

Feature film pitching section

CEE Animation Forum 2019



Project title: **Allah is Not Obligated / Allah n'est pas obligé**

Format: feature film

Length: 90 minutes

Logline: Birahima, a Guinean orphan of only ten years of age, tells the story of How he became a child soldier when he tried to join his aunt in Liberia with the help of four dictionaries and heavy irony.

Synopsis: When ten-year-old Birahima's mother dies, he leaves his native village in Côte d'Ivoire, accompanied by sorcerer and cook Yacouba, to search for his aunt Mahan. Crossing the border into Liberia, they are seized by rebels and forced into military service. Birahima becomes a child-soldier. Fighting in a chaotic civil war alongside many other boys, Birahima sees death, torture, dismemberment and madness but somehow manages to retain his own sanity.

Director's statement: Since 1980, increasing tensions between freedmen and natives in Liberia have led to a civil war bringing the country to its knees. Many of these atrocities were perpetrated by child soldiers, a macabre whirlwind that has had a devastating impact on an entire generation of children traumatized by their own crimes. This is the terrible topic of Ahmadou Kourouma's novel. The book immerses the reader in a terrifying conflict through the eyes of a kid named Birahima. It is a universal story tinged with dark humour. I wanted to make Kourouma's novel into an animated film, both to show the terrible fate of child soldiers, and to transform this pacifist manifesto into a film that is both funny and dark. I grew up hearing tragicomic stories of my family about everyday life during the Lebanese civil war. In the book, I found the same epic stories of scoundrels. Child soldiers are often depicted as bloodthirsty killing machines. Here, they are simply human beings forced to adapt to survive.

Primary target audience: all audiences

Animation technique: 3D (CGI)

Director (1): Zaven Najjar - Special Touch Studios - France

This French director and artistic director won fame on the internet in 2013 with the RapPosters illustration series available through a clothing line in partnership with the brand Quatre Cent Quinze, and sold at Chez Colette, Miami Art Basel, and Citadium. In the summer of 2015, he released *Un Obus Partout*, his first animated short film, produced by Caïman Productions and Arte, which won several festival awards, and a new illustration series called Pharapops made in partnership with Citadium. In 2016, he directed the animated opening credits of *Demain tout commence*, a film by Hugo Gélin starring Omar Sy and Clémence Poésy. Zaven Najjar studied animation at ENSAD and cinema at the SAIC in Chicago. After graduating, he built a career as a commercial director, graphic designer, and illustrator, notably for the Arab World Institute, the Grand Palais, Cinema Paradiso, Arte, Canal+, IWC Schaffhausen, Baume & Mercier, and Roger Dubuis.

Producer (1): Sébastien Onomo - Special Touch Studios - France

After a degree in Modern Literature obtained in 2008 from the Sorbonne Nouvelle, Sébastien Onomo joined INA (National Audiovisual Institute) where he obtained a Master's degree in audiovisual and digital production in 2010. It was at this time that he met Serge Lalou, producer and also the academic advisor of the Master's programme in audiovisual production of INA who asked him to join Les Films d'Ici as a producer. And he did, after a six-month experience with the Belgian company Entre Chien et Loup (Diana Elbaum and Sébastien Delloye), he joined Les Films d'Ici, aiming to develop and produce feature films, and continue to produce TV documentaries. In 2015, he co-founded the company Special Touch Studios with Olivier Laouchez. With his experience in audiovisual and digital production, Sébastien brings his expertise to various university and school programs like INA, La FEMIS, Les Gobelins, the University of Paris 7 – Diderot or the University of Paris 3 – Sorbonne Nouvelle. He is also an expert for CNC and regional funds. In 2017, he was appointed co-President of the French-speaking group within Unifrance together with Aïssa Maïga. Among the twenty or so films and television films produced by Sébastien Onomo, it is worth mentioning *Le Gang des Antillais* (2016) by Jean-Claude Barny, *Ebony* by Moussa Touré, or more recently *Funan* by Denis Do, awarded a Crystal for best animated feature film at the prestigious Annecy International Festival in 2018.

Production company: Special Touch Studios - 27 Mail du Maréchal Leclerc, 41 100 Vendome, France - sonomo@specialtouchstudios.com - +33609461028

Special Touch Studios is a production company created in 2015 by Sébastien Onomo. Its ambition is to bring out talents from diversity and to become an essential company in film production focusing on urban cultures, French-speaking and English-speaking Caribbean, and Africa.

