

CEE 2017 Participants:

Mladen Đukić

Company: Aeon Production

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Mladen has 19 years of experience as an animator, director and producer. In 2008 he founded Aeon Production, a boutique animation studio. He has produced and directed ten shorts, four of which are animated. He has also directed over 200 episodes of TV shows including children's programming daytime dramas and sitcoms, and has made over 500 ads, mostly animated. His films have been screened and awarded at numerous festivals. As of 2010 he has taught animation and visual effects at the University of Banja Luka. Mladen loves visual storytelling in any medium. Ask him about the green unicorn.

Vessela Dantcheva

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Vessela Dantcheva (1975) has worked as an animation professional since her BFA graduation from the Willem de Kooning Academy Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences with Cum Laude honours in 2002. After living and working in the Netherlands for ten years, she moved back to her hometown of Sofia, Bulgaria. For the last eleven years, she has worked both as an animation director and as an animation producer in her production company Compote Collective, co-founded with her partner Ivan Bogdanov. Compote Collective has produced several award-winning films, which have been screened at festivals worldwide and highly valued internationally in the animation industry.

Marko Dješka

Company: Adriatic Animation

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Marko is an animation director, scriptwriter and comic artist born in Osijek, Croatia. In 2011 he finished his master's degree in animation. His student films *Slaughtered* (2010) and *The Son of Satan* (2012) met with notable success at numerous festivals. After graduating, he attended the Animation Sans Frontières training program (2012/2013) and had an Open

Workshop residency in Viborg with his project *Bul and Bal*. His film *Ghost Town* (2016) won the Octavian award at the Zagreb festival for the best animated film in Croatian production in 2016. He also publishes comics in many magazines worldwide.

Libor Nemeškal

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Libor Nemeškal is a Czech film producer, editor and lecturer. Since 2003, he has participated in the production of more than one hundred audiovisual projects of different styles and genres. Many of them have been awarded or selected for screening at international festivals (e.g. IFF Cannes, IAFF Annecy, etc.). Libor currently works as a creative producer in the production company Kouzelná. He is also an ambassador of the European Animation Awards and a member of the film committee of the Czech Registry of Artistic Records.

Martin Vandas

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Martin Vandas has worked as a producer at MAUR film since 2003. He was a delegate producer and head of development of the co-production of *Of Unwanted Things and People*, a stop-motion children's animated film. He is a lecturer at FAMU, a financial and content expert for the Czech State Cinematography Fund and Slovak Audiovisual Fund, a member of the European Film Academy and a founding member of ASAF (and its first chairman). He is currently producing his eighth feature film, as well as many shorts and 30 episodes of an animated series for The Czech Academy of Sciences.

Ivan Zuber

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Ivan studied film production with a major in animation at Gobelins in Paris. He spent some time in Paris and Canada while working for various companies in the industry. In 2012 he relocated to Berlin to work in a film music publishing company, 22D Music. In 2015 he joined the Atelier

Ludwigsburg-Paris, a one-year programme funded by the MEDIA programme. In 2015 he co-founded Laidak Films, a Paris-Berlin-based production company dedicated to producing quality films, regardless of their format, length or type.

Lali Kiknavelidze

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In 2003 Lali graduated as a film director and producer from TAFU - Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film Georgia State University, having graduated from the Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Philology and Scriptwriting, in 1991. In 2008 she founded the film production company Lira Production Studios. In 2017 she participated in Cartoon Connection ASIA-EU. In March 2017 she presented the first Georgian project at Cartoon Forum in Bordeaux, France. In 2016 she participated in the Cartoon Springboard Program in Halle, Germany. In 2012 she participated in the EAVE Film Finance Forum in Luxemburg.

Réka Fésüs

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Réka has six years of experience in 2D/3D animation, VFX ad TV productions. She began her career as a producer in a professional online agency in Budapest, then moved to Germany for a year to work for the M.A.R.K. 13 animation studio, the production company behind the *Maya the Bee* animated feature film. In this position she was part of a team delivering challenging spots for Daimler and Audi. Since 2015 she has worked as a producer and the CEO of the ODD animation studio in Budapest. Presently Réka is developing three different projects and working on several commercials and animated series. The most promising one is a cross-media project based on the popular ODD ID animation. Réka also occasionally works as a line-producer for the London-based studio Monkey's Wedding.

Bálint Gelley

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Bálint Gelley is a Hungarian director and producer of animated films. He graduated in 2012 as a visual communication artist and animator from MOME - Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design. He also took part in the Animation Sans Frontières workshop in 2012-2013. He started his career as a director of short films, TV series and commercials, and became a producer in 2015. He is the co-founder of CUB Animation Studio, an independent animation studio based in Budapest. The studio's main focus and indeed obsession is creating worlds with unique designs using the unlimited tools of animation and the power of young talents.

