

**No.3/2000
October 2000**

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Felix
Vanginderhuysen

Kid Screen Varese, October 29th to 31st, 2000:

Communication & Creativity

Kid Screen, organized by Regione Lombardia (Italy) and ECFA, is one of the most important European meetings on children's film and media education.

Kid Screen represents a precious opportunity for exploring crucial issues linked to the influence of media on the development of the personality and for updating and training all those interested in the development of media education. Under this year's headline „Communication and Creativity“ Kid Screen will reflect upon questions like „What is an interactive spectator?“ – „What influence does media have on the

construction of the individual?“ – „Can cinema and new media forms in school be a good vehicle to transmit positive values and codes of behavior?“ – „How do young people express their creativity today through the use of media?“ – „Who guides their individual choices?“ – „Who protects them from 'dangerous surfing'?“ – Can we help them through the promotion of quality products?“.

See page 3 & 4 for the complete programme.

Documentary Films for Children – Call for Papers

Reality in the virtual World?

Documentary films for children can hardly be found in any festival or television programme, even less in the commercial distribution in the cinemas or on video cassettes. Does this genre still exist at all? What is the meaning of reality in film, when everything else is turning into virtuality?

Dokumentarfilminitiative (dfi) at Filmbüro of Northrhine-Westfalia – in cooperation with ECFA, Stiftung Goldener Spatz and Bundesverband Jugend und Film – is researching the European situation of documentary films for children (up to the age of 12 or 13 years): in production, at festivals, in distribution and TV-programmes. The results of this research will be presented and discussed during a European conference on documentaries for children, which is planned for September 2001 at Cologne.

During the conference we want to

- discuss the meaning of documentary films for children;
- develop strategies for their production and programming;
- create ideas, how festivals for children's films can open their programmes for these films;
- present examples for successful funding and distribution of documentary films for children;

- have a look at the film schools to find out if they can have some special attention in teaching how to make documentary films for children.

Everybody who is working in the field of documentary films for children, who has made special experiences or who is interested in doing something about it is invited to contribute: film funders, producers, documentary film directors, festival organizers, distributors, TV-programmers or film school teachers and film students from all over Europe.

Send your reports, projects or notes to
DFI - Dokumentarfilminitiative im
Filmbüro Nordrhein-Westfalen
Petra L. Schmitz, Postbox 100 534
D-45405 Mülheim an der Ruhr
tel. ++49-208-47 19 34
fax ++49-208-47 19 34
E-Mail: dfi@filmbuero-nw.de
www.filmbuero-nw.de/dfi

New ECFA-Journal: Results of the Questionnaire in Nr. 1&2/2000

ECFA-Journal now reaches 250 professionals working in the fields of production, festivals or distribution of films for children, media education and children's television programmes all over Europe. Half of ECFA-Journal's circulation is already sent via E-Mail.

The results of the questionnaire enclosed in the last issue were very posi-

ve. Almost 20 % of the readers returned the questionnaire. They all appreciated the E-Mail version, especially the pdf-format which can be read on the screen or printed out in the same layout as the papermail-version.

Some readers missed the announcements of brand new films for children. Unfortunately this information is

not available directly from the producers on a European basis (or at least we have no knowledge of it). Therefore we mention new films, when they appear at the festivals and include them into the European Children's Film Distribution Network:

www.bjf.bkj.de/ecfnet/

If you have heard about promising new productions just send us a mail.

The News Section:

Films on the Horizon

The film **Petsson & Findus**, presented at the last Kinderfilmfest in Berlin and based on the famous books of Sven Nordquist, will be released this autumn in at least seven countries. After a successful career in Sweden, the home country, now this excellent movie for small children, will be shown in Norway, Denmark, Finland, Germany, France, Netherlands and Belgium. All the distribution companies (except MFA from Germany who was already involved in the production) made together an application for Media-support at the European Commission. The involved companies are: SF-Norge, SF-Denmark, SF-Finland, MFA-Germany, Mégalis France, Twin Film Holland and Jekino-Films Belgium.

After the first **Blinker**-movie, also presented in Berlin and a big box-office in Belgium, the 2nd film, called **Blinker & the BagBag-Juwel**, was shot during this summer. The release is planned for the forthcoming Christmas-holidays. The crew as well as the cast are mostly the same; never change a winning team!!!