Co-producer(s) confirmed: Paul Thiltges Distributions s.a.r.l - Luxembourg
Lunanime BVBA - Belgium

Estimated budget (EUR): 4,698,442

Funding secured (by source/country): Procirep/Angoa, France (EUR 3,400) - CNC, CVS, France (EUR 70,000) - CNC development fund (EUR 42,000) - CNC Co-development Grande Région (EUR 20,000) - Grand Est Région development, France (EUR 20,000) - Ciclic Animation development, France (EUR

25,000) - Media single Projet (EUR 60,000) - Film Fund Luxembourg (EUR 30,000) - Gkids USA (EUR 21,260)

1st person presenting the project at the pitch: Marion Boffelli - France - Head of development - Special Touch Studios - mboffelli@specialtouchstudios.com - +33 6 72 23 24 68

2nd person presenting the project at the pitch: Zaven Najjar - France - Director - Special Touch Studios - zaven.najjar@gmail.com - +33 6 81 45 94 74



Project title: **Babu in the Night City / Babu v nočním městě**

Format: feature film

Length: 75 minutes

Logline: A girl aged eight on a night trek through the city's periphery in search of a lost parrot. A children's film-noir detective story with elements of sci-fi, and also Petr Vodička's feature-length film debut. The script is based on his successful radio and theatre plays.

Synopsis: Following the mysterious disappearance of her dad, 8-year old Babu is often alone at home with her parrot. When a thief steals it, Babu sets off on a night-time expedition to save her animal friend. During her journey, she finds unexpected allies: an unsuccessful rapper, a night jogger and a homeless man. Together, they must overcome the mad Professor X who is able to transform humans into animals and vice versa. A film-noir detective puppet-animated story takes place in a contemporary night-time city where the inhabitants take on dimensions of fairy-tale characters and all the while don't lose touch with everyday social reality.

Director's statement: The theme, which thus far was produced as a theatre and a radio play, provides for me a solid torso onto which one can add some flesh of a puppetry treatment. When writing the script, I am ready to enrich the plot with new settings and characters, strengthen the detective story frame and also to provide more space for artistic elements in order to ensure that the planned fusion of puppets and street-art inspiration takes place. I am of the opinion that for the age group it is intended for, the roughly 75-minute length is in no way limiting, and using my extensive theatre experience I think it is possible to tell a story to its full potential without losing

anything in terms of depth. We aim to make multi-layered dialogues linked to the detective story plot to be interesting for the adult audience as well.

Primary target audience: A family film, children's audience aged 6–10, primary school target group.

Animation technique: stop-motion

Director (1): Petr Vodička - Produkce Radim Procházka - Czech Republic

Czech theatre and radio scriptwriter and director who focuses on children's productions. One after the other, he completed the first year at universities of nuclear physics, medicine and humanities before becoming addicted to puppet theatre – and thus went to study at DAMU (The Academy of Performing Arts in Prague) where he graduated. He has worked with leading Czech theatres, e.g. Prague's Minor Theatre. He has written and directed several plays for the (publicly-funded) Czech Radio, e.g. 'Babu and her Parrot' which was awarded a Prix Bohemia. His film debut, the puppet-animation short *Charlie the Snowman's Christmas Wedding* was recently released in French cinemas.

Producer (1): Radim Procházka - Produkce Radim Prochazka - Czech Republic

Prominent Czech producer and director. As producer, he is signed under 15 feature films, including 6 fiction films, that received Czech and international awards (e.g. *Schmitke* by Stepan Altrichter, Busan IFF, Best Debut – Cottbus IFF). His latest credit is the Latvian-Czech coproduction *D Is for Divison* (dir. Davis Simanis) released in the World Competition at Vision du Reel 2018. He is a member of EUROpean Film Academy and mentor at the international department of Prague's film school FAMU.

Production company: Produkce Radim Procházka - Rehorova 1039/54, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic - radim@radimprochazka.com - +420 603 862 161 - www.radimprochazka.com

Their recent domestic cinema blockbuster is the wildlife film *Wilder than Wilderness* that has attracted almost 100,000 viewers and was nominated for the Best Doc for Children and Youth ECFA Award 2018. Their latest credit in animation includes children's puppet-animation short *Charlie the Snowman's Christmas Wedding*, recently released in French cinemas.

