

BRIDGING THE GAP | FMX 2019

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Press Release #4: *Spider-Man*, Indie Animation, Open Source and New Trailer *CatPlanets*

For immediate publication

FMX 2019

Conference on Animation, Effects, Games and Immersive Media

April 30 - May 3, 2019, Stuttgart/Germany, Haus der Wirtschaft

Ludwigsburg/Germany, January 31, 2019. The FMX 2019 program is filling up. Plenty of confirmations can be announced that cover the grand diversity of animation filmmaking – from **Wild & Strange** indie animation to the Oscar-nominated **Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse** and the stop-motion film **Missing Link**. The **Open Source** track will set its focus on shared technologies that aim to bridge the gaps between image creation, visual effects, animation and sound. Additionally, the official FMX 2019 Animation Trailer **CatPlanets** is online.

The **FMX ticket shop** is now open, early bird tickets can be purchased until **March 15, 2019**. [Ticket shop](#)

► **Wild & Strange – From Black & White to Bright & Bold**

Indie animation is playing a vital part in the animation industry, making the scene even more diverse than it already is. The **Wild & Strange** track, curated by **Jeanette Bonds** (Director/Co-Founder GLAS Animation) will feature some of the most inspiring indie animators and their unique stories. One of the artists who has been attracting a lot of attention in the field of independent animation is British filmmaker **Sophie Koko Gate**. The animation director is known for her strong artistic style, distinctive narrative sensibilities, and bringing bold and colorful characters to life. Sophie has been in the limelight of the indie animation community ever since she released her successful graduation short from Royal College of Art, **Half Wet**. Her most current work includes **Darcy A/S/L**, produced by Adult Swim, and **Slug Life** that continues her series of bright and expressive shorts films.

FMX is thrilled to have Sophie and three other amazing indie animation artists join the **Wild & Strange** track: **Michael Frei**, whose reduced yet powerful film **Plug & Play** has been an international success, will kick off the track talking about his latest project **KIDS**. He will be followed by **Boris Labbé**, whose latest experimental film **La Chute** has been receiving huge critical acclaim. **Tomek Popakul**, who is known for his films **Black** and **Ziegenort**, will round off the series of talks discussing his film **Acid Rain**, which recently premiered at Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

► **The Art of Animation – Of New Grounds and Missing Links**

Danny Dimian, VFX Supervisor at Sony Pictures Imageworks, oversaw work on **Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse** for Sony Pictures Animation. In the FMX track **The Art of Animation**, he will give a talk on the recently Oscar- and VES Award-nominated movie, which is the first animated feature film in the Spider-Man franchise and broke new grounds by combining computer-generated animation with hand-drawn comic book techniques.

Another presentation in the **The Art of Animation** track will feature a look at the new stop-motion feature **Missing Link** (2019), produced by LAIKA. The presentation will be given by **Steve Emerson**, an Oscar-nominated visual effects supervisor. Steve contributed to all of LAIKA's acclaimed works: **Coraline** (2009), **ParaNorman** (2012), **The Boxtrolls** (2014), and **Kubo and the Two Strings** (2016).

Further **The Art of Animation** confirmations can be announced very soon.

► **Open Source – Shared Technologies and Cross-Industry Cooperation**

Open source software has become ubiquitous across the motion picture industry, providing a foundation for many of the visual effects and animation used in motion pictures today. Developed in partnership with the **Academy Software Foundation**, the **Open Source** track highlights cross-industry efforts to develop shared technologies for image creation, visual effects, animation and sound.

The track is curated by **David Morin**, Head of the Epic Games Lab Los Angeles and Executive Director of the **Academy Software Foundation (ASWF)**. Created by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and the Linux Foundation, the mission of the **ASWF** is to provide a vendor-neutral forum for open source development across the motion picture and broader media industries.

► **FMX 2019 Trailer #2 – CatPlanets**

In 2019, FMX will release four different trailers for the first time. Each of the areas named in the FMX subtitle – Animation, Effects, Games and Immersive Media – will be represented with their own trailers, each of them unique in technique, style, and story. After **Wonderful World**, standing for VFX, the second FMX 2019 trailer **CatPlanets** represents the FMX main category Animation. **CatPlanets** (created by students at Filmakademie's Animationsinstitut – Director: **Yi Luo**, Animation: **Patrik Knittel**, Technical Directing: **Paulo Morato Scatena**, Producer: **Lukas Ritter**) tells the story of what happens if cats don't get their way. As a girl refuses her cat a snack, she gets beamed into another galaxy, ruled by giant cats. Will the girl make her way safely through the chaotic universe and finally bring order to the whole cat mess? [Trailer](#)

► **FMX Forum – Main Partners**

FMX is happy to announce that **Animation Media Cluster Region Stuttgart (AMCRS)** and **Foundry** are once again Main Partners. **AMCRS** will be back with a booth on the Marketplace, while **Foundry** invites the visitors to a Company

Suite and their Workshops. **Ftrack**, **SideFX**, and **SAE Institute** will offer workshops as well. **Allegorithmic**, **Dynamixyz**, **BenQ** and **Dazzle Picture** will be joining the Marketplace. Further participants of the Recruiting Hub will be **Mackevision**, **jangled nerves**, **eder**, and **Jellyfish**, and for the School Campus, **Hamm-Lippstadt University of Applied Sciences**, **Hochschule Darmstadt - University of Applied Sciences**, and **TH Mittelhessen University of Applied Sciences** can be announced.

Tickets for FMX 2019 are available in the online ticket shop at www.fmx.de (early bird rates until March 15, 2019).

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► **Press Accreditation**

You can apply for a Press Accreditation via press@fmx.de or our ticket shop on www.fmx.de.

► **Press Downloads**

At www.fmx.de journalists can download the **FMX 2019 logo** as well as the **FMX CI Guidelines**.

► **Editor's Notes:**

FMX is funded by the **Ministry of Science, Research and Arts** and the **Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing** of the State of Baden-Württemberg, the **City of Stuttgart** and the **MFG Baden-Württemberg**, taking place in cooperation with **VES** Visual Effects Society and **ACM SIGGRAPH**. FMX is an event by **Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg**, organized by **Animationsinstitut**, hosting the Animation Production Days (**APD**), a joint venture with **Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (ITFS)**.

Further information at www.fmx.de