Vincent Bal, winner of the Berlin Kinderfilmfest with his first long feature film **Man of Steel**, was asked by Bernie Bos, producer of **The Penknife**, **The Boy who stopped talking** and **Abeltje**, to direct the next picture based on a novel of Annie M.G. Schmidt, namely **Minous**. This fantastic movie, with a lot of special effects, will be one of the most expensive Dutch productions ever. Release is planned for December 2001.

The Last Man Alive (Die grüne Wolke) by Claus Strigel (DenkMal-Film) based on Alexander S. Neill's famous novel, has been announced in the last ECFA-Journal. For many the readers who asked the editor for further information, here is the film's website (also available in English): www.gruenewolke.de

Films, Festivals, Prizes
Giffoni International Film Festival/Italy
1st prize: „The Sky Falls“ („Il cielo cade“) by Antonio e Andrea Frazzi, Italy 2000
2nd prize: „My Dog Skip“ by Jay Russell, USA 1999
Best debut: „The Child with the Gun“ („Il Bambino con la Pistola“) by Federico Cagnoni e Monica Zappelli, Italy 1999
Best short films: „The Cry of the Butterfly“ („Der Ruf des Schmetterlings“) by Frank Strecker, Germany 1999, and „Quiero Ser“ by Florian Gallenberger, Germany/Mexico 1999

Cow Maeva opened „Lucas 2000“

The International Children's and Youth Film Festival at Frankfurt/Germany had its 25th anniversary



Young actor Sebastian Schmidtko convinced everybody in „Paul is dead“, directed by Henrik Handloegten

The „Lucas“-Festival became a biannual event in 1998, this year's issue was the first since that time. With a festival every two years the organizers tried to improve their financial basis, but they did not succeed. Among the major festivals for children's films in Europe „Lucas“ is still suffering from limited means - even the new organizers tried their best to solve the situation. But obviously it is very hard to establish this festival in the social life of „Bankfurt“.

The festival now is organized by a team directed by Ralph Foerg, Volker Kull and - since the beginning in 1975 - under the presidency of Walter Schobert, director of the German Film-museum at Frankfurt.

Besides a competition with 13 films and a special programme called „Kids, Drugs and the Street“ for the first time „Lucas“ invited local filmmakers to present their works. In fact the Frankfurt region turned out to be one of the most productive spots in Germany when it comes to animation films for TV. Production companies like Madbox or Clayart are working on serials like „Paradiso“ or „Max & Co“ and the examples they presented at the festival proved that they do not only know business but also love to make films for children.

The competition was dominated by films showing the hard life of children and young people around the world, like „Garage Olimpo“ (Marco Bechis, Argentina/Italy/France 1999), telling a story of youngsters living during the years of military dictatorship in Argentina, or the Portugese boy „Jaime“, who has to earn his family's income even though he is only 13 years old.

The Lucas Awards 2000:

The children's film jury awarded two very opposite films: „The Cart“/„Charkh“ by Gholam Reza Ramezani (Iran 1999) is a simple and therefore strong story on the relation between a father and his son and on what is really important in life. The other prize winner, „Paul is dead“ by Hendrik Handloegten (D 1999), is a charming detective adventure, where a young boy in the eighties suddenly finds eviden-

ce that Beatle Paul McCartney might have died years before.

In the category of films for young people „Garage Olimpo“ took the prize. The Prix CIFEJ went to „A Summer Tale“ („Den bästa Sommaren“) by Ulf Malmros, S 2000.

The audience voted „The Cow and the President“ („La Vache et le Président“, Philippe Muyl, F 2000) as the best film in the programme. The film's screening on the first day of the festival was introduced with a big surprise: the main actor Maeva, a veritable Galloway cow, welcomed the children in the hall of the film museum. The festival organizers found out, that Maeva has been brought from France to a farm near Frankfurt and of course ... they found an excellent way to introduce a film where children (and adults as well) surely will find some moments to laugh straight from the heart.

A word of deep truth came from the children working on the jury: „We have seen so many good films. It is a shame that most of them will never be shown in our cinemas or on TV.“ Let us hope the Frankfurt children will have at least the chance to see more of these films at the „Lucas“-festival next year. Wolfgang Borgfeld from the post production company Das Werk, one of the festival's sponsors, demanded of the local politicians and media people to give „Lucas“ a chance every year.

