: 5-11 and 12-18. There's a profound interest from teachers and students in high quality productions and in the services offered by the festival (like free transportation). Furthermore Juniorfest offers retrospectives on Czech filmmakers, workshops and international star guests (like Pierre –Winnetou– Brice in 2009 and Inger –Pippi Longstocking– Nilsson in 2010). From this year on the 'Festival reporters in action' will provide the guests with a daily festival newspaper and film report. As well the beautiful environment as the friendly atmosphere for many guests is a stimulus to return to the Juniorfest every year.

Please note the early November dates of the next festival or consult [www.juniorfest.cz](http://www.juniorfest.cz) for further information. Filmmakers wanting to present their film at the festival can contact festival programmer Markéta Okkez on [MarketaOkkez@seznam.cz](mailto:MarketaOkkez@seznam.cz).



### CINEMAGIC BELFAST

Belfast will be busy! This autumn Cinemagic will present not one but even two festivals for a younger age group, split up consequently in two age categories.

\* 4–11 year olds: the Cinemagic Int. Film and Television Festival (5-19th October)

The festival runs in venues across the city and is themed on fantasy, myths and legends. Young people can enjoy a feast of classic and new world cinema, film and television workshops for schools, Q&A's and competitions.

\* 12–25 year olds: the Coca-Cola Cinemagic Int. Film and Television Festival (19-29th November)

The program contains new and old titles, masterclasses with industry professionals, young filmmaker competitions, and education programmes for students.

More info: [www.cinemagic.org.uk](http://www.cinemagic.org.uk). Contact: Claire Shaw (Press & Marketing Officer) at Cinemagic, +44-28-90-311-900, [claire@cinemagic.org.uk](mailto:claire@cinemagic.org.uk).





## 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](http://www.ecfaweb.org). Producers, distributors and sales agents are kindly invited to inform us of their new releases.

### Bright Flight

Feature Film, Italy, 2012  
Original Title: Il Sole Dentro  
Director: Paolo Bianchini  
Production & World Sales: Alveare Cinema  
Via Guido D'Arezzo 5, 00186 Roma, Italy  
E-Mail: [info@alvearecinema.com](mailto:info@alvearecinema.com)  
[www.alvearecinema.com](http://www.alvearecinema.com),  
[www.ilsoledentro.eu](http://www.ilsoledentro.eu)

### Come on, let's find a Treasure

Animation, Germany, 2012  
Original Title: Komm, wir finden einen Schatz. Director: Irina Probst  
Production: Papa Löwe Filmproduktion  
World Sales: Beta Cinema, Gruenwalder Weg 28 d, 82041 Oberhaching, Germany  
Phone: ++49-89-67-34-69-80  
E-Mail: [beta@betacinema.com](mailto:beta@betacinema.com)  
[www.betacinema.com](http://www.betacinema.com)

### Ernest & Celestine



Animation, Belgium / France / Luxembourg, 2012. Directors: Benjamin Renner, Vincent Patar, Stéphane Aubier  
Production: Les Armateurs  
World Sales: Studio Canal, 1, Place du Spectacle, 92130 Issy-les Moulineaux  
Phone: ++33-1-71-35-35-35  
E-Mail: [rrea@canal-plus.com](mailto:rrea@canal-plus.com)  
[www.studiocanal.com](http://www.studiocanal.com),  
[www.lesarmateurs.com](http://www.lesarmateurs.com)

### The Foster Boy

Feature Film, Switzerland & Germany, 2011. Original Title: Der Verdingbub  
Director: Markus Imboden  
Production: C-Films AG  
World Sales: Global Screen, Sonnenstraße 21, 80331 München, Germany  
Phone: ++49-89-24-41-295-500  
E-Mail: [info@globalscreen.de](mailto:info@globalscreen.de)  
[www.globalscreen.de](http://www.globalscreen.de), [www.verdingbub.ch](http://www.verdingbub.ch)

### The Horse on the Balcony

Feature Film, Austria, 2012  
Original title: Das Pferd auf dem Balkon  
Director: Hüseyin Tabak  
Production & World Sales: Mini Film  
Kochgasse 12, 1080 Vienna, Austria  
Phone: ++43-1-503-42-20  
E-Mail: [office@minifilm.at](mailto:office@minifilm.at)  
[www.minifilm.at](http://www.minifilm.at),  
[www.daspederaufdembalkon.com](http://www.daspederaufdembalkon.com)

