

TOP ANIMATION SHORTS 2016

CONTRIBUTORS & CHOICES:

Milen Alempijevic, Animanima (Serbia):

SCENERY (Original title: Decorado), Direction & script: Alberto Vázquez / Spain, France, 2016, 12:00, 2D Computer

Production: UniKo & Autour de Minuit

Simulacrum rules. Bizarre heroes in chiaroscuro world of illusions.

LOVE, Direction & Script: Réka Bucsí / Hungary, 2016, 14:00, 2D Computer

Production: Boddah

Animals, genies, planets. Everyone needs love.

THE HEAD VANISHES, Direction & script: Franck Dion / France, 2016, 9:28, 2D Computer

Original title: Une Tête disparaît

Production: Papy3D Productions

A witty story of mother-daughter relationship and melancholy.

Vanja Andrijevic, Bonobo Studio (Croatia):

Impossible Figures and Other Stories II, Marta Pajek

The Empty, Dahee Jeong

Blind Vaysha, Theodore Ushev

Maria Anestopoulou, Animasyros (Greece):

1. Love, Reka Buschi

2. The Head Vanishes, Franck Dion

3. Decorado, Alberto Vazquez

Bea Bartolomé Sacristán, José Luis Farias Gomez, 3D Wire (Spain)

'Decorado', Alberto Vázquez

'Happy End', Jan Saska

'Dissonance', Till Nowak

Olga Bobrowska, StopTrik Festival (Poland):

These are my 3 titles:

- 1/ "Monkey", dir. Shen Jie
- 2/ "Tango", dir. Pedro Giongo, Francisco Gusso
- 3/ "How Long, Not Long", dir. Uri & Michelle Kranot

Michał Bobrowski (Poland):

- 1/ "Parade de Satie" dir. Koji Yamamura
- 2/ "Datum Point", dir. Ryo Orikasa
- 3/ "Fenwick Island", dir. Shane Beam

Maroš Brojo, Fest Anča (Slovakia):

Eternal Hunting Grounds (Elin Grimstad, Norway, Estonia, 2016): Mystical and macabre fairytale with a dense atmosphere, wonderful art, amazing multi-level glass animation and a story that makes you think about your own mortality.

Nighthawk (Špela Čadež, Slovenia, Croatia, 2016): Dark story about alcoholism as a means of searching for a way home that is more and more distant. Mesmerizing demonstration of how traditional animation can still be incredibly stunning.

Love (Réka Bucsi, France, Hungary, 2016): Biggest move forward by a young author. Réka managed to tie together metaphorical images from her exuberant imagination and crafted a complex representation of various stages of love that is very relatable.

Konstantin Bronzit (Russia):

The Head Vanishes, Franck Dion
LÖSS, Yi Zhaoa
Edmond, Nina Gantz

Špela Čadež (Slovenia):

"Erlking", Georges Schwizgebel
"Before Love" Igor Kovalyov
"Broken – The Women's Prison at Hoheneck" Volker Schlecht, Alexander Lahl

Petrit Gora, Anibar (Kosovo)

1. Way of giants, Alois di Leo (Brazil)
2. A coat made dark, Jack O'Shea (Ireland)
3. Wild Fire, Hugues Opter, Pierre Pinon, Nicole Stafford, Valentin Stoll, Arnaud Tribaut, Shang Zhang (France)

Pavel Horáček, Anifilm (Czech Republic):

Decorado, Alberto Vasquez
Gaidot jauno gadu / Waiting for the New Year, Vladimir Leschiov
Črna Volga / Black Volga, Marta Wiktorowicz

Uri Kranot (Denmark):

Love- Reka Bucsi: A very unpredictable take on a familiar subject.
Peripheria- David Coquard-dassault: For its overwhelming non-narrative atmosphere.
Jul & the Snake- Gabriel Harel: Simple design that carries a heavy weight story.

Cristina Lima, CINANIMA (Portugal):

For their aesthetics, wit and impact on the spectator:

La Table by Eugène Boitsov – France
Vaysha, L'Aveugle / Blind Vaysha by Theodore Ushev - Canada
Among the Black Waves by Anna Budanova – Russia

Chiara Magri, Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, Piemonte (Italy):

Analysis Paralysis, Anete Melece, CH 2016
Forever, Zhong Su, China, 2016
Nighthawk, Spela Cadez, Slovenia, 2016

Joni Männistö (Finland):

There were quite many good films I saw this year, so it was naturally a hard task to choose just three. I ended up choosing three films that somehow impressed, moved or surprised me.