Co-producer(s) confirmed: Studia Anima

Estimated budget (EUR): 1,000,000

Funding secured (by source/country): EUR 50,000 (EUR 37,000 – Czech Film Fund, EUR 13,000 – Studio Anima)

1st person presenting the project at the pitch: Radim Procházka – Czech Republic – producer - Produkce Radim Procházka - radim@radimprochazka.com - +420 603 862 161

2nd person presenting the project at the pitch: Petr Vodička – Czech Republic – director - Produkce Radim Procházka - petrvodicka@gmail.com - +420 777 134 419



Project title: **The Guardian of Legends / Powrót Strażnika Legend**

Format: feature film

Length: 90 minutes

Logline: When Jake gets stuck in a VR game controlled by the evil Hypnotist, his sister Madaleine together with Teddy Bear and the inhabitants of the game world frees Jake and the Legendary World from the malefactor's influence.

Synopsis: 7-year-old Jake gets stuck in a VR game controlled by the power of the Hypnotist. His 11-year-old sister Madaleine enters the game and together with her Teddy Bear and the inhabitants of the game world, Legendary Creatures, they defeat the Hypnotist, freeing Jake, the Legendary World (game world) and people in the real world from under his influence.

Director's statement: While working on the series *The Flying Bear and the Gang*, I felt that the story told in it has much greater potential and can oscillate around the issue of "hypnosis by electronic devices" directly affecting almost all of us and certainly children. I decided to expand this topic and tell a story about a small boy addicted to computer games who discovers a new VR game in which the main "boss" is the Hypnotist – an evil artificial intelligence trying to hypnotize human' minds. Jake (7) engages in the game so much that in the real world, he stops responding to any stimulus. His sister Madeleine (11) is aware of the situation and tries to help his brother and save him from the Hypnotist's fatal influence. I saw this story as a contemporary version of the "Snow Queen" archetype. The issues I've found in it seem so important and have such a large dramatic and comic potential, making me sure that this is the story I would like to tell in the form of an animated film for children.

Primary target audience: 6+ family

Animation technique: 3D (CGI)

Director (1): Tomek Niedźwiedź – Badi Badi - Poland

Producer, director and screenwriter of animated films and director of commercials. Author of concept, script co-writer and director of the animated series *Agi Bagi* for preschool children. Producer of the short film *The Game* which has received more than 20 awards at animated film festivals worldwide. Director of numerous music videos (two-time YACH Award winner, including the award for best music video in the Baltic Sea countries) and animated commercials. Tomek has directed the TV series *Agi Bagi*, *The Flying Bear and The Gang* and the feature animated film *The Guardian of Legends*. He is also a co-author of the strategy for the animated shows *Agi Bagi*, *The Flying Bear and The Gang* and *Box and Ball*.

Director (2): Waldek Mordarski – Badi Badi - Poland

Animator and director of animated films and commercials. He graduated from the National Film School in Łódź, specializing in animation and VFX.

Since 2004, he has worked on animated films, commercials and special effects as a director, supervisor, animator, graphic and compositing artist. His own films appeared on dozens of film festivals around the world, and *Pojedynek* (The Duel) won a special award at OFAFA 2002 festival in Cracow. In 2007, he worked as a director on the series *Fantasy the Bear*. He is a co-director of the TV series *The Flying Bear and The Gang* and *Agi Bagi* Season 2 & 3. The episode "Leaf Surfing Contest", directed by Mordarski, won the Second Award at the animation festival competition O! PLA 2016. The episode "The Little Artists" (*Agi Bagi* season 3) won the same prize in 2018.

Producer (1): Tomasz Paziewski – Badi Badi - Poland

Tomasz Paziewski is a producer with over 20 years of experience. He is one of the founders and owners of the Badi Badi studio. He is responsible for the organization of work in creating the animations and effects that are used for commercials, music videos, and films. He also coordinates a 30-person team. He is a producer of TV series for kids *Agi Bagi* season 1,2,3 and 4 and *The Flying Bear and The Gang*.

Production company: Badi Badi - Pulawska 368, 02-819 Warsaw, Poland - m.rawa@badibadi.com - +48 501 545 808 - www.badibadi.com

For the last 4 years, the Badi Badi studio has developed a department dedicated to its own brands. The first project, which showed the way in the international market, is the *Agi Bagi* TV series – with season 4 currently in production. The experience gained in the last few years with *Agi Bagi* has shown Badi Badi how to successfully create more brands like *The Flying Bear and the Gang* – with season 2 in production, *The Wiggles* – in development, or *Mr.Robot and the Martians* – at the concept stage.

Co-producer(s) confirmed: /

Estimated budget (EUR): 1,900,000

Funding secured (by source/country): At the development stage, the project received support from Creative EUROpe – MEDIA and Polish Film Institute.