### Milo

Feature Film, The Netherlands, 2012  
Directors: Berend & Roel Boorsma  
Production: Fu Works. World Sales: BFD  
– Benelux Film Distributors, De Poort 40, 3991 DV Houten, The Netherlands  
Phone: ++31-30 634 0660  
E-Mail: [nederland@bfdfilm.com](mailto:nederland@bfdfilm.com)  
[www.bfdfilm.com](http://www.bfdfilm.com)

### Nono, the Zigzag Kid



Feature Film, The Netherlands, 2012  
Director: Vincent Bal  
Production & World Sales: Bos Bros.  
Frederiksplein 43, 1017 XL Amsterdam  
Phone: ++31-20-52-44-030  
E-Mail: [info@bosbros.com](mailto:info@bosbros.com)  
[www.bosbros.com](http://www.bosbros.com)

### The Orheim Company

Feature Film, Norway, 2012  
Original title: Kompani Orheim  
Directors: Arild Andresen  
Production: Motlys  
World Sales: NonStop Sales  
Östhammsgatan 68, 11528 Stockholm, Sweden  
Phone: ++46-8-400-100-00  
E-Mail: [info@nonstopsales.net](mailto:info@nonstopsales.net)  
[www.nonstopsales.net](http://www.nonstopsales.net)

### The Secret

Feature Film, Denmark, 2012  
Original title: Hemmeligheden  
Directors: Morten Køhlert  
Production: Cacaofilm  
World Sales: LevelK Film & TV Distribution, Gammel Kongevej 137 B  
1850 Frederiksberg C, Denmark  
Phone: ++45-36-34-09-10  
E-Mail: [natja@levelk.dk](mailto:natja@levelk.dk)  
[www.levelk.dk](http://www.levelk.dk)

### Tom and Hacke

Feature Film, Germany, 2012  
Director: Norbert Lechner  
Production & World Sales: Kevin Lee  
Filmgesellschaft mbH  
Kirchenstr. 32, 81675 Munich  
Phone: ++49-89-448-15-35  
E-Mail: [info@kevinlee.de](mailto:info@kevinlee.de)  
[www.kevinlee.de](http://www.kevinlee.de)

### Wild Bill

Feature Film, UK, 2011  
Director: Dexter Fletcher  
Production & World Sales: 20ten Media,  
Pinewood Studios, Pinewood Road, Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire SLO 0NH, UK  
Phone: ++44-17-525-064-926

### Just Film – Children & Youth Film Festival; Tallinn, Estonia

November 15 - 25th 2012  
[www.justfilm.ee](http://www.justfilm.ee)

### Int. Audiovisual Festival (FIAB); Barcelona, Spain

November 12 - 16th 2012  
[www.oeti.org](http://www.oeti.org)

### Castellinaria Festival int. del cinema giovane; Bellinzona, Switzerland

November 17 - 24th 2012  
[www.castellinaria.ch](http://www.castellinaria.ch)

### Int. Children's Film Festival; Vienna, Austria

November 17 - 25th 2012  
[www.kinderfilmfestival.at](http://www.kinderfilmfestival.at)

### El Meu Primer Festival; Barcelona, Spain

November 17 - 25th 2012  
[www.elmeuprimerfestival.com](http://www.elmeuprimerfestival.com)

### IDFA – Int. Documentary Filmfestival, Section „Kids & Docs”; Amsterdam, The Netherlands

November 17 - 26th 2012  
[www.idfa.nl](http://www.idfa.nl)

### Festival int. de Cinéma du grain à dé-moudre ; Gonfreville l'Orcher, France

November 18 - 25th 2012  
[www.dugrainademoudre.net](http://www.dugrainademoudre.net)

### Int. Children's & Youth Film Festival; Oulu, Finland

November 19 - 25th 2012  
[www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef](http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef)

### Cinemagic – Int. Film & TV Festival for Young People; Belfast, Northern Ireland

Programme for young people from 12 - 25 years: November 19 - 29th 2012  
[www.cinemagic.org.uk](http://www.cinemagic.org.uk)

### Int. Children's Film Festival Steiermark; Graz, Liezen, Kapfenberg, Ebiswald, Austria

November 28 - December 4th 2012  
[www.kinderfilmfestival.at/steiermark](http://www.kinderfilmfestival.at/steiermark)

### Olympia Int. Film Festival for Children & Young People; Pyrgos, Greece

December 1 - 8th 2012  
[www.olympiafestival.wordpress.com](http://www.olympiafestival.wordpress.com)

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

December 2 - 9th 2012  
[www.alekino.com](http://www.alekino.com)

