

# Animation Nation 2008

October 24 – November 2



<http://sfs.org.sg/animation/>

Singapore – 19 Sep 2008 – Singapore Film Society (“SFS”) is proud to present **Animation Nation 2008**, with the generous support of the Media Development Authority of Singapore.

This year, the festival is scheduled from **24<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November**, with screenings at Fusionopolis, National Museum of Singapore, Alliance Française de Singapour, and library@esplanade, and will feature more than 50 films, both features and shorts, from more than 10 countries. We are also proud to be part of the event lineup for the new Fusionopolis.

Animation Nation’s mission is to expose local audiences to animations of all types, showcasing the best of what the animation world has to offer. We also seek to bolster the skill of local animators, by organizing seminars and workshops, where they will get to learn from world renowned animators.

## PROGRAMME

(Opening Film) **“THE PIANO FOREST” (PG)**, a Japanese animated feature film by director Makoto Isshiki and the production company Madhouse. Based on the manga by the director himself, the film was adapted into a full length animation. This animated feature was also nominated for the 2008 Japan Academy Prize for Animation of the Year, as well as the Theatrical Film category at the 2008 Annecy International Animated Film Festival.

A showcase of films from Aardman Animation Studios. David Sproxton, co-founder of Aardman, and Luis Cook, director of the award-winning short **“THE PEARCE SISTERS” (TBC)**, will be in attendance for a post-film discussion after the screening.

A seminar conducted by Independent animator Nina Paley, director of the award-winning **“SITA SINGS THE BLUES” (TBC)** - featuring Sita, a goddess who is separated from her husband, Rama. The story is a beautifully animated interpretation of the Indian epic, *The Ramayana*. Paley worked on the film on her own, imbibing the story of Sita and Rama with her own personal experience.

A retrospective of significant works by famed Japanese independent animator YAMAMURA Koji. Mr YAMAMURA will give a talk about his latest film based on Franz Kafka’s **“THE COUNTRY DOCTOR”**.

Finally, the director of **“FREEDOM PROJECT” (TBC)**, MORITA Shuhei along with producer MATSUSHITA Hideo, will also be in attendance to present a seminar on where Japanese animation is headed.

#### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

1. Bill Plympton’s latest feature film **“IDIOTS AND ANGELS” (M18)**, a film about a selfish man who has grown a pair of wings that forced him to do good deeds, will also be part of the feature lineup.
2. **“GENIUS PARTY” (NC16)**, the collection of short films by famed Japanese production house Studio 4C.
3. An international selection of shorts, encompassing some of the most eye-popping works of the past few years, including
  - BAFTA winner **“ONE RAT SHORT” (PG)**,
  - the intriguing **“DEATH BY SCRABBLE” (PG)** by Katie Steed,
  - award-winning film **“YELLOW STICKY NOTES” (TBC)**,
  - Academy Award Nominee **“I MET THE WALRUS” (TBC)**,
  - Two recent shorts from Disney, **“GLAGO’S GUEST” (G)** and **“HOW TO HOOK UP YOUR HOME THEATER” (G)**.
  - From Japan, we have **“ANIKURI 15” (PG)**, a collection of 15 one-minute shorts from renowned directors such as KON Satoshi (MILLENNIUM ACTRESS), SHINKAI Makoto (5CM/SEC), Michael Arias (TEKKON KINKREET) and more.
4. **“SIGGRAPH SHOWCASE” (TBC)**, featuring some of the best animation from the association.
5. A screening of **“FEAR(S) OF THE DARK” (M18)**, several scary films by several different directors including renowned artist Chales Burns, portraying our fears, one of the selections for Annecy 2008.
6. **“DEAD SPACE: DOWNFALL” (TBC)**, the film version from the popular video game by Electronic Arts.
7. Czech puppet horror film **“One Night In One City” (NC16)** by director Jan Balej.
8. **“TACHIGUI: THE AMAZING LIVES OF THE FAST FOOD GRIFTERS” (PG)**, by acclaimed director OSHII Mamoru, director of AKIRA and STEAMBOY.
9. Singapore animation shorts in our annual Singapore Showcase.

