

FANTOCHE

INTERNATIONALES FESTIVAL FÜR ANIMATIONSFILM
BADEN/SCHWEIZ

Press Release

Baden, 10th of September 2023

Fantoche 2023: PUNK, (TOO) PERFECT WEATHER AND PUPPET ANIMATION

For six days the International Festival of Animated Film, Fantoche, presented many highlights and discoveries from current Swiss and international animation filmmaking. This year the focus was on non-conformism, "Punk Is Not Dead", and on South Korea, from where a delegation of eight travelled to Baden. A total of around 20'000 admissions were recorded. In the International Competition, "Un Genre de Testament" by Stephen Vuillemin from France received the 'Best Film' award; "Our Uniform" by Yegane Moghaddam from Iran won the international Audience Award. In the Swiss Competition, "Die graue March" by Charlotte Waltert and Alvaro Schoeck was awarded 'Best Swiss'. The Swiss Audience Award went to "Un colline aux cailloux" by Marjolaine Perreten, which also received the Swiss Youth Award. The Children's Jury selected "The Pirate and the Cello" by Andreï Sokolov as 'Best Kids'; which also took the Children's Audience Award. The 22nd Fantoche will take place in Baden from the 3rd to the 8th of September 2024.

Big names and audience favourites

In front of a full cinema accompanied by several Swiss supporters, the Basque director Fermin Muguruza presented three screenings of "Black is Beltza II: Ainhoa" on Wednesday. The first film was already very well received at Fantoche in 2018 and this time the Basque musician did not miss the opportunity to introduce his film personally. In keeping with the punk focus, he revives the protest movements around Ainhoa of the 1980s with a mixture of punk, ska and folk songs, drawing an arc to current world events.

On Thursday and Friday award-winning British animation artist Julia Pott presented her career to date at a "Meet the Artist" session and at Industry Day, starting with her undergraduate film "My First Crush", which led to her breakthrough thanks to YouTube. She described the various stages of her career in a very entertaining and approachable manner, from commercial work to short films that have been shown at festivals like Sundance, TIFF, Annecy or SXSW, to the GLAAD and Emmy-nominated series "Summer Camp Island", which ran for six seasons on HBO MAX. Favourite episodes from the series ran for five hours on Saturday at the Festival Center.

On Friday and Saturday, British puppet animator Barry Purves hosted a retrospective on his extensive body of work. Despite decades of exploring digital possibilities and "liberating the puppets", as he once called it, he remained loyal to analog animation techniques and worked on renowned films such as Tim Burton's "Mars Attacks!" and Peter Jackson's "King Kong". Kim Keukeleire, another internationally successful stop-motion artist, was at the festival on Saturday. In her "Meet the Artist" session, she cited

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numerous examples from her impressive resume, including high-profile collaborations with Tim Burton, Wes Anderson, Claude Barras and Guillermo del Toro, as well as smaller independent productions, to introduce the many facets of puppet animation.

As every year, the big Japanese anime films "Suzume" and "Inu-Oh" were among the audience favourites, as were numerous sold-out competition and 'Best of' programs. Many productions with the South Korean focus were also well-attended and met with great enthusiasm, not only among animators. The new film by Dennis Do "La forêt de Mademoiselle Tang" and the animated documentary "Knit's Island" were also met with much interest.

Industry Day & Swiss Industry Award

"Expand the Craft" was the motto of the 9th Industry Day, which focused on animated series production. In "Focus Switzerland" it quickly became clear that the Swiss industry is still in its early stages. The creators of three Swiss animated series agreed that a lot of developmental work is still needed before Swiss productions can keep up internationally. New paths and ways of dividing tasks need to be found. The theory that Swiss university graduates are rather artistically trained and thus wrongly educated for the international market was, however, immediately refuted by the biographies of three successful international directors from the "International Focus": Julia Pott, Mathieu Courtois ("Dimitri", VivementLundi!) and Matthew Walker ("Lloyd of the Flies", Aardman). At the end, moderator Jane Mumford asked the panel whether series production was even worth pursuing. "It's like making one short film after another with the same characters and the same team; it's incredibly satisfying work, but you can't retire afterwards," summarised Julia Pott.

