

Young Talents

catalogue

28-30 September 2026

About the programme

Young Talents is a three-day programme for international film and art school students and graduates, and an exchange platform for up-and-coming professionals.

For the industry representatives the programme is an opportunity to scout and get to know new voices.



● Participants

Ben Can Hekimoglu

Creative Producer, Germany



Hochschule Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Media Department, Animation & Game, 2018-2022 (graduated with Bachelor of Arts)

Creative Producer and Co-Founder with over four years of experience in 2D animated series production, most notably on “Soul Shift”. Ben keeps production on track while staying hands-on with the creative work. From Bionicle stop-motion films to self-printed comics, He has been creating things since before he knew it could be a job. He is drawn to chaotic stories about wacky but lovable idiots.

Project: GLOAM

“Gloam” tells the story of two strangers, who go on supernatural adventures, meeting mythical creatures all in an effort to uncover the mystery behind a sky that is endlessly stuck in a state of dusk. It is a story about friendship, family and self-discovery.

● Participants



Jelle Janssen

Animation Director, Netherlands

Graduate

Having lived and worked in creative hubs such as Barcelona, Copenhagen and Bristol, Jelle's work has been shaped by turning everyday moments into heartfelt stories. Crafted through thoughtful design and animation. His latest short film “Kukeleku”, developed at Aardman Animations, has been selected for international festivals including StopTrik International Film Festival (Slovenia), Manchester Animation Festival (UK) and Zlín Film Festival (Czech Republic).

Project: KUK ELEKU

“Kukeleku” is a stop-motion series for children and follows Nugget, a young rooster without a crow. By helping other animals on the farm, he discovers that his empathy and courage make him far more than his crow ever could.

● Participants



Klára Kubenková

Animation Director, Czech Republic

FAMU, Department of Animated Film, 3rd year

Klára Kubenková is a Czech animator studying at FAMU in Prague, where she is currently working on her bachelor's fairy-tale project. She primarily creates short films using 2D hand-drawn animation. Her work explores thought-provoking topics, often softened with humor, as seen in her animated documentary POLIO (2025). She has a soft spot for animating grandmothers, mostly because she can't wait to become one herself someday.

Project: POLARIS

“Polaris” is a short animated fairy tale about a fallen star, a little bear, and his deep fear of the dark. The film is created using 2D animation and the oil-on-glass animation technique.

● Participants



Yannis Nakos

Filmmaker, Director, Greece

Bachelor of Film Production - Directing - Catalyst Institute of Creative Arts and Technology - senior year

Yannis Nakos is a Greek filmmaker and director whose work focuses on intimate, character-driven stories rooted in specific social and cultural environments. His films explore identity, belonging and human relationships within complex emotional settings, often through coming-of-age stories. He is currently developing his next short film and several visual projects, building a body of work grounded in emotionally honest, socially relevant cinema with a strong visual identity.

Project: LACY

“Lacy” is a short coming-of-age film about two sixteen-year-old girls who unexpectedly reunite after two years apart during a wedding dress fitting. As Christina helps Theoula change, awkwardness slowly gives way to jokes, memories and a quiet recognition of feelings they once shared. Surrounded by the celebration of a future already imagined for her, Theoula experiences a private emotional awakening neither girl knows how to name.

● Participants



Lukas Schaan

Multimedia Artist, Germany

Academy of Visual Arts Frankfurt Communication Design 2024

Lukas Schaan is a Multimedia Artist and Co-Founder of Barely Media. He has a knack for Methodology and he is well versed in adapting to different artistic styles. With a background in acting, painting and illustration he is always looking for more motifs and more people to share his passion with.

Project: GLOAM

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● Participants

Jonáš Urbanek

Animation Director, Czech Republic



UMPRUM, Animation and film, 2nd year of MA

Jonáš Urbanek is in his final year of animation studies at UMPRUM in Prague. During his studies, he has been experimenting with different animation techniques and combinations of them. He is most comfortable with 2D animation, but lately he has been getting into stop-motion. Most of all, he enjoys making music videos, where he feels he has the most creative freedom.

Project: CACTUS CALLING

“Cactus Calling” is a short animated film that I started working on as my bachelor’s project. We’re currently in the compositing stage, and it should be finished by October 2026. It’s aimed at audiences aged 6 and up. The film is about a grandpa who travels to Mexico with his chicken friend to find the cactus he’s dreamed of owning his whole life — an Aztekium. The story was inspired by my own grandpa, who was a passionate cactus collector.

● Participants



Karolina Walas

Animation Director, Illustrator, Poland

Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts Graduate

Karolina Walas works in graphic design, illustration, and animation. In her spare time, she creates tattoos. She graduated from the Faculty of Graphic Arts at the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków, earning her Master's degree with the animated film "Perła pod Słońcem" (Pearl Under the Sun). The film was screened at international festivals in Japan, Brazil, Kosovo, Ukraine, and Poland.

Her main interest is 2d animation and illustration. Her goal is to make an animated series as good as "Adventure Time".

● Participants



Anna Walczak

Animation Director, Poland

Strzemiński Academy of Fine Arts in Łódź, BA in Animation, St. Joost School of Art & Design, MA in Animation

Anna Walczak is an animation director, 2D animator, and storyboard artist. She works as a concept artist on animated feature films produced by Animoon and develops original animation projects - "Spotlight" in production with Studio Munka and Animoon. Anna is also a creator and social media manager, building a community of over 120K followers across Instagram and TikTok around her short comedic animations.