## **VENUE and TICKETING**

### **NATIONAL MUSEUM SCREENINGS**

Gallery Theatre (Basement 1)  
The National Museum of Singapore  
93 Stamford Road  
Singapore 178897

### **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE SCREENINGS**

AF Theatre  
Alliance Française de Singapour  
1 Sarkies Road (near Newton MRT)  
Singapore 258130

### **FUSIONOPOLIS SCREENINGS**

Genexis Theatre, Level 5  
Fusionopolis  
1 Fusionopolis Way  
Singapore 138632

Ticket Prices: \$10 (\$9 + \$1 Gatecrash charge)  
Discounted Tickets: \$9 (\$8 + \$1 Gatecrash charge)  
\*\* SFS Members are entitled to discounted tickets.

### **LIBRARY@ESPLANADE SCREENINGS**

library@esplanade  
8 Raffles Avenue,  
#03-01 S(039802).  
Tel – 6332 3255

All screenings at the National Library will be free

- \* Tickets for ticketed screenings can be purchased online at [www.gatecrash.com.sg](http://www.gatecrash.com.sg), Gatecrash Hotline 6100-2005, S.A.M kiosks and SingPost branches islandwide.
- \*\* SFS members are entitled to discounted tickets per session on production of a valid SFS membership card via the Gatecrash hotline 6100-2005 or in person at all SingPost branches islandwide (one discounted ticket per member per session). Discounted tickets are not available online.

#### **Other Information:**

All films are subject to approval and classification by the Media Development Authority, Singapore. All films are uncut and in original dialogue with English subtitles unless otherwise stated.

Age limits apply for films rated R21, M18 and NC16. Proof of age is required at the point of purchase and at the point of admission.

No food and drinks are allowed in the Theatre.

The Organisers reserve the right to change the programme and to refuse admission. In such circumstances, refunds may be offered at the discretion of the Organisers.

## OVERALL SCHEDULE - Screening Schedule (to be confirmed)

Date	Time	Title	Duration (min)	Rating	Venue
Fri 24 Oct	7pm	The Piano Forest	101	PG	FUSIONOPOLIS
Sat 25 Oct	2pm	International Shorts Showcase 1	101	TBC	FUSIONOPOLIS
	4pm	SIGGRAPH showcase	TBC	TBC	FUSIONOPOLIS
	4pm	Nina Paley Seminar	TBC	-	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
	7pm	Sita Sings the Blues	82	TBC	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
	7pm	Dead Space: Downfall	73	TBC	FUSIONOPOLIS
Sun 26 Oct	2pm	Tachigui: The Amazing Lives of the Fast Food Grifters	101	PG	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
	2pm	International Shorts Showcase 2 + Anikuri 15	101	TBC	FUSIONOPOLIS
	4pm	Idiots and Angels / Hot Dog	92	M18	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
	4pm	SIGGRAPH Showcase		TBC	FUSIONOPOLIS
	7pm	Sita Sings the Blues	82	TBC	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
	7pm	Dead Space: Downfall	73	TBC	FUSIONOPOLIS
	9pm	Fear(s) of the Dark	85	M18	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
Mon 27 Oct	4pm	Genius Party		NC16	FUSIONOPOLIS
	7pm	One Night in One City	76	NC16	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
	9pm	Tachigui: The Amazing Lives of the Fast Food Grifters	101	PG	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
Tues 28 Oct	7pm	Idiots and Angels / Hot Dog	92	M18	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
	9pm	Nocturna	80	TBC	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
Wed 29 Oct	7pm	The Piano Forest	82	PG	NATIONAL MUSEUM
	9pm	Genius Party	106	NC16	NATIONAL MUSEUM
Thu 30 Oct	7pm	Singapore Showcase	30	TBC	library@esplanade
Fri 31 Oct	7pm	Aardman Showcase	90	TBC	NATIONAL MUSEUM
	9pm	Fear(s) of the Dark	85	M18	NATIONAL MUSEUM
Sat 01 Nov	2pm	Freedom Project Seminar	101	TBC	FUSIONOPOLIS
	4pm	International Shorts Showcase 2 + Anikuri 15	101	TBC	FUSIONOPOLIS
Sun 02 Nov	11am	International Shorts Showcase 3	83	TBC	NATIONAL MUSEUM
	2pm	Yamamura Seminar	90	TBC	NATIONAL MUSEUM
	4 pm	Yamamura Showcase	90	-	NATIONAL MUSEUM
	7pm	Freedom Project 1-7	152	TBC	NATIONAL MUSEUM

Annex A – Speaker's Profile

Annex B – Feature Film Synopsis

Annex C – Shorts Synopsis

## Annex A - Speaker's Profile

### **DAVID SPROXTON**

David is the co-founder and Executive Chairman of Aardman Animations. Together with co-founder Peter Lord, he has overseen the development of the company from a two-man partnership to one of the pre-eminent animation houses in the industry.

