

Quests



Joanna Quinn

GB

In the space of thirty years, Joanna Quinn has won two Emmy Awards, four BAFTAs, three Oscar nominations and more than a hundred other awards worldwide. Her films, which focus on gender and oppression, are works of art in their own right. A real treat for the eyes, peppered with laughter and visual flights of fancy.



Andrew Ruhemann

GB

After working on *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* under the direction of Richard Williams, Andrew Ruhemann founded Passion Pictures in 1987. This independent British studio is now recognized worldwide for its innovative animations. Andrew is the studio's artistic director. In 2011 he won an Oscar for his film *The Lost Thing*.



Anne Verbeure

BE

Born in Bruges, Anne Verbeure first studied art history, then screenwriting and directing at RITCS and KASK. Graduating in 2021, she won several awards for her film *Red Giant*, including the VAF Wildcard. Her short film *The Golden Donkey* won an award at Anima 2025. She is currently working on another short film, *A Sleeping Fire*.

National Short Film Competition



Jean Tourette

FR

Jean Tourette was born in Auvergne and studied philosophy and political science in Lyon. In 2004 he launched Kibblind, a project dedicated to contemporary illustration through a magazine (now in its 87th issue), a communication agency and a festival, the IF-Illustration Festival, the 3rd edition of which took place in Lyon at the end of September 2025.



Pieter Van Houte

BE

Creative director Pieter Van Houte has created visual effects for films such as *The Triplets of Belleville*, *Hugo* (Oscar for Visual Effects), *The Amazing Spider-Man*, *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Okja*. He has collaborated with Marvel, Sony, Disney, Netflix and film-makers such as Terry Gilliam and Bong Joon-ho.



Veronika Zacharová

CZ

Veronika Zacharová, an animator and illustrator in Prague, specializes in content for children. Trained in graphic design and animation at Tomas Bata University in Zlín, she worked at Krutart and co-directed the multi-award-winning film *Hello Summer* with Martin Smatana. She is currently working on a new film and collaborating with the Amanita Design studio.



Arthuria Dekimpe

BE

Arthuria is a freelance journalist with a passion for animation and Japanese pop culture. She also gives lectures on gender stereotypes and representations of LGBT characters in manga and anime. A young director trained at the Agnès Varda school in Brussels, she is preparing a documentary on anime dubbing in Japan.



Valérie Magis

BE

Trained in screenplay analysis in the US, Valérie began her career at the non-profit organization Cartoon. A former production director of *Nouky & Friends* (sold in 160 countries), she became a screenwriter and wrote nearly 150 episodes of animated series (*T'choupi*, *Calimero*, *Ernest & Célestine*, etc.). She is a co-author of the feature film *SamSam* and screenwriter of *The Great Dreamscape*.



Áine Mc Guinness

IE

Áine Mc Guinness is an Irish designer specializing in art direction for 2D animation. With more than 15 years' experience, they were the art director on *My Father's Dragon*, a Netflix original feature film, and the studio's latest short film, *Éiru*. Áine recently relocated and are now based in Brussels.

International Children's Film Competition



Marcel Barelli

CH

Marcel Barelli is a director of animated films and author of illustrated books. Passionate about animals and nature, he develops all his projects around these themes. His short films have been selected for hundreds of international festivals and have won numerous awards around the world. He lives and works in Geneva.



Nicolas Fong

BE

A Brussels-based director and animator who trained at La Cambre, he has made short films (*Yin*, *Hugs*) and music videos (BRNS, Korn), and has worked as an animator on various films. A compulsive draughtsman, he has created a giant anamorphosis for the Palais de la Découverte in Paris, produces series for micro-publishers and, for pleasure, revisits Bruegel the Elder.



Hélène Qiraud

FR

A director and artistic director, she began by working on the visual design for *The Fifth Element* and *Renaissance*. She went on to work at Gaumont, Xilam and later in video games. Together with Thomas Szabo, she created the *Minuscule* phenomenon, which has been adapted into a series and two feature films. She has since worked on *The Legendaries* and is developing a live-action film.



Esther De Loose

BE

Born in Antwerp in 2000, Esther De Loose writes film reviews for *Enola Magazine*. She holds a master's in film studies and visual culture (University of Antwerp) and has been an intern at CINEMATEK and the Zomerfilmcollege. As a content creator at De Studio, she focuses on arthouse and feminist cinema; she was a member of the press jury at the 2024 Kortfilmfestival Leuven.



Didier Stiers

BE

A freelance journalist working in the cultural field, mainly on cinema and music, Didier Stiers has worked with various media outlets, including *Larsen* magazine and, since 1998, the newspaper *Le Soir*, for which he covers animation, among others.



Thierry Zamparutti

BE

Co-producer of 60 films, including *Duo de volailles*, *sauce chasseur*, *Nuit chérie* and *Purpleboy*, which won awards at Anima, Thierry Zamparutti now devotes himself to writing, consulting and distribution. Passionate about short films, documentaries and board games, he is on the board of directors at Ambiances, Cinergie and the Belgian Film Press Union.



