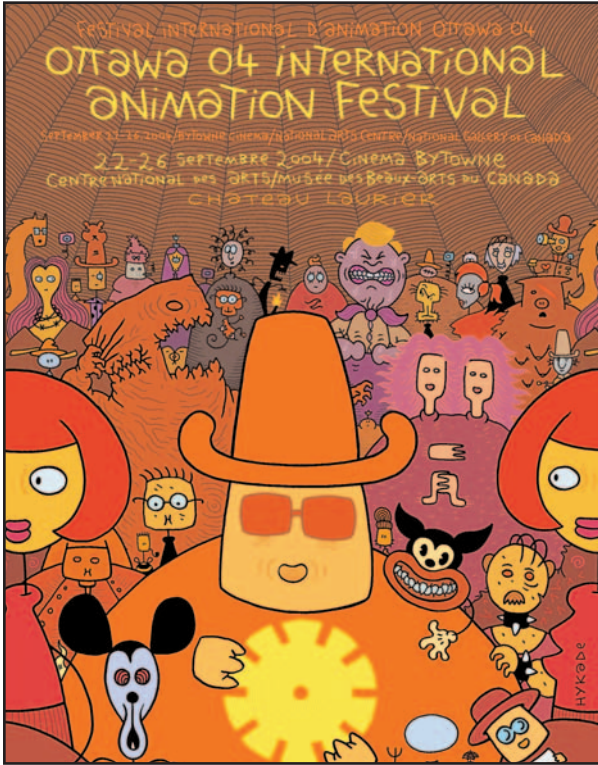


THE BEST OF OTTAWA 2004

A film program highlighting a variety of the award winning films from the 2004 Ottawa International Animation Festival.



THE OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FESTIVAL

Founded in 1975 by the Canadian Film Institute, the Ottawa International Animation Festival is the largest festival of its kind in North America and one of the most respected animation festivals in the world.

This year the festival received a record number of entries with over 1900 film submissions from 61 countries around the world. Of the entries submitted, only 111 were chosen to compete in the festival's official competition, which took place September 22-26 in Ottawa, Ontario.

The selected films competed in four main competitions: feature film, new media, commissioned films, and independent short films. Prizes were awarded for each competition and individual competition category.

The Best of Ottawa program showcases these award winning animations in a variety of forms consisting of animated short films, TV series and commercials, music videos, internet shorts and more. This year's program includes the latest work from internationally renowned filmmakers Paul and Sandra Fierlinger, Gianluigi Toccafondo, Chris Landreth. The program include such films as the emotionally charged RYAN, Aardman Animations' CREATURE COMFORTS 'CATS OR DOGS', the reflective documentary A ROOM NEARBY, the infamous political parody THIS LAND, and the hilarious THE REVOLUTION OF THE CRABS which have also been awarded numerous international awards.

For further details about the Best of Ottawa 2004 program please contact André Coutu at 613-232-8769 or andrecoutu@magma.ca.

Join us at the 2005 Ottawa International Animation Festival taking place September 21-25. For more information regarding the Ottawa International Animation Festival please visit our website at www.awn.com/ottawa or email us at info@animationfestival.ca.

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2004 OIAF SIGNAL FILM #3 - ANIMATORS IN A POUCH [2004]

Éric Barbeau & Théodore Ushev / Canada / 0:50

The National Film Board of Canada produced three 45-second signal films, from filmmakers Théodore Ushev and Éric Barbeau, which were screened at each competition during the 2004 Ottawa International Animation Festival. Taking us back to the fifties, the films humorously demonstrate a number of products for animators.

After a stint in publishing, during which he developed and created numerous advertising campaigns, Éric Barbeau went back to school to study filmmaking. His student film *Astronap* (1998) was shown in festivals across Canada. Since graduating he has worked as a director, cinematographer and designer. His credits include a number of works for television and for the National Film Board of Canada (*Noël Noël Unwrapped*; Norman McLaren DVD), as well as advertising campaigns and industrial videos. In 2002, he directed the documentary *Mon Oncle André*, which screened at the 21st International Festival of Films on Art.