Contact: Lucas, c/o Deutsches Film-museum, Schaumainkai 41
D-60596 Frankfurt/M.
Phone +49-69-21238835
Fax +49-69-21237881
E-Mail: lucas@deutsches-filmuseum.de
Internet www.deutsches-filmuseum.de/lucas



„The best Summer“ by Ulf Malmros got the CIFEJ-Award

The Programme of Kid Screen 2000:

Communication and Creativity



Regione Lombardia

Varese/Italy, October 29th - 31st 2000

Oct. 29, Villa Ponti, Plenum Room

9.30 am Welcome by **Ettore Albertoni**, Councillor for Cultures, Identities and Autonomies at the Lombardy Region – by **Massimo Ferrario**, President of the Province of Varese – by **Cristina Scolari**, Councillor for Culture of the Province of Varese – by **Domenico Lucchini**, President of ECFA – by **Dario Guidali**, President of the Camera di Commercio di Varese.

10.00 am Derrick de Kerckhove, McLuhan Programme, University of Toronto/Canada: *Kids of the Third Millennium: images users or repeaters of the media „thinking“?*

10.30 am Tony Charlton, Centre for Behaviour Studies at Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education/UK: *A longitudinal study of children's communication style in playgrounds across the availability of broadcast TV*

11.00 am Break

11.30 am Flavia Alman, Maria Coleman, Maurizio Fani, Sabine Reiff, Carla Rossi, authors and producers of „The S.G.A.M.O Game“: *An application to help children to establish positive communications with others - the CD-ROM produced with the support of the Lombardy Region.* Edutainment: Learning about communication while playing

12.15 pm Ginette Dislaire, Internat. Centre on Cinema and Childhood, Le Havre/France: *Cinema & other images: a necessary complementarity.*

2.30 pm Mia Lindrup, Norwegian Screen Education: *Helping Kids to express themselves through media, examples from Norwegian projects*

3.15 pm Ana Sola, Drag Magic, Barcelona/Spain: *The analysis of a film: from individual introspection to collective confrontation*

3.40 pm Annette Eberle, Matthias Film, Baden-Württemberg: *The model of Matthias Film: distribution and consultant of media literacy and pedagogics*

4.00 pm Emmanuelle Ferrari, Mediterranean Pole of Cinematographic Education, Institut de l'Image, Aix en Provence/France: *In the chaos of the audiovisual world, cinema is still the „cheekiest“ medium.*

4.30 pm Screening of a film



Oct. 30, Villa Ponti, Plenum Hall

9.30 am El St John, President of Silvertech, San Francisco/USA: *E-kids: Internet and safe access.*

10.15 am Giorgio Simonelli, School of Communication, Catholic University of Milano/Italy: *Cinema as an archive for kids' creativity*

11.00 am break

11.30 am Issy Harvey, Institute of Education, University of London/UK: *Creativity, technology and culture: a case study of young people learning to make digital videos*

12.15 pm Inge Vrancken, Editor of „My Opinion“ Ket Net, Belgium: *Let the children speak for themselves!*

1.00 pm Break

2.30 pm Paolo Rosa, artist, and Andrea Lissoni, researcher & organizer, Studio Azzurro Italy: *What is art. The importance of promoting the knowledge of new artistic forms among young people, through the exploration of contemporary art.* Screening of the video produced with the support of the Lombardy Region

3.10 pm Digital Kids - Edouard Lussan, Publishing Director of Index, Paris: *Case history: Publisher of „Interactive stories“*

3.40 pm Patrizia Canova, Luigi Corsetti, Alessio Surian, authors, Cinevideoscuola, Bergamo/Italy: *„Sguardi in ascolto (Listening looks)“: the multimedia project produced with the contribution of the Lombardy Region, to educate to multiculturalism through the exploration of ethnic, cultural and religious differences.*

4.30 pm Screening of videos

5.00 pm Screening of a film



Best early works:

„Juvenile“ (Takashi Yamazaki, Japan 2000)

„John Henry“ by Mark Henn, USA 1999

Special mentions:

„Purely Belter“ (Mark Herman, Great Britain 1999)

„The Colour of Paradise“ (Majid Majidi, Iran 1999)

„Marty's World“ (Denis Bardiau, France 2000)

„Running Free“ (Sergei Bodrov, USA 1999)

„Eraser Wrestling“ by Min Dong-Hyun, Corea 1999 (for debut).

