

"ZOOTOPIA" AND "THE RED TURTLE" WON THE TOP ANNIE PRIZES Disney's **Zootopia** won the best animated feature award at ASIFA-Hollywood's 44th Annie Awards Ceremony along with prizes for best writing, character design, storyboarding and voice acting (**Zootopia** tied with **Moana** for best character acting). Michael, Dudok de Wit's Oscar nominated The Red Turtle was given the best indie feature prize (coproduced by Studio Ghibli in Japan). Laika's stopmotion and CG Kubo and the Two Strings earned three awards (character animation, production design, and Disney's Moana was the other feature editorial). winner, collecting two Annies for animated effects and voice acting.

Pearl, a VR short from Google Spotlight was in the TV/Broadcasting category (it is also an Oscar contender). It won awards for direction, production design, and music. Other honors went to Pixar's **Piper** (best short), **The Jungle Book** (live-action character animation), Marvel's **Doctor Strange** (animated effects), **The Little Prince** (music from Hans Zimmer, Richard Harvey, and Camille), and the Oscar-contending short, **Pear Cider and Cigarettes** (for special production). TV winners included Fox's **Bob's Burgers**, Cartoon Network's **Adventure Time**, and Amazon's **Tumble Leaf**.

The Ub Iwerks Award went to Google Spotlight's Virtual Reality Platform for technical advancement. *Life, Animated*, the Oscar-nominated doc about Disney animation's impact on a young autistic man's journey, received the Special Achievement Award. The June Foray Award went to Bill & Sue Kroyer for their career-long benevolent, public-spirited influence within the animation community.

THE VISUAL EFFECTS SOCIETY AWARDS

Jon Favreau's retelling of *The Jungle Book* (Disney) was the big winner at the 15th annual Visual Effects Society Awards, claiming five wins including in the top category of outstanding VFX in a photoreal feature, plus Best Animated Character (King Louie), Best Animated Effects, Best Compositing and Best Virtual Cinematography.

Moana won two prizes, Outstanding Effects Simulations in an Animated Feature and Outstanding Created Environment in an Animated Feature. Kubo and the Two Strings won Outstanding Visual Effects in an Animated Feature and the octopus in Finding Dory was awarded Outstanding Animated Performance in an Animated Feature. Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, which received seven nominations (the most for a feature) came up empty handed.



THE WRITERS GUILD AWARDS GAVE THEIR ANIMATION AWARD TO A "BOJACK HORSEMAN" SHOW The winning show was "Fish Out of Water" written by Elijah Aron & Jordan Young. It was competing with "Barthood" (*The Simpsons*), "First Day of Rule" (*Elena of Avalor*), "A Princess on Lothal" (*Star Wars Rebels*), and "Stop the Presses" (*BoJack Horseman*).

BLUE SKY, ILM, SONY IMAGEWORKS, WETA DIGITAL AND DISNEY TOOK HOME TECHNICAL AWARDS FROM THE

ACADEMY The awards used to go each year to companies that created new camera lenses, advances in optical printing, camera design, etc. Now technical awards include Blue Sky being honored for their in-house advancements in digital rendering, Disney honored for the development of the Meander program, a hybrid vector/raster-based drawing and animation system (first used on *Paperman*), and Sony for the development of expression-based facial performance-capture technology.

THE BRITISH AWARDS The BAFTA award for Special Visual Effects went to Robert Legato, Dan Lemmon, Andrew R. Jones and Adam Valdez for their work on *The Jungle Book*. The Best Animated Feature award went to Travis Knight for *Kubo and the Two Strings*.

THE SOUND EDITORS' GOLDEN REEL AWARDS The sound and music editing award for an animated feature went to *Moana*, Walt Disney Animation Studios, directed by Ron Clements, John Musker and produced by Osnat Shurer and John Lasseter.

The sound and music editing award for a special venue film went to *Pearl*, Google Spotlight Stories, directed by Patrick Osborne.

AT FRANCE'S CAESAR AWARD "MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI" WON TWO AWARDS It not only won Best Animated Feature, it also beat out live action films for Best Adapted Screenplay.