Sproxton and Lord met at Woking Grammar School for Boys, and in 1970 made their first animated film, using cutouts and chalk drawings. Two years later, they formed Aardman and, in 1976, moved to their permanent home in Bristol. Their first professional creation was the character Morph, who went on to star in the BBC series *The Amazing Adventures of Morph*.

During this period, the duo made two short animated films, *Down and Out* and *Confessions of a Foyer Girl*, which utilized the groundbreaking technique of using recorded conversations of real people as the basis for the script. Later, these techniques would be used in the *Lip Synch* series for Channel 4, which included Nick Park's Oscar®-winning short *Creature Comforts*.

David has since co-produced *Chicken Run*, the Wallace and Gromit feature *The Curse of the Were-Rabbit* and the CGI feature *Flushed Away*, made in association with DreamWorks. David is currently involved in the development of projects in association with Sony Pictures, and is also involved in the many TV projects the studio is developing including Shaun the Sheep, Angry Kid and the new Wallace and Gromit film.

David spent 9 years on the board of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre Trust. He is also a Board Director of the Encounters Short Film Festival, the UK's leading short film festival, and sits on the Board of the UK Film Council, and the National Film Television School.

In 2006, David and Peter Lord were awarded CBEs.

### **LUIS COOK**

Following a degree in Graphic Design, Luis has worked as an Art Teacher, Photographer, Art Director and Illustrator.

In 1992 he returned to study an MA in Animation at the Royal College of Art.

After a stint at the BBC, he joined Aardman Animations in 1994. Since then, Luis has directed many commercials, promos and idents. His creative work has been awarded D&AD, British Animation Awards, Royal Television Awards and a BAFTA.

The Pearce Sisters is his first non-commercial film for Aardman Animations.

## **NINA PALEY**

Nina Paley (b. May 3, 1968, USA) is an American cartoonist, animator and a long time veteran of syndicated comic strips, creating *Fluff* (Universal Press Syndicate), *The Hots* (King Features), and her own alternative weekly *Nina's Adventures*. In 1998, she began making independent animated festival films, including the controversial yet popular environmental short, *The Stork*.

In 2002, Nina followed her then-husband to Trivandrum, India, where she read the Indian epic *The Ramayana* for the first time. This gave inspiration to her first feature, *Sita Sings the Blues*, which she animated and produced single-handedly over the course of 5 years on a home computer.

Currently, Nina lives in Brooklyn and teaches at the Parsons School of Design and Technology in Manhattan. She is also a 2006 Guggenheim Fellow.

## **YAMAMURA KOJI (山村浩二)**

Koji Yamamura (b. June 4, 1964, Japan) first animated film at 13 years old. Between 1983 and 1987, he studied painting at Tokyo Zokei University. While a student, he has worked in art assistance and special effects modeling for Majors movies.

After graduation, he started his career as an animation background artist at Mukuo Studio. In 1989, he left the studio to work freelance. In 1993, he founded Yamamura Animation, Inc. with his wife Sanae. In 2002, he signed a contract with Acme Filmworks as an animation director.

Yamamura has created many short animation films using a variety of techniques. *Mt. Head* (2002) was nominated for an Oscar in 2003, and awarded the 6 Grand Prix include Annecy 03, Zagreb 04 and Hiroshima 04. Franz Kafka's *A Country Doctor* (2007) awarded the Grand Prix at Ottawa in 07. He is also the first grand prix winner in all major international animation film festivals.

His films have been shown in over 30 countries, and awarded various honorable prizes and retrospective screenings of his works have been held in over 20 countries at Melbourne International Film Festival, National Film Theater in UK and so on.

He is currently a sub-chairman of the Japan Animation Association (JAA) and a member of the board of directors of the Japanese branch of the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA), and has been a visiting professor of Tokyo Zokei University since 2004 and a professor of the Department of Animation, Graduate School of Film and New Media, Tokyo University of the Arts since 2008.