Internet: www.giffoniff.it

Forthcoming Festivals

Ulisses, International Children's Film and Television Festival, Lisbon/Portugal

17. - 21. 10. 2000

Contact: Ulisses, Leslie Sullivan

Tv. da Saúde Nr. 2 A

1449-002 Lisboa, Portugal

Phone: ++351 - 21 - 302 03 30

Fax: ++351 - 21 - 302 05 76

E-Mail: ulisses@ulissesfest.com

Internet: www.ulissesfest.com

Ökonomia

Freiburg/Germany, October 18th to

22nd 2000: Features, shorts and documentaries on ecological topics incl. films for children and young people.

Contact: Ökonomia Institut,

Nussmannstr. 14,

D-79098 Freiburg

Phone: ++49-761-520 24,

Fax: ++49-761-55 57 24,

E-Mail: oekonomia@t-online.de

Internet: www.oekonomia-institut.de

Cinekid – Int. Film, Television and New Media Festival for children and young adults, 21.10.2000 - 29.10.2000

Among the films in competition are

„Blinker“ by Filip van Neyghem (Belgium 1999), „A small Christmas Story“ by Åsa Sjöström & Mari Marten-Bias Wahlgren (Sweden 1999), „A Witch in the Family“ by Harald Hamrell (Sweden 1999) and „Pettson and Findus“ by Albert Hanan Kaminski (Sweden/Germany 1999). A special programme is dedicated to Japanese films and TV-programmes for children.

Contact: Cinekid

Weteringschans 249

NL-1017 XJ Amsterdam

Phone: ++31-20-624 71 10

Fax: ++31-20-620 99 65

E-Mail: engel2x@xs4all.nl

Internet: www.cinekid.nl



The Programme of Kid Screen 2000: Communication and Creativity

The 12th Vienna Festival for Children's Films (Austria)

November 11th to 19th 2000.

The festival presents a selection of the best features and shorts from the last year and from all over the world, among them „Tsatsiki“, „The Cow and the President“, „The Man of Steel“, „A small Christmas Story“, „Manolito“, „Little Man“, „Mr. Rice's Secret“, „The Girl in the Sneakers“, „Pettson and Findus“ etc. A special event will be the screening of „Pinocchio“, a silent movie by Giulio Antamoro (Italy 1911). After Vienna the programme will be screened at the cities of Graz and Gmunden.

Contact:

Internationales KinderFilmFestival

Institut Pitanga,

Steggasse 1/12a

A-1050 Wien

Phone & Fax: ++43-1-586 89 63

E-Mail: kinderfilmfestival@pitanga.at

Buff Sandnes/Norway,

November 13th to 18th:

Three competitions: 10 feature films, 10 short-animation films and 10 short films with three international juries with professional film workers and three children's juries. The feature films in competition:

„Animal Farm“ (GB 2000)

„Manolito“ (Spain 1999)

„Man of Steel“ (Belgium 1999)

The magic Pearl“ (Japan 1999)

„Perfect Game“ (USA 1999)

„Thatched Memories“ (China 1999)

„A Summer Tale“ (Sweden 2000)

„Thomas, the Falconer“ (Slovakia 2000)

„Lloyd“ (USA 2000)

„Dykkeren“ (Norway 2000).

Scandinavian feature films produced in 1999 and 2000 will be screened in the section „Focus on Scandinavia“. A seminar will be on „Shakespeare and Film“.

Contact:

BUFF - Children's Film Festival,

Eli Stangeland, Postbox 14,

N-4301 Sandnes,

Phone ++47-51-683734,

Fax ++47-51-683720,

E-Mail buff@netpower.no

Internet <http://buff.sandneskino.rl.no/>

18th Torino Film Festival

Cinema Giovani

Torino/Italy, November 17th to 25th

International competitions for feature films and shorts, Italian short film competition, tributes and retrospectives.

Contact: Torino Film Festival,

Via Monte di Pietà 1

I-10121 Torino

Phone: ++39-011-562 33 09

Fax: ++39-011-562 97 96

E-Mail: info@torinofilmfest.org

Internet: www.torinofilmfest.org

October 31, Villa Recalcati, Varese

9.30 - 12.30 am

Kids on the Net held by Digital Kids (Giuseppe Romano, Stefania Garasini)

During the session the "Report Digital Kids 2000", the first guide to Italian multimedia productions for kids will be presented, and the prize-giving „Kid Screen – Digital Kids“ will take place, with presentation of the winner productions and Award Ceremony.