LOCAL SCREENINGS

ANIMATION AT CAAMFEST 2017 IN SF The

Center for Asian American Media has sent us the following information, an animated feature from Canada and two shorts that will be in this year's CAAMFest.



Window Horses: The Poetic Persian Epiphany of Rosie Ming, a feature written and directed by Ann Marie Fleming (Canada, 2016). "An exquisitely animated film about the physical and inner journey of Rosie Ming, a young Chinese-Iranian girl (voiced by Sandra Oh) whose poetry carries her on a trip from her Canadian home to a festival in Iran.

When she leaves her loving and worrisome grandparents behind and meets an eclectic and seasoned group of confident poets, Rosie finds her true voice as an artist, and unveils a deep family secret." Ellen Page and Shohreh Aghdashloo provide additional voices.

Variety says, "Director Ann Marie Fleming's rudimentary Stick Girl character uses poetry to cross xenophobic barriers in this whimsical cartoon." The film is being distributed by the National Film Board of Canada. At the Alamo Theater in SF, Sat. March 11th at 6 PM.



Harry on the Clouds, a short by Aya Shiroi, Japan. A heartwarming and bittersweet tale of love and loss, that tells the story of a lamb visiting its mother on earth moments before moving on to the afterlife. At the Roxie Theater, Sun. March 12th @4:40pm.

Fear by Dawn Dreyer, a documentary artist, teacher, and activist. "Dr. Zenglo Chen has lived with his fear since his parents were taken away during the Cultural Revolution in China when he was four. In this meticulous animation, Dr. Chen explains the tightrope he walks through life. Fear considers the tensions between fear and safety; faith and psychology; Chinese and American identity; and acceptance and healing." It had its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival. It will be at the Roxie Theater, Sun. March 12th @7:10 pm.

CAAMFEST in San Jose will return Oct. 6 - 14.

ATA'S OTHER CINEMA ON VALENCIA HAS AN EVENING OF EXPERIMENTAL/NON-HOLLYWOOD ANIMATION, SAT. MARCH 11 AT 8:30 PM The program includes two works by Larry Jordan, the world premiere of *Night Light*

Larry Jordan, the world premiere of *Night Light* and *Folds of the Fortnight* from 1980. Both are being shown on 16mm film. Also being shown are

two films by Lauren Cook, *Trans/Figured/Ground* and *Altitude Zero* (on Amelia Earhart and in 16mm). Also see the West Coast premiere of Martha Colburn's *Pug Adventures*, "an animated journey through the human reproductive system!" plus work by Karen Ver Trinidad (in person), Salise Hughes, Deb Kelley, Kelly Galiagher and Mary Ellen Butte. ATA is located at 992 Valencia, \$7.

DON'T MISS THE THE GLAS
ANIMATION FESTIVAL IN BERKELEY
MARCH 2 – 5 – see next to last item in
this issue for new details

MARTHA GORZYCKI'S "VOICES FROM KAW THOO LEI" WILL SCREEN IN THE BAY AREA MARCH 26 It will screen in the Bay Area on Sunday, March 26th at the Albany FilmFest. It is in program #3, screening around 2pm at the Albany Twin Theater on Solano Ave near San Pablo. The schedule will be forthcoming on the festival website.

Her latest film has now won eight festival honors and it continues to be shown at international events. This winter it has screened at the Sydney World Film Festival in Australia, at CineMagic in London and just a few days ago (Feb. 28) at Creation International Film Festival in Ottawa, Canada. So far this spring it will be shown at Show Me Justice Festival of Human Rights in Warrensburg, MO on April 6th and at Docs Without Borders in Nassau, DE on May 1st.

Martha is an Associate Professor in the School of Cinema Department at San Francisco State University. She is their Animation Coordinator.

LOCAL NEWS



OUR SCEENING OF THE OSCAR NOMINATED SHORTS WAS AN EXCELLENT EVENT Thanks Ron Diamond for this event and guest speakers Theodore Ushev and Marc Batard.