## **MORITA SHUHEI (修平森田)**

Shuhei Morita (b. 1978, Nara, Japan) graduated from Kyoto University of Art and Design in 2001, and started creating motion pictures while in college. He co-founded the animation company KamiKaze Douga in 1999, and worked for Studio 4C (*Mind Game*, *Tekkonkinkreet*) as well as KamiKaze Douga for 2 years from 2000.

In 2003, he co-founded Yamatoworks with Daisuke Sajiki and created the animation short *Kakurenbo*, which won the Golden Prize for Best Short Film category at the 2005 Fantasia Festival in Canada. In 2006, he went on to become the director for *Freedom Project*, which garnered the Notable Entry Award at the Tokyo International Anime Fair in 2007.

## Annex B - Feature Film Synopsis

### **SITA SINGS THE BLUES (TBC)**

Directed, written, produced, designed and animated by Nina Paley

Country: USA

Length: 82 min

Sita is a Hindu goddess, the leading lady of India's epic *The Ramayana* and a dutiful wife who follows her husband Rama on a 14 year exile to a forest, only to be kidnapped by an evil king from Sri Lanka. Despite remaining faithful to her husband, Sita is put through many tests. Nina (the filmmaker Nina Paley herself) is an artist who finds parallels in Sita's life when her husband – in India on a work project – decides to break up their marriage and dump her via email. Three hilarious Indonesian shadow puppets with Indian accents – linking the popularity of the *Ramayana* from India all the way to the Far East – narrate both the ancient tragedy and modern comedy in this beautifully animated interpretation of the epic.

In her first feature length film, Paley juxtaposes multiple narrative and visual styles to create a highly entertaining yet moving vision of *The Ramayana*. Musical numbers choreographed to the 1920's jazz vocals of Annette Hanshaw feature a cast of hundreds: flying monkeys, evil monsters, gods, goddesses, warriors, sages, and winged eyeballs. A tale of truth, justice and a woman's cry for equal treatment, *Sita Sings the Blues* earns its tagline as "The Greatest Break-Up Story Ever Told."

"Nina Paley's *Sita Sings the Blues* is a very personal work, full of charm, that goes back to 2D and simple and masterly compositing to tell a personal story, a sort of contemporary conjugal confession. Paley's inflections, which are clearly autobiographical, are not obscured by the director, but are rather openly exposed in the film. In mixing the Indian epic of *Ramayana*, songs from the 1920s and modern episodes, the director succeeds in drawing us into a story that's at once banal, yet touching. Nina Paley is a consummate animator who creates empathy for the characters that resemble models from an animation correspondence course." – AWW

-Crystal Grand Prix

Best Feature

Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2008

-Crystal Bear (Special Mention)

Best Feature Film (Generation 14plus)

2008 Berlin International Film Festival

Official Website: <http://www.sitasingstheblues.com/>

## **TACHIGUI: THE AMAZING LIVES OF THE FAST FOOD GRIFTERS (PG)**

Director: Oshii Mamoru

Country: Japan

Length: 104 min

“Tachigui” literally means “stand-and-eat.” It’s a word that may find rough English equivalent in the expression “fast food.” In vastly urbanized Japan, everybody has experienced *tachigui* or fast food in his/her life, in a broader meaning that includes not only global hamburger giants, but also cheap and popular soba stalls or *gyudon* (beef and rice bowl) restaurant chains.

The heroes of this still unsaid history of Japan are called Fast Food Grifters. By exposing extreme erudition or haranguing the restaurant owner with refined rhetoric skills, the Fast Food Grifters will get away without paying for their noodles. But each Fast Food Grifter, with his strong personality and unique modus operandi, incarnates the age he has lived in, thus sharply reflecting Mamoru Oshii’s (director of *Ghost In The Shell*) satirical view of modern society.

“Sporadically brilliant, hilarious, thought-provoking and downright stultifying.” – *Variety*

“Serves as a provocative and trenchant satire on the country’s inexorable path towards recovery, modernization, consumerism, global assimilation, and cultural dilution.” –*Strictly Film School*

Official Website and Trailer (In Japanese): <http://www.tachiquishi.com/>

Production I.G. Website: [http://www.productionig.com/contents/works\\_sp/35/](http://www.productionig.com/contents/works_sp/35/)

## **THE PIANO FOREST (PG)**

Director: Masayuki Kojima

Country: Japan

Length: 101 min

Early in the summer season, Shuhei Amamiya, a fifth grade boy, moves to a rural town. He introduces his classmates to his dream of becoming a professional pianist where he is challenged to play on a broken piano discarded in the forest, but there is a spooky rumour that the sound of the piano can mysteriously be heard at night. Shuhei is at loss at what to do with this sudden demand.

