

# ASIFA

THE INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION ASSOCIATION

Nov 2017



ASIFA-SF MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO A PRIVATE  
ADVANCED SCREENING OF



***THE BREADWINNER***

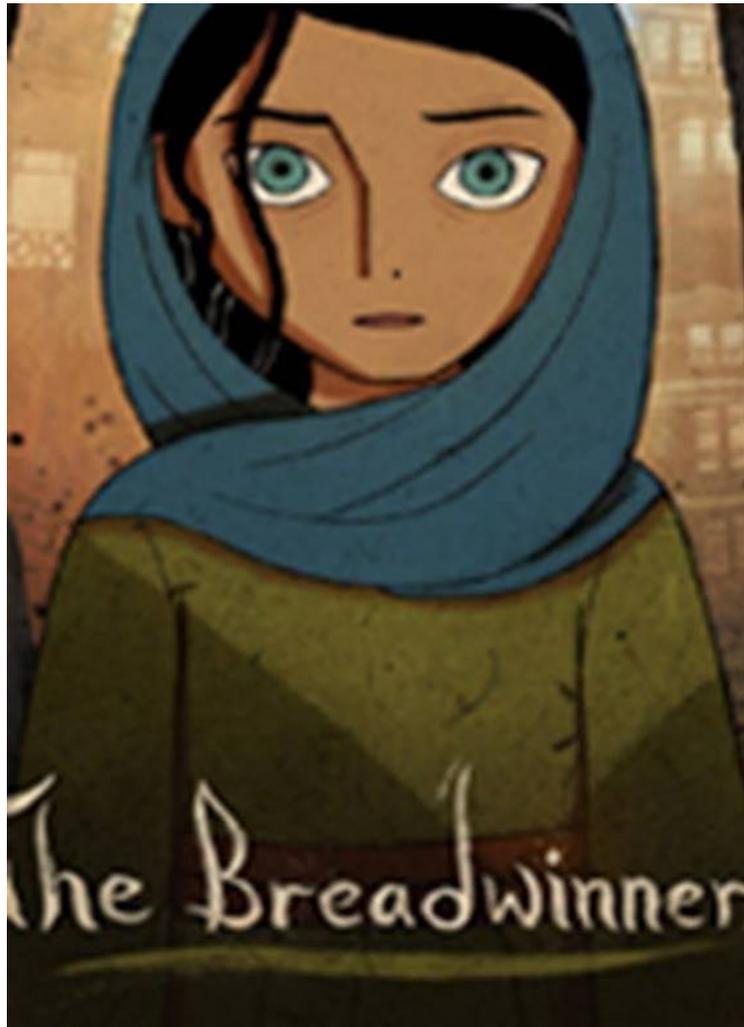
***With the director Nora Twomey present to talk  
about the production***

**\*\*\*\*\*last minute comment\*\*\*\*\***

**THE BREADWINNER is a powerful dramatic film with handsome artwork from the studio that created Secret of Kells and Song of the Sea. It opens in Dec. in SF and a short review of this remarkable film will be in the Dec. newsletter.**

**“The Breadwinner” is a glorious demonstration of the power of myth to deal with brutal reality, and the power of truth to animate myth.” Steve Pond,**

## The Wrap



From executive producer Angelina Jolie and Cartoon Saloon, creators of the Academy Award nominated *The Secret of Kells* and *Song of the Sea*, comes the highly-anticipated new feature based on Deborah Ellis' bestseller. *The Breadwinner* tells the story of Parvana, a 12-year-old girl growing up under the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001. When her father is arrested, Parvana dresses as a boy in order to work and provide for her family. Together with her best

friend Shauzia, she risks discovery to try to find out if her father is still alive.