If you haven't seen all 5 shorts try to catch the program at a commercial theatre. It displayed a wide range of approaches to what an animated short can be. They range from the adorable, cute *Piper* to the hard edge ugliness of life in *Pear Cider and Cigarettes. Pearl* by Marc Osborne captures the light, perhaps meaningless pop commercial culture of today's youth. Then there is the powerful tragedy *Borrowed Time* and the fascinating *Blind Vaysha*, a unique story about a woman who can see the past with one eye and the future with the other, but she can't see the present. The rich graphic artwork of *Vaysha* resembles the printmaking technique of linocuts.

Each Oscar contender is well made and well thought out, so that each is worthy of winning the Oscar for different reasons. For me the highlight of the event was hearing animator Theodore Ushev and his producer Marc Batard talk about making *Blind Vaysha*. Theo told me earlier that one film he is working on is using encaustic, a technique that uses colored wax that is softened with heat. It will have a distinctive look to it.



"LOU" WILL BE THE NEXT PIXAR SHORT TO BE RELEASED Lou, an animated short by Pixar veteran Dave Mullins, is set to be released with Cars 3 on June 16. The six-minute short's storyline features a bully named J.J., who exhibits Sid-like qualities (remember Sid in Toy Story?). J.J. likes to snatch other kids' toys and tosses them aside, leading Lou to decide to teach this bully a lesson with some playful hijinks.

In the still image released by the studio Lou is seen wearing a red hoodie with eyes made of baseballs and buttons, grinning mischievously from inside a school's lost and found bin.

Director Mullins has been at the studio for over 16 years. His first Pixar credit was on *Monsters Inc*. For most of his career at Pixar he has been working in the animation department, taking on roles ranging from animator to directing animator and supervising animator. *Lou* is the first film he has directed.

Mullins says the idea for *Lou* came from moving a lot during his childhood and feeling out of place. The purpose of Lou's existence in the film is for him to return stolen objects to their rightful owners. The skateboard in the toy box refers to Mullins' fondness for one growing up. The football in the chest is a reference to his father enjoying watching football.

HELP PLAN ASIFA-SF'S FUTURE PROGRAMS What events can we present on our limited budget that will benefit our members? Do you want to suggest, organize and/or present one? We have a few annual programs that people enjoy (our spring show, Ron Diamond's Oscar event, careers in animation panel, an annual visit by the National Film Board of Canada, our winter party/screening etc.), but there is room on our

calendar for other events. It could be a roundtable discussion, a demonstration at a studio, a workshop, a special screening or... Got an idea? Perhaps we can make it happen. ASIFA-SF is your association.

Contact karlcohen@earthlink.net



DISNEY'S "TANGLED BEFORE EVER AFTER" PREMIERES ON TV MARCH 10 AND "TANGLED: THE SERIES" PREMIERS MARCH 24 The Disney Channel's original movie *Tangled*

24 The Disney Channel's original movie *Tangled Before Ever After* premieres prior to the new second season of *Tangled: The Series* that begins on March 24. *Tangled Before Ever After* is set between the stories told in Walt Disney Animation Studios' acclaimed film *Tangled* and its short film *Tangled Ever After*. It debuts on Friday, March 10 (8:00 p.m. EST). Reprising their roles are Mandy Moore and Zachary Levi as Rapunzel and Eugene (formerly known as Flynn Rider), respectively.

"The animated adventure/comedy movie and series unfold as Rapunzel acquaints herself with her parents, her kingdom and the people of Corona. Her irrepressible spirit and natural curiosity lead her to realize that there is so much more she needs to learn about the world and herself before she can assume her role as Princess of Corona. Beloved characters from the feature film accompany Rapunzel on her journey, including her partner in life Eugene, her loyal chameleon sidekick, Pascal, a no-nonsense and dutiful horse named Maximus; and the Snuggly Duckling Pub Thugs. The series introduces newcomer Cassandra (voiced by Broadway's Eden Espinosa), a tough-as-nails ladyin-waiting, who becomes Rapunzel's good friend and confidante."

