



MEDIA RELEASE

Computer Animation Festival Unveils its Winners Ahead of SIGGRAPH Asia 2017

- *Animated shorts from South Korea, Chile, France and Ecuador awarded top honors*
- *Festival program includes sessions by Pixar, Marvel Studios, Google Spotlight Stories, Industrial Light & Magic, Walt Disney Animation Studios, Jaunt China and a showcase by leading Thailand Animation Studios*

BANGKOK, Thailand, 9 November 2017 – Four talented animation artists and teams will be honored at SIGGRAPH Asia’s annual Computer Animation Festival Awards on 28 November 2017. A celebration of top animation talent, the Festival showcases the most creative animated short films in 2017. This year, the program received 477 submissions globally, of these, 57 films will be screened at the Electronic Theater and Animation Theater at SIGGRAPH Asia.

Two of the films, *Here’s the Plan* by Fernanda Frick (Chile) and *Garden Party* by Florian Babikian, Vincent Bayoux, Victor Caire, Théophile Dufresne, Gabriel Grapperon and Lucas Navarro (France), have been shortlisted as contenders for the nominees of the Academy Award’s Best Animated Short in 2018.

Juck Somsaman, Computer Animation Festival Chair and Founder/Creative Director of The Monk Studios, Thailand, said, “We are extremely excited with the excellent content and amazing talent that will be showcased at SIGGRAPH Asia in Bangkok this year. Some of the most innovative individuals and experienced professionals from around the world will not only share their achievements as presenters, but also seek to build new relationships and forge fresh collaborations. SIGGRAPH Asia will be the nexus of these talents, connecting the East and the West. We hope that every professional from our Industry will be able to join us in Bangkok to participate in this unique opportunity.”

In addition to the awards ceremony, the Computer Animation Festival will host several panel and production sessions. Prashant Buyyala, Computer Animation Festival Co-Chair said, “This year, we have compiled a stellar lineup of presentations by industry renowned artists and technicians from leading studios around the world. We are covering a wide range of production topics from the making of Pixar’s, *Coco* and Marvel’s, *Thor: Ragnarok* to sessions given by Google Spotlight Stories and Jaunt China on the challenges of VR filmmaking. We have programmed the conference to provide a rewarding experience for everyone, and I expect SIGGRAPH Asia in Bangkok to be truly fun and memorable!”

Some of the panel and production sessions include:

- ***The Making of Pixar’s, Coco*** - Learn how Pixar filmmakers created the world of *Coco*, telling an epic adventure story celebrating the art and culture of Dia de los Muertos. Eight of Pixar’s top artists and supervisors will discuss the artistic and technical challenges in creating the huge cast of characters, beautiful environments, and epic crowds in the film, and how they brought the Land of the Dead to life;



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- **The Making of Thor: Ragnarok** - Marvel Studios, Framestore, Industrial Light & Magic, and Method Studios take SIGGRAPH Asia audiences through their VFX journey as they created some of Thor: Ragnarok's most heart-stopping moments;
- **From Pepe to Piggy, the Evolution of Google Spotlight Stories**, by Mark Oftedal Co-director of "Piggy" and Juan Miguel de Joya, Software Engineer, DigitalFish at Facebook who will discuss the evolution of Google Spotlight Stories and the challenges of interactive storytelling in VR and 360-degree mobile;
- **Disney's Moana- Demystifying characters**, by Avneet Kaur, Lead Character Simulation Technical Director, Walt Disney Animation Studios, who will talk about how they brought Moana's world and colourful characters to life;
- **Production Challenges and Lessons from making VR Films**, where James Fong, Chief Executive of Jaunt China, Ido Banai, Creative Director and Jake Kahana, Co-founder of Caveday will delve into the production processes, experimental techniques and on the ground challenges of making story driven VR Films and life changing VR experiences;
- **ILM Presents: Behind the Magic, the Visual Effects of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story**, Alex Prichard, Associate Visual Effects Supervisor, Industrial Light & Magic, will discuss the Academy Award nominated effects work that went into "Rogue One"; and
- **Thailand Animation Studios Showcase**, where top animation studios in Thailand will present case studies of some of their award-winning original animated contents and discuss how they keep up with the best of the animation industry around the world through their unique Thai style.