Born in Bulgaria, Theodore Ushev earned a master's degree in graphic and poster design at the National Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia in 1995. He taught there for several years before moving to Canada in 1999. Working primarily in electronic graphic design, he was hired as art director for INPIX Media. He now has his own design studio. Ushev has exhibited posters in Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Japan, Denmark and Russia. His digital animation films have been selected by many festivals, including Anney (*Dissociation* in 2002 and *Well-Tempered Heads* in 2003), Ottawa (*Early in Fall, Late in Winter* in 2002), Sundance, Rio de Janeiro and Leipzig. In 2003, *BOF* won the public's choice award at the Seoul and Barbizon festivals.



THE REVOLUTION OF THE CRABS (LA REVOLUTION DES CRABES) [2004]

Arthur de Pins / France / 5:00

AKA CARTOON PUBLIC PRIZE (voted by the audience)

*A humorous look at the life of *Pachygrapsus Marmoratus* otherwise know as the Marbled Rock Crab. One self-defeated crab discusses the tragedy that has pervaded his species for the last one hundred and twenty million years.*



Arthur de Pins has directed many animated films (*L'eau de rose*) and advertisements. His graduate film from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, *Géraldine*, has won a number of awards, including Best Student Film at the 2001 Anney Animation Festival and Best Undergraduate Film at 2001 Ottawa International Student Animation Festival.



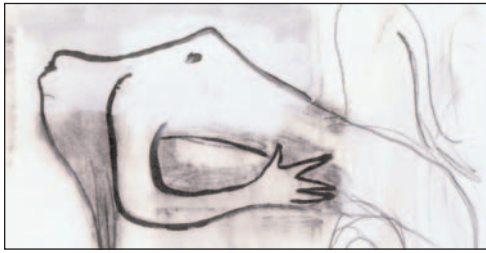
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN [2002]

Kuntzel + Deygas / USA, United Kingdom / 2:30

BEST STATION-PROGRAMME IDENTIFICATION / TITLE SEQUENCE

*With a jazzy soundtrack composed by John Williams, the opening title sequence for Steven Spielberg's sixties' inspired caper *Catch Me If You Can* prepares the audience for the cat and mouse exploits of the film's characters.*

For the past 10 years Kuntzel + Deygas have been working together on the crossover between animation and sophisticated design. They have produced some of Europe's highest profile animated work such as *Stylish Girl*, *Sacre Francais* for Dimitri from Paris, *Fantastic Plastic Machine*, and the Yves Saint Laurent campaign. They have staged art exhibitions throughout the world for the Winney art project. They have also directed short films, art directed exhibitions at Colette and recently created an ephemeral restaurant for Ferrarelle.



LA PICCOLA RUSSIA [2003]

Gianluigi Toccafondo / France, Italy / 16:30
BEST NARRATIVE SHORT FILM UNDER 35 MINUTES

The characters and events are imaginary, the locations are real and make up the centre of Italy, crossing the regions of Marches, Romagna, the Apennines and the Adriatic sea, called: Little Russia. Throughout the film the beautiful yet dark images ultimately tell a tale of loneliness.

Gianluigi Toccafondo studied at the Urbino Institute of Art. His many short films have been screened at internationally recognized festivals such as the Annecy Animation Festival and the Holland Animation Festival. He has also created animated portraits of political figures for Avanzi, as well as several television logos. He has made commercials for such companies as Levi jeans and is also an artist, showing his work regularly in Europe.



SADDAM AND OSAMA [2003]

David Wachtenheim & Robert Marianetti / USA / 3:40
BEST TELEVISION SPECIAL and MIKE GRIBBLE PEEL OF LAUGHTER AWARD
(most hilarious film in competition)

The film takes a satirical look at current political issues in today's society. As a part of the Abu Dhabi Network for Kids, Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden are able to elude US troops with their magical powers. Hmm... maybe that's how Bin Laden got away.



Wachtenheim/Marianetti LLC is an award-winning studio founded by David Wachtenheim and Robert Marianetti and is best known for producing animation for Robert Smigel's *TV Funhouse* on Saturday Night Live. They have also produced artwork for The New Yorker, Playboy, and RandomHouse. They are currently working on a series for Cartoon Network (*Stroker and Hoop*) which has been picked up for 12 episodes. The series goes into production this fall for a 2005 debut.



