

Nominees for the Best European Director of the Year

Luc Besson

For "Arthur & the Minimoys"

Luc Besson has found international success with exceptional films such as "Subway", "Le Grand Bleu", "Nikita", "Léon", "The Fifth Element" and "Jeanne d'Arc".

He had still to explore films for children. He did this with the animated film "Arthur & the Minimoys", which was a huge success with its young audience. Based on the books that he had himself written, Luc Besson plunged his viewers into a universe of adventure and poetry. Two months after its release the film had taken 6 million entries at the box office in France – the best result ever for a European animated film in France.

www.arthuretlesminimoys.com

Michael Hegner and Karsten Kiilerich

For "The Ugly Duckling and Me!"

Lead directors at the Danish studio A. Film, Michael Hegner and Karsten Kiilerich decided to take a humorous slant on this new animated feature based on the tale of "The Ugly Duckling". Drawing on many years of talent and expertise acquired through films such as "Help! I'm a Fish", "Terkel in Trouble" and "Asterix and the Vikings", these two filmmakers are part of the generation of great European directors. "The Ugly Duckling and Me!" has been released in Denmark and will be launched in several European countries during 2007.

www.uglyandme.com

www.afilm.dk

Philippe Leclerc

For "The Princess of the Sun"

Philippe Leclerc was animator on two films directed by Paul Grimault (including "The King and the Bird"). He was first assistant to René Laloux on "Gandahar", and in 1992 he co-founded Praxinos in Montpellier (France) where he has directed several animation television series.

In 2002 he directed his first animated feature film "The Rain Children".

He has just finished making his second animated feature entitled "The Princess of the Sun", an adaptation of a novel written by the internationally celebrated French writer Christian Jacq, specialising in Ancient Egyptian History.

www.rezofilms.com

Michel Ocelot

For "Azur & Asmar"

Michel Ocelot has dedicated his entire career to animated cinema and to independent creation. All his productions, from the very start, have been based on his own scripts and artwork. He reached the general public with his first feature film in 1998, "Kirikou and the Sorceress".

His latest film "Azur & Asmar", dealing with immigration and Muslim culture, is a successful fairy tale set in the Middle Ages.

With his two "Kirikou" films, "Princes & Princesses" and "Azur & Asmar", Michel Ocelot has achieved over 6 million box office entries in France!

www.azuretasmar-lefilm.com

www.diaphana.fr

Nominees for the Best European Distributor of the Year

France Télévisions Distribution

France Télévisions Distribution has become a major film and television distributor both in France and overseas. It has had numerous successes in animation over the last few years including not only the video distribution of the two "Kirikou" films and "Princes & Princesses" but also the international sales and music production for "The Boy who wanted to be a Bear" and the video exploitation of "Belleville Rendez-Vous". The company also acquired the video and VOD rights for "The Princess of the Sun" (2007), "Nocturna" (2007), "Brendan & the Secret of Kells" (2007), "Princes of the Hood" (2008) and "Mia & le Migou" (2008).

www.francetv.com

Rezo Films

Rezo Films International is Belokan's partner and handles international sales and co-productions on "The Princess of the Sun", based on Christian Jacq's best seller and directed by Philippe Leclerc. Rezo Films will distribute the movie in France, with 400 prints, in April 2007. Rezo Film's line-up also includes "Paprika" directed by Satoshi Kon, "Snow White the Sequel" directed by Picha and "Tekkon Kinkreet" directed by Michael Arias. Rezo Films International wants to bring high quality and original animation films to the international market.

www.rezofilms.com

Scanbox Danmark

Scanbox has grown from a local video company in Denmark to a prominent Nordic entertainment corporation. Founded in 1980 during the earliest days of the video industry, Scanbox is today the oldest video film distributor in Scandinavia, and has acquired video companies in all four Scandinavian countries.

Scanbox is the Scandinavian distributor of some of the most expensive and interesting European animated films – "Valiant", "Happily N'Ever After", "Arthur & the Minimoys", "Donkey Xote", "Kirikou and the Wild Beasts", "Azur & Asmar" etc. – and is still looking for "better than average" animated films for all media in Scandinavia.

www.scanbox.com

Universum Film

Universum Film based in Munich started by distributing films on DVD & video in Europe's German speaking countries. Universum is number 1 in the Home Entertainment sector for children's programming on DVD in Germany, e.g. "Pingu" and "Caillou".

In 2002 Universum started to acquire rights for the theatrical market and has recently released "Raining Cats and Dogs", "Asterix and the Vikings", "Heidi", "Princess Mononoke" and "Felix 2".

They are now coproducer on "Prinzessin Lillifee und den Mondbär" with ndF and "Dragon Hunters" with Trixter and Futurikon.

www.universumfilm.de

Nominees for the Best European Producer of the Year

Alphanim / Europool / Nelvana Int / Studio Canal For "Franklin & the Turtle Lake Treasure"

After six seasons of the series on television, Alphanim decided to make a feature length version of "Franklin", which has been made with Welldone Films, a group of artists from the former Disney Studio in Paris.

Alphanim brought together an international group of partners to finance the production of the film, including Nelvana, Studio Canal Video, Mars Films, Europool, LuxAnimation and the Soficas, Cofimages and Cofinova. Mars Films released the film very successfully in theatres throughout France generating almost 300 prints and more than 500.000 box office entries after 2 months of exploitation.

www.alphanim.com/Franklin_and_the_Turtle_Lake_T.243.0.html

Belokan Productions For "The Princess of the Sun"

Created in 1997 by Léon Zuratas, Belokan Productions produces solely animation feature films.

Two films have been produced to date: "The Rain Children" and "The Princess of the Sun", both directed by Philippe Leclerc.

A new feature film with the working title of "La Mémoire de l'Eau" is currently in development. Philippe Leclerc will be the director.

www.unifrance.org/films/detail_film.asp?CommonUser=&langue=21004&cfilm=25025

BAF Berlin Animation Film GmbH & Co. Produktions KG For "Happily N'Ever After"

BAF - Berlin Animation Film - is a closed-end fund with the legal structure of a limited partnership. By the end of 2006, seven animated TV-series and one 75 minute feature film for a family audience were produced as part of the BAF Fund.

BAF wants to develop, produce and market high quality animation projects for television and cinema. Their first feature film is "Happily N'Ever After", a film full of adventures in Fairy Tale Land, where the Bad Guys can win. It started its career in the USA with over 2 million box office entries.

www.happilyneverafterthefilm.com

www.baf-film.com

Eesti Joonisfilm and Rija Films
For "Lotte from Gadgetville"

"Lotte from Gadgetville" is the result of a collaboration between two small countries, Eesti Joonisfilm (Estonia) and Rija Films (Latvia). Eesti Joonisfilm has over 30 years' experience in animation, whilst Rija Films is experienced in the qualitative implementation of new technologies and has been involved in more than 30 international projects (including "Kirikou and the Sorceress" & "Belleville Rendez-Vous").

"Lotte from Gadgetville" won the award for Best National Film 2006 in Estonia and dominates the national box office charts.

www.joonisfilm.ee

<http://www.sola-media.net/>