1st person presenting the project at the pitch: Tomek Niedźwiedź – Poland - director and creative producer - Badi Badi - tom@badibadi.com - +48 501 083 980

2nd person presenting the project at the pitch: Magda Rawa – Poland - executive producer - Badi Badi - m.rawa@badibadi.com - +48 501 545 808



Project title: **My Sunny Maad / Moje slunce Maad**

Format: feature film

Length: 75 minutes

Logline: Welcome to Kabul: one family, countless secrets.

Synopsis: When Herra, a Czech woman, falls in love with Nazir, an Afghan, she has no idea about the life that awaits her in the post-Taliban Afghanistan, nor about the family she is about to join. A grandfather who is a feminist, an adopted young boy who astounds with his intellect, and Freshta who will do anything to run away from her abusive husband.

Like the other women in the family, Herra wears a burka and hides in a closet when guests arrive. She soon starts a new job with an American woman, Heidi, who has little understanding of the way women live in Afghanistan, and still less that not everybody wants to be saved by the Westerners.

Director's statement: The main strength of the story based on Petra Prochazkova's novel lies in gentle humour and well observed everyday details of the family life. *My Sunny Maad* is a deeply moving story that makes me laugh and cry at the same time. A universal tale of husbands and wives, lovers and friends, who all seek happiness and acceptance against the backdrop of the unexpected events emerging around them. It is a story about the conceptions of human faith in a war-stricken country, seen through the eyes of the main heroine, the Czech woman Herra.

I found a story in which I can fully use the possibilities of an animated film to share the strong emotion, thrill and, most importantly to me, the specific humour through sound, and musical and visual stylization.

Primary target audience: adults

Animation technique: 2D (vector based)

Director (1): Michaela Pavlátová - Czech Republic

Internationally acclaimed director and animator. Her short films filmography includes *Reci, reci, reci / Words, words, words*, which was nominated for an Oscar; *Repete* won a Golden Bear at Berlinale; *Tram* was premiered in Quinzaine des Réalisateurs in Cannes and won an Annecy Cristal in 2012. Besides short animations, she has directed two live-action feature films awarded in San Sebastian and Karlovy Vary.

Producer (1): Petr Oukropec - Negativ s.r.o. - Czech Republic

In 1995, he co-founded the film production company Negativ s.r.o., one of the leading film production companies in the Czech Republic. It has produced more than 35 feature-length films – fiction, documentary and animation. Selected titles: *Return of the Idiot* (premiered in Venice), *Ice Mother* (awarded in Tribeca), *In Your Dreams!* (premiered in Berlinale Generation).

Producer (2): Kateřina Černá - Negativ.s.r.o. - Czech Republic

She joined the film production company Negativ s.r.o. as a producer and co-partner in 2002. Selected titles: *Rene* (EFA Best Documentary), *Tram*, *Fair Play* (Karlovy Vary competition).

Production company: Negativ s.r.o. - Ostrovní 30, 110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic - office@negativ.cz - +420 224 933 755 - www.negativ.cz

The company produces feature dramas as well as documentaries and animations. Since its establishment in 1995, Negativ has been focusing on international co-productions and distribution. They produced the animated feature film *Alois Nebel* – recipient of the EUROpean Film Academy Best Animation award, and the short animation *Tram* – recipient of an Annecy Cristal.

Co-producer(s) confirmed: Sacrebleu Production – France / Ron Dyens, BFilm – Slovakia / Peter Badač

Estimated budget (EUR): 3,400,000

Funding secured (by source/country): CZ – Czech Film Fund, Czech TV, Tax Incentive, France – CNC, Grand Est, Strasbourg EURometropole, Region Reunion, Slovakia – Audiovizualny Fond

1st person presenting the project at the pitch: Petr Oukropec – Czech Republic – producer - Negativ s.r.o. - petr@negativ.cz - +420 602 220 809

2nd person presenting the project at the pitch: Michaela Pavlátová – Czech Republic –director - mpavlatova99@gmail.com - +420 777 057 436



Project title: **Pearl**

Format: feature film

Length: 85 minutes

Logline: In a world of fearful water sprites who are hiding from the eyes of humans, a brave and somewhat crazy girl Pearl is growing up, and when the entire water world is threatened, she is the only one who, despite everyone, believes she can save it.