CANDY VENERY [2004]

Sergey Aniskov / Russia, USA / 2:30
BEST ANIMATED SHORT MADE FOR THE INTERNET

Candy: crystallized sugar formed by boiling down sugar syrup. Venerly: the art, act, or practice of hunting. As the title suggests, bloodshed begins as one powerful child cries for the candy of another powerful child.



Sergey Aniskov is an award winning animation visionary and former Moscow State Theater set designer, whose films have been featured in film festivals throughout the world. He attended college in Kansas City and became the animation director at Rumpus, a new media company producing works for children. He is Head of Animation for New York's Animation Collective.



A MUSICAL SHOP [2003]

Sonya Kravtsova / Russia / 12:30
BEST FILM MADE FOR CHILDREN

A fairy tale about two crickets that open a music shop and their first customers, a mother and her two "brilliant" children. Not understanding that you need to learn to play beautiful music, the fly and her children blames the children's inability to play the music properly on the store.



Sofia Kravtsova graduated from the art department of The All-Union Institute of Cinematography at Kemerovo Art College. At times taking on different roles, she has worked as an assistant art designer and as an art designer on films such as *Timun and Narval*. Her directorial debut was in 2002 with the film *From Robber's Life*.



THE SHINING IN 30 SECONDS, RE-ENACTED BY BUNNIES [2004]

Jennifer Shiman / USA / 0:30

BEST INTERNET SERIES

A 30-second summary of the Stanley Kubrick film The Shining, re-enacted by bunnies. Other films in the series include Jaws, The Exorcist, Titanic and Alien.



Jennifer Shiman has an undergraduate degree in International Business and a graduate degree in Media Studies. She started her company Angry Alien Productions in 1998 and has produced many successful 30-second shorts.



PRUDENCE 'À TORT OU À RAISON' [2004]

Joris Clerté & Philippe Massonet / France / 2:03

BEST MUSIC VIDEO

Three friends sit around a table drinking red wine as drawings on a table cloth become animated.



One day in 1991, just after finishing his Fine Arts studies, Joris Clerté tried his hand at making an animated short. He fell in love with this new form. Since then, he has directed animated advertisements and music videos. When he isn't animating, he spends his time singing.



CREATURE COMFORTS 'CATS OR DOGS?' [2003]

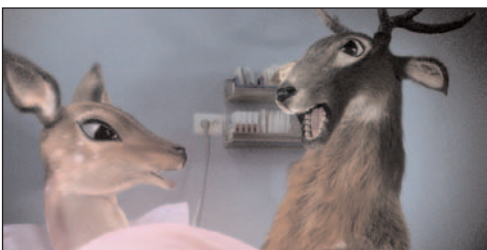
Richard Golezowski / United Kingdom / 8:45

BEST TELEVISION SERIES FOR ADULTS

The follow-up to the internationally renowned Nick Park short Creature Comforts. This time the question is Cats or Dogs? The wild animals and domestic pets of the British Isles share their opinions on why they think dogs are better than cats and vice versa.



Richard Golezowski has a degree in Fine Arts from Exeter. He was an illustrator and DJ before joining Aardman Animations where he worked on short films and commercials. He wrote and directed episodes of the acclaimed TV show *Rex the Runt* and has directed for the BBC Animation Unit, winning numerous awards.



CAISSE D'EPARGNE 'LES TRIPLES' [2003]

Jean-Christophe Saurel & Sophie Deiss / France / 0:35

BEST ADVERTISING FILM

The action takes place in a maternity ward; a female deer is about to give birth, as her emotional mate looks on. Little does the latter know that he is about to become the proud father of triplets. At this point, the squirrel (Caisse d'Epargne's longstanding symbol) steps in, bringing a gift for the happy event and providing reassurance to the rather shaken father.



A ROOM NEARBY [2004]

Paul Fierlinger & Sandra Fierlinger / USA / 27:00

GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST COMMISSIONED FILM

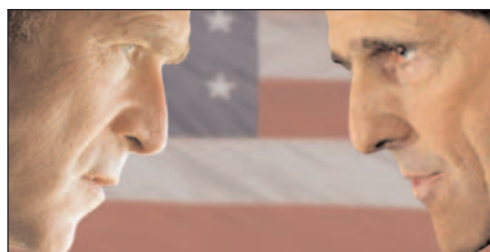
This PBS special recounts five people's experiences with loneliness including one told by Milos Forman internationally acclaimed director of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and Amadeus.



