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FESTIVAL
2024



ANIMAL TALES OF CHRISTMAS MAGIC



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pulp



île de France



GrandEst

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Hamburg
Schleswig-Holstein



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INDÉFILMS

THE
BUREAU
SALES

LES VALSEURS

ANIMAL TALES OF CHRISTMAS MAGIC

A FILM BY **CAROLINE ATTIA, CEYLAN BEYOĞLU, OLESYA SHCHUKINA,
HARUNA KISHI, CAMILLE ALMÉRAS AND NATALIA CHERNYSHEVA**

FRANCE | ANIMATION | 2024 | 72' | FORMAT 16/9 | SOUND 5.1

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SYNOPSIS



Enchanting stories unfold in *Animal Tales of Christmas Magic* where festive wonders come to life. Delve into these heartwarming and modern tales as animals embark on spellbinding journeys from France to Japan to the Far North and its northern lights, spreading joy and generosity. Each story is a whimsical adventure filled with charm, laughter, and the beauty of the winter season. Let the poetry captivate your heart and transport you to a world where Christmas magic knows no bounds.

ABOUT THE MOVIE



Animal Tales of Christmas Magic is a unique animation project that brings together six female directors from several different countries, most of whom have studied at top French schools such as La Poudrière or the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs.

The film is produced by the French company Les Valseurs and coproduced by Luftkind in Germany. It is the first animated film for young audience to have been coproduced by Arte in France. It has also been supported by several regional funds in France and Germany and by the CNC and the FFA. Four studios have joined forces to produce the animation in Paris at Pulp studio, in Strasbourg at Amopix, on the Reunion Island at Gaoshan, and in Germany in Hamburg at Fabian&Fred. The film premiered at the Annecy Festival in 2024 in official selection out of competition in the new Annecy presents section.

ABOUT THE MOVIE



This feature animation is targeting children from 3 to 7, their older brothers and sisters, as well as their parents and grandparents. Both siblings and parents will enjoy watching the film, as there are often several layers and levels of interpretation. The five stories are all in 2D digital animation, but are inspired by traditional techniques such as paper cut-outs, linocuts and watercolours. This approach gives each tale its own specificity, supported by the style of each director. Nevertheless, it was vital that the film as a whole should be consistent. That's why a sixth director, Natalia Chernysheva, has designed the sequences in between each chapter, to make the transition from one tale to the next as fluid and poetic as possible. Cécile Milazzo (*My life as a Zucchini*) and David Chantoiseau designed the colour palette for the entire film, the editing was entrusted to Céline Kelepkipis, who had worked on *The Red Turtle*, a film also without dialogue, and the film's entire soundtrack was composed by Pablo Pico (*Sirocco and the kingdom of the winds*).

MUSIC COMPOSER'S NOTE PABLO PICO



As a composer, I had the pleasure of discovering a film in which music plays an essential role. The virtual absence of dialogue in most of the stories makes its presence indispensable. At the same time, the music helps to unify these stories through a sound arch and a theme that embraces the entire film.

For a kind of closeness with the spectator, I chose to write in a predominantly acoustic, natural and organic aesthetic, and to use a reduced orchestration: cello, string quintet, flute, clarinet, accordion, mandolin, harp and percussion.

The human voice also plays an important role, lending a poetic and symbolic voice to the animals. To this end, I sampled children's voices throughout the film, sometimes distant and mysterious, sometimes playful, finding a final resolution in the chorus of the film's closing song.

The positive dimension of the music is present in the contemplative scenes and in the celebration of Nature, notably in the original song (Stars in the night), for which I enlisted the talents of singer Emma Broughton (aka Blumi).



Pablo Pico is a French composer and multi-instrumentalist well known in the world of animated films, recently featured in Benoît Chieux's *Sirocco and the kingdom of the Winds*, Audience Award at the Annecy 2023 festival.

Awarded several prizes for his film scores, he composes hybrid aesthetics, both orchestral and pop, and sometimes inspired by world music.