After school, Kai invites Shuhei to the forest to see the grand piano. Shuhei tries to play it but it makes no sound. Kai, however is able to play on it beautifully. Both are then scheduled to join a piano competition.

A passionate drama of friendship and struggle between Kai, with the talent of a genius and hardworking Shuhei, will unfold.

-Best Animation Film Nominee

Award of the Japanese Academy 2008

Official Website (In Japanese): <http://www.piano-movie.jp/>

## **GENIUS PARTY (NC16)**

Director: Atsuko Fukushima, Shoji Kawamori, Shinji Kimura, Yoji Fukuyama, Hideki Futamura, Masaaki Yuasa, Shinichiro Watanabe, Nicolas de Crecy, Hiro Yamagata, Tatsuyuki Tanaka, Kazuto Nakazawa, Koji Morimoto, Mahiro Maeda, Shin'ya Ohira  
Country: Japan  
Length: 85 min

An anthology of short films from Studio 4C.

Atsuko Fukushima's intro piece is a fantastic abstraction to soak up the eyes. Masaaki Yuasa of "Mind Game", brings his distinctive and deceptively simple graphic style and dream-state logic to the table with "Happy Machine", his spin on a child's earliest year. Shinji Kimura's spookier "Deathtic 4" seems to tap into the creepy corners of a child's imagination to open up a toybox full of dark delights. Hideki Futamura's "Limit Cycle" conjures up a vision of virtual reality, while Yuji Fukuyama's "Doorbell" and Shinichiro Watanabe's "Baby Blue" used understated realism for very surreal purposes.

Official website (In Japanese): <http://genius-party.jp/>

## **FEAR(S) OF THE DARK (M18)**

Director: Blutch, Charles Burns, Marie Caillou, Pierre Di Sciullo, Lorenzo Mattotti, Richard McGuire  
Country: France  
Length: 85 min

Spiders' legs brushing against naked skin...  
Unexplainable noises heard at night in a dark bedroom...  
A big empty house where you feel a presence...  
A hypodermic needle getting closer and closer...  
A dead thing trapped in a bottle of formaldehyde...  
A huge growling dog, baring its teeth and staring...  
So many scary moments we have experienced at some point in our lives – like the craftsmen of this journey straight to the land of fear.

Different black-and-white animation techniques tell several scary stories. There's a story of a teenage boy who meets the wrong girl. Another tale deals with a small community where people disappear and are never seen again. Then there's the narrative of a little Japanese girl who suffers from horrible nightmares followed by a tale where a man doesn't get the rest he hoped for in an old not-so-abandoned house. These stories are connected by the story about a man with a devilish smile and four enormous dogs from hell and by a woman's monologue about her fears.

Six of the world's hottest graphic artists and cartoonists, including renowned artist Charles Burns, have breathed life into their nightmares, bleeding away colour only to retain the starkness of light and the pitch black of shadows. Visual styles vary just as widely, from pencil drawings to what appears to be Flash animation, to stark, hard edged, high contrast work and flowing geometric shapes. Their intertwined stories make up an unprecedented epic where phobias, disgust and nightmares come to life and reveal Fear at its most naked and intense...

"More a series of campfire tales than it is an attempt at horror *Fear(s) of the Dark* is immediately engaging thanks to a spectacular opening sequence, it holds your attention throughout ... and serves as a brilliant introduction to some of the world's outstanding visual talents" – *Twitch.net Review*

“All in all, this is one of the best animated efforts I’ve seen – in any genre. Highly recommended.” – *Dread central.com*

“...Rusty alleyways and vaporous ghosts painted by the masters of dread. Razor-sharp images that will slice your eye and nest there forever. Thrilling, disturbing and haunting...” – *Guillermo del Toro*

-Official Selection  
Sundance Film Festival 2008

-Rome Film Festival 2007

-PiFan 2008  
Jury’s Choice Award

Official Website and Trailers: <http://www.primalinea.com/pdn/images/index.html>

### **IDIOTS AND ANGELS (M18)**

Director: Bill Plympton  
Country: USA  
Length: 78 min

Angel is a selfish, abusive, morally bankrupt man who hangs out at his local bar, berating the other patrons. One day, Angel mysteriously wakes up with a pair of wings on his back. The wings make him do good deeds, contrary to his nature. He desperately tries to rid himself of the good wings, but eventually finds himself fighting those who view the wings as their ticket to fame and fortune.

