

Utrecht, Amsterdam and online

KABOOM ANIMATION FESTIVAL



13-22 March 2026

WELCOME TO KABOOM 2026

Working with objects offers a unique way of knowing things; to hold an object in your hand and feel its texture is so different from using any digital device. The history of animation is full of fingerprints - from machines built to maximize the illusion of movement to digital tools that fully automate the process. But how do we ensure we don't lose the human touch?

This year's theme is an ode to the unpolished, the tactile, and the beautifully inefficient marks we leave during the creative process. We want to see the physical signs of life on the puppets and the happy accidents in the code. We are equally curious about the new possibilities lying within ethical AI and about how one might code a fingerprint. Perhaps we are already cyborgs - but we are the kind of machines that still get emotional over a stop-motion piglet or a particularly beautiful bit of generative math. We remain fascinated by the fact that by moving a lump of clay, you can give a toaster a personality.

We've been thinking a lot about the weird overlap between a grandmother knitting a sweater and a coder writing a script. If you look closely, a cross-stitch pattern is basically just a low-res, analog JPEG. Whether we are using a needle or a node, we are all just trying to weave some meaning out of chaos.

So, don't be a stranger. Come in, get messy, and help us sabotage the tools of standardization. Let yourself be moved. We promise it'll be a lot more fun than talking to a robot.

We wish you many tactile sensations,

Aneta Ozorek & Annabet Langkamp
Directors of Kaboom Animation Festival



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Festival info

TICKETS

Get your tickets via the QR-code, on www.kaboomfestival.nl or at one of following ticket boxes: Slachtstraat Filmtheater (Utrecht), HKU | AG (Utrecht) and Eye Filmmuseum (Amsterdam)



Single film ticket & VR slots

€ 12 / 8,50 for students*

5 Bumpy rides

€ 48 (transferrable tickets, 5 for the price of 4!)

Mad Animation Lover Pass

€ 115 / 90 for students*
Access to all screenings, VR slots and the online festival.
Non-transferrable

All You Can Eat Online Pass

€ 33 / 25 for students*
Unlimited access to the online program. Only available in the Netherlands. *Non-transferrable*

Kaboom Kids

€ 6 (also for adults)
€ 9 (Peuterbios, also for adults)

Kaboom Industry Days

€ 35 per day / 25 for students*

Cineville members: As a Cineville member, you have access to regular Kaboom screenings and VR projects. You can reserve Cineville tickets once our ticketing starts and need to scan your Cineville pass on location to get access to the screening. Please don't forget to cancel your reservation if you decide not to visit the screening.

We are Public Members: As a We Are Public member, you can go to a selection of films. Keep an eye out for our collaboration through their website & socials!

U-pas members: As a U-pas member, you can either get a 40% discount on our Utrecht program or pay with the credit on your card. You won't be able to reserve a ticket beforehand, but you can simply come to our box office at Slachtstraat Filmtheater to buy a discounted ticket.

Stadspas holders: As a Stadspas member you can see our Amsterdam program. One ticket costs €8,50 (discounted ticket price). You make a reservation on the website, but you only get the ticket on location when you have shown your Stadspas.

Uitpas members: As a Uitpas member you can go to a selection of screenings in Amsterdam for the reduced price of €8,50! The program will be announced on their website.

***Students:** By creating a Kaboom account with your student email address, you can enjoy a student discount on the following: one ticket per regular screening or one VR experience (€8,50 instead of €12), Online All You Can Eat (€25 instead of €33), a discount on the Mad Animation Lover Pass (€90 instead of €115) or Kaboom Industry Days (€25 instead of €35 per day).

FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

Utrecht

Slachtstraat Filmtheater

Slachtstraat 5
3512 BC Utrecht

HKU | AG

Minrebroederstraat 16
3512 GT Utrecht

HKU Media

Oudenoord 700
3513 EX Utrecht

De Sien

Kanaalweg 30
3526 KM Utrecht

ACU

Voorstraat 71
3512 BX Utrecht

Bibliotheek Neude (Libray Neude)

Neude 11
3512 AE Utrecht

Amsterdam

Eye Filmmuseum

IJpromenade 1
1031 KT Amsterdam

Melkweg Cinema

Lijnbaansgracht 234A
1017 PH Amsterdam

Filmhuis Cavia

Van Hallstraat 52-I
1051 CJ Amsterdam

Eye Collection Centre

Asterweg 26
1031 HP Amsterdam

ACCESSIBILITY & LANGUAGES

We want everyone to feel welcome at Kaboom and most of our locations are wheelchair accessible. Please check the *locations* page on our website for the most up-to-date information on accessibility.