Paul Fierlinger graduated from the Bechyne School of Applied Arts. He was Czechoslovakia's first independent producer of animated films, creating approximately 200. He worked for Universal Pictures and was hired by Concept Films to animate political campaigns. He formed AR&T Associates, Inc., producing over 700 films, many receiving considerable recognition. In 2000, his short film *Drawn From Memory* won the Grand Prize for Best Commissioned film at the OIAF.



Sandra Fierlinger, a fine arts painter, graduated from the Boston Museum of Art School and Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts. Along with Paul Fierlinger she developed a series of interstitials for Nickelodeon, a Sesame Street series, and a film for The Children's Book of the Month Club. The Fierlingers received the Peabody Award in 2002.



THIS LAND [2004]

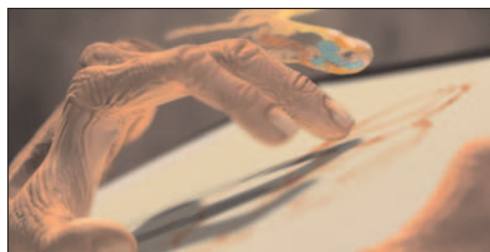
Gregg Spiridellis & Evan Spiridellis / USA / 2:00

GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST NEW MEDIA WORK

Political satire at its best, George Bush and John Kerry battle in song for the hearts and minds of American voters.



The Spiridellis brothers started JibJab Media in 1999 to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunity for two guys in a Brooklyn garage to broadcast their animations worldwide using the Internet. Since then, millions of people have visited JibJab.com, over half a million have signed up for their newsletter, and the Spiridellis Brothers' work has appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw, The Today Show, CBS Early Morning Show, CNN, Fox News and many more. The brothers' have also produced online advertising campaigns for Sony, Kraft, Disney, Revlon, Cartoon Network and others. Gregg writes the words. Evan draws the pictures.



RYAN [2004] *

Chris Landreth / Canada / 13:50

NELVANA GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST INDEPENDENT SHORT FILM

The film Ryan is based on the tragic life of animator, Ryan Larkin. In the 1960's Ryan Larkin was the 19-year-old protégé of Norman McLaren, one of the most honoured filmmakers in Canada. Larkin made one of the most influential animation films of all time, Walking (1968). Now Ryan Lives on welfare and panhandles for spare change in downtown Montreal. How could such an artistic genius follow this path?



Chris Landreth has an MS degree in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from the University of Illinois and joined Alias Wavefront in 1994. At Alias Wavefront he has made the animated shorts *The End* (1995) and *Bingo* (1998) which have received recognition and awards, including an Academy Award nomination for Best Animated Short Film and a Genie Award. At OIAF 1998, *Bingo* was awarded the Media Prize for Best Computer Animation.



2004 OIAF SIGNAL FILM #3 - TV DINNERS [2004]

Éric Barbeau & Théodore Ushev / Canada / 0:50

The National Film Board of Canada produced three 45-second signal films, from filmmakers Théodore Ushev and Éric Barbeau, which were screened at each competition during the 2004 Ottawa International Animation Festival. Taking us back to the fifties, the films humorously demonstrate a number of products for animators.

BEST OF OTTAWA 2004 PROGRAMME



SON OF SATAN [2003] *

JJ Villard / USA / 12:30

BEST FIRST OR STUDENT FILM

Times were not always good when you were a kid. Bullying, cussing, and growing up are a part of what life is about.



JJ Villard was born in England, though most of his life he has lived in California. He claims: "Making it in animation is tough, especially if you piss green and everyone else yellow." His student films have won prestigious awards at international festivals including the Grand Prize at the 2003 Ottawa International Student Animation Festival for *Son of Satan*.

**The film RYAN may not be included in the Best of Ottawa 2004 program at certain venues. In this case, the festival will screen the Best First or Student Film SON OF SATAN by JJ Villard.*

BEST OF OTTAWA 2004 FILM CONTACTS

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