Synopsis: In a world of fearful water sprites who are hiding from the eyes of humans, a brave and somewhat crazy girl Pearl is growing up. When the entire water world is threatened, she is the only one who, despite everyone, believes she can save it. To do so, Pearl makes her way into the human world to find the key to protecting the water sprites. But since she does not know her way around the human world at all, she has no choice but to find a buddy there. This is how an ordinary boy, Oliver, a cynical loser who doesn't even know how to swim, becomes part of an extraordinary adventure to save both the water world and our world.

Will Pearl and her friend Oliver be able to save the world?

Director's statement: The main heroes of our story are the water girl Pearl and the human boy Oliver who are nothing like invincible and flawless American-style superheroes. They are heroes who struggle with the distrust of the surroundings, and their own weaknesses and imperfections which they must overcome in order to succeed. However, they are predestined to confront a much stronger and seemingly invincible opponent – the demons called The Ancients. The Ancients feed on negative emotions (fear and pride) and can be defeated only by limiting or getting rid of such emotions. The Ancients represent the evil within ourselves: the dark and dangerous side of human characters. This is a parallel to real events where fear and pride have helped to awaken evil in entire nations and caused a disaster of huge proportions. I believe that our story has the potential to present to the audience an extremely current issue: intense for parents, yet educational for children – without lacking attractiveness and adventure.

Primary target audience: 7–12 years

Secondary target audience: family

Animation technique: 3D (CGI)

Director and producer (1): Martin Kotík - Rolling Pictures - Czech Republic

Martin started as a TV sitcom and comedy film director and producer. After he fell in love with animation, he fully focused on making animated films. His latest work is a family adventure comedy, *Harvie and the Magic Museum*, made in co-production with Belgium and Russia (2017).

Production company: Rolling Pictures spol.s.r.o. - Vladislavova 51/13, Prague 1, 110 00, Czech Republic - office@rollingpictures.cz - +420 281 914 984 - www.rollingpictures.cz

RP has been operating on the market since 1994. Its animation production started in 2008, and since then, RP has constantly been cooperating with international creative and production teams. The feature animation comedy *Harvie and the Magic Museum* (2017) became one of the biggest film projects of Czech cinematography.

Co-producer(s) confirmed: /

Estimated budget (EUR): 5,500,000

Funding secured (by source/country): Rolling Pictures Entertainment Group, Private Equity Investors, PFX

1st person presenting the project at the pitch: Martin Kotík – Czech Republic – director and producer – Rolling Pictures - mkotik@rollingpictures.cz - +420 603 815 561



Project title: **Piece**

Format: feature film

Length: 90 minutes

Logline: The world burns. Somewhere, a group of teenagers has a party.

Synopsis: A group of teenagers begin what seems like another ordinary weekend in the suburbs of Dublin. It soon takes on much greater significance as their interpersonal and inner conflicts come to a head while they are trapped at a house party in the midst of a violent storm, as flooding hits the city. With their own problems thrown into stark perspective in the face of real danger and the very real effects of our fast-changing climate, these young people are brought to question their place in the world and their part in its future.

Director's statement: *Piece* is at its heart a teen drama that explores the difficult psychological terrain of confidence, self-belief and the general struggle to make sense of the emotions that go with being a teenager. At the same time, it is a film about the huge problems we face as a global society, as the price of our lifestyle begins to catch up with us. By combining an involving character narrative with disaster elements that address current environmental and societal issues, we aim to make a film that is both engaging and exciting as well as thoughtful and moving.

Primary target audience: young adult

Secondary target audience: adult

Animation technique: traditional

Director (1): Alan Holly - and maps and plans - Ireland

Alan Holly is an artist and filmmaker from Dublin, Ireland. He has performed various roles in the Irish animation industry for over 10 years, working at many different studios before setting up and

maps and plans in 2010 where he collaborates with a group of like-minded artists to create artistically driven and personal projects.

Coda (2014): Best Animated short SXSW, Audience choice SICAF, Vimeo's best animation 2015
Old Fangs (2010)
The Red Ball (2007)

Producer (1): Ciarán Deeney, and maps and plans, Ireland

Graduating from a degree in Media Arts from Dublin Institute of Education in 2005, he completed a year-long post-graduate programme in film co-production, distribution and sales between French (La Femis) and German (Filmakademie BW) national film schools. He has been running EZ Films since graduating, as well as working as producer for and maps and plans.

An Island (2017)
Mattress Men (2016)
Coda (2014)

Producer (2): Carla Vulpiani, and maps and plans, Italy

Born on the Adriatic coast, she splits her time between Italy and Ireland. Alongside degrees in Cultural Studies and in Documentary Practice in Milan, she started working in the film industry. She has been programmer, Head of Programme and then Artistic Director at Milano Film Festival. Since 2017, she is creative producer for and maps and plans. She is also sales agent and distributor at Varicoloured film agency which she has co-founded.

