

Anima Brussels is loaded with contemporary Czech animation

In the second half of 2022, the Czech Republic will hold the Presidency of the European Union and as part of this occasion, this year's Anima Brussels festival holds "CZECH-IN", an extensive focus on Czech animation organized in collaboration with the Czech Centre in Brussels, the Anifilm festival and Czech Film Center (division of the Czech Film Fund). Anima Brussels will screen Czech features and short films, with the participation of Czech filmmakers and representatives of Czech film schools.

The official festival programme will present 4 Czech exceptional animated feature films – *My Sunny Maad* by Michaela Pavlátová (Jury Award in Annecy, Golden Globe nomination, 2021), *Even Mice Belong in Heaven* by Denisa Grimmová and Jan Bubeníček (European Film Award nomination, 2021), *A Colourful Dream* by Jan Balej (Czech Lion Award in 2021) and Czech minority co-production *The Crossing* by Florence Mialhe (Jury Distinction in Annecy 2021). You can browse the programme [HERE](#).

Industry programme of the festival, **Futuranima**, organizes the evening meetings dedicated to certain directors, and one of them will be dedicated to Michaela Pavlátová (March 2) and one to Florence Mialhe (March 4), who will both introduce their celebrated films in person within the meetings.

This year's edition of Anima Brussels will also screen 4 Czech animated shorts, which have been selected for various sections of the festival. *Red Shoes* by Anna Podskalská, which premiered in Cannes' Cinéfondation last year, enriches festival's international competition for adult audiences, which also includes *The Gypsy Dance* by Radka Lacková competing in Watch and Dance section for music videos. International competition for young audiences will screen *Sounds Between the Crowns* by Filip Diviak, *Rubic's Cube* by Krystsina Ramanava is part of the Animated Night selection.

In addition, 41st Anima also holds two Czech compilations of current Czech animation, which have been curated by Pavel Horáček, the artistic director of Czech Anifilm Festival. **Chic Czech**, focused on children spectators, will offer a colorful palette of Czech animated shorts from recent years. Some of the works resonated at the international level – such as *The Kite* by Martin Smatana (Berlinale's Generation Kplus in 2019) or *The Concrete Jungle* by Marie Urbánková (Clermont-Ferrand ISFF 2020).

The selection of **Czech This!** aims to show the range of Czech animation for older audience, and includes Oscar nominated and Student Oscar winning *Daughter* by Daria Kashcheeva, Diana Cam Van Nguyen's *Love, Dad*, which won prizes at Toronto IFF or BFI London last year, *Sisters* by Andrea Szelesová (Annecy 2021) or *Washing Machine* by Alexandra Májová (Clermont Ferrand 2021). Czech guests will also take part in the Czech This! programme. The Focus will open legendary Czech animator Jiří Barta with a presentation of his upcoming animated feature film *Golem*. Daria Kashcheeva will most probably also be present, both at the screening of her film *Daughter* and as part of the presentations of **Czech film schools**.

The presentation of Tomas Bata University in Zlín and Prague's FAMU, which will be held within Futuranima on February 28th, also features several Czech animated shorts with international reputation – such as *Happy End* by Jan Saska (Cannes Quinzaine des Réalisateurs 2016), *S P A C E S* by Nora Štrbová (Visions du Réel 2020) or *Fruits of Clouds* Kateřina Karhánková (Annecy 2017),

representing FAMU, and *Old Gramophone's Ghostly Tones* by Kryštof Ulbert, Martina Tomková and Zuzana Čupová or *Leaf* by Aliona Baranova (Berlinale's Generation Kplus 2020). Aliona Baranova will be one of the guests of the presentation.

You can watch all short films at [Anima Online](#).

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