### Animatka Int. Animation Film Festival; Ljubljana & Maribor, Slovenia

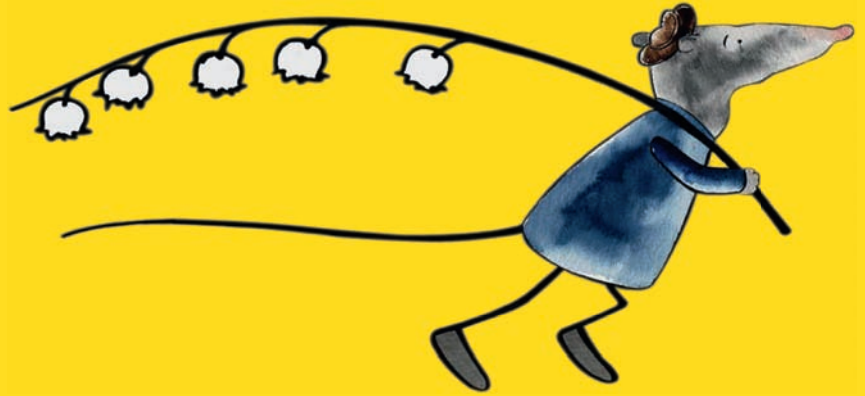
December 3 - 9th 2012  
[www.animateka.si](http://www.animateka.si)

More information on all these festivals you will find on our website:  
[www.ecfaweb.org/ecfnet/festivals.php](http://www.ecfaweb.org/ecfnet/festivals.php)

# LUCAS

.....  
35. INTERNATIONALES KINDERFILMFESTIVAL /  
35<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

02.09. – 09.09.2012



WWW.LUCASFILMFESTIVAL.DE

LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION!

Andrea Kiss LE MULOT MENTEUR © Ambiances...asbl - Les médias associés - Kecskemétfilm Ltd

## EUROPE'S MOST PROMISING

For the upcoming festival-season 2 titles in particular are often forecasted as true revelations: one German animation and one Danish live action for a teenage audience.

- MOON MAN: Stephan Schesch, producer of THE THREE ROBBERS, has made his directing debut with yet another Tomi Ungerer adaptation. The animated movie MOON MAN explores the magical spell the moon has on us earthlings. The Man in the Moon, bored and lonesome, grabs a comet's tail to descend. On earth, the pale and innocent creature finds friendship but is also confronted with mankind's lust for power and world domination.

Tomi Ungerer's voice guides us through the story, while Schesch keeps alive his painterly style: the simple charm of nature and the comic details, with an *Edward Hopper-ish* allure in the urban landscape. With its surprising soundtrack and magnificent visual *tableaux*, some call MOON MAN "the most beautiful animation for children in years".



Moon Man

- YOU & ME FOREVER: The secrets of teenage life revealed by Kaspar Munk (HOLD ME TIGHT), who placed his trust in the improvisational skills of his young cast. "Working with teens, I think it's important to give them a chance to use words they can identify with." Laura and Christine are 16-year-old best friends forever. The coming of Maria brings a new dynamic to their relationship. Their plunging head first into all sorts of experiments makes the film burst with life.

Young, unschooled actors were central to the unconventional production process. No dialogue was written. The lines were created in a dialogue between Kaspar Munk and the actors before shooting each scene. For the intimate scenes it was crucial to create an atmosphere of confidence on the set. The shooting took 10 weeks in all, on and off over six months.

YOU & ME FOREVER premieres in Denmark on September 13th. Leading Danish film magazine Ekko already called it "the best Danish youth film in decades". (Info: Danish Film Institute).

International sales: LevelK ([www.levelk.dk](http://www.levelk.dk)); Contact person: Natja Rosner, [natja@levelk.dk](mailto:natja@levelk.dk).

\* Please note that the film announced in the last ECFA Journal under its working title THE TWITCHERS (by Christian Dyekjaer) from now on is also available at LevelK as THE GREAT BIRD RACE.



You & Me Forever

## MARTIN DUFFY WRITES

Celebrating the 52nd Zlin Festival as a jury member might have been Martin Duffy's last feat of arms in the children's film circuit. The Berlin based Irish director of THE BOY FROM MERCURY, SUMMER OF THE FLYING SAUCER, THE BUMBLEBEE FLIES ANYWAY and TALIESIN JONES decided from now on to focus on his activities as a writer aside from a bio-pic he is developing with support from Northern Irish Screen. Duffy has already published several books, often based on his scenarios or experiences in the world of children's film ('The Road to Mercury'). Now his labour history book 'The Trade Union Pint' is being launched in July in Dublin. Most of his books can be sampled or purchased through his Amazon page: <https://www.amazon.com/author/www.duffyberlin.com>.