1. I Think You're a Little Confused, Iku Ogawa, (Tokyo University of the Arts) Japan, 2016
2. Nighthawk, Špela Čadež, (Finta Film, RTV Slovenia, Bonobostudio), Slovenia / Croatia, 2016
3. Black, Tomasz Popakul (Tomasz Popakul), Poland / Japan, 2016

Mew Lab (Shaun Clark & Kim Noce, UK):

Peripheria, David Coquard-Dassault: *Peripheria* is a film that transcends genre and technique and requires several viewings to be fully appreciated. The whole film relies on the attention to detail, small changes and permutation of the environment. The film culminates into an anticlimax which does not answer but questions you.

Johnno's Dead, Chris Shepherd: The film smacks you around the head and punches you in the stomach. The multi layered use of animation combined with live action sees Chris in familiar territory as he carries on where "Dads Dead" left off. Ian Hart is back on fine form voicing the film with such an energetic from the heart performance. Gritty and gripping stuff!

Borderlines, Hanna Novakova: The graduation short from Hanna Novakova is a remarkably simple and profound metaphor looking at unity and division. During this troubled 2016 this film stirs deep emotion in the viewers and brings a glimmer of hope.

Tomm Moore (Ireland):

Blind Vaysha - I love what i have already seen of Theodore Ushev's work so i was looking forward to this short . The woodblock print style is beautiful and expertly done, I'm amazed at how well it translates into animation , especially the split screen point of view scenes . The story itself and the direction were what really made me put this one top of my list - the folktale-like story is so relevant to todays world where we are still so lost in thoughts of the past and concerns for the future that we cannot see the present moment. We are all like Blind Vaysha I think, at least I know I am. A great, expertly crafted short.

Once Upon a Line - this short was recommended to me by a programmer at Klik festival in Amsterdam , Tünde Vollenbroek. It' s a remarkable example of the power of 2d animation to tell a compelling story with just a minimum of detail. The diametric opposite of highly rendered CGI stereoscopic animation , this pared down style is no less sophisticated and in fact is all the more poetic for being so sparse. Part of the pleasure of watching this ill fated love story is simply the minimalist visual fun director Alicja Jasina has with constructing each scene with just a few spare seemingly disconnected elements.

Pear, Cider and Cigarettes by Robert Valley is another favourite from this year's amazing crop of short films. It tells a personal and tragic story of the directors childhood friend "Techno Stypes", a charismatic and charming self destructive dare devil and "party animal" who succumbs to addiction . Stylishly designed and animated with a comic book style visual language it is a compelling film that is beautiful to look at and heart breakingly true to life. The whole film feels like it is constructed from dream like memories.

All first person POV snapshots and atmosphere , focusing on hazy half remembered details rather than explicit exposition to build up a portrait of the ill fated subject. The narration provides a poignant connective tissue for the visual elements that really brings home the personal nature of the story , leaving us feeling like we have somehow gotten to know not just Techno but the filmmaker as well.

Paolo Polesello (Germany):

Tres Moscas a Medida / Three Fitted Flies, by Maria Alvarez and Elisa Morais. My coup de coeur: in a village a widow performs an absurd ritual in memory of his late husband. The "ugly" drawing style and the absurdity of the narration remind me of Priit Pärn.

Vaysha l'aveugle (Blind Vaysha) by Theodore Ushev. By telling the story of a girl who can see the past with one eye and the future with the other, Theo Ushev makes a reflection on the meaning of seeing. And on stereoscopy, too.

Decorado by Alberto Vazquez. All the world is a stage, seem to tell us all the characters of this absurd tale full with black humour. The engravings style of the background ("decorado" in spanish) can be seen also as a homage to the surrealist painter Max Ernst.

Aglaia Pantelaki, Be there! Corfu Animation Festival (Greece):

- 1) "Catherine", Britt Raes : Witty, funny and bittersweet at the same time, catching the viewer's attention with its imaginative story and fast scene changes.
- 2) "Cartas / Letters", David Mussel (2016, Brazil) : A touching narration of a whole life intertwines with Vivaldi's Four Seasons, resulting in a Gesamtkunstwerk-like animation short film.
- 3) "Schirkoa", Ishan Shukla (2016, India) : A cleverly set multilevel metaphoric capture of today's life and values, the outer and the inner world.

Igor Prassel, Animateka (Slovenia):

Nighthawk, Špela Čadež (Finta/RTV Slovenia/Bonobostudio) Slovenia/Croatia, 2016, 8'46": For a masterful antropomorphic depiction of alcoholism through the use of multiplan cut-out animation.

