

## PITCHING LAB FOR ANIMATION

18.11.2024 - Public Presentation

### EXPERTS



#### WALTER BORTOLOTTI - Fiction and animation producer

Walter Bortolotti graduated from the University of Bologna, Italy, DAMS (Art, Music and Performing Arts) Department with a master degree in film and theater studies. He has been working for RSI (Swiss Italian Radio and Television) since 2003. After a significant experience in the purchase and sale function he is now a producer in charge of coproduction of fiction and animated features, series and short films.



#### MARJOLAINE PERRETTEN - Animation Film Director, Fribourg

Born in 1990 in Lausanne, Marjolaine studied multimedia design at ERACOM (CH) from 2009 to 2012 and was then admitted to the school La Poudrière in Valence (F). Since 2015, she has been working at Nadasdy Film studio as an animation film director. In 2017, she founded the Animation Film Festival of Savigny, the first animation festival in the canton of Vaud (Switzerland). Between 2019 and 2021, she was part of the international jury selection team for Fantoche. After co-directing two seasons of a TV series ("*Dans la Toile*", 2017–2019) and art-directing Marcel Barelli's first feature film ("*Mary Anning*", 2025), she is currently working on her seventh short film, "*Singularity*," a 19-minute animated short based on the comic "*Sabre*" by Eric Feres.



#### GREGORY CATELLA - SSR, Play Suisse

Gregory Catella (1971) grew up in Lugano and gained a humanities degree from Bologna University with a thesis on a poem attributed to Dante, *Il Fiore*. During his student years, he began a career in film criticism and journalism with newspapers and magazines, as well as in film club organization and the teaching of film subjects. Since 2012, Gregory Catella is Coproduction Manager for Film and Series at SRG SSR, Bern. Since 2019, he is Content Manager at Play Suisse, the streaming platform of SRG SSR, in charge for coproductions and acquisitions. From 2010 to 2012 he was Executive Producer on the feature film "*Vielen Dank für nichts*" by Stefan Hillebrand and Oliver Paulus (CH/DE 2013). 2010-2012 Gregory was Head of the Summer academy at Festival del film Locarno, a training program for young film professionals. 2005-2009 he was Head of the BA Program in Visual communication at SUPSI and Head of development of the pilot two-year Master program (2006-2008) "Network cinema CH". Between 2000 and 2009 he also gave numerous Lecturers in Cinema History and Film Analysis at the SUPSI, Lugano.



#### ADRIEN KUENZY - Co-editor of Cinebulletin and member of the Locarno Film Festival Critics' Week Selection Committee

A graduate of the HEAD/Genève and the ECAL/Lausanne (Bachelor's and Master's degrees in filmmaking), the Swiss-Norwegian Adrien Kuenzy completed his training with a Master's degree in the History and Aesthetics of Cinema at the University of Lausanne, as well as a diploma in journalism. He has directed several short and medium-length films, including "*L'amî*", which has been selected for numerous festivals (Locarno, Solothurn, Zurich, etc.) and has been bought by Arte France. In 2016, Adrien Kuenzy became director Serge Bozon's personal assistant in Paris on his feature film *Madame Hyde*, starring Isabelle Huppert, José Garcia and Romain Duris. Since being selected for the Critics Academy at the Locarno Film Festival in 2017, Adrien Kuenzy has worked as a film critic and cultural journalist for various media including *Le Courrier*, *24 heures* and *La Tribune de Genève*. Alongside his artistic projects, Adrien Kuenzy now works as co-editor-in-chief for the trilingual Swiss film magazine *Cinebulletin* and is a member of the Critics' Week selection committee at the Locarno Film Festival.

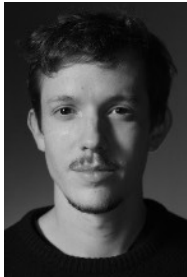
## SELECTED AUTHORS

### ANETE MELECE



**Anete Melece** is a Latvian illustrator and animation filmmaker based in Zürich, Switzerland, whose works stand out with witty details, charming characters, and sincere stories. She studied visual communication at the Art Academy of Latvia and animation at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. To date, Anete has illustrated 15 children's books and created three animated short films. Her animations have been screened at film festivals worldwide and have won numerous awards, including the Swiss Film Award for Best Animated Film in 2014 for *The Kiosk*. Additionally, her picture book based on *The Kiosk* has been translated into over 20 languages and adapted for puppet theater, theater, and opera in Latvia, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, and Germany.