Kaboom is an international festival and our standard language is English. The majority of our content will be in English, without subtitles. Films in a foreign language other than English will be subtitled in English. Please note: our kids programs on both Sunday mornings either have Dutch spoken language or a Dutch live dub, so Dutch speaking children can understand what's going on.

Jury & Awards

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Sara Koppel	Animation director Denmark
Ivana Kvesić	Director of Fantoche Switzerland
Ahmad Saleh	Animation director Palestine

DUTCH AND DOCUMENTARY

Alice Shone	Programmer Tribeca Film Festival, Encounters, Cork and Toronto Film Festival UK
Sean Buckelew	Animation director United States
Réka Bucsi	Animation director Hungary

VR

Manu Weiss	XR creative director, curator, artist specialising in immersive media Switzerland
Sarah Lugthart	XR researcher The Netherlands
Manuel Toledo	Producer, designer and creative strategist The Netherlands

NANCY AWARD

Nancy Denney-Phelps	Allround Animation Goddess
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KABOOM AWARDS

Awards will be given in the following categories:

Best Short | €1.000

Jamie Bolio Award | €3.000

Audience Award for Best Feature | €1.000

Best Dutch Short | €1.000

Best VR | €1.000

Best Student Short | €1.000

Best Dutch Student Short | €500 and a package of Kaboom Distribution valued at € 1.500, made possible by Keep an Eye Foundation.

Best Documentary | €500

Audience Award for Best Experimental

Audience Award for Best Commissioned

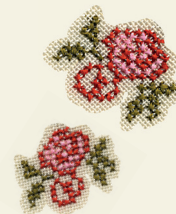
Audience Award for Best Kids Short

Audience Award for Best Short

Nancy Award

Industry Days: Best Pitch Award | €5.000
Made possible by CFAP

Industry Days: Best Debutant Award | 1st place: a trip to Annecy International Animation Film Festival; 2nd/3rd place: each 1x ToonBoom software license for 1 year. Made possible by Keep an Eye Foundation and ToonBoom.



Celebrations

Utrecht

OPENING WALK UTRECHT

Friday 13 March | 20:30 | Neude | Utrecht

Kaboom has the best opening ceremony of all festivals – if we do say so ourselves. No mind-numbing speeches in stuffy venues, but out and about in the city! Because, as it has been so beautifully put, ‘If a wall can be a screen, a city can be a cinema.’ Follow the projector through the centre of Utrecht to see animations projected onto specially selected locations.

Passers-by, rich or poor, are of course welcome to join us. This way, we literally share our love of animation with the outside world. **Free access**



ANIMATIEBORREL

Saturday 14 March | 20:00 | Slachtstraat Filmtheater | Utrecht

Come and join us at the Kaboom Café at Slachtstraat Filmtheater for a gathering of animators from near and far. It's the perfect place to talk all things animated in a warm and welcoming setting. **Free access**



XR COMMUNITY MINGLE

Monday 16 March | 19:00 | Library Neude (NODA bar) | Utrecht

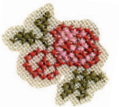
Join us for a drink with XR creators, producers and industry leaders, as we reflect on Kaboom's 2026 XR programme, envision the future of immersive technology (you've heard it here first!), and be the first to know the winner of the Kaboom Award for Best VR. **Free access**



INDUSTRY DAYS: DEBUTANTS BALL & AFTERPARTY

Tuesday 17 March | 19:00 | ACU | Utrecht

End the day on a high note at ACU. Join us for drinks, music, and the crowning of the Best Showreel winner. It's the perfect way to celebrate emerging talent—complete with a spectacular performance you won't want to miss. **Free access**



Amsterdam

OPENING AMSTERDAM

Thursday 19 March | 20:30 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 115'
 After kicking off in Utrecht, Kaboom 2026 will now conquer Amsterdam too. Continue celebrating with animation lovers from all over the world in Eye Filmmuseum's futuristic UFO (or angular oyster). Because this year's theme *Human Touch* isn't only about handcrafted art, but also about people coming together and being touched by each other's stories.

