



## **Animex Awards Winners 2021**

**Animex Awards is an international competition for student animation and visual effects films, held each year at the Animex International Festival of Animation, VFX & Games, Teesside University, United Kingdom.**

This year, we selected around 100 wonderful films from the entries, made by students from around the globe competing in Animex Awards 2021.

The four animation programmes screening online from 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May showcased different genres and styles, from character animation to narrative and experimental animation, from 2D computer and drawn animation to stop-motion animation, from CGI animation to visual effects films. All selected films were considered for the awards.

**Animex Awards Winners 2021** are screening online on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021, to announce the winning films and the commended films in the student categories: CGI Animation Award | Visual Effects Award | 2D Animation Award | Character Animation Award | Narrative Award | Stop-motion Animation Award | Experimental Animation Award.

Congratulations to the following winning and commended films!



## Animex Awards 2021 – Winning and Commended films

### Student – CGI Animation Award

Awarded to: **The Source Of The Mountains**

Directed by: Adrien Communier, Camille Di Dio, Benjamin Francois, Pierre Gorichon, Briag Mallat, Marianne Moisy | 2020| ESMA | France

Judge's comment: *"A wonderful film that tells an epic story in just under 7 minutes. All aspects of the CGI are beautifully realised and work seamlessly together to create a unique and visually impressive experience. World-devouring space giraffes are my new favourite animal!"*

### Commended in CGI Animation

Awarded to: **The Other Me**

Directed by: Théo Clenet, Clara Lorente, Cédric Malet, Alexandre Mazelly, Alexia Oylataguerre, Rémi Portes Narrieu, Grégoire Soghomonian | 2020| ESMA | France

Judge's comment: *"A beautiful story about being true to oneself. The strong visual style and use of light and colour are brilliant throughout and all the CGI elements work together to transport the viewer to this strange, yet familiar world. I loved it!"*

### Student – 2D Animation Award

Awarded to: **Fuelled**

Directed by: Michelle Hao, Fawn Chan, Emily Xu, Eido Hayashi, YoungHak Jang, Jisoo Kim, Subin Jang, Catherine Ivanhoff, Georgia Kavanaugh, Starlyn Lu, Aroona Khiani, Daniel Blake | 2021 | Sheridan College | Canada

Judge's comment: *"An immersive tale with a strong visual narrative, stunning visuals and with a theme we can all relate to. It was refreshing to see revenge being dealt with as something that's toxic and can precipitate an endless cycle of violence, unless conscientiously thwarted."*

### Commended in 2D Animation

Awarded to: **Izzy's Demons**

Directed by: Greg Garay | 2020| School of Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California | United States

Judge's comment: *"A cautionary commentary on how social media disarms rather than enables our humanity with the touch of button."*

### Student – Character Animation Award

Awarded to: **Cell**

Directed by: Corentin Becq, Constance André, Salomé Chateignon, Yashwardhan Singh Jhala, Jeanne Fouques, Chloé Labat | 2020| Rubika | France

Judge's comment: *"Great character performances featuring some brilliant subtleties in the animation. Staged beautifully with strong posing and nuanced acting."*

### Commended in Character Animation

Awarded to: **Charlie**

Directed by: Chan Kuang Jun, Koh Gek Luan, Ong Yi Teck, Eugene Tham Kai Ming, Tan Hui Yi | 2019| School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University | Singapore

Judge's comment: *"A lovely homage to Chaplin with some great pantomime."*

### **Student – Narrative Animation Award**

Awarded to: **The Sam Story**

Directed by: Richard Noble | 2021 | Royal College of Art | United Kingdom

Judge's comment: *"This narrative of two twins separated at birth, and then leading identical lives apart reminded me of The Twilight Zone, and the fact that it was based on a true story made this film all the more compelling. The imagery and tone conveyed across the story made for an engaging piece, and encompassed a deeper philosophy of human connection and nature vs. nurture. 'Your Future is in Your Hands'."*

### **Commended in Narrative Animation**

Awarded to: **Delphine, No Dogs**

Directed by: Anayis Der Hakopian | 2019 | Middlesex University | United Kingdom

Judge's comment: *"This biographical narrative was deeply affecting, and demonstrated emotive means of storytelling across its short run-time. The fact that the project is part of a deeper exploration of Irish and Caribbean immigrant experience in the UK made this film all the more poignant when thinking about these marginalised voices."*

### **Student – Experimental Animation Award**

Awarded to: **Sleepwalk**

Directed by: Hao Yang, Tong Xing, Xinyue Jiang | 2021 | School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong | Hong Kong

Judge's comment: *"A lively and engrossing exploration of pedestrian Hong Kong combining techniques in pixilation and rotoscope. The consistency of Yang Hao's pixilated motion allow the images of the city to flow by and create a dream-like texture. The hand-drawn animation echoes, amplifies and dances with the main figure."*

### **Commended in Experimental Animation**

Awarded to: **Cache-Cache**

Directed by: Gwen Lee | 2020 | Experimental Animation, California Institute of the Arts | USA

Judge's comment: *"An abstract tale of reconnecting after loss. The colorful, bouncy animation is complimented by the innovative use of space and perspective, all emphasized by a beautifully constructed musical score."*

### **Student – Stop-motion Animation Award**

Awarded to: **Meow or Never**

Directed by: Neeraja Raj | 2020 | National Film and Television School | United Kingdom

Judge's comment: *"Excellent animation, sets and puppets an epic of a short film very well made."*

### **Commended in Stop-motion Animation**

Awarded to: **Delphine, No Dogs**

Directed by: Anayis Der Hakopian | 2019 | Middlesex University | United Kingdom

Judge's comment: *"Excellent rendering of the story very touching and relevant narrative brilliantly interpreted into a beautiful short film."*

### **Student – Visual Effects Award**

Awarded to: **STRANDED**

Directed by: Alvin Arevalo-Zamora, Alwin Durez, Quentin Garaud, Maxime Salvatore, Florent Sanglard, Thomas Spony-Ipiens, Alex Tregouet | 2020 | ESMA | France

Judge's comment: *"A truly brilliant film with extraordinary visual effects work. The CFX and environment work had already blown my mind, but then the action starts and showcase the team's mastery of all aspects of effects animation. Giant golden moose are my new favourite animal!"*

### **Commended in Visual Effects**

Awarded to: **RACE**

Directed by: Valentin Boesch, Julien Bouvier, Mathieu De Brun, Yann Duplouye, Robinson Fostier, Marc Lourenço, Florian Piechta, Oliver Renard | 2020 | ISART Digital | France

Judge's comment: *"A rollercoaster of a short film that mixes live-action and CGI brilliantly. The visual effects work is stunning, wonderfully choreographed and wouldn't look out of place in a big-budget summer blockbuster."*

### **Thank you to the Judges!**

Andrew Bashforth, Lecturer in Computer Animation, Teesside University, UK.

Nick Daniel, Senior Lecturer in Visualisation, Teesside University, UK.

Dr Paul Noble, Senior Lecturer in 3D Animation, Teesside University, UK.

Lesley-anne Rose, Stop Motion Producer and Director, Lecturer in Stop-motion Animation, Teesside University, UK.

Jeremy Speed Schwartz, Animator & Interactive Artist, Instructional Designer, Georgia State University, USA.

Tom Watson, Lecturer in Transmedia Production, Teesside University, UK.

### **Thank you to all the participating student directors and animators!**

Sabrina Schmid, Animex Awards Curator, Senior Lecturer in Animation, Teesside University, UK.