SIX DIRECTORS



1 The Journey of Santa Claus

Caroline Attia graduated from the École Nationale des Arts Décoratifs of Paris in 2004. Her work ranges from animated shorts to books and children's magazines. She has collaborated as writer and director with studios such as Sacrebleu Productions, Les Valseurs, Folimage and Cartoon Saloon. She is currently directing the special Song of the storm, co-written by Claire Sichez. Northern Lights, one of her latest short films produced by Folimage, was released in theaters in 2022. It received a dozen awards, including the “Trickstar Nature” at the Trickfilm festival in Stuttgart in 2020.



2

The Little Chick's First Christmas

Ceylan Beyoğlu is an animator and illustrator based in Hamburg. Born in Turkey, she studied architectural restoration at the Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul and product design at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. After graduating, she worked for many years as a designer, illustrator and animator for the animation and games industry. In 2013, she received a scholarship from the Hamburg Studio "House of Young Producers" and founded the independent animation studio "Storykid Studio". In addition to her commissioned work, she also produces independent animation projects.



³ The Last (hristmas Tree

Olesya Shchukina is a Franco-Russian illustrator and director who lives and works in Paris. A graduate of La Poudrière, an animation film school, in 2012, she has since been working in children's illustration and making animated short films. Her short films *The Elephant and The Bicycle* (2014) and *The Sled* (2016) won awards at several international festivals and were released in cinemas in France. Her animated documentary *Lada, Ivan's Sister* (2021) won second prize at DOK Leipzig in 2022. Olesya worked on Claude Barras' feature film *My Life as a Zucchini* (2016). As an illustrator, she has worked for Maison Georges, Facebook, Google and Milan Presse. In her practice, she tries to blend her knowledge of illustration and animation.



4

The TANUKI And the Christmas surprise

Haruna Kishi is a graduate of École des Beaux Arts of Bordeaux (2007) and La Poudrière (2010), having directed the animated series *Miru Miru* (50 x 5min) , broadcast on CANAL + and PIWI +, in 2016. She has worked as a graphic designer, scriptwriter and director. Alongside these broadcasts, between September 2016 and June 2017 she published six volumes in the *Miru Miru* collection with Dargaud. Haruna uses mixed techniques: watercolors, and pencils, while exploiting current techniques to offer her listeners a poetic, uncluttered universe. Today, she continues to develop her children's books.



5

The Animals' Great Celebration

Camille Alméras is an animated film director. After training in 2D animation at the ESAAT DMA, she spent 6 months on exchange in Norway, where she made her first film, *Blue Country*, a poetic paper-cut walk. On her return to Paris, she enrolled at the École des Arts Décoratifs. In 2016, her clip *Les Mains Froides*, for Oldelaf, won 1st Prize in the BPI animated clip competition and the Audience Prize at the Paris International Animation Film Festival. She graduated from ENSAD in 2017 with her short film *Færing*, set in a shipwright's workshop. Today, Camille alternates between commissioned projects and auteur films. *Marie Curie's Great War*, her TV Special project that she is developing at Tripode Productions, was hosted as a writing residency at Fontevraud in 2020 and has been selected for Cartoon Forum 2024.



6

SNOWY INTERLUDES



Natalia Chernysheva was born in Russia, graduated from Ural State Academy of Architecture and Art, majoring in animation. *Snowflake* (2012) is her debut film as a director. Studied in La Poudrière (France, 2012-2014), where she directed the film *The Return* (2013) and her graduation film *Two Friends* (2014). Participation in "Animation Artist in Residence Tokyo 2015" where she worked on her film *Spiderweb*. Also directed a film from collection "Fresh Out of School - Claude Roy", *The Lost Garden* (2018) then *Sunflower* (2023) produced by Folimage and Pchela.