AT THE VOGUE THEATRE

Monday, October 30, 7 PM

3290 Sacramento Street, [San Francisco](#), RSVP  
[karlcohen@earthlink.net](mailto:karlcohen@earthlink.net)

“One of the most exciting animation houses in the world is Ireland's Cartoon Saloon. In its early years it's largely been a showcase for co-founder Tomm Moore who made *Secret of Kells* and [Song of the Sea](#) (both deservedly Oscar nominated). Now Nora Twomey, also a co-founder, steps into the director's chair for their third feature, another visual stunner... This desert fable is another necessary reminder that animation is a medium rather than a genre. It's capable of generating myriad kinds of wonder and has the ability to tell any kind of story. There's a whole new world out there beyond adventure comedies and princess musicals. If only family audiences would be willing to explore it.” Film Experience

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## AN INVITE TO ASIFA-

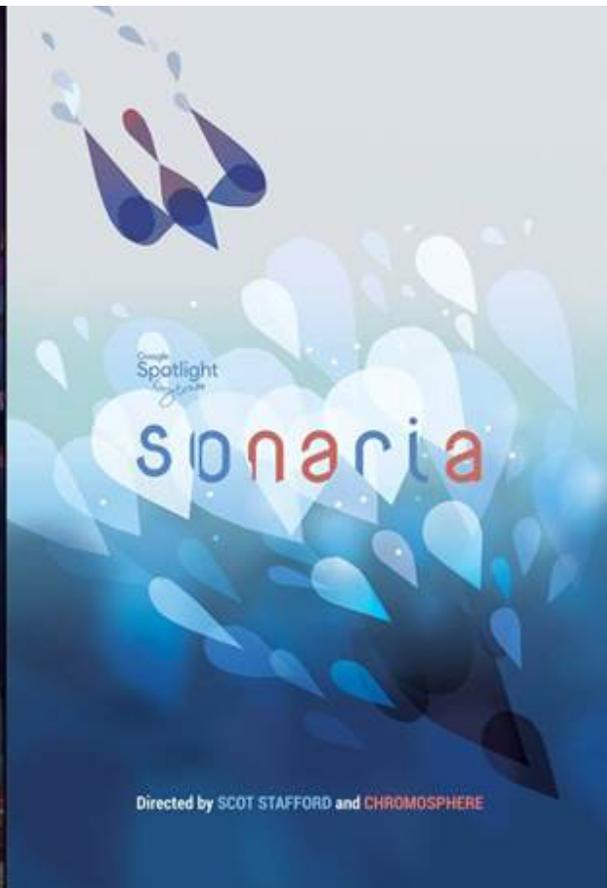
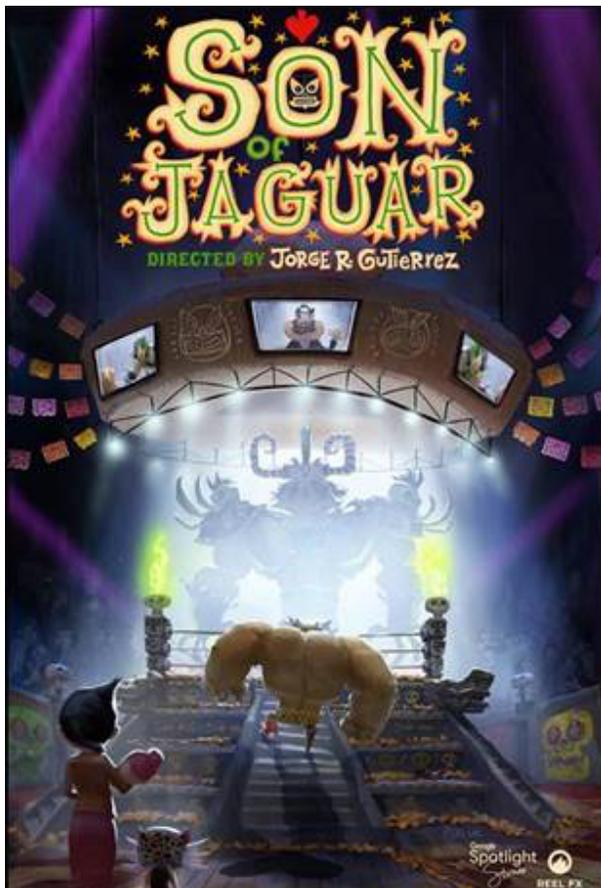
# SF

[Autodesk](#) and [Google Spotlight Stories](#) are joining forces for a special presentation of Google Spotlight Stories' newest

virtual reality shorts, *Son of Jaguar* and *Sonaria* at the Autodesk Gallery, November 3rd at 7pm.