Orsolya Sipos

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Orsolya earned a MA in English and French at Pázmány Péter University and later in Cultural Management at MOME - Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design. She has been working in the animation film business since 2003. She worked at Varga Studio and later at Studio Baestarts as the head of production. She has worked on TV series and commercials for Minimax, Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon. She has served as production coordinator of several animation feature films including *Pettson and Findus* and *Angelina Ballerina*. At MOME she coordinated the production of diploma films starting in 2007 and took part in organization of international initial training programmes. Currently she works as animation producer at SALTO Film in Budapest.

Arvan Berisha

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Arvan Berisha was born in 1993 in Pristina, Kosovo. He studied Graphic Design and earned a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Pristina. In 2013 he started his career as an illustrator and storyboard artist for several local advertising agencies. Two years later he became involved in commercial projects as an animator. Passionate about film animation and directing, he started to learn more about production. In 2016 his first project was supported by the Kosova Cinematography Center. The film is currently in production and will be released in 2018. He collaborates with the Anibar Animation Festival and NGO on workshops, production and other projects. He has also worked as a character designer and art director on 2D animation games for Trigonom studio.

Sabine Andersone

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Sabine Andersone has been the managing director of the animated film studio Atom Art since 2007. She is also the co-founder of the Latvian Animation Association. She has produced numerous animation shorts, the pre-school TV series *Shammies* and the Christmas special *Pigtail and Mr. Sleeplessness*. Currently she is in charge of production of Atom Art's first animated feature film, *Jacob, Mimmi and the Talking Dogs*, as well as the development of several artistic shorts.

Agnė Adomėnė

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Agnė Adomėnė is a founder and producer of the production company ART SHOT. She has an educational background in culture management and holds a master's degree in Management from the Department of UNESCO Cultural Management and Cultural Policy at the Vilnius Academy of Arts. She has worked in the film business since 2009. Founded in 2012, the independent production company ART SHOT focuses on developing, producing and co-producing artistic animated films. In 2016 ART SHOT's production *Nuopuolis* (*Ragnarok* in English) was recognized as the Best Lithuanian Animation Film of the Year by the Lithuanian Film Academy. It is a short puppet animation directed by Urtė Oettinger and Johan Oettinger, a Lithuanian - Denmark co-production. In 2015 she became one of the founders and board members of the Lithuanian Animation Association, which was established to unite animation companies, provide a network and create and promote an attractive Lithuanian animation image.

Goce Cvetanovski

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Goce Cvetanovski is an award-winning director and producer. He studied cinema in Paris, where he lived for 17 years. He has directed and produced approximately 20 short and documentary films, which have been screened at over 200 film festivals around the world. In 2015, he co-founded Lynx Animation Studios and returned to Macedonia to live his dream as a creative director in a 2D animation studio. He is currently

working on the first Macedonian animation feature project, *John Vardar vs the Galaxy*.

Alexander Kurilov

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Born in 1985 in the Soviet Union, Alexander's first encounter with film was through an improvised cable service set up by his neighbours. Growing up in a country with no cinemas and no film industry, every film he experienced had a huge impact. Over time Alexander developed a heightened interest in storytelling and began practicing his screenwriting skills by reading scripts of famous contemporary films. By learning programming he became interested in the technical side of the visual experience. This was the inception of his interest in computer animation. After spending an exchange year at St. Mark's School in Texas, where he finally had a chance to make his first films and get hands-on experience with the production process, Alexander founded his own production company, Kurilov Group Creative Studio. The company makes advertising films for clients from all over the world. The highlight of the company's track record is a Grand Prize Trophy at the MOFILM festival, awarded to Alexander personally by none other than Terry Gilliam himself. The studio has also worked on several animation and film projects, including *In Exile*, which was selected for screening at over 55 festivals worldwide.

Robert Jaszczurowski

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Anna Mroczek

Anna Mroczek produces animated films such as *Three Kings* by Anna Błaszczuk, *The Advisers of King Hydrops* by Natalia Brożyńska, *Locus* by Anita Kwiatkowska-Naqvi, *The Wizard of the U.S.* by Balbina Bruszezwska and *Last Stop is the Moon* by Brute Sodeikaite. She is currently developing her latest project, *Bridge* by Izumi Yoshida. Anna is co-owner of two production companies, WJTeam and Likaon, which are based in Poland. She is a member of the board of the Polish Filmmakers Association, Lodz division, and a member of the Supervisory Board of the Polish Animation Producers Association.

