

41 Animated Projects Heading to CEE Animation Forum 2021

CEE Animation Forum reveals its selections, having received a record number of submissions with high representation of authors from Central and Eastern Europe. The line-up of 41 animated projects features Student Academy Award-winning or shortlisted filmmakers but also debut works. Due to the present Covid-19 situation, the upcoming edition of the CEE Animation Forum will take place online in two stages. The traditional pitching competition, newly expanded to 5 categories, will be held April 26 – 29, and the additional industry programme in May 4 – 6.

For its 9th edition, the organizers received a record number of 116 submissions from 27 countries. From among these, a committee of international experts has made a final selection of projects to be pitched. The majority of the selected teams come from Central and Eastern Europe: 6 from Hungary, 4 from France and Slovakia, 3 from Czech Republic, Germany, Slovenia, 2 from Croatia, Cyprus, Netherlands, Lithuania, Poland, Spain and 1 project from Bulgaria, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine.

“We received a record number of submissions this year, with balanced representation of Central and Eastern European countries and the most developed markets of Western Europe. Each year demonstrates that the quality of works originating from the region of Central and Eastern Europe is improving very rapidly, which is very motivating for us and for the industry. Compared to 2017, we have almost doubled the number of projects in competition, and from two categories we have increased to a total of five, including Rising Stars, a student short films category we are introducing for the first time this year” adds Matija Sturm.

This year has shown fairly equal representation for women. In a total of 42 projects, the percentage of female directors is 47% and producers 46%. Representation in Heads of sections is 100% female: Zofia Jaroszuk (feature films), Reka Temple (series & TV specials), Aneta Ozorek (short films), Manu Weiss (XR projects) and Gyorgyi Falvai (Rising Stars).

New category: Rising Stars

The purpose of launching the Rising Stars section is, on the one hand, to increase the quality of school projects through the challenge of experiencing a real market situation. On the other hand, CEE Animation would like to initiate a dialogue between the schools in the region. *“We are all eagerly looking forward to meeting new talents and seeing the future engines of regional animation. Schools are the most important*

workshops of unrestricted creations where the animation profession can refresh from and where new trends are born, which is why we have to pay attention to them,” explains Gyorgyi Falvai, Head of the section. Students will get the same opportunity as other pitch participants: to meet mentors, get professional feedback, network, and the best will also be awarded.

A coaching programme for teams

All of the pitching project teams are starting with coaching in March: the first session is with Bonnie Williams, which will be followed by 1:1 direct consultations provided by Matthieu Darras, Bonnie Williams and Katrin Nandelstadt. *“Each project receives access to the introductory and two individual coaching sessions, so we will provide 84 individual sessions in the upcoming weeks to assist project teams when preparing for both the pre-recorded video pitch and 1:1 meetings with juries and industry representatives”* adds Matija Sturm.

Although the online version can limit personal connections, the organizers have kept their goal of creating a space for networking and exchanging information between film professionals. Everyone registered will have the possibility to meet with international co-producers, world sales agents, broadcasters, streaming platforms, distributors, representatives of public funds and financiers in more than 400 individual meetings organized in advance.

Project selection

CATEGORY FEATURE FILMS

Birds Don't Look Back

Director: Nadia Nackle

Producer: Sebastien Onomo, Special Touch Studios

Country: France

Blaise

Director: Dimitri Planchon

Producer: Alexandre Gavras, KG Productions

Country: France

Dreamworld

Director: Veljko Popovic, Milivoj Popovic

Producer: Milivoj Popovic, Veljko Popovic, Prime Render d.o.o.

Country: Croatia

Grizzlebetter

Producer: Tania Assova, Zographic Films Ltd.

Country: Bulgaria

Senior Crush

Director: Orsolya Richolm

Producer: Andrea Ausztrics, Umbrella Kreatív Műhely Kft.

Country: Hungary

The Night Falls over Madrid

Director: Daniel V. Villamediana, David Epiney
Producer: Eugenia Mumenthaler, Alina film
Country: Switzerland

Vast Blue Antarctica

Director: Christos Panagos
Producer: Charalambos Margaritis, Kimonos Animation Studio
Country: Cyprus

CATEGORY SERIES & TV SPECIALS

(only series in the selection)

Anselmo Wannabe

Director: Massimo Ottoni
Producer: Federico Turani, Ibrido
Country: Italy

Bogboy

Director: Jack O'Shea
Producer: Paul Ruttledge, Bogboy Productions Limited
Country: Ireland

Deivit and Lisa

Director: Alessandro Di Renzo, Mario Tarragó
Producer: Mario Tarrago, Alessandro Di Renzo
Country: Spain