Creative Director of Music and Sound, Scot Stafford, Executive Producer, Karen Dufilho, Producers, Camille Cellucci and David Eisenmann, and VR Technical Director, Pouchon Venerin, will host a discussion about the making of each show. They will go behind the scenes of Google Spotlight Stories' custom-built software development kit (SDK) used to create the interactivity in the shows, the technical complexities of designing a show in 360 and the artistic inspiration behind each production.

Please RSVP via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) and looking forward to having you!



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**Kids (6 to 12) - \$4**

**Children (5 and younger) - FREE**

**Members - FREE**

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# FEATURED EXHIBITIONS

## Smile! The Comics of Raina Telgemeier

October 28, 2017 - March 20, 2018

Raina Telgemeier is the award-winning author and illustrator of the four New York Times #1 bestselling graphic novels *Smile*, *Sisters*, *Drama*, and *Ghosts*. She also adapted and illustrated four graphic novel versions of Ann M. Martin's *The Baby-sitters Club* series, and has contributed short stories to many anthologies. Raina's accolades include two Eisner Awards, a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor, a Stonewall Honor, and many Best Of and Notable lists. Her latest graphic novel is *Ghosts*. Raina lives and works in San Francisco, CA.

Explore Raina Telgemeier's autobiographical works, award-winning graphic novels, and acclaimed adaptations with an in-depth look at her creative process, rare comics and photos from the San Francisco native's own archives.

Images © 2010-2012 by Raina Telgemeier

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**DAY OF THE DEAD OPERA** at Brava Theatre, on 24<sup>th</sup> St., November 3, 2017, John Jota Leanos write us, “We are honoring Pat Tillman’s legacy during our Day of the Dead Opera at Brava Theater in SF on Nov 3. We will be performing a Mexican corrido and dance called ‘El Corrido de Tillman’ that tells his story as best we can. Check it out if you can, it should be a good show that includes some new animation.” John teaches at U.C. Santa Cruz and his multi-media show uses a considerable amount of animation. Tillman was a professional football player who turned down a multi-million contract to honor his country by serving in Afghanistan. President Bush used his death in battle as pro-war propaganda, calling Tillman a great hero; however, he was gunned down by friendly fire. <https://www.brava.org/all-events/2017/11/3/imperial-silence-una-pera-muerta>



**TOM HANKS IS BACK IN AN ANIMATED DAVID S. PUMPKINS HALLOWEEN SPECIAL** It is based on the popular *Saturday Night Live* *Haunted Elevator* sketch (SNL Oct. 22, 2016) that featured a live action Tom Hanks as the mystery man David S. Pumpkins. He appeared on an elevator wearing a pumpkin suit and was surrounded by two skeleton dancers played by Mikey Day and Bobby Moynihan. In the new skit Hanks voiced the animated version of Mr. Pumpkins. *Game of Thrones* star Peter Dinklage and sketch creators Day, Moynihan and Streeter Seidell are the Hank's co-star voices. Bento Box Entertainment did the animation. The new skit (NBC, Oct. 28, 11:30 PM) was written by Day, Seidell and Moynihan.



**‘THE STAR’ IS SONY’S ANIMATED OFFERING FOR THE COMING CHRISTMAS SEASON** [Bill Desowitz](#)

writing for *Indie Wire* notes that Sony Pictures Animation which “failed to ignite the box office with *The Emoji Movie*,” is going to release *The Star* November 17. It is a kid-friendly retelling of the first Christmas from the perspective of the animals. It was directed by Timothy Reckart who created the Oscar-nominated stop-motion short *Head Over Heels* about a bittersweet, upside down marriage. Bill writes “there’s only a hint of charm and beauty” in *The Star’s* trailer.