Tangled Before Ever After will be available on the Disney Channel app and Disney Channel VOD platforms beginning Friday, March 10. Tangled: The Series will be available beginning Friday, March 24. Following its U.S. debut, the Disney Channel Original Movie and series will roll out globally in 33 languages in 162 countries on Disney Channels worldwide.

Additional *Tangled* products include new print and e-book titles from Disney Publishing while Disney Consumer Products and Interactive Media will debut new playsets, dolls, role-play, apparel and accessories later this fall at Disney stores and at other retailers. The songs "Wind in My Hair" performed by Mandy Moore and "Life After Happily Ever After" performed by Mandy Moore, Zachary Levi and Clancy Brown are being released by Walt Disney Records; and a DVD of the TV movie and four animated shorts are being released April 11 by Disney Studios.

DISNEY FINALLY SETTLES THEIR ANTI-POACHING LEGAL CASE. THEIR ANIMATORS AND VFX WORKERS WILL SPLIT \$100 MILLION (LESS LEGAL FEES) Disney has agreed to pay \$100 million to put an end to an anti-poaching lawsuit brought by animation and VFX workers. The legal fight began in 2014 when a former DreamWorks Animation employee filed an

an anti-poaching lawsuit brought by animation and VFX workers. The legal fight began in 2014 when a former DreamWorks Animation employee filed an antitrust lawsuit against the major animation studios, following an investigation by the Department of Justice. The animator claimed that a 1980s gentleman's agreement between Lucasfilm and Pixar to not poach each other's employees led to an industry-wide pact to keep labor costs low. Eventually Blue Sky Studios, DreamWorks Animation, Pixar, Sony Pictures Animation, Sony Pictures Imageworks and The Walt Disney Company had charges filed against them.

Disney was the last company to settle. The total combined settlement paid to workers at the seven studios comes to nearly \$170 million. That includes attorneys' fees.

DISNEY'S CEO IGER OFFERS TO DELAY HIS RETIREMENT He was going to retire at the end of the year, but he is worried ESPN is no longer making enough money. The number of subscribers is down, so if the board thinks he can improve matters he is offering to stay on.



WORLD PREMIERE OF BILL PLYMPTON'S FEATURE "REVENGEANCE" WAS FEB. 18 AT THE PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM

FESTIVAL This is Bill's eighth feature and it was co-directed by Bill Plympton and Jim Lujan. They introduced the film at the Laurelhurst Theater and the next night at the Whitsell Auditorium inside Portland Art Museum. After the Portland premiere prints of it will be screened in the coming weeks at Anima, Brussels, Belgium; Monstra Festival, Lisbon, Portugal; Meknes Festival, Morocco; Holland Animation Festival, Utrecht; Hong Kong Int'l Film Festival; Worldfest Houston, Houston TX; Future Film Festival, Bologna, Italy; and Fantaspoa, PortoAlegre, Brazil.

Revengeanace tells the story of a low-rent bounty hunter (Rod Rosse, The One Man Posse) who gets entangled in a web of seedy danger when he takes a

job from an ex-biker/ex-wrestler turned U.S. senator named "Deathface." Rod has to find what was stolen from the senator and find the girl who stole it. Soon, Rosse finds there's more than meets the eye to this dirty job. Between the ruthless biker gangs, the blood thirsty cults, and the crooked cops - Rod Rosse is a marked man. If the bullets don't kill him - the California sun just might!

A BRIEF VIDEO ON ONE OF THE GREATS OF ANIMATION, MAURICE NOBLE Maurice was an exceptional background painter who created Road Runner country for Chuck Jones and other memorable moments. Dan Steves recently heard about the video on KALW. It was mentioned in a NPR interview with Tod Polson, the author of *The Noble Approach: The Zen of Animation Design* that was recorded in 2013 when the book came out. http://99percentinvisible.org/episode/episode-85-noble-effort/ I had the pleasure of interviewing Maurice for AWN.CON just before he passed.. KC http://www.awn.com/animationworld/maurice-noble-animations-old-rebel