*Cadaver*eccellenti* (2017)
Holy Motors (2016)
Memory Window (2014)

Production company: and maps and plans – 68 Pearse St, Dublin 2, Ireland –
hello@andmapsandplans.com – www.andmapsandplans.com

And maps and plans is an award-winning Dublin-based animation studio, working to make animation designed for a cinematic experience, using the 2D animation form to express complex emotions, and to create films targeting young adult and adult audiences.

Co-producer(s) confirmed: Ikki Films (France), Cub animation (Hungary)

Estimated budget (EUR): 4,500,000

Funding secured (by source/country): Screen Ireland, EUR 25,000

1st person presenting the project at the pitch: Alan Holly – Ireland – director – and maps and plans
- alan@andmapsandplans.com

2nd person presenting the project at the pitch: Carla Vulpiani - Italy – producer – and maps and plans
- carla@andmapsandplans.com



Project title: **Sidi Kaba and the Gateway Home / Sidi Kaba et la Porte du Retour**

Format: feature film

Length: 90 minutes

Logline: Sheltered in the belly of a whale, here is the young Sidi Kaba starting this incredible adventure where the fate of his brother and the slaves of the Sugar Island depend on a Homeric Battle between Brown Resisters, the Slavers and the forgotten Gods.

Synopsis: In a village on the west coast of Africa, the young Sidi Kaba lives peacefully with his family, protected from the men of the sea. Tonight, the whole village is celebrating. The young initiates have chosen their animal spirits. Sidi admires his older brother Azou, whose shadow of a panther is visible on the ancestral rock. He too dreams of finding his spirit animal. In fact, he is planning with his friends Abdou and the twins on going on a trip to the forbidden forest early the next morning. But the men of the sea led by Captain Sacabas exploit his innocence to follow him and ransack his village. Sidi watches his brother entering the Door of No Return, forcibly embarked on board of Sacabas' ship. Sidi soars into the Ocean, but a tidal wave takes him. Mamy Wata the Goddess comes to his rescue and offers to help him find his brother. In return, Sidi has to rehabilitate her to his people. Sheltered in the belly of a whale, here is Sidi Kaba, starting this incredible adventure!

Director's statement: For three centuries, fourteen million people were taken away from their homeland and transported in ship's holds, like animals. Africa was bled of its people to provide the manpower to feed the great Western civilizations. Their sacrifice has shaped the world in which we live today. Sidi Kaba and the Gateway Home is my way of honouring our common ancestors regardless of our physical, social or moral differences. I instantly fell in love with the story Jérôme Piot had written; its origins and intentions felt so genuine. I agreed to support him in the realization of this magnificent project because it also offered me the opportunity to reconnect with

my ancestry. Sidi Kaba is a positive and unifying film. Its ambition is to plunge children into an epic adventure set against the backdrop of the slave trade.

Primary target audience: all audiences

Animation technique: 2D (vector based)

Director (1): Rony Hotin, France

Having graduated from the Gobelins in 2009, Rony Hotin co-directed *The Lighthouse Keeper* (Cristal for a Graduation film – Annecy 2010). He made his first steps into the professional world as a Disney character designer and concept artist. In 2012, he received an Audi Talent Award for the *Vagabond of Saint Marcel*, a short film. In 2014, he joined the School of Les Ateliers de Sèvres as a teacher, then worked as a storyboarder on *Le Petit Prince* by Mark Osborne (César for Best animated film in 2015), and *Sahara* by Pierre Coré (nominated for best animated film in 2018). From 2015 to 2017, he directed the comics *MOMO*, written by Jonathan Garnier and edited by Casterman, which received La Pépite for the Best comic book for youth in the “Salon du Livre et de la presse jeunesse”. Back to animation, he works on feature film projects, short film and video music projects, as a graphic author or consultant for studios such as Cartoon Network.