A dark comedy about a man’s battle for his soul, *Idiots and Angels* explores the dramatic possibilities of a reluctant angel. Done in a monochromatic and musical style similar to “*Shuteye Hotel*”, Plympton is fully able to produce its dark and surreal nature.

-Special Mention  
32<sup>nd</sup> Annecy International Animated Film Festival

“One feels that Plympton wants to show his audience that he is capable of providing more than simple amusement: a demonstration of the absurdity of existence through the abuse of the body is presented with a stylistic restraint that gives it its power. Plympton accumulates real-life gags and, despite all the irony, a kind of gravity emerges that is both desperate and full of life. And so, his old short films can appear in a new light: under the humor there was always a troubling aspect. *Idiots and Angels* will definitely not be appreciated by those who expect animation to go “boing boing” in every scene.” – AWN

\**Catch Bill Plympton’s latest animated short “Hot Dog” before the screening of “Idiots and Angels”.*

Official Website: <http://www.idiotsandangels.com/>

### HOT DOG (G)

Director: Bill Plympton

Country: USA

Length: 6 min

In the third of the DOG series, our plucky hero joins the fire company to save the world from house fires and gain the affection he so richly deserves. Typically, the results never turn out the way he planned.

### **NOCTURNA (TBC)**

Director: Victor Maldonado, Adrià Garcia

Country: Spain

Length: 80 min

What is it that makes the night so mysterious? What's behind all of those little unexplainable things that happen when darkness falls? What makes us fall asleep, and dream?

Could it be that there is somebody, somewhere, making sure that all of this happens just the way it's supposed to? From the moment he saw that tiny, fragile star fall from the sky as he sat up on the orphanage rooftop, he knew that something was going wrong.

Maybe if he hadn't leaned over to see where it fell, he would have never slipped off the roof, and fallen into the nocturnal void. Then he would have never been rescued by the Cat Shepherd, and his incredible following of cats, and they in turn would not have told him the truth about the many people working endlessly to make the night such a magical place. But of course, he wouldn't have decided right then and there to overcome his fears and begin his adventure through the night in search of that little fallen star.

But that's exactly the way it happened.

-Best Animated Feature

2007 Goya Award

Official Website (In Spanish): <http://movies.filmax.com/nocturna/>

## **ONE NIGHT IN ONE CITY (NC16)**

Director: Jan Balej  
Country: Czechoslovakia  
Length: 76 min

What happens when a man stitches a stranger's ear onto his own head?  
In the dark streets of Prague, can you meet a genie that will fulfil whatever you wish?  
Do you think there are places where time grinds to a halt?  
Do you know what disturbs the routine of an insect circus, what a city hunter is up to and what is it that excites his neighbours?  
Can a fish make friends with a tree?

Dark city, dark faces, dark freakish characters with peculiar phobias and phobias. A new feature length animated movie with touches of horror and plenty of black humour; Tales of human loneliness, weird events and strange people, that surrounds us all the time. It would be light years far from Disney and very far indeed from The Simpsons. It would actually be very far from anything you've ever seen.

Welcome to One Night In One City.

-GOLDEN REEL Award  
Best Animation 2008  
Tiburon

-SPECIAL AWARD of Jury BILBAO  
Animabasauri 2008

Official Website: <http://www.jednenoci.cz/indexen.html#>

## **DEAD SPACE: DOWNFALL (EA) – (TBC)**

Direction: Film Roman / Anchor Bay Entertainment  
Country: USA  
Length: 73 min

*A holy relic has been discovered, and it doesn't lead to Heaven*

An ancient religious artifact has been recovered by a deep-space mining ship, and for the crew of the USG Ishimura, life just became a living hell. Unearthed on a far-away planet during a mining operation, the relic is worshiped by some, even seen as proof of God. But when it's removed from its resting place and brought on the ship, the artifact unleashes a long-dormant alien race, one bent on ripping apart -- and taking over -- every human aboard. Their screams CAN be heard in space ... but only the slashers are listening.