Stefano Bertelli
IT

Stefano Bertelli, director and animator since the age of 16, has focused on paper stop motion, collaborating on music videos for Eminem, Pink Floyd, Robbie Williams, Motörhead and Lindsey Stirling. He won a Webby Award for a music video created for Frank Sinatra. His short film, later developed into the feature *Spacetime Chronicles*, was selected in Ottawa.



Fabio Besse
FR

Fabio Besse graduated from EMCA in 2014. He works in Paris as a production designer and art director. He has worked on feature films, series and commercials for numerous studios, including Folivari, Passion, Wizz, Bobbypills, Eddy/Brunch, La Cachette, CRCR and, recently, *Remembers* with Ugo Bienvenu on *Arco*.



Étienne Bonnet
FR

Étienne Bonnet was born in Tours in 1993. After studying sound, he worked for ten years as an audiovisual technician. In 2023 he left his last job to devote himself fully to making short films and writing comic books.



Vinnie Ann Bose
FR-IN

Vinnie Ann Bose, born in Kerala (India), studied animation film making at National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. In 2016 she joined the animation film direction school l'école de la Poudrière in France. After the success of her graduation films *What Is Your Brown Number?*, and *Dimanche Matin* she directed her first professional short film *Sulaimani*.



Simon Cadilhac
FR

Simon Cadilhac is a 2D and 3D animation technician. He studied at Ensaama Olivier de Serres, École Estienne and Gobelins. In 2020 he joined *Remembers*, where he has contributed to a wide range of projects: commercials, short films, installations and the feature film *Arco*.



Ève Ceccarelli-Moing
FR

Ève Ceccarelli-Moing is a director, storyboard artist and animator, a graduate of Gobelins and La Poudrière. She directed *Fukushima, 5 Years On* (2016), selected at Annecy, Stuttgart and San Francisco, and co-directed *Edgard* (2014). She also created the teaser for *Dans ta face*, a mini-series that tackles street harassment with humour and empowerment.



Róisín Chapman
IE

As Administrator for Animation Ireland, Róisín is passionate about championing Irish animation and emerging talent across festivals and markets. She supports the CEO, Board, and members through event coordination, funding administration, and industry initiatives. She also works closely on the Irish Animation Awards.



Julien Chheng
FR

Julien Chheng co-founded Studio La Cachette in 2014. A graduate of École Estienne and Gobelins, he trained at Disney before co-directing *Ernest and Célestine, The Collection* (2017). An executive producer of *Primal* (Emmy 2021), he co-directed *Ernest and Célestine: A Trip to Gibberitia*, nominated for a César in 2023, and directed *The Spy Dancer* for *Star Wars Visions Vol. 2*.



Joke D'Heer
BE

Joke D'Heer (they/them) is a doctor in media studies from the University of Ghent and works at the crossroads of gender, politics and media representation. They also give queer readings at various cinemas in Belgium and The Netherlands. A queer reading challenges dominant interpretations, seeking queerness in texts where it's implicit.



Fabien Daphy
FR

Fabien Daphy is a director, author and illustrator who specializes in fiction and animation. He trained at École Émile-Cohl, where he explored 2D animation, staging and set design in several short films. He then directed *Rester là* (2014), a comedy-drama that won an award at the Rhône-Alpes Film Festival, and co-directed the animated series *Mr. Carton*, broadcast on France 3 in 2016.



Tomek Ducki
HU

A Hungarian-Polish director and animation designer born in Budapest, Tomek Ducki trained at Moholy-Nagy University and the NFTS in the UK. Based in Poland, he has developed a style influenced by the Hungarian and Polish schools, combining techniques, strong colours and hidden narratives. He is known for *Life Line* and *Baths* as well as music videos.



Alice Eça Guimarães
PT

Alice Eça Guimarães holds a degree in digital arts from the UCP School of Arts in Portugal. Specializing in animation, she has always worked in both advertising and animation, winning several awards. She co-directed *Amélia & Duarte* and *Entre Sombras* with Mónica Santos, a finalist at the 2019 César Awards. She is currently working on *Roupa Velha*.



Maurice Galway
IE

Maurice Galway is the director and co-founder of the Animation Dingle festival in Kerry, Ireland. He is also a programmer, artist and film-maker. His short films have been shown in New York and China. He also presents Irish animation around the world and has received several honorary awards in recognition of his work.



Eliška Jirásková
CZ

Eliška Jirásková is studying animation at FAMU in Prague. She has directed three short films, including *Beware Children!* (2023) and the animated documentary *Better Man* (2025, premiered at Annecy). Her style is characterized by expressive drawing and a vibrant colour palette.



Kelzang
FR

A Franco-Belgo-Portuguese visual artist and director, Kelzang co-founded Temple Caché in 2018, a visual lab combining animation, collage, surrealism and emerging technologies. His work earned him awards at festivals: spans music videos, installations and visual experiences. Collaborations include Stromae, Paul Kalkbrenner and Snoo Dogg.



