



**Press release**  
Toulouse, 19 September 2018

## **Resounding success for the Cartoon Forum 2018: High-quality and surprising projects!**

*Please note that the next edition of Cartoon Forum will take place from 16 to 19 September 2019.*

For the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the French city of Toulouse hosted the 29<sup>th</sup> edition of Cartoon Forum, the co-production platform for European animation series that has fast-tracked European animation to the front row.

**Following 28 editions now, 758 projects have been funded for a total amount of 2.5 billion euros.** During this edition, many professionals were present to cheer the promising animation projects.

### **Premium quality**

According to buyers, this edition was surprising in terms of projects' quality with a great diversity of genres, content, graphics and audience. The overall level of quality is increasing continuously. The new generation is well present and showed us its energy and strong personality.

83 projects from 22 countries have been presented to participants from 38 countries which included a record of **1000 producers, investors, broadcasters, buyers, SVoD/VoD platforms** such as Netflix, Amazon, Hopster TV, Playkids, Azoomie, among others.

**France was once again very present in the top 10 presentations** that have aroused keen interest: "The Borrowers" (Blue Spirit Productions), "Splat & Seymour" (Just Kids), "Woolly Woolly" (Normaal), "Country Kids" (La Station Animation), "Droners" (Cyber Group Studios), "Billy – The Cowboy Hamster" (Dandelooo), "Zouk, The Little Witch with a Big Personality" (Bayard Jeunesse Animation), "Tiny Bad Wolf" (Xilam Animation), "Pompon Little Bear" (Supamonks), "Looking for Santa" (Folimage). France stays the European leader, especially with fast financial packages and also thanks to the important role of France Televisions.

**Other highlights** were the Irish project "Silly Sundays" (Cartoon Saloon), the Polish "Odo" (Letko), the Germans "Luis and the Aliens – The Series" (Ulysses Filmproduktion) and "Rabbit Akademie – The Series" (Akkord Film Produktion), the English "Flix" (Eye Present) and "Milo" (Fourth Wall Creative), the Belgian "The Fluffy Four" (Lunanime), the German "Tom's Taxi" (Zoooper Film), the Icelandic "Paradise Valley" (GunHil), the Luxembourgish "Deep in the Bowl" (ZEILT Productions) and the Belgian "Maëlys Mysteries" (Panique!).

As part of the **Cartoon Connection Awards**, two Canadian ("Jax – Merlin's Lineage" by Squeeze and "The Galactic Postman" by Urbania) and one Korean projects ("Wonderful ThumThum" by Electural) were presented at Cartoon Forum 2018 as an extension of our collaboration with Canada and South Korea during our Cartoon Connection events.

**For the first time, adults projects attracted numerous buyers, and carved out a nice audience for themselves:** "GloboZone" (Umanimation), "Selfish" (Kazak Productions), "In your Face" (Doncvoilà Productions), "Deep in the Bowl" (ZEILT Productions), "Notfunny" (Nichtlustig). The success of these projects demonstrates that adults projects are on a roll, linear broadcasters will surely reorganize their programmes to make space for the adults target.

**The young generation is destined for a brilliant future! They are present and take a stance:** "Silly Sundays" with Nuria Blanco (Cartoon Saloon), "Mum is Pouring Rain" (a Cartoon Springboard project by Laïdak Films), "Tufo" (a Cartoon Springboard project by Les Contes Modernes), "Selfish" by Kazak Productions, "In your Face" (the author came at a previous edition of the Coaching Programme) by Doncvoilà Productions and "Odo" by Letko.

**It is worth noting that the successful pitches are made like a real performance, they are well prepared and look like a stand-up comedy.**

**As every year, leading studios were present and successful:** Xilam Animation, Cyber Group Studios, Calon, The Illuminated Film Company, Dandeloo, La Station Animation, Ànima Kitchent Media, Folimage, Vivement Lundi !, Blue Spirit Productions, Ulysses Filmproduktion, Panique!, Cartoon Saloon, Folivari, Normaal, Silex Films, among others.

