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European Animation Emile Awards: The Nominees

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 Published: 06 November 2017

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Our analysis on the nominees (16 categories) of the first European Animation Emile Awards.

Peter Lord (Aardman), and president of [European Animation Awards](http://www.animationawards.eu) (<http://www.animationawards.eu>) announced (6 November 2017, Nexus Studio, UK) was the one to announce (along with EAA board members), all nominees for the first Emile Awards.

Emile Awards is a pan-European initiative (40 European countries) to get together all animation professionals in Europe, and have them voted by their peers -in a celebration of the diversity and excellence of European animation.

In overall, selection juries catered for both festival selections (awarded festival films are nominated here), and some audience favorites. It helps that there are more categories than one in the short and feature film competition -but short categories would definitely need to expand.

Best short film:

Among the black waves (Sredi chernyh voln) by **Ana Budanova** (Russia), *The Burden* (Min Börda) by **Niki Lindroth von Bahr** (Sweden), *Chulyen, a crow's tale* (Chulyen, histoire de corbeau) by **Cerise Lopez & Agnès Patron** (France).

The eligibility rules of Emile Awards require previous screenings/awards in selected animation festivals. The three films that made the final nominees' cut go from the sad to menacing to the more weird.

The Anecy Cristal winner musical (<https://vimeo.com/200851149>) *The Burden* is getting one of the coveted place; the criminally underappreciated, 20-minute *Chulyen, a crow's tale* gets (almost mystically) a place among the nominees (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTTY-aPdSkE>), whereas the awarded (and beautiful) short *Among the Black waves* completes the list. (<https://vimeo.com/157752616>)

Names and directors who *could* have been among the nominees (pre-selected but not in the final list): *Nighthawk* by Špela Čadež, *Nothing Matters* by Uri and Michelle Kranot, *Johnno's Dead* by Chris Shepherd, *Three Fitted Flies* by Elisa Morais and Maria Alvarez, *Dead Horses* by Marc Riba and Anna Solanas.

Best background and character design:

Periphèria by **David Coquard-Dassault** (France), *Manivald* by **Chintis Lundgren** (Estonia / Croatia), *Rêve d'enfant* (Child Dream), **Christophe Gérard** (France)

A comedy at last finds its place here: Chintis Lundgren's comedy of manners (<https://vimeo.com/218390739>) *Manivald* is nominated in this new category of character design and background; her orange /pink palette has to fight against the dark grays and purples (<https://vimeo.com/137831801>) of *Periphèria*. Christophe Gérard in his *Rêve d'enfant* **presents an equally engaging portrait of a boy and his surroundings** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXXTFIxeZ7A>).

Best Student Film:

About a Mother (Pro Mamu) by **Dana Velikovskaya** (Russia), *Merlot* by **Marta Gennari & Giulia Martinelli** (Italy), *O Mother!* (O! Matko) by **Paulina Ziolkowska** (Poland)

Another deviant comedy, *Merlot* (M. Gennari and G. Martinelli) finds a fine place in the set. (<https://vimeo.com/157647016>) The Polish film *O Mother!* also has a humorous, 2D eye on the eternal mother-son (http://www.polishshorts.pl/en/films/1583/oh_mother) relationships, and competes with another black-and-white film on motherhood (<https://vimeo.com/149401606>), *About a Mother*.

Films which *could* have been there: *Sog* by Jonatan Schwenk, *How Are You Today?* by Sophie Markatatos, *Garden Party* by Illogic

Jury (Short films): Carolina Lopez, Director of Animac (Spain), Alexis Hunot, Animation Activist (France), Regina Pessoa, Portuguese Independent Animation Director (Portugal).

View the embedded image gallery online at:

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In **feature animation competition** (6 categories overall), the surprise nominee was *Le Grand méchant renard et autres contes* (*The big bad fox and other tales*) by **Benjamin Renner** (director of Ernest and Celestine) & **Patrick Imbert** (France / Belgium). The film is based on B. Renner's own (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pilesRXH_g) graphic novel, and premiered at the 2017 Annecy festival as a screening event (<https://www.annecy.org/programme/index:rdv-200001500417>); the film has no other nominations in the feature category.

