

FANTOCHE

INTERNATIONALES FESTIVAL FÜR ANIMATIONSFILM
BADEN/SCHWEIZ

Baden
6. September 2026

JURYBERICHT: FANTOCHE 2026

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INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Jury: Jakob Eisenbach (CH), Maryam Essa Al-Khulaifi (QA), Joanna Quinn (GB)

BEST FILM

Uka-Uka by **Henri Veermäe**, EE 2026

Battling boredom, a little boy gets trapped in the boot of a car. When he gets out, he's no longer the same.

Jury-Laudatio: «This beautifully crafted film engages you from the start. The quirkiness of the design, the darkness of the humour, the beautifully observed inter-generational behaviour of a boy and his grandparents and the ultimate optimism in the face of tragedy.

The price for **Best Film** goes to **Uka-Uka** by **Henri Veermäe**.»

HIGH RISK

Decay by **Juan Camilo González**, CO 2025

Gunpowder is used to celebrate and to kill in Colombia. A director is burdened by a violent act that touches his family and his art.

Jury-Laudatio: «A raw and brutally honest depiction of an experience, that took the author years to process into a unique artform. We're very grateful for him and his friends to do so, especially since he explained "cinema can't go any faster".

The price for **High Risk** goes to **Decay** by **Juan Camilo González**.»

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SPECIAL MENTION INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Pajarito by **Pilar Garcia-Fernandezsesma**, ESP/USA 2026

In 1980s Spain, two sisters confront their complicated feelings about motherhood when the eldest gives birth to her first child.

Jury-Laudatio: «A film that draws us into the quiet, unspoken tensions between two sisters as one becomes a mother not only to her newborn, but to her sister as well. Through delicate animation, it captures the complicated, often contradictory feelings that motherhood stirs up. The film resists easy sentimentality, instead sitting with the discomfort, tenderness, and quiet grief that can exist alongside new life.

The **Special Mention International Competition** goes to **Pajarito** by **Pilar Garcia-Fernandezsesma**.»

SWISS COMPETITION

Jury: dina A. Amin (EG), Lauma Kaudzite (FR), Osbert Parker (GB)

BEST SWISS

To Kill a Velofahrer – **Helmi Korhonen, Ines Nungasser, Livio Frauendorf, Marvin Bueler**, CH 2026

A proud urban planner defends his “visionary” cycle lane designs to his superiors. Meanwhile, on the streets outside the conference room, his “perfect” plans plunge the traffic into chaos.

Jury-Laudatio: «The film’s smart character design, playful materials, camera angles and energetic action create a strong film language. The humour and absurdism make it entertaining. It is distinctly Swiss and universally relatable. The handmade medium makes the problem it addresses feel tangible and honest. Ambitious and inventive, the film shows how humour and technique can work together to communicate an idea from the very beginning.

The price **Best Swiss** goes to **To Kill a Velofahrer** by **Helmi Korhonen, Ines Nungasser, Livio Frauendorf** and **Marvin Bueler**.»

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HIGH SWISS RISK

Sensual – Tanja Nuijten, DE 2025

Snails glide lasciviously across moist lips, snakes slip smoothly through fingers, a warm bear hug: Sensual touches a body, stimulated by various claws, furs, scales and more. Tender, vulnerable, powerful and sexy.

Jury-Laudatio: «The hand-crafted artwork creates a soft and delicate world, while the inventive transformation sequences bring the character's desires to life. Imaginative, tender and uncompromising, the film shows how animation can express emotions and experiences that could not be captured in the same way through another medium. The body becomes a landscape, expressing feelings that can be both beautiful and disturbing, sensual and even animalistic. Der price **High Swiss Risk** goes to **Sensual** by Tanja Nuijten.»

FANTASTIC SWISS

Lost Touch – Justine Klaiber, CH 2025

In the vastness of space, a survivor on a damaged spaceship struggles with grief and isolation. When a mysterious presence appears in the ship's garden, she must make a momentous decision.

Jury-Laudatio: «The film's cinematic vision, its expressive imagery, carefully designed colours and lighting, beautifully underscores its themes of grief and loneliness. The moving between two worlds, draws us into the character's emotional journey. The sound and music support the story with great sensitivity, while the pacing and the way the intriguing narrative unfolds keeps us engaged throughout. We were touched by the way the film explores connection – to plants, to a partner, and through the simple act of touching. Despite the distance created by its cold visual world, we become deeply attached to its central character and the importance of letting go and moving on. Der price **Fantastic Swiss** goes to **Lost Touch** by Justine Klaiber.»

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SPECIAL MENTION SWISS COMPETITION

Sundown (Stärneschii)– **Jérémie Jayray Itty, Inna Soroka, Julia Estrada Torresm Sammi Khuu,**
CH 2026

Joakim works with great dedication in the dementia ward. His care is appreciated. But the young man struggles with the emotional strain of his work and must learn to accept the limits to what he can give.