The SIGGRAPH Asia 2017 Computer Animation Festival award categories and winners are:



BEST IN SHOW

AFTERWORK (Ecuador)

Directed by Luis Uson, Uson Studio/Matte CG and Andrés Aguilar, Matte CG, produced by Andrés Aguilar, Matte CG

We are all condemned to work and repeat, again and again the same empty routines. But can we reach that carrot that is dangled before us or will we be forever occupied by eternally chasing for something we do not need? Groompy, a funny cartoon character, is about to find out.



JURY AWARD

Here's the Plan (Chile)

Directed by Fernanda Frick, produced by Fernanda Frick, Maria José Barros

A married cat-dog couple dream of opening their own cupcake bakery. One day their oven breaks and they have to postpone their dream in order to earn money and replace it. Somewhere down the line, they drift apart from their dream and from each other.



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10th
Edition



JURY AWARD

(OO) (South Korea)

Directed and produced by OH Seo-ro, Chungkang College of Cultural Industries

The animation depicts the messy results inside a nose when you get rhinitis and allergies.



BEST STUDENT FILM

Garden Party (France)

Directed by Florian Babikian, Vincent Bayoux, Victor Caire, Théophile Dufresne, Gabriel Grapperon and Lucas Navarro, produced by MOPA

In a deserted rich house, a couple of amphibians explore their surroundings and follow their primal instincts

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Notes to editors:

- Click to view the Computer Animation Festival trailer [here](#)
- Annex A: Winners' biographies and supporting quotes
- The Computer Animation Festival Awards Ceremony will be held at 11am on 28 November 2017, at GH 202 & 203, 2nd Floor of BITEC
- Computer Animation Festival will host the Thailand Animation Studios Showcase at 4.15pm on 29 November 2017 at Silk 1 & 2, 2nd floor of BITEC
- For media accreditation to SIGGRAPH Asia 2017, please register at: <http://bit.ly/2yhpWRR>

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About SIGGRAPH Asia 2017

The 10th ACM SIGGRAPH Conference and Exhibition on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques in Asia will take place in Bangkok, Thailand at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC) from 27 – 30 November 2017. The annual event held in Asia attracts the most respected technical and creative people from all over the world who are excited by research, science, art, animation, gaming, interactivity, education and emerging technologies. The four-day SIGGRAPH Asia 2017 conference includes a diverse range of juried programs, such as the Art Gallery, Computer Animation Festival, Courses, Emerging Technologies, Posters, Symposium on Education, Symposium on Mobile Graphics and Interactive Applications, Symposium on Visualization, Technical Briefs, Technical Papers, VR Showcase and Workshops. A three-day exhibition held from 28 – 30 November 2017 will offer a business platform for industry players to market their innovative products and



services to the computer graphics and interactive techniques professionals and enthusiasts from Asia and beyond.

About ACM SIGGRAPH

The Association of Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques (ACM SIGGRAPH) sponsors SIGGRAPH Asia 2017. Founded in 1947, ACM is an educational and scientific society uniting the world's computing educators, researchers, and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources, and address the field's challenges. ACM strengthens the profession's collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence. The ACM SIGGRAPH deals with all aspects of graphical user/computer communication and manipulation: hardware, languages, data structure, methodology, and applications

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Annex A: Winners' biographies and supporting quotes



Luis Usón and Andrés Aguilar, Director

AFTERWORK (Ecuador)

Andrés (pictured right) has been in the animation and comics industry in Ecuador since he was 16 years old, first as a cultural manager creating groups for the promotion of animation and then as a professional. He studied Visual Communication in Quito, but found his true passion in computer graphics and all aspects of 3D animation.