Closing of works by the President of ECFA, Domenico Lucchini

International Children's Film Show

In co-operation with the Province of Varese some screenings will be organized for the schools of the territory, in original language with simultaneous translation. Some films, already dubbed, are part of the new programme of the regional circuit „Arrivano i film“ for the school year

Media Salles at Kid Screen 2000: Euro Kids Network

Media Salles will be present at Kid Screen with a series of specific activities:

The meeting of the Euro Kids Network members offering tools to encourage initiatives liasing cinemas

Italian Workshops (Only Italian speaking, no translation)

Oct. 29, Villa Ponti, Chaplin Hall

2.30 - 4.30 pm

Workshop of Centro Studi Educazione all'Immagine, Italy: **Short trip along the cinema avenues to discover possibilities of „crossing“ the screen.** The luggage: the multimedia packs on cinema language of the project "Here come the videos", the catalogues and the exercise-game pack produced in connection with the circuit "Here come the films" (part one). Teachers: Patrizia Canova & Giancarlo Zappoli

Oct. 29, Villa Ponti, Truffaut Hall

2.30 - 4.30 pm

Workshop of Centro Studi Educazione all'Immagine, Italy: **"Itineraries in the world of image"**. An amazing universe made up of many different elements such as signs, meanings, human echoes, communication tools and ingenious linguistic innovation. Laboratory experiences. Teachers: Camillo Bascialli & Mariolina Gamba

Information and bookings:

Kid Screen Organizing Secretary
c/o Provincia di Varese, Assessorato Cultura, Turismo, Sport e Tempo Libero.
Piazza Libertà 1, I-21100 Varese
Tel. ++39-0332-252322;
fax ++39-0332252244.
e-mail: kidscreen@reticulturalaregione.lombardia.it

The Jury will be composed by Patrizia Galeazzo, responsible for the Ufficio comunicazione e tecnologie didattiche della Direzione scolastica regionale of the Lombardy Region; Michele Fabbri, teacher, in charge of the School magazine of the Il Sole 24 ore newspaper; Eva Schwarzwald, Director of the Ufficio Cinema e Audiovisivi of the Lombardy Region; Bruno Tognolini, writer and multimedia author.

2000/2001. Among the films in the programme are „Tsatsiki“, „Man of Steel“, „A Witch in the Family“ and the Italian productions „I prefer the Sound of the Sea“ (Mimmo Calopresti, 2000) and „Come te nessuno Mai“ (Gabriele Muccino, 1999).

and schools, the presentation of the „European Cinema On-line-Database“ and a seminar with the presentation of experiences focussed on the promotion of films for the younger audience.

Oct. 30, Villa Ponti, Chaplin Hall

2.30 - 4.30 pm: Workshop of Centro Studi Educazione all'Immagine, Italy: **Short trip along the cinema avenues to discover possibilities of „crossing“ the screen.** The luggage: the multimedia packs on cinema language of the project „Here come the videos“, the catalogues and the exercise-game pack produced in connection with the circuit „Here come the films“(part two). Teachers: Marco Borroni & Paolo Castelli

Oct. 30, Villa Ponti, Truffaut Hall

2.30 - 4.30 pm Workshop of Centro Studi Educazione all'Immagine, Italy: **„A site for creativity: animation cinema in compulsory school: old and new crafts“.** Teachers: Augusto Gerli & Mariolina Gamba

The application fees are 100.000 Ita.Lir. to be paid into the account number 15087/1/3 ABI 5048, CAB 10900, CIH B at Banca Popolare per il Commercio e l'Industria, Como (Italy), in the name of Comitato Italiano per Kid Screen

Discussion:

What does Quality mean in Films for Children?

The discussion what is a good film for children has been going on for many years. Many controversial arguments have come up, mostly from the negative side, trying to explain from which kind of films do we have to protect our children.

One of the results of the 1st Conference on the Distribution of Films for the Young Audience at Konstanz/Germany in 1999 was to define positive criteria for the quality of films for children. Those films that meet these criteria should receive a certain label of quality in order that this label can be used as an instrument for their promotion.

However: Films basically are individualistic and can hardly be compared to one another. And one half of the film is created in the mind of the viewer, who is an individual as well. Knowing that films create emotions, entice the taking on of new identities and give information we must not define strict rules for high or low quality, but have to find an open collection of ideas which can bring us closer to a common valuation of a film.