**And of course, all the major buyers attended the Cartoon Forum** - including France Télévisions, CNC, The Walt Disney Company, DreamWorks Animation Television, Amazon Studios, CANAL+, Super RTL, RAI, Netflix, BBC Children, TF1, Lagardère Active, Playkids, Sony, Turner, Mediatoon, NRK, M6, TVC, ZDF, Nickelodeon, SVT, Spin Master, DHX Media, Epic Story Media...

### **Cartoon Tributes**

The European animation honoured its main protagonists by awarding the Cartoon Tributes 2018, prizes that recognize the work of companies and people that have contributed to the development of the European animation industry over the past year. Elected through electronic voting by the record-breaking number of 1000 participants of 29<sup>th</sup> Cartoon Forum, the winners were announced on September 13 in Toulouse. **Ireland, France and Finland shared the prizes in all three categories, demonstrating the strength of European animation across its borders.**

The Winners 2018 are:

- BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR: **Finnish broadcasting company (YLE) | Finland**
- INVESTOR/DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR: **9 Story Distribution International | Ireland**
- PRODUCER OF THE YEAR: **Folimage | France**

### **Spotlight on Finland!**

For the **third time**, Cartoon Forum will be putting the spotlight on a country. **Finland**, a country which ranks as a world leader in education, gender equality, innovation technology, games, governance, clean air... and also known as the country with the happiest people. More importantly: which has a very special position on the animation scene with international co-pros tradition, a fast and simple 25% cash rebate, and world famous brands from the classical "Moomins" TV series and features, two "Niko" features from 2008 and 2012, to the 2016 success of "The Angry Birds Movie" that was a blockbuster hit in the majority of territories around the world. On the strength of its three selected projects this year, Finnish animation appeared as a constant thread throughout Cartoon Forum with presentations of Finnish studios during Croissant Shows, Finnish Farewell dinner & Party, ...

**Out of its three selected projects, one was particularly successful: "Harry and Bip – Summer Season" by Ink and Light Finland (and Ireland).**

### **The Coaching Programme**

CARTOON encourages young talents to develop their own projects. The "Coaching Programme" is a unique training initiative to enlighten a group of students on the world of the animation industry and challenges related to project launches. Students and teachers attended the programme from 10 training schools in the Region and 3 Finnish animation universities.

### **A public event "Les Toons débarquent!"**

"Les Toons débarquent!" is a local initiative to promote animation in Toulouse and in the region for the general public and young people in particular. The 2018 edition will continue to run until 4 November in the Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region.

Organised alongside the Cartoon Forum, it offered a wide range of appointments for animation cinema lovers: the school sessions highlighted the heroes of the animated series made in Toulouse and in the region Occitanie/Pyrénées-Méditerranée and introduced about 2000 children to the different animation techniques and universes. Some excerpts of TV series and feature films have been screened. "Les Toons débarquent" was also a moment to meet and exchange. They were present to meet the public during some screenings: Michel Ocelot, Alexandre Espigares ("White Fang"), Stephan Roelants from Melusine Productions (Co-producer of "The Breadwinner") and Patrice Nezan from Les Contes Modernes (Co-producer of "The Tower"). On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September, there was the avant-premiere "Dilili à Paris" by Michel Ocelot at ABC Cinema in Toulouse.

### **About CARTOON FORUM**

Created in 1990 to boost the co-production and distribution of European animation for television and new media platforms, Cartoon Forum has helped 758 animation series obtain financing to the tune of over 2.5 billion Euros.

The main partners of Cartoon Forum Toulouse are Creative Europe - MEDIA, CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée), Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, Mairie de Toulouse, Toulouse Métropole, Casino Barrière and France Télévisions.

**The next edition of Cartoon Forum will take place from 16 to 19 September 2019.**

### **About CARTOON**

CARTOON is an international non-profit association based in Brussels organising Cartoon Forum, along with Cartoon Movie, a co-production forum for feature-length animation; the Cartoon Master training seminars; and Cartoon Connection, a programme intended to explore ways of reinforcing cooperation between EU and non-EU animation professionals.

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### **Images**

- Selected projects gallery:

<http://www.cartoon-media.be/cartoon-forum/cartoon-forum-2018-1/discover-the-projects-2018.htm>

- High res stills

<http://www.cartoon-media.eu/home/press-login.htm>

password: cftoulouse2018

- Pictures of the event

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/35940214@N05/sets/72157695200461690>

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