## ECFA NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS

#### Creative Film Studio Vanima

Creative Film Studio Vanima in Varaždin, Croatia, has been dealing for 26 years with the creation of animated movies by children. During that period more than 400 children worked on more than 150 films in the Vanima studios. Once started as a school activity, Vanima now has 50 members: young people working on their own animated films during a whole school year. Vanima focuses on classical animation and maintains an individual approach.

Besides workshops, Vanima's managers Sandra Malenica and Hrvoje Selec since 2010 also organize VAFI – the International Children & Youth Animation Film Festival ([www.vafi.hr](http://www.vafi.hr)). Sandra Malenica: "We noticed that in other festivals, films made by children were a part of the regular program or weren't screened at all. That's why VAFI decided to specialize in films animated by children in 3 categories: MINI (-10 years), MIDI (11-14) and MAXI (15-18). For this concept VAFI received the award for 'most innovative and creative Croatian project' in 2010. The main idea behind the festival was to have a centre for children's animation in this part of the world where all young animators, their mentors and grown-up professionals can learn, have fun and see the best animations made by children from all over the world." The 4th VAFI will be held from 25-28th April 2013.

Last month Vanima received another great recognition: they were made managers of the closed down, old (and only) cinema in Varaždin. Not only VAFI now has a home, but Vanima can also play a crucial role in the programming and



promoting of European movies, films for children and educational projects involving children and cinema.

Being member of ECFA for Vanima means being a part of the international children's film movement. It might open ways of collaboration with organisations working in a similar field.

You can contact the Creative Film Studio Vanima by Sandra Malenica: [sandra@vanima.hr](mailto:sandra@vanima.hr).

#### Universal Kids Film Festival, Istanbul

The Universal Kids Film Festival was launched on May 22nd with the support of three Istanbul District Governments: Beşiktaş, Kadikoy and Maltepe. From September 22-29th this non-competitive festival will attempt to bring some of the best films for children from over the globe to Istanbul. On its first run the festival has enlisted the support of the diplomatic missions in Turkey for the film entries while UNICEF fosters a screening of the top ten cartoons on Children's Rights and 10 'One Minute Junior' videos. Collateral activities include workshops on filmmaking and the screening of films made in those ateliers. Considering Turkey being a country of wide diversity, the majority of films chosen focuses on tolerance and sustainable peace. Festival chairperson

Rowena Martinez Ulayan, a filmmaker herself, believes that cinema is a powerful tool in changing values and influences in society, especially when targeting a young audience. "In order to achieve peace, we must start with children and what better medium could we offer than the magic of the silver screen? Therefore it's imperative to hold the Universal Kids Film Festival within this spirit."

Although Turkey might appear like a blind spot on the children's film makers' map of the world, the festival organisers – Children Film & Art Association CODE – hope that this initial offering will set the momentum for more and better entries in the years to come. The association looks forward to a greater visibility in the world centers of children's films through its ECFA membership.

The Universal Kids Film Festival, Istanbul: September 22 – 29th 2012.  
Contact: Rowena Martinez Ulayan, [unikids@film-fest.net](mailto:unikids@film-fest.net), tel. +90-535-820-0733, +90-216-395-9640.



UNIVERSAL KID'S FILM FESTIVAL  
ÜNİVERSAL ÇOCUK FİLM FESTİVALİ  
22-29 SEPTEMBER / EYLÜL 2012



### RAINBOW SHORT FILM COMPETITION

The European Rainbow project 'Rights Against Intolerance Building an Open-minded World' in which ECFA actively participates, included a short film competition for young filmmakers. Participants aged 15 – 30 years old were invited to send in movies about LGBT or gender related issues. A selection was screened during the MIX Festival in Milan, Italy on June 24th. Amongst the selected films (that will be included in the project's educational toolkit) were titles from Spain ('Love'), Italy ('Ti Sposero'), the UK ('Sticks and Stones', 'UK LGBT Creative Day & Concert', 'We can change that' and 'Sport is Gay') and Albania ('I am myself').

Winners of the Rainbow Short Film Competition were:

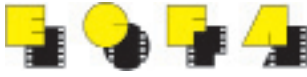
- LOVE (by Mikel Cenecorta Godoy, Spain)
  - SPORT IS GAY (by GYRO Liverpool, LGBT Youth North West network, UK) – to be watched on <http://youtu.be/UHfdXrc0r1w>.
- The winners were offered a European city trip for two.