ECFA wants to start this as an open discussion on an international basis and invites everybody to contribute - either by mail to the editor or directly via E-Mail to the European Children's Film Distribution Network, where we intend to collect all contributions: www.bjf.bkj.de/ecfnet/

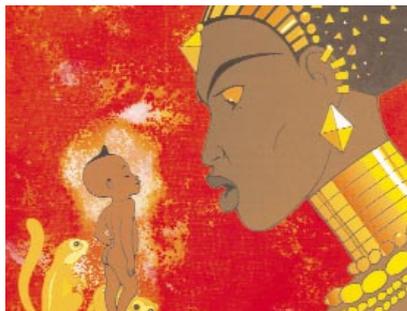
As a start and to provoke contributions we want to give some - at the moment very unsorted - examples:

High quality films for children

- ✗ should take the view of the children instead of watching children from the perspective of adults;
- ✗ should tell their stories in a way that children can understand them: related to their own experiences, with a mostly straight story and without or with not too many backflashes;
- ✗ should show children that they are not alone with their problems and offer them opportunities to solve these problems;
- ✗ should point out the children's special power, phantasy and spontaneity as their advantage in the world of adults;
- ✗ should create communication among the children and between children and adults;
- ✗ should respect that especially younger children do not want to sit in front of the screen for more than an hour;
- ✗ should show the reality of life, even if it is hard, but leave the children some hope at the end;

- ✗ can help the children to understand even complicated interrelationships in their lives;
- ✗ can give the children the chance to confront and experience different cultures, to identify themselves with people who live in other countries or societies;
- ✗ may give the children the chance for pure entertainment, pleasure, fun and/or suspense
- ✗ may lead them away from their reality into a world of phantasy;
- ✗ should tell their stories in characters that are able to develop themselves (as the children develop themselves) instead of static clichés;
- ✗ should convey some basic standards within our society as for example liberty, tolerance towards those who are different, non-violence, anti-racism, solidarity;
- ✗ should respect that children can identify better with one or a few strong main character(s) than with a larger number of characters;
- ✗ should pay attention to the fact that half of the viewers are girls who need their movie heroes as well as the boys.

To some of you these examples may appear old as the hills. But for one of ECFA's main goals is to promote high quality films for children it is useful to have a collection of criteria defining this quality. Finally ECFA has the advantage to bring together cineasts, businesspeople and media educators. This wide range of experience offers the unique chance for criteria that are adequate to the variety of good films for children. So if you feel inspired to add some more ideas or are provoked to contradict any, please send us your mail.



Festival Internazionale del Cinema Giovane „Castellinaria“
Bellinzona/Switzerland
November 18th - 25th 2000. Contact:
Castellinaria
Giancarlo Zappoli
c/o Espocentro
Via Cattori 3
Casella postale 1239
CH-6502 Bellinzona
Phone: ++41-91-825 2893
Fax: ++41-91-825 3611
E-Mail: info@castellinaria.ch
Internet: www.castellinaria.ch

International Children's Film Festival, Oulu, Finland,
November 20th - 26th 2000. Contact:
International Children's Film Festival
Pentti Kejonen, Eszter Vuojala
Oulu Film Center, Torikatu 8
FIN-90100 Oulu
Phone: ++358-8-881 1293
Fax: ++358-8-881 1290
E-Mail: ook@oufilmcenter.inet.fi
Internet: www.ouka.fi

Buster – Copenhagen's new International Children's Film Festival:
Copenhagen/Denmark,
Nov. 28th to Dec. 2nd 2000
The new founded Buster (see ECFA-Journal Nr. 1&2/2000) has a new address even before the first festival started:
Buster - International Children's Film Festival, Ola Tedin
Vognmagergade 10, 3rd floor
DK-1120 Copenhagen K
Phone: ++45 - 3374 3545
Fax: ++45 - 3374 3565
E-Mail: info@buster.nu
Internet: www.buster.nu

Cinemagic, Belfast, Northern Ireland
November 30th to December 10th
Contact: Cinemagic, Fountain House
17-21 Dunegall Place
GB-Belfast BT1 SAB
Phone: ++44 - 1232 - 311 900
Fax: ++44 - 1232 - 319 709
E-Mail: info@cinemagic.org.uk
Internet: www.cinemagic.org.uk

Olympia International Filmfestival for Children and Young People, Greece
2. - 9. 12. 2000
Contact: Olympia International Filmfestival for Children and Young People
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GR-11252 Athen
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Translations with the help of
Janet Reuter

ECFA - The EUROPEAN CHILDREN'S FILM ASSOCIATION

The goal of ECFA is the support of cinema for children in its cultural, economical, esthetic, social, political and educational aspects.