The trailer suggests it will be marketed as a fast paced comedy with a donkey that appears to be related to Eddie Murphy’s wise cracking over-the-top donkey in *Shrek*. Hopefully most kids today haven’t seen *Shrek* so they will find the new donkey original and funny. Also the animation and backgrounds look like Reckart only had a modest budget to work with.

The film’s voice talent adds name recognition so that may help sell a few tickets. The cast includes Gina

Rodriguez, Zachary Levi, Keegan-Michael Key, Kelly Clarkson, Anthony Anderson, Aidy Bryant, Ving Rhames, Gabriel Iglesias, Patricia Heaton, Kristin Chenoweth, Christopher Plummer, Tracy Morgan, Tyler Perry, and Oprah Winfrey.



**“THE GLORIOUS LABOR OF LOVING VINCENT”** is an excellent long, intelligent interview about the making of the film with the filmmakers Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman by Leslie Combemale. It was published by Jerry Beck’s Animation Scoop on Sept. 20. <http://www.animationscoop.com/the-glorious-labor-of-loving-vincent-an-interview-with-filmmakers-dorota-kobiela-and-hugh-welchman/>



**DISNEY SHELVES THE JACK AND THE BEANSTALK FILM 'GIGANTIC'** “Sometimes, no matter how much we love an idea or how much heart goes into it, we find that it just isn’t working,” said Walt Disney Animation Group president Ed Catmull.

***Gigantic***, Disney Animation's original feature project that was to have been released in 2020, is being shelved. It was being developed as an updated take on the *Jack and the Beanstalk* fairy tale, in which Jack befriends a female giant.

**THE SAUSAGE PARTY DIRECTOR WILL HELM AN ADDAMS FAMILY FEATURE FOR MGM**

Conrad Vernon, who co-directed *The Sausage Party*, will direct MGM’s animated version of *The Addams Family*. *The Addams Family* began as single-panel gag illustrations by cartoonist Charles Addams that appeared primarily in *The New Yorker*. Their popularity led to *The Addams Family* television show in the 1960s and then an animated series in

the early 1970s. The family enjoyed a revival in the early 1990s with a pair of hit movies that starred Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia and Christina Ricci.

CG animation work is underway at Cinesite Studios in Vancouver. Vernon co-directed ***Shrek 2***, ***Monsters vs Aliens***, ***Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*** and ***Sausage Party***.



**IS 'MY LITTLE PONY' WORSE THAN 'THE EMOJI MOVE?'** The first review I read began, "Attention, *The Emoji Movie*, your status as worst animated feature of the year might well be in jeopardy when *My Little Pony: The Movie* trots into theaters this weekend." After watching a few seconds of the trailer and listening to the obnoxious, overly enthusiastic squeaky voices, I'd say it is a tie for the perfect movie to use to torture somebody with. KC



**70 YEARS OF POLISH ANIMATION IS COMING TO THE PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVES IN DECEMBER** Four different programs will be shown, **Sun., Dec. 3 at 7:15 PM; Thurs., Dec. 14 at 7 PM; Sun., Dec. 17 at 7 PM and Wed., Dec. 20 7 PM. Some of the older works will be shown in 35mm.**

“Polish animation under the Soviet yoke built its reputation on the clever, often brilliant ways that it defied totalitarianism without being caught by the censors. Animators became adept at the use of irony, indirection, and allegory as subversive tactics.” The series includes many of the old masters like Jan Lenica, Walerian Borowczyk, Kazimierz Urbanski, and Jerzy Kucia and more recent artists who continue the experimentation and the breaking of new ground. The subject matter has little to do with Disney. What may seem to be familiar themes, female power, exploitation of the soil, the generation gap, male impotence, fear of aging, superhero fantasies, are in fact lures into the unpredictable, lyrical, and outrageous. Details at <https://>

[bampfa.org/program/polish-animation-70-years](http://bampfa.org/program/polish-animation-70-years)



## **CHARLES SCHULZ MUSEUM IN SANTA ROSA IS SAFE, BUT CLOSED TILL NOV. 5**

They sent out a press release that said, “On behalf of Mrs. Schulz, the Board of Directors, and staff, we would like to thank you for all the heartwarming messages of caring and concern over the past week. Although the power has been restored to the Museum and we are no longer in the evacuation zone, air quality continues to be an issue. Once the air is stabilized, staff will begin the process of cleaning the interior of the Museum and examining and cleaning the art. Therefore, the Museum expects to be closed for at least the next two weeks.”

