



## IRELAND, FRANCE AND FINLAND SHARE THE CARTOON TRIBUTES 2018

**Toulouse, 13 September 2018.** 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 co-pro and pitching event for animation series - 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.

This year's winners are:

**Distributor of the Year: 9 Story Distribution International (Ireland)**

**Producer of the Year: Folimage (France)**

**Broadcaster of the Year: Finnish Broadcasting Company – YLE (Finland)**

Dublin based **9 Story Media Group** is a leading provider of content to major broadcasters, digital platforms, and home entertainment companies worldwide that represents over 2,500 half hours of animated and live-action programming.

Founded in 1981 by Jacques-Rémy Girerd, the French studio **Folimage** focuses on creating stop-motion TV series, shorts and feature films. At Cartoon Forum, this company that belongs to Hildegard group presented the TV special "Looking for Santa" and the series "Maëlys Mysteries" and "We Are the Artists", in which it is their co-producer.

**YLE** is a Finnish pubcaster that airs over 1,000 hours of programming for 2-12 year olds through its channel YLE TV2. The company, which has a strong co-production policy, is

one of the main promoters of Finnish animation that has recently participated in series such as "Gigglebug" and "Albi the Snowman".

The list of nominees also included Deakids (Italy), Hopster (United Kingdom), Netflix (USA) and TF1 Unité Jeunesse (France) in the Broadcaster of the Year category; Connectoon (Italy), Gaumont Distribution TV (France) and Miam! Animation (France) in the Investor/Distributor of the Year; and Akkord Film Produktion (Germany); Anima Kitchent Media (Spain), Ink and Light (Finland/Ireland) and The Illuminated Film Company (United Kingdom) in the Producer of the Year category.

**Photos of the presentations and the Cartoon Tributes winners available at**

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

### **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 753 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.

### **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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