CARTOON BREW HAS AN EXCELLENT ARTICLE ABOUT HOW MICHAEL DUDOK DE WIT CREATED HIS DRAWN-CGI **IMAGES IN "THE RED TURTLE"** He drew the film using TV Paint software and Cintiq tablets while his luscious backgrounds started out as charcoal drawings on paper and they were colored and had details added digitally with Photoshop. His production team was quite small so he could better supervise. There were about a dozen character animators, about ten who animated water, stormy skies, etc. and between 30 to 40 assistants. Other facts of interest include the production was started in 2011 with tests and the turtles and raft were modeled and animated in 3D using Autodesk 3DS Max. The article was posted on Feb. 18, 2017. http://www.cartoonbrew.com/feature-film/ michael-dudok-de-wits-red-turtle-5-interestingfacts-films-production-148887.html

"ARCTIC JUSTICE: THUNDER SQUAD" WILL BE AN ANIMATED GLOBAL WARMING FILM TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY OPEN ROAD The voice cast of the family film includes Jeremy Renner, Alec Baldwin, Heidi

Klum, John Cleese, James Franco, Anjelica Huston and Omar Sy. It opens in theaters in 2018. The film is being directed by Aaron Woodley, produced by Open Road and the animation work is being done by AMBI's Toronto-based AIC Studios. *Arctic Justice: Thunder Squad* tells the story of a rag-tag group of inexperienced heroes who come together to save the arctic and foil the evil plans of a sinister Doc Walrus, who hatches a secret plot to accelerate global warming and melt the Arctic Circle. Tom Ortenberg, CEO of Open Road said, "The family film audience is hungry for quality product and we are very happy to serve up something fresh and topical with *Arctic Justice.*"

OUR NEXT 4 YEARS - OVER 200 ANIMATORS, INCLUDING OSCAR AND EMMY WINNING ARTISTS, WANT TO CHANGE THE DISCUSSION WITH ANIMATED PSAS (PUBLIC SERVICE **ANNOUNCEMENTS)** Our Next 4 Years is a new volunteer-run organization made up of over 200 concerned animation professionals who formed it as a response to the recent U.S. election. They will produce progressive animated PSAs and other Their first PSA, Share in the Care: materials. Defend the Affordable Care Act illustrates the problems with repealing the Affordable Care Act in a humorous, informative way. You can view it at https://www.ournext4vears.org/videos/psa001

Future PSA's are in production on such topics as immigration, climate change, privacy protection, and other constitutional issues.

Our Next 4 Years is not affiliated with any particular company. The group's members have worked at Disney, DreamWorks, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, along with many other studios, big and small. It includes Oscar, Emmy, Annie, and Humanitas award winners and nominees. Utilizing the skills of its members to communicate the concerns of a population both worried and energized by the recent election, Our Next 4 Years will showcase outstanding animation with the goal of fostering informed discussion.

The PSA's will vary in style but the approach will be to remain positive, stick to the facts, and move people to action. It is a mission that is personal to group co-founder Mike Blum

who says "I've never been a particularly political person. In fact, until last fall, the most political thing I'd ever done was vote. But the election really changed my mindset and I realized I needed to do something to help. It was only after reading an impassioned Facebook post by my animation supervisor, Ramiro Olmos, about the role animation could play in creating change that I knew I needed to use my organizational and professional skills to counter what I fear could be a rollback of seventy years of progressive gains." Blum is an Emmy nominated director, writer, and producer best known for *Fifi, Cat Therapist*.

Critical to the mission of the project is partnering with organizations that can help the group set priorities, focus its messaging, stay current on facts, and work to distribute the PSA's as widely as possible. Currently the group is affiliated with Action Group Network, brainchild of House of Cards Creator Beau Willimon, which is a nationwide network of action groups dedicated to moving the United States progressively forward in the wake of a divisive election and *RISE Stronger*, which engages, educates, and empowers citizens to become active participants in democracy by merging policy expertise with grassroots energy.