ECFA was founded in 1988 in Mons (Belgium) after the Conference of Troja (Portugal) and it brought together a wide range of European film professionals and associations, producers, directors, distributors. ECFA's aim is 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 informations and membership (membership-fee 200 Euros per year) contact:

ECFA - European Children's Film Association

Rue des Palais 112

B-1030 Bruxelles

Phone: ++32 - 2 - 242 54 09

Fax ++32 - 2 - 242 74 27

E-Mail Felix@online.be

Internet:

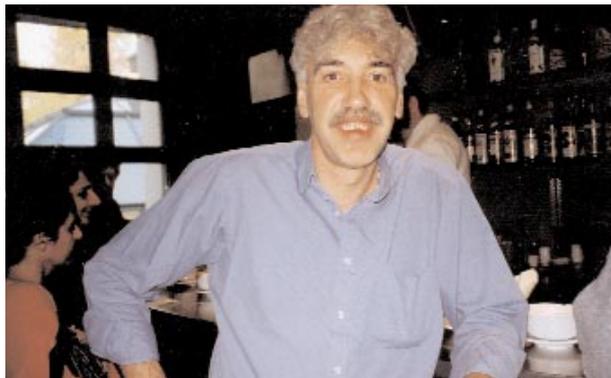
<http://users.swing.be/cinejeunes>

The European Children's Film Distribution Network:

www.bjf.bkj.de/ecfnet/

Databases on children's film festivals, sales agents, distributors and TV-programmers interested in European films for children.

ECFA in Persons: Felix Vanginderhuysen, Brussels/Belgium



ECFA's General Secretary Felix Vanginderhuysen

Felix Vanginderhuysen, born in 1954, is managing director of Jekino-Films, a national youth service recognized by the Flemish government. Jekino is mainly dealing with film and media education for children and youngsters. Internationally Felix Vanginderhuysen is better known as a distributor of films for children in his function as delegated administrator of the Flemish Centre for Children and Youth Film. This centre is also recognized by the Flemish government as an alternative distribution company. Films in distribution are, for example „The Daughter of the Puma“, „The Pickpocket“ or „Blinker“ which was a big box office success. A special division of the centre is dedicated to first movies of Flemish film directors. „Man of Steel“ by Vincent Bal has been released in this context. The centre distributes films to schools, film clubs, arthouse cinemas as well as multiplexes and on video for non-theatrical and private use.

After the successful distribution of „Blinker“, which was achieved in close co-operation between the producer and the distributor, Vanginderhuysen is working on a vertical platform for children's film production, distribution and exhibiting in Belgium. So he is involved in the production of „Blinker 2“ and planning to take over a three-screens-cinema-complex at Antwerp. According to his plans this cinema will not only present high quality films for children, but also offer space for film- and video workshops, media education projects etc.

In 1989 (when the European film prize was founded, guess who inspired its name?) Vanginderhuysen started the European Youth Film Festival at Antwerp, which presents exclusively European films. Vanginderhuysen is still president of the festival, which now is organized by a young team directed by Katrijn Kortten.

In 1988 Felix Vanginderhuysen and a number of colleagues from different European countries founded ECFA as a basis of information exchange and collaboration between people working for children's film culture. From the beginning Felix Vanginderhuysen has been active as ECFA's general secretary – a volunteer's job without payment. „But in this function I had the opportunity to meet and co-operate with so many people in the European children's film landscape, which is really an unpayable experience. That is why I still believe in an organisation like ECFA: Even if the meetings or conferences sometimes do not show immediate success, they at least create an atmosphere which is indispensable, especially at these moments when you start to loose faith in your work promoting quality films for young people.“

Felix Vanginderhuysen, supported by his staff at Brussels, is the motor behind most of ECFA's activities – even while expanding his professional activities at Jekino and the Flemish Centre for Children and Youth Film.

All of these activities Vanginderhuysen dedicates to one aim: To establish high quality (mostly European) films in the cultural life of the young audience (and their parents) – in Belgium, and together with many more dreamers from different countries, all over Europe.

For the future of ECFA Felix Vanginderhuysen is dreaming of a permanent ECFA office with one or two people employed there ... („Is a dream a lie if it doesn't come true...?“ , B. S.)

**Portrayed in the next ECFA-Journal:
Domenico Lucchini**