After a varied program in the afternoon, the grand finale was the SAIA (Swiss Animation Industry Award) that went to "Never Shake a Baby" by Guillaume Mégroz, also receiving no fewer than three Special Mentions.

Take-away from the festival

The late summer temperatures created a wonderful festival atmosphere, "but it wasn't cinema weather," Ivana Kvesić concluded. "Compared to the anniversary year, audience numbers were slightly lower. It's almost fittingly nonconformist in the cultural sector, not to report an increase in audience every year." At the festival opening, the departing film director Ivo Kummer wished for more punk and more courage from the filmmakers in attendance. But this year's focus "Punk Is Not Dead" also showed that protest needs perseverance. "When we see today, on the 20th anniversary of the first Swiss animated feature film "Globi and the Shadow Robber", how Swiss animation has developed over the last 20 years, we look forward to seeing what will emerge when the Film Act comes into force in 2024 and brings more money into the Swiss (animation) film scene and Swiss series production gets rolling."

For questions regarding the press release:

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INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Jury: Jürgen Haas, Špela Cadež, Emilia Mazik

BEST FILM: **Un genre de testament**, Stephen Vuillemin, FR 2023

HIGH RISK: **Our Pain**, Shunsaku Hayashi, JP 2022

NEW TALENT: **Drijf**, Levi Stoops, BE 2023

BEST SOUND: **Cyclepaths**, Anton Cla, BE 2023

SPECIAL MENTION INTERNATIONALE JURY: **The Tobos**, Tobias Rud, DK 2023

AUDIENCE AWARD: **Our Uniform**, Yegane Moghaddam, IR 2023

SWISS COMPETITION

Jury: Julia Pott, Ygor Gama, Djamila Grandits

Jugendjury (Swiss Youth Award): Leya Alexander, Kerstin Pauli, Shania Küng, Indra Crittin, Eddie Matthey, Bruno Detrey, Chloé de Vooght

BEST SWISS: **Die graue March**, Charlotte Waltert, Alvaro Schoeck, CH 2023

HIGH SWISS RISK: **Pipes**, Kilian Feusi, Jessica Meier, Sujanth Ravichandran, CH 2022

NEW SWISS TALENT: **Crevette**, Sven Bachmann, Noémi Knobil, Jill Vágner, Elina Huber, CH 2023

FANTASTIC SWISS: **Crevette**, Sven Bachmann, Noémi Knobil, Jill Vágner, Elina Huber, CH 2023

SPECIAL MENTION SWISS JURY: **Armat**, Élodie Dermange, CH 2022

AUDIENCE AWARD : **La colline aux cailloux**, Marjolaine Perreten, CH 2023

SWISS YOUTH AWARD: **La colline aux cailloux**, Marjolaine Perreten, CH 2023

SPECIAL MENTION YOUTH JURY: **Think Something Nice** Claudius Gentinetta, CH 2022

FLYING ANIDOC AWARD: **Beautiful Figures** Soetkin Verstegen, BE/CH 2022

KIDS FILM COMPETITION

Kids Jury: Emiliana, Emma, Ivan, Ilvy, Jana et Maximilian

BEST KIDS: **The Pirate and the Cello**, Andreï Sokolov, RU 2023

SPECIAL MENTION KIDS : **Entre deux soeurs**, Anne-Sophie Gousset, Clément Céard, FR 2022

AUDIENCE AWARD: **The Pirate and the Cello**, Andreï Sokolov, RU 2023

SWISS ANIMATION INDUSTRY AWARD

Jury: Sandra Golay (Get it Studio), Julia Weiss (Studio Way) et Oliver Aemisegger (Frame Eleven)

SWISS ANIMATION INDUSTRY AWARD: **Never shake a Baby** Guillaume Mégroz, CH 2023

SPECIAL MENTION ART DIRECTION: **Crows – Nature is watching us** Patrick Graf, CH 2023

SPECIAL MENTION EXCELLENT CRAFTSMANSHIP: **IWC – Ingénieur** Roman Kälin, CH 2023

SPECIAL MENTION STORYTELLING: **Megawhat!?** Thierry Schwob, CH 2022