



### **Turku Animated Film Festival Announces Films in International Competition**

The first edition of Turku Animated Film Festival received an incredible amount of 838 submissions for International Competition. Ultimately 32 short animations from all over the world were selected to compete for the Grand Prix, Tough Eye Award and Audience Award. TAFF's Creative Director **Joni Männistö**, who was in charge of the jury, tells that the task was challenging.

"The selected films are incredible examples of animators' ability to create new worlds. There are loads of films where traditional drawing and puppet animation techniques are utilised. Artistic and visual imagination connects the directors of these films; the ability to use the same tools and to produce utterly original and distinctive works", says Männistö.

The films chosen for the competition include works from seasoned filmmakers, such as **Koji Yamamura**, **Theodore Ushev** and **Georges Schwizgebel**, as well as from emerging talents like **Réka Bucsi**, whose graduate thesis film *Symphony No. 42* ended up in the shortlist of Academy Awards. His first professional film *Love*, that will be screened at TAFF, is an archetype of new worlds painted by animations. Another noteworthy feature is the high standard of Estonian films; no less than six Estonian animations were accepted to the competition.

While selecting competition films, the jury also chose a Panorama series of 13 films from professional filmmakers that didn't quite make it to the competition. There are five student films in the competition, and in addition to those, a selection of similarly 13 student films will be screened as a separate ensemble.

"The films selected for Panorama and Student series are examples of high level. These films deserve to be shown even though they didn't make it to the competition. All films selected for the programme are connected by how their story or visuality get under viewer's skin in some way", comments Männistö.

The complete list of films selected for the International Competition, Panorama, and Student Panorama can be found on the festival's website.

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