Jakub Krzyszpín
PL

Jakub Krzyszpín is an artist and director who is studying in the Animation and Special Effects department at the National Film School in Łódź. His dynamic drawings emphasize the storyline of his films, including *Scratch* (2023), selected for the Drama International Short Film Festival, and *Inertness* (2021), best super short film at the Monstra festival in Portugal.



Janina Ksińska
PL

After graduating in graphic design from the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow, Janina Ksińska went on to graduate from the Animation Film Studio in 2024. She mainly focuses on animation, illustration and the creation of illustrated books.



Meg LeFauve
US

A screenwriter for Pixar, Marvel and Netflix, Meg LeFauve is best known for her work on *Inside Out*, which earned her an Annie Award and an Oscar nomination, and more recently *Inside Out 2*. She also wrote *The Good Dinosaur*, *Captain Marvel* and *My Father's Dragon*. She has been mentoring screenwriters for many years.



Bruno Mazzilli
BR

Bruno Mazzilli has collaborated with studios and agencies such as Trattoria di Frame and Neogama BBH, directed short films and music videos, including *TU* by Tulipa Ruiz, the opening film of the 40th São Paulo Film Festival, and won the competition organized for Pink Floyd's 50th anniversary with *The Great Gig in the Sky*.



Alejandro Ariel Martin
AR

Alejandro Ariel Martin is an Argentinian director. He holds degrees from the National University of Rosario and the Autonomous University of Barcelona. He directed the stop-motion short film *Epirenov* (2019), which won 22 awards and was selected for 93 festivals, and *Hatker* (2025), which was presented in the official competition at Annecy.



Anaëlle Saba
FR

Anaëlle Saba graduated from Gobelins in 2023, where she co-directed *Dance with the Seashells*. She then participated in the production of Stephen Vuillemin's short film *Un genre de testament* and Reza Riahi's *How to Love According to Rumi* as assistant director. She joined the Arco team in the same role in January 2024.



Émilie Tronche
FR

Émilie Tronche trained at the Atelier de Sèvres and then at EMCA in Angoulême (graduating in 2019). She directed *Promenade sentimentale* for En sortant de l'école. In 2020 she created *Samuel*, a series broadcast on Arte (where it was a real hit), and then published *Le Journal de Samuel* in 2025. She is also the designer of the Anima 2026 poster.



Péter Vác
HU

Péter Vác, an animation director from Budapest, made a name for himself with *Rabbit and Deer* (2013), which won awards at more than 125 festivals. He has directed stop-motion music videos and the short film *Pillowface and Dog Ear*, presented at Annecy. A teacher and artistic director at the Illyés Animation Academy, he has headed the Hungarian Association of Animation Artists since 2023 (AA1).



Iulia Voitova
UA

Born in Ukraine, Iulia Voitova studied graphic design and animation in Yekaterinburg and then at La Poudrière, where she made *Le Nuage* and *La Plongeuse* (2018). She then went on to make *19, rue de Nevers* (2019), *Roads* (2021) and *Longue distance* (2025). She is currently developing a new short film and working as an animator for Folimage and Les Valseurs.



Pierre Watteyne
BE

Since graduating from La Cambre in 2019 after a bachelor's degree from HEAJ, Pierre Watteyne has been working in traditional animation on numerous productions, mainly feature films: *Where Is Anne Frank*, *Titina*, *Sirocco* and *A Magnificent Life*. After working in several Brussels studios, he is now working in Ireland on Cartoon Saloon's next film.

AND ALSO...

Mirjana Balogh
HU
Director of
Wish You Were Ear

Pierre Bourhis
FR
Co-director of
The Highnesses of Angoulême

Jáchym Bouzek
GB
Co-director of
Weathered

Karina Casañas Invernon
GB
Co-director of *Weathered*

Sophie Castaignede
FR
Director of
Polo sans bobo

Karolina Chabier
PL
Director of
Kosmogonia

Juliana Erazo
NL
Director of *Unlearning Motherhood*

Tim Frijsinger
NL
Co-director of *Zwermen*

Nicole Qolek
PL
Director of
Un tocco angelico

Krste Gospodinovski
MK
Director of
Silent Cinema

Sakshi Jain
US
Director of
So Many Different Things

May Kindred-Boothby
GB
Director of
The Eating of an Orange

Charlotte Leglise
FR
Co-director of
The Highnesses of Angoulême

Zaven Najjar
FR
Director of
Allah Is Not Obligated

Lucie Nichelmann
DE
Director of
Camille & Chameleon

Tanja Nuijten
CH
Director of
Sensual

Agnès Patron
FR
Director of *To the Woods*

Léa Reyes-Lovio
FR
Co-director of *The Highnesses of Angoulême*

Heinrich Sabl
DE
Director of
Memory Hotel

Tokay Sirin
CH
Director of
Double or Nothing

Janneke Swinkels
NL
Co-director of
Zwermen

Elena Wolf
DE
Director of
Dreaming of Flight, Full Nest and The Motherless Egg