ECFA appreciates the efforts of all participating youngsters and wants to congratulate the award winning filmmakers.

### ECFA AWARDS

A new title recently listed for the ECFA Award 2012:  
The International Film Festival for Children and Youth (Zlín, Czech Republic): DEATH OF A SUPER-HERO (Ian Fitzgibbon, Germany / Ireland).





## 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):  
ECFA  
European Children's Film Association  
Phone: +32 (0)2 242 54 09  
E-mail: [ecfa@jekino.be](mailto:ecfa@jekino.be)  
[www.ecfaweb.org](http://www.ecfaweb.org)

The European Children's Film Distribution Network:  
[www.ecfaweb.org/network.htm](http://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 FOCUS

### Froukje Tan's MY ADVENTURES BY V. SWCHWRM

"A childlike ambition to make things happen"

Froukje Tan's *MY ADVENTURES BY V. SWCHWRM* is different from any other children's film you recently saw. Actually it is different from any other movie that you ever saw... An absurd, poetic tale about a boy and his biggest dream: writing a book that could change the world... if only he could come up with a striking opening sentence.

**Is a little craziness required to make this film? An audience will always search for a certain narrative logic... which they will not get from you.**

Froukje Tan: "Not in a classical way, I agree. But the story has a logical structure: a boy wants to become a writer but doesn't succeed, until he finds the courage to write about the things he never dared to write about before: the death of his granddad. The film shows what happens inside your head when fantasising."

**Was that vision also imposing the film's design?**

Tan: "Trying to think as a child, I put myself in Swchwrn's position and wondered how to visualize his imagination, using elements from his own environment. When visiting the Queen, how would he imagine the palace? Not like a real palace, more like a drawing from a storybook. That's why it looks like a mosque on the outside and like a church on the inside."

**Swchwrn wants to write a book that saves lives. Is that also a filmmaker's ambition?**

Tan: "In my own humble way I want to make the world a better place. From the mouth of a grown-up it sounds rather pompous. But to the more than 100 children coming to the auditions, we all asked what was their wish for the world. All of them were 'thinking big': saving the environment, no more war,... The childlike ambition to make things happen, I want to keep it alive in myself. That's why I make movies."

**Actor Dennis Reinsma isn't just an ordinary kid. He looks a bit brooding.**

Tan: "But he isn't! I casted him totally against his character. In schools I went looking for *Swchwrn-ish* boys; there are a few of them in every class. Usually they're silent, introvert but with a vivid fantasy. It didn't work out; their image on screen didn't communicate sufficiently with the audience. That's why I chose Dennis, who also had a strong imagination but was very extravert. "Talking is my hobby," he introduced himself. Dennis has ADHD and an endless amount of energy. If such a child enjoys acting, it can hold on to an ultra-concentration that no other child can keep up."

**Something really beautiful is going on between him and his grandad.**



Tan: "Swchwrn and his grandad are very much alike each other. Maybe he is the 'ideal granddad' that Swchwrn brought to live through his writing: one who is always there for him. When coming from a stable family, your parents by nature are too dull to write about... unless perhaps if they win a camel."

**You had indeed a camel on the set!**

Tan: "His name was Rocky and he was huge! There was a camel trainer - not exactly a 'camel-whisperer' - with an old-fashioned approach: 'Down Rocky, down!'."

**Who exactly is the queen? What is her precise role in the story?**

Tan: "Imagine Swchwrn standing in the middle, then granddad stands on his left hand side to give him confidence, and the Queen is on the right to challenge and urge on him. As if he carries out things just for her. His classmate Madeleine is a small version of the Queen. She too forces him into action. I didn't want any traditional royalty. I wanted a Queen as in Swchwrn's fantasy: like a posh film-diva, modeled after a movie-star from the sixties. Elisabeth Taylor with a bathing suit and cap."

**You must have invested a lot of time and energy in the optic game-playing.**

Tan: "I didn't want any complex effects but preferred a DIY-like approach, in an Ed Wood-kind-of-way. I wanted to stay true to Swchwrn's imagination. That's why we built a real starry sky. The huge construction was set out on the beach while filming by wind-force 5. Exciting!"

**On the film's website people could post their wishes for the world. Did you post one?**

Tan: "Yes. That everyone will keep on believing that fantasy and imagination can make the world a nicer place." (GH)

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