Official website: <http://deadspace.ea.com/Default.aspx>

## **FREEDOM PROJECT 1-7 (TBC)**

Director: Shuhei Morita

Country: Japan

Length: 152 min

In 2041 C.E., the first space colony was made on the moon after a freak cataclysm devastated human civilisation on Earth. The republic of the Moon created a doomed megapolis known as Eden. 226 years later, in the year 2267 C.E., a boy named Takeru who was born on the Moon, spent his life engaging in hovercraft races against rival street gangs of the 23<sup>rd</sup> century. This leads him and two of his friends to discover a terrible secret on the fate of the Earth, and the origins of Eden.

*Official website (In Japanese): <http://freedom-project.jp/>*

## Annex C - SHORTS SYNOPSIS

### **ANNA AND THE MOODS (PG)**

Director: Gunnar Karlsson  
Country: Iceland  
Length: 27 min

A horrible illness brings Anna (played by Björk) into a huge labyrinth of tasks and the only way out for her is to complete her tasks in the right manners. But the right way is not necessarily what her parents think to be the right one, and the 'cure' that follows is a nasty surprise for them.

Featuring Terry Jones (from Monty Python) as the narrator and Damon Albarn as the voice of Anna's Father.

-Best Short  
EDDA Awards

### **BERNI'S DOLL (M18)**

Director: Yann J.  
Country: France  
Length: 12 min

Lowly factory employee Berni, attempts to overcome his loneliness by buying a woman made up of spare parts from developing countries.

### **BLOOM (PG)**

Director: Srinivas Bhakta  
Country: Singapore  
Length: 6 min

Inspired by a folktale from India, this animated short narrates and explores a dreamlike relationship between a young lady and a tree.

### **CHAINSAW (M18)**

Director: Dennis Tupicoff  
Country: Australia  
Length: 25 min

Frank and Ava Gardner "star" in a chainsaw safety film, and love the rodeo. But now, ten years later...Romance is like a chainsaw: a very dangerous beast indeed.

-GRAND PRIX  
2008 Oberhausen International Short Film Festival

## **DEATH BY SCRABBLE (PG)**

Director: Katie Steed  
Country: Great Britain  
Length: 6 min

A husband and wife compete in a battle of will over the scrabble board, in a game where losing is not an option.

-WINNER, Best 2D Animation  
Stoke Your Fires Animation Festival, England

-WINNER, Best film  
Betting on Shorts, Slovenia

## **DOG DAYS (TBC)**

Director: Geoffroy de Crécy  
Country: France  
Length: 16 min

Grace, the newborn child of an upper-class American family, is exchanged with Doug, the little puppy of a family of "white trash".

## **DOWN THE ROAD (PG)**

Director: Rune Christensen  
Country: Denmark  
Length: 15 min

A Reverend picks up a hitchhiker, who is surprisingly well-informed about the Reverend's life, disclosing his innermost thoughts and secrets. The conversation slowly reveals that this meeting is no coincidence and the situation becomes critical when the hitchhiker accuses the Reverend of a crime.

## **ELEPHANT GIRL (TBC)**

Director: David Lobser  
Country: USA  
Length: 5 min

A film about "sisters" who enjoy more than just sisterhood.

## **ENERGIE (TBC)**

Director: Thorsten Fleisch

Country: Germany

Length: 5 min

An abstract representation of uncontrolled, high voltage discharge of 30,000 volts that exposes multiple sheets of photographic paper, which are then arranged in time to create new visual systems of electron organization.

-Special Mention

Stuttgart International Festival for Animated Film

## **FANTASMAGORIE 2008 (PG)**

Director: Rastko Ciric

Country: Serbia

Length: 9 min

Traditional and digital cartoon films are mixed; the old stick-man and the new wire-frame-man communicate making adventures together.

## **GLAGO'S GUEST (G)**

Director: Chris Williams

Country: USA

Length: 7 min

Conceived and directed by Chris Williams (director of "Bolt"), "Glago's Guest" follows the intriguing and thought-provoking story of a lonely Russian soldier stationed in a remote Siberian outpost. When the soldier's solitude is interrupted one day by the arrival of a strange new "guest," Glago is jolted out of his uneventful daily routine but soon comes to realize that things aren't always what they appear to be.

## **HOW TO HOOK UP YOUR HOME THEATER (G)**

Director: Kevin Deters and Stevie Wermers Skelton

Country: USA

Length: 7 min

When Goofy is desperate to watch the Big Game, he heads to his local electronics store to tackle every consumer's nightmare – selecting the perfect home theater system and worse, trying to hook it all up.