Allah Is Not Obligated

One moment you're playing in the streets of Guinea; next, you're a child soldier. On his way to his aunt in Liberia, twelve-year-old orphan Birahima is arrested by warlords, armed, drugged, and sent out on raids. An unsettling, moving, occasionally joyful, and extensively researched adaptation of a renowned Ivorian novel.



KABOOM AWARD NIGHT + BEST OF KABOOM 2026

Saturday 21 March | 19:30 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 120'
 It's the taking part that counts, of course, but winning is fun too. An evening full of Awards, for students and professionals, Dutch or otherwise, short and long, VR and theatre, documentary and fantasy, presented by juries and the public. All coming together for one giant celebration of animation and animators.

This program includes a screening of the awarded short films.



AWARD PARTY

Saturday 21 March | 22:00-01:45 | Kaboom Café at Eye | Amsterdam
 After two cities, ten days and hundreds of animated films you're charged for a party! In keeping with the festival's *Human Touch* theme, it's time to show those pesky computers what real human connection looks like. Dance, dream, debate; follow your creativity, embrace your awkwardness, and remember: it's only sensual if it's consensual! **Free access**



Festival Theme: Human Touch

When machines can imitate the craft of animation, what remains? Theme program *Human Touch* explores the future of handcrafted arts. Will craft evolve? Disappear? Will animators somehow absorb this existential threat, or become curators of AI-generated images? Maybe they'll simply persist – like the spiders who inspired Kaboom's poster, handcrafted by Bea Lema.

MAYA, GIVE ME A TITLE

Michel Gondry | France | 2025

Saturday 14 March | 16:00 | Slachstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 65'

Thursday 19 March | 20:30 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 65'

Filmmaker Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*), who commutes between Los Angeles and Paris, is often away from home. Between her third and eighth birthdays, he asked his daughter Maya to suggest titles for cut-out animated shorts he would subsequently create, using only coloured paper, scissors and tape, with Maya always their heroic lead. It doesn't get much more handmade than this – you can often literally see Michel's hands on screen, cutting and moving his simple yet lively characters.

With Maya's permission, her dad has now compiled some of the more than fifty shorts he made for her into his very first feature-length animation. And following its success (it won the Berlinale youth competition for under-14s), he quickly compiled a second: *Maya, Give Me Another Title* has since been released in French cinemas.



THE GRAND BIZARRE

Jodie Mack | US | 2018

Sunday 15 March | 19:45 | Slachstraat Cinema 3 | Utrecht | 60'

Sunday 22 March | 21:45 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 60'

For her biggest production yet, lauded experimental filmmaker Jodie Mack travelled the world for five years, collecting collages of textiles, maps, alphabets and more. Using her 16mm Bolex camera, stop motion and time-lapse techniques, she animates colourful pieces of fabric traversing the globe to her own pop soundtrack.



FIBRES OF FEELING

Friday 13 March | 17:45 | Slachtstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 65'
 Sunday 15 March | 17:30 | Slachtstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 65'
 Sunday 22 March | 13:15 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 65'

A collection of warm, soft, and magical short love letters to the textile animation.

Clothes | Osbert Parker | United Kingdom | 1988 | 4' *
Interview with Sydney | Lillian van Veen | United States | 2025 | 3'
A Story of Unfolding Wings | Stellata Koppe | The Netherlands | 2025 | 5'
Mom's Clothes | Jordan Wong | United States | 2018 | 6' *
El Cuerpo del Cristo | Bea Lema | France, Spain | 2026 | 13'
To Come to Terms or Make Your Terms | Hansa Thapliyal | India | 2023 | 9'
Ceci N'Est Pas un Spectacle | Sam Meech | Canada | 2015 | 2'
Warp and Weft | Isolda Milenkovic | United Kingdom | 2025 | 4' *
Chambered Command Interface | Huw Messie | United Kingdom | 2025 | 2'
Quilt | Gayle Thomas | Canada | 1996 | 7'
Bergamot | Yanqi Liang | China | 2023 | 7'
Where Wool Speaks, and We Must Listen | Suresh Eriyat | India | 2025 | 8'

* = student film



Bergamot

FIELD NOTES

Saturday 14 March | 10:30 | Slachtstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 75'
 Sunday 22 March | 17:45 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 75'

This program celebrates the raw beauty of field-recorded animation, featuring films produced entirely in the open air where the artists had to navigate the unpredictable choreography of shifting sunlight, weather patterns, and the interference of the natural world.