### ANTONIN NICLASS



**Antonin Niclass**'s a Swiss and French animation director based in Lausanne and London. He started as a camera assistant in Switzerland which allowed him to learn a lot on cameras, lenses and lights. He decided to move to Belgium to study filmmaking and learned to work as a Director with larger crews on fiction, television and radio projects. Besides his studies, he produced numerous animation clips for Tataki (the digital branch of Swiss Television for young adults) and learned a lot by working with many different animators, mixing various forms and techniques. He pursued his passion for animation by joining the NFTS in the UK. His graduation film "Do Not Feed The Pigeons" won the BAFTA for Best British Short Animation in 2022. He then adapted his short film into a VR experience called "Midnight Story", narrated by Miriam Margolyes.

### BRUNA FERRAZZINI



**Bruna Ferrazzini** was born in 1966 in Switzerland. She trained as a photographer (at the IED in Milan) and educator (Curative Pedagogy at the University of Friborg), has worked in the field of education and for several years at RSI, in the role of camerawoman. In 2014 her short film "Biriki e l'arcobaleno" produced by Cinédokké & RSI was selected at Milano Film Festival. Her workshops and exhibitions have been shown in many places around the world, including the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

### SONYA ROBINE



**Sonya Robine** is a committed artist. She is a French taboo artist, illustrator & animator. She studied motion graphics at Hyper Island and Gobelins.

### SIMON DE DIESBACH



After a BA in Media & Interactive Design at ECAL (École Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne), **Simon de Diesbach** co-founded the studio fragment.in, with which he won the ARTS at CERN residency and collaborated with Pierre Soulages and David Dufresne. In 2017, he started an MA in Film at HSLU (Lucerne School of Art and Design) and shot LIMITES (2022), which premiered at the Locarno Film Festival and earned him an invitation to the MIT Media Lab. He also teaches animation and design workshops at various Swiss arts and crafts schools and universities.

### MARILOU RYTZ & STEPHANIE CADORET



A graduate of the Swiss Literature Institute, **Marilou Rytz** - winner of the Prix du jeune écrivain de langue française in 2021 - divides her time between literature and social work. She published her first novel, *Quand papa est tombé malade*, with éditions de l'Hèbe. Together with Alice Bottarelli, they have written *Voyage du Nautiscaphe et de sa cheminée dans la Fosse des Nouvelles-Hébrides*, published in November by Presses Inverses. **Stéphanie Cadoret** has a doctorate in film history from the University of Paris-Nanterre. She is an animation director, audiovisual performer and art teacher. In her films, she hybridises traditional and digital techniques to explore interpersonal relationships.

## THE COACH

### ANJA KOFMEL - Film Director



Anja Kofmel, born in Lugano in 1982, is a Swiss film-maker, animator and director who specialises in animated and documentary films. After studying at the Zurich University of the Arts, Anja Kofmel went on to study animation at the Lucerne School of Art and Design. Her graduation film *Chrigi* was shown at a number of festivals, including the Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival, the Stuttgart International Animation Film Festival and the Winterthur International Short Film Festival. Since 2011, she has been working as a freelance director and illustrator of animated films and documentaries. In 2018, her first feature film, an animated documentary called *Chris the Swiss*, was presented at the Cannes Film Festival, Critics' Week. It has screened at over 100 festivals around the world and won numerous awards. To make the film, Anja Kofmel travelled to Croatia and Germany for two years to investigate the disappearance of her cousin Chris, a war reporter. In 2020, Anja Kofmel launched her animation studio, Asako Film, in collaboration with producers Sereina Gabathuler (Dschoint Ventschr Film Produktion, Zurich) and Nicolas Burlet (Nadasdy Film, Geneva).