Producer (1): Sébastien Onomo, Special Touch Studios - France

After a degree in Modern Literature obtained in 2008 from the Sorbonne Nouvelle, Sébastien Onomo joined INA (National Audiovisual Institute) where he obtained a Master's degree in audiovisual and digital production in 2010. It was at this time that he met Serge Lalou, producer and also the academic advisor of the Master's programme in audiovisual production of INA who asked him to join Les Films d'Ici as a producer. And he did, after a six-month experience with the Belgian company Entre Chien et Loup (Diana Elbaum and Sébastien Delloye), he joined Les Films d'Ici, aiming to develop and produce feature films, and continue to produce TV documentaries. In 2015, he co-founded the company Special Touch Studios with Olivier Laouchez. With his experience in audiovisual and digital production, Sébastien brings his expertise to various university and school programs like INA, La FEMIS, Les Gobelins, the University of Paris 7 – Diderot or the University of Paris 3 – Sorbonne Nouvelle. He is also an expert for CNC and regional funds. In 2017, he was appointed co-President of the French-speaking group within Unifrance together with Aïssa Maïga. Among the twenty or so films and television films produced by Sébastien Onomo, it is worth mentioning *Le Gang des Antillais* (2016) by Jean-Claude Barny, *Ebony* by Moussa Touré, or more recently *Funan* by Denis Do, awarded a Crystal for best animated feature film at the prestigious Annecy International Festival in 2018.

Production company: Special Touch Studios - 27 Mail du Maréchal Leclerc, 41 100 Vendome, France - sonomo@specialtouchstudios.com - +33609461028

Special Touch Studios is a production company created in 2015 by Sébastien Onomo. Its ambition is to bring out talents from diversity and to become an essential company in film production focusing on urban cultures, French-speaking and English-speaking Caribbean, and Africa.

Co-producer(s) confirmed: /

Estimated budget (EUR): 5,010,000

Funding secured (by source/country): N/A

1st person presenting the project at the pitch: Rony Hotin – France – director - ronyhotin@gmail.com - +33 6 85 53 85 28

2nd person presenting the project at the pitch: Jérôme Piot – France – author - Special Touch Studios - scenarpiot@gmail.com - +33 6 09 09 54 38



Project title: **Solo Lobo**

Format: feature film

Length: 90 minutes

Logline: Solo Lobo is a clumsy bandit who roams the prairie of the Wild West with his trusty friend Mula, the mule when all of a sudden, a puppy bursts into their life and turns everything upside down...

Synopsis: Meet Solo Lobo, a bandit of the clumsier kind. He roams the prairie on the back of his trusty friend Mula, the mule and tries to rob travellers on his way. Usually without much luck. One day, Paunch, a puppy becomes part of his loot and changes Solo's entire life. Suddenly, he has all the prospects to become a rich man if he returns the puppy for a reward. However, this task proves to be heavier than it first seems, as others wish to set hands on Paunch as well. When our clumsy bandit learns that, he heads for canyons and deserts, escapes from dangerous bandits, Indian warriors, and from the depth of a mine so that he could save this heart-melting puppy from greedy relatives.

Director's statement: Our aim was to make a film that is funny, full of exciting adventures and entertaining for the entire family. The story takes place in the historical times of the Wild West, where Indians and cowboys were ruling the canyons and the prairies. By using a very special combination of 2D and 3D techniques, the visual experience for the audience is simply amazing. Besides the exciting and entertaining storyline, we have put a great emphasis on the character development of Solo Lobo: at the beginning of the story, Solo is a loner but his character changes slowly as he starts to be fond of Paunch, the puppy. His evolving love for his new friend can be followed through the entire film. Although Solo makes his living by robbing, he is still a lovable person. He is easy to identify with. His flaws and the way he's fumbling around cheer up the audience. We are keeping our fingers crossed for Solo Lobo and wishing to be part of his adventures!

Primary target audience: Family

Animation technique: 2D (vector based)

Director (1): Attila Herkó - Umatik Kft. - Hungary

1998-2002 director of music videos

2002-2016 post-production supervisor

2014 director: *Manieggs – Revenge of the Hard Egg* (feature)

2016 – director/co-director: TV series *Bugaboo Garten, Pixie Fix and the lost dewdrops*

Director (2): Zoltán Miklósy - Umatik Kft. - Hungary

2002-2003 animator: UK series *Mr Bean* and *Meg and Moth*

2007 animation director: *Macskafogó 2* (Cat Catcher 2)

2007 animation director: *La Reine Soleil*

2014 *Manieggs – Revenge of the Hard Egg*

Currently director of Animation at Umatik

Producer (1): Éva Konrád - Umatik Kft. - Hungary

2014 production assistant: *Manieggs – Revenge of the Hard Egg* ('90)

2016 producer: TV series *Bugaboo Garten, Pixie Fix and the lost dewdrops*

Production company: Umatik Kft. - Bécsi út 58., 1034 Budapest, Hungary - info@umatik.eu - + 3630 5354511 - www.umatik.eu

Umatik was founded in 2014 and completed its first-feature length animation film in the same year. Since 2015, the company has been working on various television series projects and on family-targeted feature projects as well. With a staff of 20 years' experience in all fields of animation on board, Umatik can undertake any kind of working processes from character design to editing, compositing, rendering, model building, rigging, CGI, special FX and more.