“Through this devastating and stressful time in our community, the staff have moved us through all the necessary steps to ensure a safe evacuation of the art to securing storage for other artifacts. The stewardship of this collection is in good hands.”



**J.J. SEDELMAIER PRODUCTIONS CREATED THE GEICO 'HE MAN' AD** J.J. wrote us “This spot of ours recently broke (<https://vimeo.com/235353261>) and is flooding broadcast, cable and social media in the U.S. and Canada. It's a lot of fun, and most importantly has received a lot of positive feedback from *He Man* fans and many of the old Filmation crew that worked on the 1980's series. I find it acceptably loyal to the original.”



## **THE SAG-AFTRA VIDEO GAME STRIKE ENDED**

The 11-month old strike, the longest in the union's history, resulted in bonuses and other gains for performers. It involved the union and 11 video game companies including Activision, Electronic Arts, Disney and Warner Bros. The chair of the union's interactive negotiating committee said, "The bonus payments we have now are significantly larger than what we had 11 months ago. The existence of additional payments beyond your session fee is in the video game world for good, both in our high-budget and independent promulgated agreements. Those are the victories that this strike has brought us." Members are protected by the disclosure of whether they will be required to use unusual terminology, profanity or racial slurs, whether there will be content of a sexual or violent nature and whether stunts will be required. Actor Crispin Freeman added "This contract is unique because actors don't share in

profits.”

**Sat., Nov. 11, ‘BOZZETTO NON TROPPO’ Directed by Marco Bonfanti, 2:00 pm, Vogue Theatre, This upbeat documentary illustrates how a creative Italian animator’s life shapes and influences what later appears on screen.**



INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**NANCY DENNEY-PHELPS HAS BECOME AN ANIMATION NEWSLETTER EDITOR- PUBLISHER**

She writes that at StopTrik Stop Motion Animation Festival in Maribon, Slovenia she “led a workshop where we put out a 12 page newspaper about the festival. Some of the workshop participants had never been to an animation festival before and it is fascinating to read their impressions of the films and the festival participants. I hope that you enjoy reading our newspaper as much as I enjoyed leading the workshop. I have posted our newspaper on my AWN blog.” [www.awn.com/blogs/sprockets](http://www.awn.com/blogs/sprockets)

## **‘THE FORGER’ USES CUT OUT ANIMATION IN A FASCINATING ANIMATED DOC**

As a teenager, Adolfo Kaminsky saved thousands of lives by forging passports to help children flee the Nazis, then he helped others escape atrocities around the world. The film was featured in an email edition of the *NY Times* and is by Samantha Stark, Alexandre Garcia, Pamela Druckerman and Manual Cinema Studios. <https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/10000004683722/the-forger.html>

## **‘SOUTH PARK’ VIDEO GAME ‘FRACTURED BUT WHOLE’ HAS A SCRIPT THE SIZE OF 2 FEATURE FILMS**

Parker and Stone assure fans it will be a fantastic gameplay experience. "I sat down and played the game all the way through a few weeks ago, and even when you do that it takes 12 hours," said Matt Stone. "It's 360 pages, so two feature films," Parker added. "It's massive." (But is it any good?)

## **UGLY NEWS ABOUT STUDENT LOANS USED TO ATTEND FOR-PROFIT SCHOOLS**

Over the years this newsletter has depicted these schools in a negative light many times and now the National Center of Education Statistics reports that 52% of students who enrolled in for-profit schools in 2003 have defaulted on at least one loan. That compares to 17% for students who enrolled in a four year public institution and 26% who went to a community college. The study found that the number of loans obtained

in 2003 that were fully paid off was about 20 to 24%.