The other two nominees, *The Red Turtle* (Michael Dudok de Wit) and *My Life as a Zucchini* (Claude Barras) is a worthy -and a rather expected set, considering their previous Oscar nominations.

J. F. Laguionie was shut out from the Best Feature competition; he was only nominated for Best Writing for the magnificent *Louise en Hiver* (*Louise by the Shore*). Similarly, the 2018 Oscar contender *Psychonauts: The Forgotten Children* (P. Rivero - A. Vazquez) grabbed two nominations (best background and character design - best storyboard), but failed to be nominated in either writing or best feature categories.

On the contrary, both the Raymond Briggs animated biography of his parents, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXDIEw5u8u8>) *Ethel and Ernest* (Roger Mainwood), and Sacrebleu Productions *Longway North* (Rémi Chayé, France/ Denmark), each got 3 nominations. The **Sebastien Laudenbach** 2D feature tale of Brother Grimm (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfqb097tCFw>)'s *The Girl without hands* (*La jeune fille sans mains*, France) was also nominated in the character animation and soundtrack feature animation categories.

Notable absent: *Loving Vincent*, D. Kobiela and H. Welchman

Since the final results are voted by all European Animation Awards members -being the first year of the awards as well- results are as unpredictable as they can be. But, judging from the number of nominations (no feature animation has a clear lead over the others), it would be safer to assume that there will be a split in the final voting as well.

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A breakdown of nominations by film in Feature Animation:

La Tortue Rouge: Best feature (director), Best character animation, Best Storyboard

Psyconautas: Best background and character design, Best Storyboard

Tout en haut du monde: Best background and character design, Best Storyboard, Best Soundtrack

Ethel and Ernest: Best background and character design, Best character animation, Best Writing

Le jeune fille sans mains: Best character animation, Best Soundtrack

Le Grand méchant renard et autres contes: Best Feature (director)

Ma vie de courgette: Best feature (director), Best writing, Best Soundtrack

Louise en hiver: Best writing

Jury (feature films): Maria Anestopoulou, Festival Director/ Animasyros International Animation Festival & Agora (Greece), Tomm Moore, Director – Cartoon Saloon (Ireland), Claire Jennings, Independent Film Producer/Executive Producer (United Kingdom)

Cartoon Network's *The Amazing World of Gumball* leads with **4 nominations** in the TV/Broadcast categories, but *Revoltin' Rhymes* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjQJaiWltYU>) by **Jakob Schuh & Jan Lachauer** follows closely with 3 nominations in a field where UK productions predominate. One example: all nominees for Best TV/Broadband productions are UK films.

Old friends like Cartoon Saloon (<http://www.cartoonsaloon.ie>)'s Puffin Rock or Ernest and Celestine TV series are also nominated (best background and character design).

London-based FX Goby (<https://vimeo.com/fxgoby>) ("The Story of an Idea") and Moth Studio (<https://www.moth.studio/>) are the two UK studios nominated for **Best Commissioned Film**, whereas **Marc Craste** (along with Studio AKA) compete with (<https://vimeo.com/192121595>) *Otto*.

Jury (TV/Broadcast Productions and Commissioned Films): Marion Edwards, Children's Media Consultant (United Kingdom), Olivier Barbeau, Creative Director at Moka Studio (Switzerland), Yulia Aronova (Russia)

Jury (Soundtrack): Bruno Coulais, Composer (France), Emmanuel Deletang, CEO at 22D Music (France), Tom Van Waveren, Creative Director at Cake (Netherlands).

Veteran animator, filmmaker and 3-time Oscar winner **Richard Williams** deservedly got the Lotte Reiniger award for his achievement in animation, both professionally and academically.

Check all the Emile Awards nominees (<http://animationawards.eu/nominees/>). Voting is open to all EAA members until **30 November 2017**.

The first edition of the European Animation Awards will take place on Friday, December 8, 2017, at Le Nouveau Siècle in Lille, France. The award ceremony begins at 6:30p.m.

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