Jury-Laudatio: «By telling the story from a different point of view, the film looks at a familiar theme from a unique perspective. The sound design helps us connect emotionally with the characters, while the accurate portrayal of care and exhaustion gives the film a strong sense of reality.

The **Special Mention Swiss Competition** goes to **Sundown** by **Jérémie Jayray Itty, Inna Soroka, Julia Estrada Torres** and **Sammi Khuu.**»

YOUTH JURY

Jury: Alexa Elia, Ivan Steiner, Diya Tare, Nathan Clapasson, Aymeric Seror, Nataliia Lebedeva, Simona Moccetti

YOUTH AWARD FOR BEST NEW TALENT

Dieu est timide – Jocelyn Charles, FR 2025

During a train ride, Ariel and Paul pass the time sketching their deepest fears. Their game takes an unexpected turn when Gilda, a mysterious passenger, intrudes on their exchange. Yet her relationship with fear seems far less innocent than their playful drawings.

Jury-Laudatio: «This film portrays confronting fears and the unexpected drama of life in a very unique and engaging way. While dealing with the everyday, it also discusses some of the bigger questions in life. We appreciated the attention to detail and the thought-through colour palette in the film's visuals. From the start, the storytelling was well-paced and used well-rounded characters to convey different emotions, such as fear and unease. We could feel different influences in this film that really made its uncanny aspects stand out.

The **Youth Award for Best New Talent** goes to **Dieu est timide** by **Jocelyn Charles.**»

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SPECIAL MENTION BEST NEW TALENT

Mother of Dawn – Clara Trevisan, BR 2025

In the void of night, a hungry creature looks for food and perpetuates an everyday cycle.

Jury-Laudatio: «This film is an excellent example of how beauty and creativity can be central to animation. It used fantastic technical aspects, such as mixed materials, to establish a great ambience. The sound added another layer to the general mood of the film, enhancing everything and really pulling you into the story. We immediately appreciated the artist's vision and their potential as a unique filmmaker.

The **Special Mention for Best New Talent** goes to **Mother of Dawn** by **Clara Trevisan.**»

KIDS COMPETITION

BEST KIDS

Bats & Bugs – Lena von Döhren, CH2026

When a light goes on in the middle of the jungle, the insects are thrown into turmoil, much to the delight of the hungry bats nearby! With plenty of humour and poetry, this nocturnal adventure raises awareness of light pollution.

Jury-Laudatio: «Because the film tells an exciting story in such a short time that made us laugh out loud; because it strikes just the right balance between suspense, wildness and humour; because, along the way, we even learned something fascinating about what bats like to eat; because the film shows us the little dramas that can unfold right under the nearest streetlight; and because it had us hooked from the very first minute, we chose this short film as our winner!

The Price **Best Kids** goes to **Bats & Bugs** by **Lena von Döhren!**»

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SPECIAL MENTION KIDS

The Dairy Experiment – Fabian Johnston, Luke Johnston, US 2025

A slightly clumsy but very brave cow will stop at nothing to rescue her friend, who has been abducted by aliens. Between prickly cacti and exploding cars, absolutely nothing goes according to plan.

Jury-Laudatio: «Because in this crazy story, an ordinary cow becomes a heroine who bravely drives the nasty aliens off our planet; because we finally know that aliens are actually frogs; and because the fast-paced action was tremendous fun and had us all laughing out loud, the Children's Jury gives a **Special Mention Kids** goes to **The Dairy Experiment** by **Fabian Johnston** and **Luke Johnston**.»

SWISS ANIMATION INDUSTRY AWARD (SAIA)

Jury: dina A. Amin (EG), Lauma Kaudzite (FR), Osbert Parker (GB)

SWISS ANIMATION INDUSTRY AWARD

Start in Kindergarten and School: Language as gateway to the world & Dealing with oneself and others – Fela Bellotto, CH 2026

Jury Laudatio: «The playful use of colour, visual metaphors and imaginative storytelling keeps this commission engaging while stimulating the audience's imagination. The team followed the brief very well, while still bringing their own creativity and personality to the work, making the films engaging for both children and adults. It's impressive how the work reverses stereotypes and represents different people with care, creating a world where everyone feels included. Supportive, thoughtful and never boring, this work shows how commissioned animation can be both purposeful and genuinely inspiring. Across the nine films created in just five months, the small team has achieved a high level of quality and consistency.»

The **Swiss Animation Industry Award** goes to **Fela Bellotto**.»

SPECIAL MENTION SWISS ANIMATION INDUSTRY AWARD

COPD Awareness: Couch, Park, Office – Neil Stubbings, CH 2026

Jury Laudatio: «The film manages to take a serious topic and present it with warmth and creativity, without losing sight of its purpose. The humorous characters make the message approachable and engaging, helping to communicate an important subject in a clear and accessible way.

The **Special Mention Swiss Animation Industry Award** goes to **COPD Awareness: Couch, Park, Office** by **Neil Stubbings**.»

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Here you will find all winners: <https://fantoche.ch/awards-2026>