### ***Big Fish & Begonia***

**‘ANIMATION IS FILM’ IS TRYING TO BROADEN AMERICA’S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MEDIUM IS MORE THAN FANTASY FEATURES FROM HOLLYWOOD** The festival was held in mid-October in LA. AIF was founded by Eric Beckman, the co-founder and president of GKids. He organized the festival in collaboration with the Annecy International Animation Festival, *Variety*, and ASIFA-Hollywood. Bill Desowitz wrote in [Indiewire.com](http://Indiewire.com), “After 20 years of success with the New York International Children’s Film Festival, Beckman thought it was time to broaden the appeal in Hollywood with an emphasis on global production and distribution. Additionally, the festival will feature studio events, special screenings, a shorts program *Songs of Love and Death*, and a VR lounge.”

“*The Breadwinner*, directed by Nora Twomey of Cartoon Saloon (*The Secret of Kells*), and executive produced by Angelina Jolie and Beckman, concerns a strong-willed young Afghan girl who poses as a boy to help her family survive under threat from the Taliban.”

“*Mary & the Witch’s Flower*, the debut film from Studio Studio Ponoc, founded by Studio Ghibli producer Yoshiaki Nishimura (*When Marnie Was There*), and directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi (*When Marnie Was There*) explores a young girl’s rite of passage with a fly-by-night glowing flower and a broom that comes to life.”

### **Showcasing Global Diversity**

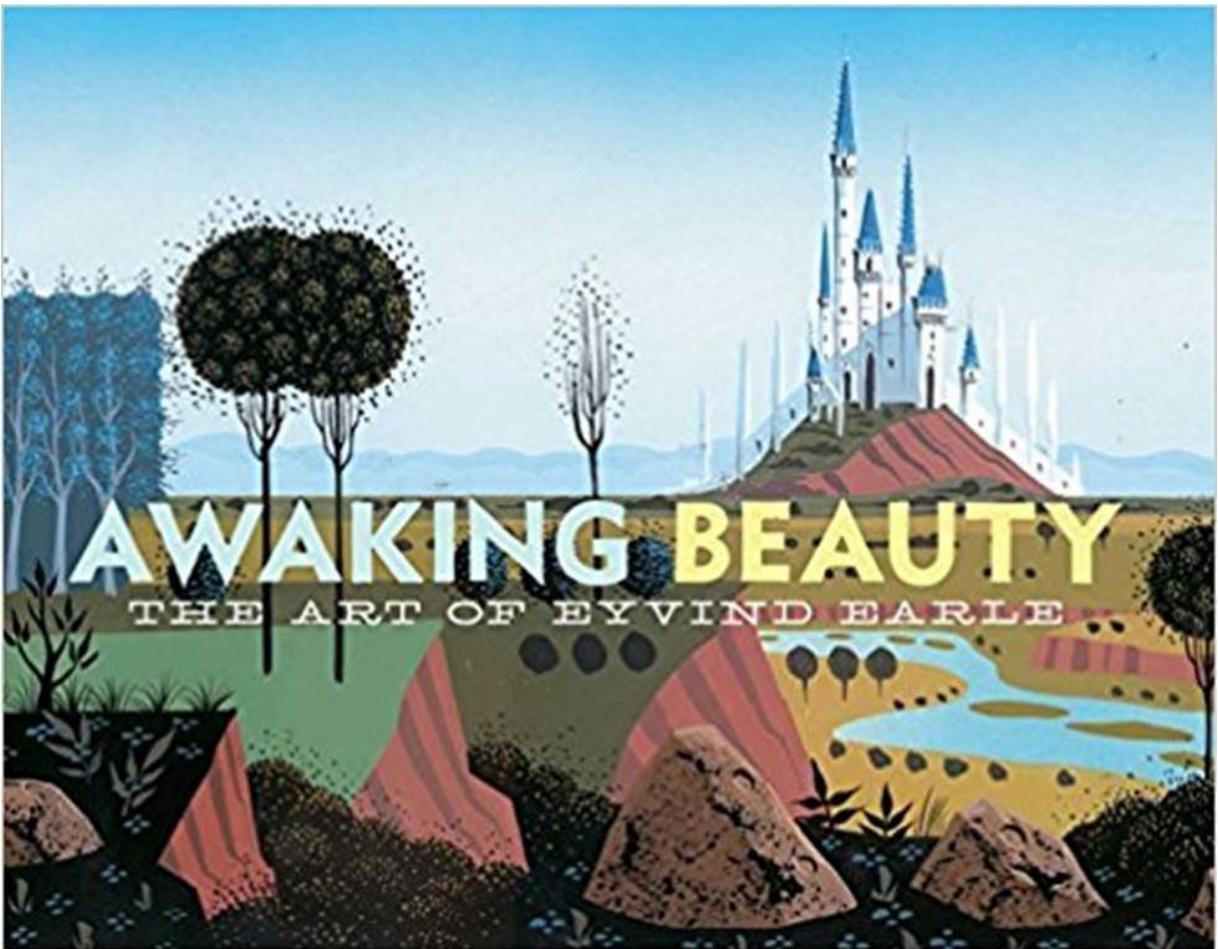
“Non-GKids films in the competition include *Big Fish & Begonia*, a surreal Chinese fantasy directed by Liang Xua and Zhang Chun *Tehran Taboo*, a German/Austrian political drama directed by Ali Soozandeh; and *Virus Tropical*, a Colombian coming of age drama directed by Santiago Caicedo.”

