

FANTOCHE

INTERNATIONALES FESTIVAL FÜR ANIMATIONSFILM
BADEN/SCHWEIZ

Press release

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For Professional Audiences: Fantoche Industry Day, Meet the Artist and more

From 5–10 September, Fantoche International Animation Film Festival offers guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of animated film-making, attracting visitors each year from Switzerland and beyond. This year's programme will also include event formats for a professional audience such as "making of" presentations, Meet the Artist, an array of workshops and numerous platforms for discussion. Meanwhile, the ninth edition of the "Fantoche Industry Day" on 8 September 2023 aims to examine the pathways that are open and available for the Swiss industry to tap into – all with the motto "Expand the Craft". As part of the Industry Day, the sixth Swiss Animation Industry Award (SAIA) will be awarded.

Industry Day offers practical knowledge sharing

While animated series are still in development in Switzerland, there are already a few examples. At "Focus Switzerland" on Friday morning, creatives involved in three Swiss animated series ("Nussbaumbande", "Les enquêtes de Maëlys" and "Bloodmountain") discuss their process, production and the challenges they face. This is followed by "International Focus" featuring Julia Pott ("Summer Camp Island"), Mathieu Courtois ("Dimitri", Vivement Lundi!), Matthew Walker ("Lloyd of the Flies", Aardman) and Tina Ohnmacht (Head of MA Animation, HSLU). This discussion will focus on issues such as what it takes to make global hit series and the role animation schools play at the beginning of a professional career.

Friday afternoon is set to feature two presentations on immersive storytelling (for AR/VR) and the Dutch animation of "Burnout Diaries", including expert tips from psychologist Isabelle Leuenberger on preventing and picking up on the signs of burnout in creative professionals at an early stage. Claire Espagno, lecturer at renowned Paris animation school GOBELINS, will also hold a workshop on writing series.

One sure-fire highlight of Industry Day is "Artist Talk" featuring British animator Julia Pott. With her animation work, her short films and, in particular, her series "Summer Camp Island" (Cartoon Network), she is long-established as one of the most important players in the contemporary global animation scene. She offers exclusive insights into her career and behind-the-scenes glimpses of her process.

Together with SWISSFILM Association, Fantoche will bring Industry Day to a close by awarding the SAIA for the best animated advertisement or commissioned film, thereby honouring outstanding creative achievement in a commercial field.

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Meet the Artist: “Making Of”, “Coming Soon” and workshop events

In a “Making Of” event for “Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman” on Wednesday 6 September, director and screenwriter Pierre Földes explains how he used animation to adapt the magical realism of author Haruki Murakami. On the same day, at his “Coming Soon” event, Swiss artist and animated film-maker Yves Netzhammer will offer an exclusive preview of his feature début, “Reise der Schatten” – a nightmare vision of the future. On Thursday 7 September, Carla Martín Villas (Filmoteca de Catalunya) will describe the eight-year process of restoring the first feature-length Catalan animation film in colour, an early take on Cinderella called “Érase una vez...” (1950). Another festival highlight will take place on Saturday 9 September: the second “Meet the Artist” event featuring Belgian stop-motion animator Kim Keukeleire. She handled stop-motion animation in “The Inventor” and worked on the alien animation in Wes Anderson’s “Asteroid City”. At Fantoche, she’ll offer a glimpse behind the scenes.

Other workshops are also taking place: at “The Animated Documentary” on 4 September, FOCAL will invite three renowned filmmakers Anaïs Caura (FR), Jonas Poher Rasmussen (DK) and Ismaël Joffroy Chandoutis (FR) to talk about their approach to transforming reality through animation. Besides technical matters, they will also be discussing ethical issues, historical truth, fictional interpretation, dealing with sources, anonymity and data and personal protection. Industry event “Find a Producer” will take place on Thursday 7 September, with the aim of bringing Swiss producers and animated film-makers together.

At “Game Industry Focus”, games developers from Switzerland and around the world will showcase the potential of combining both disciplines. As ever, in festival week, animators and game designers will collaborate on games, exploring the dividing lines and overlapping aspects of the two disciplines. The prototypes can now be appraised at the event on Thursday 7 September before they are finally presented on Sunday.

This year’s Fantoche discussion series “Let’s Talk” also focuses on three themes that recur in various strands of the festival’s programming: diversity, machinima and protest. And like every year, Fantoche invites guests to an Artists’ Brunch, where filmmakers from the short film programme offer insights into their creative processes and how their films are made. Guests are welcome to attend in person (with breakfast) or via the live stream.

The complete programme and pre-sale (including accreditations) will be online from 14 August.

For questions about this press release:

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