



*Lilly the Witch*

The fourth edition of Cartoon Movie will present 46 European projects and films to find funds, coproduction partners or a national or international distributor. French and Spanish producers are each presenting 10 projects. Germany and the U.K. are each introducing seven films, Italy will have four while Luxembourg and the Netherlands will show two each. Films are also coming from Belgium, Ireland, Norway and Sweden.

Organizers of Cartoon Movie believe what the recent gains of animated films at the box office, the increased demand from a family audi-

ence or even young adults and the renewed interest displayed by the movie industry in animation will stimulate the production of animated feature films in Europe. Animated films are performing well for European box office standards as recent ones have earned more than \$300,000 in their own territory and in some cases have surged beyond \$2-5 million.

The Spanish are having a particularly dynamic year. One of the completed projects to be screened at Cartoon Movie is *The Living Forest*, produced by Dygra of Spain. It is the first 3D animated feature produced in Europe and was released by Buena Vista International last summer in Spain, grossing more than \$480,000 there. It was among the Spanish box office top 10 in 2001 in a field of 138 films (including live action and animation).

Buena Vista Home Entertainment launched the film on video and DVD on Feb. 6 in Spanish, Galacian and

with /English subtitles. *The Living Forest* also recently won two Goya awards at the Spanish Film Awards for best animation feature and best song.

Melanie Tauchmann, VP of sales and acquisitions at Trixter Film of Germany, says she is looking forward to presenting *Lilly the Witch* at Cartoon Movie, which she says is a more imitate market and is especially attractive now that so many distributors attend. "For us, Cartoon Movie is perfect, we are able to pitch our films to a large number of people and we can immediately see the reaction on the projects. But as always in life, you have to be pretty sure what you want in order to have a successful pitching session."

Extraordinarily successful TV producer Happy Life of Sweden will be testing the feature waters as Peter Gustafson, CEO of Happy Life, will present *The World of Tosh*, a family feature project with Luminous Pictures, Colorpop AB and Qvisten AS.



*The Living Forrest*

Some French producers are doubling up on projects. Dargaud-Marina, developing more for animated features now, is bringing *The Fortune* and *Valerian & Laureline* to pitch. The successful partners Les Films de La Perrine with Odessa Films also have two presentations, *L'Enfant Lion* and *Ken Kyuu*.

Some participants plan to travel on in a few days to the 11th International Festival of Animated Film Stuttgart, March 22-27 in Germany to continue talks, find partners and attend a series of panels about animated films. Michael Schmetz, co-founder of Cartoon Movie, is amongst the speakers.