Mihai Mitrică

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Mihai holds a MSc degree in Public Management and has been involved in film festivals for the last 14 years. He is the founder and director of the Anim'est International Animation Film Festival. He is a short film curator and selector for various international festivals. Since 2013, he has produced four Romanian short animation films through Safe Frame, working with some of the best local new generation animators.

Nikola Majdak

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Nikola Majdak, Jr. was born in Slovenia in 1972. He holds a MFA from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, Camera Department. For the past 20 years, he has worked as a freelance cameraman, animator, director and lecturer. He and Ana Nedeljković directed their first short animated film, *Rabbitland* (2013), which was screened at over one hundred festivals around the world. It was awarded the Crystal Bear at the Berlinale and has won many other awards.

Ana Nedeljković

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Ana Nedeljković was born in Belgrade in 1978. She graduated in Painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade. She earned a PhD in Art Practice at the same faculty in 2012. She is a visual artist working in the media of drawing, installation and animated film, and is active in art education. She and Nikola Majdak directed their first short animated film, *Rabbitland* (2013), which was screened at over one hundred festivals around the world. It was awarded the Crystal Bear at the Berlinale and has won many other awards.

Vojin Vasovic

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Vojin Vasovic is a film and theatre producer and director. He holds a Master of Arts from the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama at the University of Toronto and an undergraduate degree in film directing from the Academy of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. He has been working in film and experimental theatre since 2002. His films have been screened at many international film festivals and he has won thirty-four awards. He was a Talent at the Berlinale Talent Campus in 2012 and the Cinema City Talents in 2014. He is a producer and director at To Blink Animation studio, a film company based in Belgrade, Serbia and Toronto, Canada. He teaches animation at the Academy of Arts in Belgrade. His latest animation project, *Twice Upon a Time*, was co-produced between Serbia, Canada and Hungary and was selected as one of the NISI MASA European Short Pitch 2015 best 20 projects. Currently, Vojin is in development of his first animation feature film.

Simona Hrušovská

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Simona has worked on several film projects in various production positions. After finishing her studies, she collaborated on the award-winning feature films *Eva Nova* (d. Marko Škop) and *Pokot* (d. Agnieszka Holland) and the recent film *The Interpreter* (d. Martin Šulík). She is a producer in her company Super film. Super film's portfolio currently includes the animated TV series *KA-BOOM!*, produced in co-production with the Slovak national broadcaster RTVS, and a short animated film called *Wild Beasts*, directed by Marta Prokopová. Super film has also created *Superend*, a theatre play that incorporates animation.

Kolja Saksida

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Kolja Saksida received his master's degree in Film Studies from the ECAL University of Art and Design in Lausanne. He works in filmmaking as a director, producer and educator. His works have been screened at numerous festivals all over the world and he has been an artist-in-residence for several major international cultural organizations. Kolja transfers his knowledge and experience to bring people closer to the boundless expressive possibilities of stop-motion animation. Kolja is an

assistant professor at the Academy of Arts at the University of Nova Gorica.

Tina Smrekar

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Tina Smrekar has produced several short animated films by Špela Čadež in collaboration with the author. The most prominent examples are *Boles* (2013), a puppet animation about prejudice, writer's block and inclusion, which has received 50 awards, distinctions and nominations and their latest film, *Nighthawk* (2016), a cut-out multiplane road trip allegory about alcoholism, which has received 22 awards to date, including Grand Prixes at HAFF Holland and Animafest Zagreb. It has also been screened at festivals such as Sundance and Clermont Ferrand.

Viva Videnović

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Viva works as a producer in various cultural fields. Her productions include concerts, exhibitions and music and literary festivals. She has worked as a print journalist, book editor and print editor for both radio and TV. Since 2005 she has been primarily engaged with film production. She worked for various Slovenian film production companies before joining Strup produkcija in 2012. She has a variety of documentary, animation, short and fiction feature films in production or development.

Jure Vizjak

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Jure is a producer and owner of INVIDA production studio. Besides producing animations, he is also active in the commercial field (live action and animated films, TV advertisements, promotional videos, documentaries and post-production services). As an animation enthusiast, he is responsible for many projects promoting animation as a craft, which enhance the visibility of animation internationally. Jure is a member of the Visegrad Animation Forum - VAF and the Slovenian Animated Film Association - DSAF.

Olena Golubieva

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Olena is a producer, lecturer, and for the past 15 years, owner of the production studio Chervoniy Sobaka. She has lectured in the Film Department of the National University of Theatre, Film and TV in Kiev for the past 15 years. She studied at the Institute of Social and Political Psychology with a specialization in Media Psychology and Social Psychology. She also studied Gestalt Consultation Theory and Practice at the Gestalt Institute of St. Petersburg and the Psychology of Creativity at the Dnipropetrovsk National University.