



CARTOON MOVIE 2006 ends with an optimistic outlook for the animation industry

Brussels / Potsdam-Babelsberg, 11th of March 2006 – In Potsdam-Babelsberg the 8th edition of the European financing market **CARTOON MOVIE** ended. Approximately 480 creatives, producers, buyers, distributors and investors from **29 countries** used CARTOON MOVIE for business, contacts and exchange of ideas. The event is the most important platform of the animation industry. Again in 2006 the number of participants arised significantly, there were for instance 25% more investors attending than last year. The participants congratulated the British studio Aardman, who won the OSCAR for the best animation movie last Sunday for Wallace & Gromit : The Curse of the Were-Rabbit.

In Potsdam-Babelsberg at the fx.centre on three days **46 animation film projects** from **13 countrys** with a total budget of more than **300 million Euro** were presented. The success of the last 8 years: since the founding of CARTOON MOVIE in 1999 **97** feature animation films with a **total budget of 565 million Euro** were produced in Europe.

Not only projects from the very active producing countries France and Spain, which were present with **14 and 11 movies**, were shown, also Great Britain, Germany, Danmark and Sweden presented three projects each. Belgium and Finland also presented two films each. Ireland, Latvia, Poland, the Czech Republik and Estonia were present with one project each.

At **CARTOON MOVIE 2006** ten completed films were shown with the opening film « Asterix and the Vikings », which was shown for the first time in Germany, «Renaissance» produced by Onyx Films, Lux Animation S.A., Timefirm Ltd. Millimages S.A. and Odyssey Entertainment Ltd., «Kirikou et les Bêtes Sauvages» (Les Armateurs), which in France already had more than 1,8 millions admissions, the new Pettson and Findus film «The Tomte Machine» (TV Loonland/Happy Life/A.Films) and « Frank & Wendy » by Eesti Joonisfilm from Estonia.

Initialised by the Medienboard and Vision Kino for the first time an **animation programm was started for kids and teenagers**. From March 2nd until April 11th different institutions for media education offer school screenings and events on the theme animation. There are already 3.700 attendences . Attendance and programm informations for interested school classes and teachers are available at: Vision Kino (phone: 0331/7062 250, info@visionkino.de, www.visionkino.de)

For the first time the organiseres of CARTOON MOVIE invited twelf representatives of the interactive entertainment industry. The idea to open the market for the game industry was welcomed on both sides.

Every year the animation professionals present at Potsdam for CARTOON MOVIE offer their tribute to 3 personalities or companies in the animation world: producers, distributors or directors who have worked for the development and increased prestige of European animated film. This ceremony is a tribute by professionals to professionals.

2006 Tribute for

- **Best European Director of the year:**

Nick Park and Steve Box for „Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit“

- **Best European Distributor of the year:**

Gebeka Films, France

- **Best European Producer of the year:**

Aardman für „Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit“

CARTOON MOVIE 2007 will take place from 8th – 10th March 2007. In October 2006 an CARTOON MASTER Feature as well organised by CARTOON will also take place in Potsdam-Babelsberg. The theme of this CARTOON MASTER is „Improving, funding and exposure of animation features“. For information: master@cartoon.skynet.be.

CARTOON MOVIE is supported by the Media Programm of the European Union, the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Land Brandenburg, the Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung, FFA and ILB. The German co-organiser is NFP teleart.

More information and pictures you will find on the homepage www.cartoon-media.be,

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