Mitch-Match

Director: Geza M. Toth
Producer: Geza M. Toth, KEDD Animation Studio
Country: Hungary

Robot and the Martians

Director: Tomasz Niedzwiedz
Producer: Tomasz Paziewski, Badi Badi
Country: Poland

Rosie and Sapphire

Director: Anna Katalin Lovrity
Producer: Balint Gelley, CUB Animation Ltd.
Country: Hungary

Starting with Hope

Director: Sonia Velvien
Producer: Kèota Dengmanara, Moukda Production
Country: France

The Olive Bunch

Director: Magnus Kravik
Producer: Maria Pavlou, Pixel giants
Country: Cyprus

What the Old Moon Tells

Director: Eliza Plocieniak-Alvarez
Producer: Carol Ratajczak, Blaue Pampelmuse
Country: Germany

Zhuzha Fixes the World

Director: Oleksandra Ruban

Producer: Kateryna Kopylova, Sashko Chubko, Trident Film

Country: Ukraine

CATEGORY SHORT FILMS

Albert

Director: Szandra Pataki

Producer: Krisztina Endrenyi, Mythberg Films Kft.

Country: Hungary

Autumn

Director: Wojciech Sobczyk

Producer: Aneta Zagorska, Robert Sowa, Krakow Film Klaster - Centrum Animacji w Krakowie

Country: Poland

Electra. A Poem

Director: Daria Kashcheeva

Producer: Zuzana Krivkova, MAUR film s.r.o.

Country: Czech Republic

Hello Summer

Director: Martin Smatana

Producer: Martin Smatana, Studio Bororo

Country: Slovakia

Ibis

Director: Maria Burgues, Enric Sant

Producer: Maria Burgues, BLISS PICTURES

Country: Spain

Milu's dog

Director: Daniel Gray

Producer: Bella Szederkenyi, CUB Animation

Country: Hungary

Nut Cake

Director: Meinardas Valkevicius

Producer: Akvile Bliujute – Januse, JSC Meinart

Country: Lithuania

Patrick in Town

Director: Eszter Sandor, Valentina Huckova

Producer: Valentina Huckova, Young Glass Noodle

Country: Slovakia

Sivužas

Director: Ignas Meilunas

Producer: Juste Beniusyte, Vilniaus Primavera

Country: Lithuania

Sugar, Blood & Insulin. Diary of a Type 1 Diabetic

Director: Thijs Koole

Producer: Diana Hentulescu, Moukda Production

Country: France

Unspoken

Director: Misia Mormina, Engin Karabagli
Producer: Engin Karabagli, Misia Mormina, Emegro B.V.
Country: Netherlands

CATEGORY XR IMMERSIVE MEDIA

Finding Frida

Director: Hilde Kristin Kjøs
Producer: Bjørn-Morten Nerland, Stargate Media AS
Country: Norway

Fruits on the Tube

Director: Klaas-Harm de Boer
Producer: Vincent Lindenboom, Next Empire BV
Country: Netherlands

Swarm

Director: Maarten Isaak de Heer
Producer: Maarten Isaak de Heer, Menetekel Film
Country: Germany

CATEGORY RISING STARS

Beyond the Face

Director: Anja Resman
Producer: Bostjan Potokar, School of Arts - University of Nova Gorica
Country: Slovenia

Desire to Win

Director: Michaela Rezova
Producer: Zuzana Bukovinska, Academy of Arts, Architecture & Design in Prague
Country: Czech Republic

Forgive

Director: Alzbeta Macakova Misejkova
Producer: Jiri Pecinovsky, Film and TV School of Academy of Performing Arts in Prague – FAMU
Country: Czech Republic

Holes

Director: Sofiya Kruglikova
Producer: Academy of Fine Arts and Design - University of Ljubljana
Country: Slovenia

Kurent

Director: Miha Reja
Producer: Bostjan Potokar, School of Arts - University of Nova Gorica
Country: Slovenia

Light Year Apart

Director: Viktoria Taranova
Producer: Michaela Cermakova, Film and TV Faculty of the Academy of the Performing Arts – VŠMU
Country: Slovakia

Orange You Glad

Director: Daniel Sterlin-Altman

Producer: Daniel Sterlin-Altman, Filmuniversität Babelsberg Konrad Wolf

Country: Germany

Silo

Director: Ema Nemcovicova

Producer: Film and TV Faculty of the Academy of the Performing Arts – VŠMU

Country: Slovakia

The Last Drop

Director: Anna Tokes

Producer: Jozsef Fulop, Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design Budapest – MOME

Country: Hungary

The Perfect Gift

Director: Kristina Penava

Producer: The Academy of Arts and Culture in Osijek

Country: Croatia

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