According to *RISE Stronger* founder and former White House Iraq Director at the National Security Council Andy Kim, "*RISE Stronger's* partnership with *Our Next 4 Years* brings together a wide network of policy experts with talented animators and storytellers to find new creative ways to educate, inform, and mobilize the American people on pressing issues facing our nation. This is the exact type of innovative and cross-cutting initiative that is needed to foster dialogue and action during this time of political uncertainty and concern. We hope people across the country will watch these videos, share them, and be inspired to act"

You can get more information and/or volunteer to help at: **ournext4years.org**, visit on facebook at: **facebook.com/ournext4years/** or Twitter at: **twitter.com/OurNext4Years.**

According to Mike Blum, Our Next 4 Years has no plan to take on European causes, but if the tide keeps turning in Europe it might be time for a European group to form on this side of the Big

Pond. Thanks to Nancy Denny-Phelps for this news story.

THE TV SERIES "CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS" PREMIERES ON CARTOON NETWORK MARCH 6 AT 5:30 PM

Cartoon Network's new TV series, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs is a "mouth-watering comedy series" based on Sony Pictures Animation's 2009 animated feature comedy hit Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs and its 2013 sequel, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2. Both were both global hits. The TV series is produced by DHX Media and Sony Pictures Animation in association with Corus Entertainment.

OUR NEXT ASIFA-SF PROGRAM WILL BE CAREERS IN ANIMATION SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2 PM, SF STATE, FREE, PUBLIC INVITED, FINE ARTS BUILDING 101, COPPOLA THEATRE

Three of the panelists will be

Jonathan Lyons
He has worked locally at ILM, Tippett, Image
Movers Digital and The Orphanage. See his
award winning film and sample reel at http://
stupix.com/

Jamie Burton
He's working on the game Skylanders at
Toys for Bob in Petaluma
- http://toysforbob.com/

Janelle Hessig
She works at KQED in their Film School
Shorts Program



SIGNE BAUMAN GETS WORD HER KICKSTARTER CAMPAGN HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL – SHE HAS THE MONEY NEEDED FOR HER NEXT FEATURE!!!

VIRTUAL REALITY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/19/business/media/void-start-up-virtual-reality.html and https://www.google.com/amp/s/mobile.nytimes.com/2017/02/19/business/media/void-start-up-virtual-reality.amp.html?client=safari

OUR WEBSITE IS www.asifa-sf.org



GLAS 2017 HAS LOTS OF GREAT GUESTS COMING ALONG WITH LOTS OF INDEPENDENT ANIMATED FILLMS TO SEE MARCH 2 - 5 IN BERKELEY AT THE GLAS ANIMATION FESTIVAL has an impressive roster of special guests lined up for the upcoming edition including Incredibles director Brad Bird, Belgium's Mathieu Labave, Brooklyn animator Peter Burr, Pixar and Nickelodeon storyboard artist Madeline Sharafian, Japan's Masaaki Yuasa, Canadian collage artist and animator Amy Lockhart, Pixar artist Ana Ramirez, Swiss animator Georges Schwizgebel, China's Lei Lei, and AWN contributor and OIAF artistic director Chris Robinson.

Visit the GLAS website for information on programs, festival passes, volunteering, hotel discounts, and more.

http://www.glasanimation.com/

DISNEY ANNOUNCES THEIR NEXT RELEASES THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN

IMAX The upcoming live-action and animated tentpoles blown up digitally to Imax include Pixar's The Incredibles 2 and Toy Story 4, the untitled Han Solo Star Wars film, and Star Wars: The Last Jed. Also included are Marvel's Black Panther, Ant-Man and the Wasp, Captain Marvel, Avengers: Infinity War, an untitled Avengers sequel Disney's Beauty and the Beast, A Wrinkle in Time and Mulan. Last year four of the top 10 Imax money makers were from Disney; Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, Captain America: Civil War, Doctor Strange and The Jungle Book.

ASIFA-SF IS A VOLUNTEER RUN ASSOCIATION

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ASIFA-SF is a chapter of: Association Internationale du Film d'Animation with almost 40 chapters around the world. Membership is \$26 a year with printed newsletter mailed to you or \$21 a year if you only want the issue e-mailed to you

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