

PRESS RELEASE



CARTOON MOVIE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR'S MOST OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN ANIMATION

Luc Besson, Philippe Leclerc, Michel Ocelot, Michael Hegner and Karsten Kiilerich round out the nominees for best director

Philippe Leclerc's "The Princess of the Sun" will be previewed at the opening night screening

Brussels, February 19th, 2007. The European Association of Animation Film has announced the 12 nominees selected for the **Cartoon Movie Tributes'** three award categories: Director of the Year, Producer of the Year and Distributor of the Year.

These awards, which will be announced at **Cartoon Movie 2007** (Potsdam, 7-9 March), seek to reward outstanding achievements, companies or personalities that have had a positive influence on the European animation features film industry.

The winners will be selected by the 500 sector professionals who participate in this annual forum aimed at advancing the production, distribution and financing for European animation feature films.

Since its creation in 2001, the **Cartoon Movie Tributes** has grown along with the European animation sector, earning recognition as one of the industry's most prestigious honours.

This year's nominees are:

European Director of the Year

- Luc Besson, for "Arthur & the Minimoy's"
- Michael Hegner and Karsten Kiilerich, for "The Ugly Duckling and Me!"
- Philippe Leclerc, for "The Princess of the Sun"

- Michel Ocelot, for "Azur & Asmar"

European Distributor of the Year

- France Télévisions Distribution (France)
- Rezo Films (France)
- Scanbox Denmark (Denmark)
- Universum Film (Germany)

European Producer of the Year

- Alphanim, Europool, Nelvana Int. and STUDIOCANAL, for "Franklin & the Turtle Lake Treasure"
- Belokan Productions, for "Princess of the Sun"
- BAF Berlin Animation Film, for "Happily N'Ever After"
- Eesti Joonisfilm and Rija Films, for "Lotte from Gadgetville"

The organisers for this event have also announced that Phillipe Leclerc's "The Princess of the Sun" has been selected for **Cartoon Movie 2007's** opening night screening. The French director's second animated feature is an adaptation of a novel written by the internationally celebrated writer Christian Jacq. The distribution rights for the feature have already been sold in over 12 countries ahead of its world premiere scheduled for March 13 in Egypt, at the bottom of the Great Pyramid of Giza (Cairo).

Cartoon Movie 2007 main partners are Media Programm of the EU - Medienboard Berlin Brandenburg - Ministry of Economics of the Land Brandenburg - Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (MDM) - Filmförderungsanstalt / German federal Film Board (FFA), InvestitionsBank des Landes Brandenburg (ILB) and Studio Babelsberg.

German Co-organisation: NFP teleart

More information on the finalists for Cartoon Movie Tributes 2007 can be found at www.cartoon-media.be

Cartoon Organisation: Annick Maes

Tel: (32) (2) 242 93 43 - annick.maes@cartoon.skynet.be

International Press: Gerardo Michelin

Tel: (34) (630) 57 2268 - gmichelin@ya.com