“*Big Fish & Begonia* is ‘one of the most mind-blowing things I’ve seen to come out of China,’ said Beckman. It’s a crazy, mythological adventure about the world of humans and the world of immortals that look after humans.”

“Of *Tehran Taboo*, Beckman said, ‘It’s one of the more adult films at the festival and tells a story that needs to be told in animation because, if this were live-action, it might be a little too provocative. It deals with this contrast between a very religiously conservative, patriarchal society and this underworld that lives in the same city. And how breaking taboos is a way of life for these people and a form of emancipation for women.’”

“Meanwhile, *Virus Tropical* bears similarities to *Persepolis*. It’s based on the graphic novel by Power Paola about young women surviving during the Columbia drug wars, ‘It’s a do-it-yourself, black-and-white style, done in a matter-of-fact way, with a refreshing point of view,’ Beckman said.”

<http://www.indiewire.com/2017/10/animation-is-film-festival-oscar-the-breadwinner-mary-the-witch-flower-1201888215/>



**‘AWAKING BEAUTY: THE ART OF EYVIND EARLE’ IS AT THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM THRU**

**JAN. 8, 2018** Their current major exhibit honors Earle who is best-known as the lead stylist for Walt Disney's classic feature *Sleeping Beauty* (1959) and for concept art that shaped such enduring favorites as *Lady and the Tramp* (1955) and *Peter Pan* (1953).

Also included are lots of impressive stylized landscapes, works that he sold at his art gallery in Carmel. They were sold as fine art and as postcards, reproduced in publications, etc. He also created sculptures. It is an impressive tribute to Earle with over 250 works on display.

## **SEE AN IMPRESSIVE STEREO 3D EFFECT ON YOUR COMPUTER'S FLAT SCREEN**

A friend sent me a demo of *Protanopia*. It shows a comic book being held in somebody's hand and as the cover is tilted the figures move with the one in the front overlapping one further back. The book's vimeo page says, "*Protanopia* is a digital comic for Ipad and Iphone, created as an experiment into the possibilities of digital comics.

Using elements from 3D and 2D animation in a realtime game engine it creates a unique visual style, whilst still having a familiar feeling." When seen without movement you see flat 2D artwork. Andre Bergs, the artist, has a website, but is vague about how the illusion was created.

<https://vimeo.com/236536962>

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**DISNEY RUNS 'FAIRY TALE WEDDINGS'** They can make your Disney lovers' wedding dreams come true. A 7 part TV series (info-commercial?) will debut next spring. Apparently this business is 25 years old.

**DISNEY'S 'BAYMAX RETURNS,' IS AN HOUR TV SPECIAL.** It will premiere Monday November 20 followed by two episodes of *Big Hero Six: The Series*. It all starts at 8 p.m EST.