Writers and Directors	Caroline Attia, Ceylan Beyoğlu, Olesya Shchukina, Haruna Kishi, Camille Alméras, Natalia Chernysheva
Coproduced with	Arte France, Luftkind Filmverleih, Gaoshan Pictures, Le Bureau
Producers	Damien Megherbi, Justin Pechberty, Olivier Père, Rémi Burah, Vanessa Ciszewski
Coproducers	Bertrand Faivre
Editor	Céline Kélépikis
Color	David Chantoiseau, Cécile Milazzo
Sound	Antoine Bertucci, Vincent Arnardi, André Fèvre
Music	Pablo Pico
Studios	Pulp / Riverman, Amopix, Fabian&Fred, Gao Shan Pictures
Postproduction Labs	L'Atelier Postproduction, Archipel Productions, L'Atelier, Les Films du Periscope, DMT Studios, No Limits Media 2024, Upper Level Travel
With the support of	Ciné+OCS, CNC, Région Ile de France, Région Réunion, Région Grand Est, Moin Film Funding Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein, German Fédéral Film Board, Procirep
With the participation of	Arte France
In association with	Indefilms 11
International sales	The Bureau Sales
Distribution France	Little KMBO

ABOUT LES VALSEURS



Les Valseurs is a theatrical production and distribution company based in Paris and Bordeaux, founded by Damien Megherbi and Justin Pechberty. Since 2013, the company has been developing filmmaker-driven projects in live-action, animation, series and documentary, with a focus on diversity and inclusion. Since its creation, the company has also shown specific support for emerging talents, with several major selections, notably at Cannes, Venice, Locarno and Toronto, and prestigious awards for short films: Oscar nomination 2020, Best short movie at La Semaine de la Critique in Cannes 2019, Jury Prize at Annecy 2017, Grand Prix and Audience award at Clermont-Ferrand 2019 and 2020, French and Spanish Academy Awards (César 2019 and Goya 2024).

Their latest feature, *Heartless*, by the Brazilian duo Nara Nomande & Tião, premiered at the 80th Venice Film Festival in the official Orizzonti competition. A few months later, Emilie Tronche's animated series *Samuel* was released, with the support of ARTE in France and RTVE in Spain. Both an audience and ratings success, *Samuel* set a new record for ARTE, with over 35 millions between March and June 2024 on the Franco-German channels' platforms.

In 2024, Les Valseurs launched the production of three international feature films by filmmakers they had already supported for their short films : *Milk Powder* by Carlos Segundo, supported by Netflix Brazil and co-produced by Vitrine Filmes, *Ciudad Sin Sueño* by Guillermo García López, supported by Eurimages and RTVE, and *The Mysterious Gaze of the Flamingo* by Diego Céspedes, also supported by Eurimages and co-produced by ARTE.

In addition to these international co-productions, the company is also working on French projects, such as *Les Monstres*, Antoine Delelis' first feature, starring Lubna Azabal, Bastien Bouillon and Lyes Salem. Their first feature-length animated film, *Animal Tales of Christmas Magic* was presented in the official selection at Annecy in June 2024, and has already been sold in over twenty territories.

SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY

Lauréat
CÉSAR 2019
Meilleur Film d'Animation
(court métrage)



Vilaine Fille
Ayce Kartal



Guaxuma
Nara Normande



Sideral
Carlos Segundo



Big Bang
Carlos Segundo



Sans Coeur
Nara Normande et Tião

ANNEDY
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Le grand Noël des animaux
Collectif de six réalisatrices

2017

2020

2022

2024

2019

2021

2023

Meninas Formicida
João Paulo Miranda Maria



Nefta Football Club
Yves Piat



nommé aux
Oscars 2020



Dans la Rivère
Weijia Ma



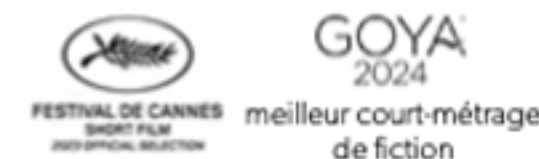
shortlisté aux
Oscars 2022



Les créatures qui fondent au soleil
Diego Céspedes



Malgré la nuit
Guillermo Garcia Lopez



Samuel
Emilie Tronche



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