## **I MET THE WALRUS (TBC)**

Director: Josh Raskin  
Country: Canada  
Length: 5 min

In 1969, a 14-year-old Beatle fanatic named Jerry Levitan, armed with a reel-to-reel tape deck, snuck into John Lennon's hotel room in Toronto and convinced him to do an interview about peace. Using the original interview as the soundtrack, this narrative tenderly romances Lennon's every word in a cascading flood of multi-pronged animation.

-Best Animated Short Film Nominee  
Academy Awards 2008

-Best Canadian Animation:  
Honorary Mention  
Ottawa International Animation Festival

## **IRRESISTIBLE SMILE (TBC)**

Director: Ami Lindholm  
Country: Finland  
Length: 7 min

Aboard an airplane full of nasty passengers. Can the air hostess solve everyone's problems?

-Neo Arena Award  
Nordisk Panorama Finland 2007

-Finalist 2007  
Cartoon d'Or 2007

## **KUDAN (PG)**

Director: Taku Kimura  
Country: Japan  
Length: 10 min

When a man wore a strange helmet he received in the mail, he was transformed into a Kudan, a Japanese monster with a human head and the body of a cow.

## **MESH (TBC)**

Director: Beau Janzen, Konrad Polthier  
Country: Germany  
Length: 39 min

A mathematical video on Polyhedral Meshes and their role in Geometry, Numerics and Computer Graphics. It explores the advancement of discrete geometry from the ancient Greeks to contemporary research topics that have never previously been visualized.

## **ONCE UPON A CHRISTMAS VILLAGE (G)**

Director: Michael Attardi

Country: USA

Length: 15 min

Santa loses his magical pocket watch which brought to life the inanimate toys at the bottom of a Christmas tree. An unexpected new toy arrives and wrecks havoc in the village, which drives a toy to the "dark side" of the tree, the side where no one decorates, and meets Sir Evil Medieval.

-Festival de Cannes Film Festival

Festival De Cannes Short Corner 2007 1st Runner-up winner for "Best Animation" Moving Pictures Magazine

## **ONE RAT SHORT (PG)**

Director: Alex Weil

Country: USA

Length: 10 min

The mesmerizing ballet of a discarded food wrapper leads a New York subway rat into an adventure of love and loss.

-Winner, Best of Show

SIGGRAPH Computer Animation Festival 2006

-Best Short

BAFTA Award

Mill Valley Film Festival 2006

## **ONE VOICE, ONE VOTE (TBC)**

Director: Cecile Rousset, Jeann Paturle

Country: France

Length: 14 min

Some people are interested in politics, some are not. We asked Martine and Arnaud to talk about their involvement with it.

## **PROCRASTINATION (PG)**

Director: Johnny Kelly

Country: UK

Length: 5 min

An animation looking at the universal trait of procrastination; sometimes the only way to get something done is to do two-dozen other things first.

-Jerwood Moving Image Awards winner 2008

### **SLEEP WITH THE FISHES (PG)**

Director: Belle Mellor  
Country: UK  
Length: 5 min

Pen and ink animation paints an absurd tragedy set to the melancholic sounds of the Tiger Lillies.

### **SOEYOUN: THE SUBSTANCE OF EARTH (PG)**

Director: Kim Jin-Man  
Country: Korea  
Length: 11 min

It has been found that plants of downtown areas produced more carbon dioxide than they absorbed from the atmosphere and led air pollution to be deteriorated. Trees changed their growth pattern to stand the heat of hot weather because of unusual above-average temperatures.

Now the natural food chain starts the counter-cycle.

-Grand Prize  
33<sup>rd</sup> Seoul Independent Film Festival (2007, Korea)

-Best Film in Independent Film  
3<sup>rd</sup> Indie Anifest (2007, Korea)

### **THE NEXT MOVE (G)**

Director: Laura Neuvonen  
Country: Finland  
Length: 13 min

This hilarious animated short features a young couple who has just moved into their first home, and when it comes to decorating, the wife just can't leave well enough alone.

### **YELLOW STICKY NOTES (TBC)**

Director: Jeff Chiba Stearns  
Country: Canada  
Length: 2007

2300 drawings on 4x6 inch yellow sticky notes with a black ink pen – A small internal reflection on one's role as an artist manifests into a discussion about major political and environmental crises.