Since 2008, he is part of Matte CG, one of the leading studios in the country, where he has produced and directed more than 400 advertising animation projects. He is currently involved in several projects such as the organization of the Guild of animators of Ecuador, *Aftertoons* (a feature film project based on his short film *AFTERWORK*) and the production of the third short film by Matte.

Passionate about cinema and comics since childhood, Luis Usón (pictured left) has developed his career in the world of computer animation and VFX. In addition to his award-winning short films, *The Joker's Club* and *AFTERWORK*, dark and unique approaches in the world of animation, he worked on advertising campaigns for major brands in Ecuador with Matte CG and in films such as *Tad Jones 2* (Lightbox Entertainment) one of highest grossing films in the history of Spain and, more recently *Justice League* (Warner Bros). He is currently working on two new personal projects; both feature films, always based on his obsessions with cartoons, society and what they can represent.

Andrés Aguilar said, "With AFTERWORK, we wanted to do a short film about work in our modern society, its meaningless routines and how life can lose its meaning if we concentrate solely on it. This is represented through the innocent depiction of a cartoon rabbit that suffers in this reality. Being nominated at SIGGRAPH Asia and receiving the Best of Show award has filled us with joy, since we understand how important it is to be here with so many professionals at the highest level. For our team from Ecuador, Spain and Peru, it is a great honor and we could not pass up the opportunity to go around the world and be part of this chapter of SIGGRAPH Asia."



Fernanda Frick, Director

Here's the Plan (Chile)

Fernanda is an animation director, illustrator and comic artist from Chile. She started out as a self-taught animator and later graduated from Animation Mentor. Since 2006, she's worked as a freelance artist for series, ads and videogames. She also currently teaches in several local animation colleges. In 2016, she directed *Here's the Plan*, her 4th short film, which was made with a talented team of professionals. It has been selected in several festivals around the world.

"I made Here's the Plan to show a positive and realistic depiction of a long-term couple that acted as a team instead of rivals. I also wanted to break from the usual sexist gender stereotypes that are associated with that, and tell a story about ambition and dreams that both genders can identify with. I'm very happy and honoured to win the Jury award at SIGGRAPH Asia, it shows that we have succeeded in making something at an international level, with very limited resources. I'd like to thank my team, Carlos Ahumada (CG Supervisor), Rosario Laso (Lead Lighter) as well as Francisco



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Anabalon, Diego Oliva, Maikoe Alaniz and Maria Venegas-Spadafora (Animators), who were able to create magic with very little.”



OH Seo-ro, Director
(OO) (South Korea)

Seo-ro graduated from an intensive course in animation at Chungkang College of Cultural Industries. His animation, *Artist-110* (2013), received the Future City Yokohama Prize at the Short Film Festival & Asia. Another film, *Afternoon Class* (2015), received the Lotte Reiniger Promotion Award for Animated Film from the Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film and was screened at numerous festivals.

“I wanted people to empathise with those who suffer from rhinitis and allergies by depicting it in a straightforward but not uncomfortable way. I can't believe that I received this great award at SIGGRAPH Asia. At the same time, I'm thrilled that my film and its style attracted juries visually. I dedicate this award to the people having rhinitis.”



Florian Babikian, Vincent Bayoux, Victor Caire, Théophile Dufresne, Gabriel Grapperon and Lucas Navarro, Directors
Garden Party (France)

Passionate filmmakers and wildlife enthusiasts, these six students at MOPA found a way to learn how to create good stories and captivating images. Upon becoming friends, they developed a great alchemy and never stopped working together. Their graduation film, *Garden Party*, allowed them to make a seamless transition from their student years to having a professional career.

They have now created a collective of directors known as ILLOGIC, directing short films and TV commercials for WIZZ Design.

Gabriel Grapperon said, “We like documentaries and decided to focus on a short with animals. Amphibians are fascinating. We also wanted to have a second layer, which was darker and about humans. We took inspiration from thrillers. SIGGRAPH Asia is well known to feature state-of-the-art of animation and technologies. Winning the Best Student Award means a lot to us!”