



Press Release #1 - FMX 2020 Imagines Tomorrow | Volker Engel, Regina Pessoa, Steven Appleby

For immediate publication

FMX 2020

Conference on Animation, Effects, Games and Immersive Media
May 5-8, 2020, Stuttgart/Germany, Haus der Wirtschaft

Ludwigsburg/Germany, December 13, 2019. With the end of 2019 drawing near, **FMX – Conference on Animation, Effects, Games and Immersive Media** can announce exciting news for 2020: from May 5 to 8, it will celebrate its 25th anniversary! For this special occasion the FMX team is wrapping a birthday gift – full of talks, workshops and exhibitors presenting the cutting edge of animation, effects, games and immersive media projects. Among the first confirmed contributors for FMX 2020 are VFX Supervisor **Volker Engel** (CEO Uncharted Territory), Animation Director **Regina Pessoa** (Ciclope Filmes) and Artist & Writer **Steven Appleby**. Furthermore, the **FMX ticket shop** on www.fmx.de will open on **January 10, 2020**.

► FMX 2020 Theme *Imagine Tomorrow*

Imagine Tomorrow, the central theme of FMX 2020, will showcase the latest tools and techniques that are breaking through the limits of what can be brought to life on screen.

Looking beyond the status quo, FMX invites its speakers to share their visions of tomorrow, highlighting clear-cut paths and far-out concepts for the future of media & entertainment.

FMX 2020 will discuss the following topics: growing from idea to IP, crossing the uncanny valley, joining physical and virtual production, fusing artificial and artistic intelligence, creating new ways of distribution and experiencing the cinema of the future.

Limited by nothing but the imagination, how can the animation, effects, games and immersive media industries contribute to a better tomorrow?

► VFX Pioneers and Animation Artists

Volker Engel (President Uncharted Territory, VFX Supervisor, Film Producer) has been a guest at FMX since its very first edition in 1994. Having studied at Filmakademie, he is best known for supervising the ground-breaking visual effects for the blockbuster ***Independence Day***, for which he received an Academy Award. His most recent work as Co-Producer and Visual Effects Supervisor was for the sequel ***Independence Day: Resurgence***. At FMX 2020, he will curate the track ***The Evolution of SFX***.

"In the mid-nineties I participated in the very first FMX and had a showreel that started with the daring sentence "If you think you can't do Visual Effects in Germany... think again!" A quarter century later I am happy and proud to see that this sentence has already been completely outdated for a long time. In Germany some of the world's best artists are creating visual effects to the highest standards this industry has to offer – and will showcase their artistry amongst their colleagues and friends who will once again join them from all over the world. And true to the motto of the 25th FMX they will not only "Imagine Tomorrow", but use their skills and inventiveness to contribute to a better tomorrow."

Animation Director **Regina Pessoa** (Ciclope Filmes) will give an inside look into her latest film ***Uncle Thomas: Accounting for the Days***, one of the most acclaimed animated shorts of 2019. She won numerous prizes for her films, such as ***Kali the Little Vampire*** or ***Tragic Story with Happy Ending***, which is the most awarded Portuguese film of all times. In all her films Regina Pessoa has used different engraving techniques, from plaster to computer, or as she likes to say *"from stone to Pixel"*. Being asked for her view on the future Regina Pessoa answers *"Yesterday analog art outdated today, combined with tomorrow's technology can become precious in the future."*

At FMX 2020, London-based **Steven Appleby** will present his graphic thriller ***Dragman***, which comes out in March 2020 and features the struggles and double-life of a man who can fly when he puts on women's clothes. Being a cross-dresser himself, Steven is the absurdist creator of many comic strips, the animated television series ***Captain Star*** and many other projects such as musical plays or paintings, prints and drawings for numerous exhibitions. His view on the future is a rather thoughtful one: *"I've always loved the future. As an idea. As a place to go. It's so glossy and bright and exciting! But looking back, I guess that was escapism. The future always had a dark side – I just didn't see it. So, no more looking the other way. It's time to face it."*

► FMX Forum – First Confirmations

FMX is happy to announce that **SideFX** will be on board as Main Partner. They will welcome the visitors to their workshop and their Company Suite. The **SAE Institute** will offer two workshops, and **Maxon** has booked a Company Suite. **InstaLOD** and **NuBoyana FX** will have a booth at the FMX Marketplace, whereas **BigHugFX**, **Boulder Media**, **Realtime UK**, **Pixomondo**, **Scanline VFX**, and **Trixter** will be participants on the Recruiting Hub. For the School Campus the **University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (Hagenberg)** and **ifs internationale filmschule koeln** can be announced.

The FMX **ticket shop** will open on Friday, **January 10, 2020** on the website www.fmx.de.

► **Press contact**

press@fmx.de

Nora Hieronymus

Public Relations & Press
+49 (0)7141 969828-70

Franziska Ullrich

Public Relations & Social Media
+49 (0)7141 969828-76

For interview requests please contact

Nicola Steller

Conference Press Coordinator
+49 (0)7156-350616

► **Press Accreditation**

You can apply for a Press Accreditation via press@fmx.de or our ticket shop on www.fmx.de, which opens on **January 10, 2020**.

► **Press Downloads**

On www.fmx.de, journalists can download the **FMX 2020 logo** as well as the **FMX CI Guidelines**.

► **Editor's Notes:**

FMX is an event by **Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg GmbH**, organized by **Animationsinstitut** and 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 **MFG Baden-Württemberg**, taking place in cooperation with the **VES Visual Effects Society** and **ACM SIGGRAPH**. Together with the Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (**ITFS**), FMX organizes the Animation Production Days (**APD**).

Further information at www.fmx.de