Black, Tomazs Popakul (Poland, 2016, 14'05") : A tight script with spare dialogue in which every word counts. Sparse art direction in minimal black and white, and a fearlessly simple use of CGI makes this film surprisingly emotional. (Animateka 2016 grand jury explanation for the Grand Prix)

Blind Vaysha, Theodore Ushev (NFB/Arte France), Canada/France, 2016, 8': An astonishing adaptation of a literary piece through a postmodern playing with the narrative and beautiful images.

Pedro Rivero (Spain):

LÖSS, Yi Zhaoa: The work of a great artist with amazing visual technique and a masterful sense of pacing

PUSSY, Renata Gasiorowska: A smart idea that becomes in a funny experience

HOW ARE YOU TODAY?, Sophia Markatatos: Full of heart and humor in which all of us can recognize ourselves

Sarah Saidan (France):

1. Impossible Figures and other stories II by Marta Pajek: Brilliantly animated and effective use of metaphors in this witty but serious film about a woman's life, that reminds us of the power of animation to tell personal stories.
2. The reflection of power – Mihai Grecu: The beautiful use of metaphor, and the visual poetry in this film is especially refreshing. Reflection of power is haunting, powerful and unforgettable.
3. Before Love by Igor Kovalyov: Chris Robinson said to me « there is animation, and then there is Kovalyov! ». I think that is exactly why I do not know how to describe my admiration for Igor Kovalyov's films, only that « Before Love » is another gem that not only does not disappoint but finds more humour in the absurdity of life.

Mateusz Solarz, Etiuda & Anima (Poland):

Festival producer & Anima competition coordinator

1. Blind Vaysha - Theodore Ushev

2. Šuma - Lucija Mrzljak (student film)
3. In the Distance - Florian Grolig

Daniel Suljic, Animafest Zagreb (Croatia):

Lists are fun and no fun, because the choice is hard and art is not sport. But who doesn't want to talk about his favourite stuff?

There could have been much more films on the lists, at least 40. Here are the toady's three!

Phil Mulloy - Endgame

Špela Čadež - Nighthawk

Marta Pajek - Figury niemożliwe i inne historie II (Impossible Figures and Other Stories II)

Theo Ushev (Canada):

Here are my 2 cents. I give my votes for 3 films, directed by women. Not because, as a fellow of mine says, "I'm a feminist". I think the most profound, interesting touching, personal and emotional films nowadays are coming out from female directors. I can make a full list of films, I saw and watched this year, I admit I missed some that I wanted and was curious to see. But my 3 films (not in a particular order) are:

Nighthawk, Špela Čadež

Impossible Figures and Other Stories II, I Marta Pajek

I like Girls, Diane Obomsawin

Nassos Vakalis (US):

From all the films I watched this year, "My Home" by Phuong Mai Nguyen was my favorite due to the allegorical way of depicting the presence of a new father in a household as seen from the eyes of the child. I also liked "In the distance" by Florian Grolig, again for the allegorical way of telling a simple but so true story about humanity.

Karin Vandenrydt, Anima (Belgium):

The Piano by Kaspas Jancis - It's a pure joy to watch this film full of humor, delicious absurdity, touching characters and nice design

Before Love by Igor Kovalyov - what a rich film, full of details both in terms of image and sound; one of those films that appeal to your instincts rather than to your intellect and that you can watch over and over again

Peripheria - David Coquard-Dassauls - the word 'unheimlich' pops immediately up when I think of this film -the alienating atmosphere that is created both with the image and the sound is so strong that it seems you've actually been there, in that strange abandoned place full of stray dogs

Steven Woloshen (Canada):

1. Three fitted Flies: proof that surrealism can exist within animation
2. It would piss me off to Die so Young, Filipe Abranches: A truly epic piece of animation.
3. Squame: A new, novel use use of sugar. A remarkable use of 3D technology as well.

About Zippy Frames :

Zippy Frames is an animation portal on European and independent animation. Since 2011, it covers animation shorts, reviews feature films, and devotes a special section to animation festivals. It has collaborated as a media partner in Animateka (Slovenia), StopTrik Festival (Maribor), Be there! Corfu Animation Festival, AnimaSyros (Greece), while been invited to cover various festivals (Animafest Zagreb, BIAF Korea, Anibar, Fest Anča, 3DWire, Anima Brussels) around the world. It publishes interviews with acclaimed animation auteurs, as well as professional and academic news and conferences. Legally represented by Scheriaa Productions.