Project: SPOTLIGHT

A cool-toned evening in Łódź opens the story of a small moth drawn to the warm glow of a tenement window. Falling into a puddle and unable to fly, it wanders into a jazz club basement and fixates on the light above the stage. Chasing it, the moth is swept into a chaotic jam session, bounced between instruments. Music engulfs it: swirling shapes, colors, rhythms. Moth is torn between instinct and the magnetic pull of sound.

● Speakers and sessions

Agata Darlasi

Development Producer and Pitching Expert
Greece



Agata Darlasi is a Narrative Intelligence Architect, Development Producer, and Pitching Expert specializing in the development of high-impact stories and the strategic positioning of audiovisual projects for the international market. Since 2007, she has worked across film and television as a director, screenwriter, and development producer, while designing and leading workshops in pitching, narrative strategy, and storytelling for institutions including Westerdals (Norway), Emerson College (US), the Onassis Cultural Center, the Goethe-Institut, the Olympia International Film Festival, and SÖRÄNGENS FOLKHÖGSKOLA (Sweden). Her masterclasses have been presented at major European festivals and industry platforms, including FICX Gijón, POFF Tallinn, Young Horizons, Cinekid Professionals, and IFFP Patmos. A TEDx speaker ("Time for Heroes", 2017), she also advises CEOs, founders, public speakers, and policymakers on executive communication, persuasive storytelling, and high-stakes presentations. She currently teaches Leadership Public Speaking in the MBA program of the American Business University of Athens.

Masterclass: Self Awareness & Professional Presence

This hands-on masterclass focuses on building self-awareness as the foundation for developing your personal brand and learning how to confidently present yourself and your project in the professional environment of film markets.

● Speakers and sessions

Mirko Goran Marijanac

Media Sales Executive
DeAPlaneta Entertainment
Poland/Spain



With a strong legal background and three years' experience in law firms, Mirko is now closely working with internationally renowned audiovisual and animation professionals. For several years, he has been involved in the distribution of children's content, research of new IPs, and contract negotiations (with broadcasters, VOD platforms, production and localisation studios). He represents DeAPlaneta Kids & Family at the most important markets and events in the industry.

Masterclass: From Production To Distribution

This masterclass offers a comprehensive overview of the current landscape of international animation distribution. Structured around several core areas, the session will provide both strategic context and actionable guidance for navigating today's evolving market. The session is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to position their projects competitively within the international animation market.

● Speakers and sessions

Marta Grawon

Consultant
Poland



Marta Grawon is an English coach, translator and consultant working in film development and project communication. She supports filmmakers, producers and talent in shaping the language and structure of pitch materials, helping projects gain clarity and strong positioning in international contexts. She holds a degree in Arts Management from London South Bank University and began her career in international classical music management, where artistic projects were presented for global markets. For over fifteen years she has translated industry-related materials and worked closely with film professionals on development documents and pitch decks.

She runs Intuitive Minds Studio, through which she has collaborated with organisations such as KIPA, the Polish Producers Guild, Zespół Filmowy Raban, MTL Maxfilm, Watchout Studio and Next Film, as well as independent producers.

Workshop: Find Your Story's Core: Building a Compelling Logline

This practical workshop explores why a strong logline matters and how to build one. Through practical exercises, participants will learn to identify their project's protagonist, goal, conflict and stakes, and distill them into a compelling logline. They will also discover how this core idea can be developed into a synopsis and provide the foundation for an effective pitch deck.

● Speakers and sessions

Zofia Ścisłowska

Creative Producer
Laniakea Pictures
Poland



Zofia Ścisłowska is a creative producer with over 15 years of experience in the film industry. From 2015 to 2022, she collaborated with Animoon as supervising and creative producer on animated shorts (including the Annie Award-nominated “Acid Rain”), series, and features such as the EFA-nominated “Even Mice Belong in Heaven”. At Laniakea Pictures, she develops animation and children’s IP, including “Cloudy & Stormy”, a 360° digital-first brand. She is an alumna of EAVE Marketing Workshops, Young Horizons Lab, and Let’s Be Series.

Case Study: Cloudy & Stormy – Redefining IP Development

„Cloudy & Stormy”, a digital brand made in Poland with a clever cross-media strategy that will win the pre-schooler audience as well as Gen Z. Developed as an audience-first project in Poland, this case study explores how strategic testing, influencer ecosystems, and an agile company structure enabled „Cloudy & Stormy” to invest in experimentation, and grow organically before pursuing larger-scale expansion.

● Main locations

ibis Styles Warszawa City Hotel

ul. Grzybowska 43

2nd Floor Conference Room - Young Talents programme

Kinoteka and Cafe Kulturalna

pl. Defilad I

(Palace of Science and Culture)

Patathai

Elektrownia Powiśle, ul. Zajęcza 2B

Olympia International Film Festival

<https://olympiafestival.gr/en/>

KFF Industry

<https://www.krakowfilmfestival.pl/en/industry/>

SPPA - Polish Animation Producers Association

<https://www.facebook.com/SPPApl>

Animation Production Days

<https://animationproductiondays.de/>

CEE Animation

<https://ceeanimation.eu/>



Get in touch



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<https://industry.younghorizons.pl/>



Platform:
<https://industry.younghorizons.pl/sign-in>