Co-producer(s) confirmed: /

Estimated budget (EUR): 5,000,000

Funding secured (by source/country): Creative EUROpe Media – EUR 60,000

1st person presenting the project at the pitch: Éva Konrád – Hungary – producer – Umatik Kft. - eva.konrad@umatik.eu - +36 30535 4511



Project title: **Twice Upon a Time / Bio dvaput jedan kralj**

Format: feature film

Length: 90 minutes

Logline: Princess Nika is trying to help her father Poet King to defeat his archenemy, Warrior King. The only problem is that these two kings are actually one man.

Synopsis: Many years after her mother's death, Princess Nika is still trying to win the attention of her always absent father – Poet King. She lies about Dragon's appearance, fakes her own kidnapping and ends up being actually kidnapped only to realize that her father's absence and neglect is due to his rivalry with his split personality – Warrior King. Once Nika disappears, the two kings start fighting with each other and thus ruining the kingdom because of their opposing strategies of how to bring her back. Nika now has to save herself, save the kingdom from her father's deeds and, most importantly, help her father overcome the loss of her mother Queen which was the initial reason for his split.

Director's statement: Two kings in one are fighting for predominance, revealing to us the world that always has the flip side of the coin. This film speaks about duality rather than the split-nature of the world. My wish is for the audience to feel the connection and identification with the young rebel Nika, but also with both kings (or both sides of the king) at different moments. The King is not vicious in his intentions, but more so unhappily finding himself in situations obviously unable to solve on his own, and there is the pure and curious Nika to help him. In Twice Upon A Time, the audience can find themselves in conflicting aspirations, phobias and games that the characters play, but one can also find a strong family story about support and overcoming the loss. The film's theme addresses a general issue of contradictions of mankind – wishes that are both good and bad, times that are both happy and sad, inner voices that puzzle our mind, and the never-ending duality of mankind.

Primary target audience: family

Secondary target audience: 35-50

Animation technique: 3D (CGI)

Director and producer (1): Vojin Vasovic - To Blink Animation - Serbia/Canada

Vojin Vasovic is a Serbian-Canadian animation director. With his studio To Blink Animation (double based in Belgrade and Toronto), he has produced and directed four short animated films which won more than 50 international awards for directing and animation. He is currently developing his first animated feature which has been supported by the Film Centre of Serbia and Media Creative EUROpe.

5 Minutes Each (2011)

Twice Upon a Time (2017)

Just For The Record (2019)

Producer (2): Milorad Kocić - To Blink Animation - Serbia

Milorad Kocić is a consultant, coach and mentor in the field of management with experience of over 15 years in banking, consulting and the NGO sector. He has many years of experience in the consulting industry as an Executive Director, as well as Vice President of Finance and Internal Auditor in NGO sector. In 2017, he co-founded Hive Group, purpose-driven experts' community which provides unique growth experience. Milorad recently came to the world of animation production through working closely on the development of To Blink Animation's feature animation production. Working on financial and strategic planning, his mission is to bridge manager and producer positions in the studio.

Production company: To Blink Animation - Lepenicki bulevar 9, III/3, Kragujevac, Serbia - vojin@toblinkanimation.com - +381641509331 - www.toblinkanimation.com

To Blink Animation studio is development and production studio for short and feature animated films. We believe that animation is a mutual language of all audiences. Our stories focus on psychological growth and erasing the borders between the audiences. Our films were screened at more than 200 film festivals winning 54 awards.

Co-producer(s) confirmed: To Blink Studio (Canada)

Estimated budget (EUR): 2,300,000

Funding secured (by source/country): MEDIA – EUR 60,000; Film Centre of Serbia development – EUR 20,000; Proof of concept (Canada Council, Toronto Art Council, Ontario Art Council) – EUR 60,000

1st person presenting the project at the pitch: Vojin Vasovic - Serbia/Canada – director - To Blink Animation- vojin@toblinkanimation.com - +381641509331

2nd person presenting the project at the pitch: Milorad Kocić – Serbia – producer - To Blink Animation - milorad@toblinkanimation.com - +38163431256