**A WANDA EXECUTIVE REAFFIRMED THEIR HOLLYWOOD AMBITIONS** Zeng Maojun, president of the conglomerate's film division, he is one of Chinese billionaire Wang Jianlin's top deputies, flew to LA to address Hollywood executives at a closed-door meeting in late Sept. He reassured his many Hollywood partners that Jianlin remains committed to the entertainment business. He spoke at the AMC Century

City 15 cinema which Wanda owns. The purpose of the event was to allay concerns among Hollywood heavyweights that Wanda might be retreating from its ambitions in the U.S. film sector because of recent Chinese government scrutiny of its overseas investment activity.

The U.S. industry has good reason to wonder where Wang's Hollywood strategy currently stands. "After snapping up trophy assets at a blistering clip," Wanda and other Chinese conglomerates, including Fosun International and HNA Group, have come under heavy scrutiny in Beijing over their high debt loads and expensive deals. The government is concerned about perceived risks to the Chinese financial sector so Chinese regulators apparently are understood to have instructed China's state banks to suspend all new lending to the conglomerates' offshore acquisitions including Wanda-owned Legendary Entertainment and AMC Entertainment.

Meanwhile two major Chinese Investors have unload their stakes in Wanda's Legendary Entertainment. Wanda had to buy back two companies' investments in his troubled Los Angeles studio (worth \$237 million).

When Wanda acquired Legendary in a landmark \$3.5 billion deal last year, the conglomerate offered Chinese investors a piece of the action. At the time Wanda said it intended to merge Legendary with its publicly traded Wanda Cinema Line unit, which was

expected to generate a windfall, as Chinese entertainment stocks were red-hot then. Wanda promised investors a 15 percent return if it failed to bring Legendary public within 12 months. They didn't so Wanda has had to buy back their investors' holdings. Wanda's merger plans for Legendary have been derailed.



**MARK SWIFT IS SET TO PRODUCE ‘THE CROODS 2’ FOR A 2020 RELEASE.** Joel Crawford, who most recently served as head of story on *Trolls*, will make his feature directorial debut on DreamWorks Animation's *The Croods 2*, which is set for release on Sept. 18, 2020. Additionally, Mark Swift, who most recently produced DWA's *Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie*, will produce it. The first *Croods* grossed \$587.2 million at the

global box office.

**FEMALE ANIMATORS DEMAND END TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN OPEN LETTER: "THIS ABUSE HAS GOT TO STOP"** The letter has 217 signatures, 200 are individuals in the animation industry. The open letter insists there must be an end to sexual harassment in the workplace. About 12 women accuse Nickelodeon's Chris Savino, the creator of the animated series *Loud House*, of sexual harassment, unwanted advances and inappropriate behavior. The letter notes that women make up 23 percent of the industry's union employees and that the silence from management about harassment and assault has got to stop.

The animators' letter concludes, "We resolve to do everything we can to prevent anyone else from being victimized. We are united in our mission to wipe out sexual harassment in the animation industry, and we will no longer be silent."

**H'WOOD REPORTER LOVES PIXAR'S 'COCO'** They wrote, "It's a safe bet that audiences the world over will go loco for *Coco*."

**ASIFA-SF IS A VOLUNTEER RUN ASSOCIATION**

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*Contributors include* **Nancy Denney-Phelps**

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*Proofreader:* **Shirley Smith** (THIS ISSUE WAS DELAYED AS PETE, WHO WAS GOING TO PROOF IT, LIVES IN MAINE AND POWER TO HIS HOUSE WAS WIPED OUT BY A MAJOR

**STORM)**

*Mailing Crew:* **Denise McEvoy, Shirley Smith**

Special thanks to **Ben Ridgway, Ron Diamond** and the **SF State Animation Society** for the screening of the **19<sup>th</sup> Animation Show of Shows**; to **Marty McNamara**, the **National Film Board of Canada** and the **staff of the Walt Disney Family Museum** for our N.F.B. program; to **Nancy Denney-Phelps** for representing our chapter on the international ASIFA board, to **Emily Berk** our webmaster, to **Eihway Su** who keeps our mailing list and other records and to our treasurer **Karen Lithgow**.

*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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