Luminaris | Juan Pablo Zaramella | Argentina | 2011 | 6'
A Year Along the Abandoned Road | Morten Skallerud | Norway | 1991 | 12'
Loading Nouns Gets Down | Chris Ullens | United Kingdom | 2024 | 4'
Stone | Nobuhiro Aihara | Japan | 1975 | 11'
Human Skateboard | PES | United States | 2007 | 1'
Bottle | Kirsten Lepore | United States | 2011 | 5' *
A Ballad About Green Wood | Jiří Barta | Czech Republic | 1983 | 11'
Chérie, Ôte tes Raquettes | André Leduc | Canada | 1975 | 3'
In Plain Sight | Jane Aaron | United States | 1977 | 3'
On Weary Wings Go By | Anu-Laura Tuttelberg | Estonia, Lithuania | 2024 | 11'
All India Radio: Rippled | Darcy Prendergast | Australia | 2013 | 4'
Macropolis | Joel Simon | United Kingdom | 2013 | 7'

* = student film



Human Skateboard

Let's get crafty!

Join us on Sunday 15 March (17:30) for a handcraft-friendly screening. The lights will be only partially dimmed so you can work comfortably - just bring your wool and needles and enjoy the show!

SIGNED IN INK

Sunday 15 March | 14:30 | Slachstraat Cinema 3 | Utrecht | 60'

Saturday 21 March | 14:15 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 60'

This program celebrates the materiality and craft of writing. Whether dipping brushes into an inkwell or striking a typewriter ribbon, the artists behind these shorts embrace the joy of sending messages through ink. This program is curated by Dr. Alla Gadassik (Animate Materials Workshop project), who will introduce the screening.

Out of the Inkwell: Invisible Ink | Dave Fleischer, Max Fleischer | United States | 1921 | 8'

A Fly in the Restaurant | Xi Chen, An Xu | China | 2018 | 6'

Accordion | Michèle Cournoyer | Canada | 2004 | 6'

G-AAAH | Elizabeth Hobbs | United Kingdom | 2016 | 1'

5¢ a Copy | Ed Ackerman, Gregory Zbitnew | Canada | 1980 | 3'

Postalolio | Marv Newland | Canada | 2008 | 5'

Polar Bear Bears Boredom | Koji Yamamura | Japan | 2021 | 7'

Sea Song | Richard Reeves | Canada | 1999 | 4'

Two Weeks - Two Minutes | Judith Poirier | Canada | 2013 | 3'

Shadow of the Butterflies | Sofia El Khyari | France, Portugal, Qatar | 2022 | 9'

Miserable Miracle | Ryo Orikasa | Canada, France, Japan | 2023 | 8'



Shadow of the Butterflies

FOLLOW THE LEADER - PIONEERING DUTCH TV TITLES & IDENTIS

Sunday 22 March | 19:45 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 100'

Film collector and curator Roloff de Jeu has tapped into the national audiovisual archive of Beeld & Geluid, researching the early craftsmanship of animation for Dutch television, focussing on the artwork done to announce programmes and broadcasters with their titles and station calls. After seeing hours and hours of Seventies and Eighties TV shows, he has compiled those sequences that have mesmerized and inspired him to recreate some of the animation and compositing techniques used. With help from Mathijs Stegink these methods will be simulated live using analog video cameras and mixers along with input from the audience and of course some magic DIY smoke & mirrors. Leaders that were filmed on 16mm will be shown digitally in a never seen before restored quality, others from an analog broadcast mastertape created for this show - as close to the originals as possible.



YASS Queen!

YASS Queen! is a new retrospective cycle launched by Kaboom to celebrate pioneering women in animation. The project responds to the long-overdue need to recognize the women masters who have shaped global animation history.

YASS QUEEN! FLORENCE MIALHE: DIRECT ANIMATION UNDER THE CAMERA

Friday 20 March | 18:15 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 75'

Mialhe is an animator, director and painter who has received special mention at the Cannes Festival, César Awards and an Honorary Cristal from the Annecy International Animation Film Festival, as well as the 2022 André Martin Award for a Feature Film for *The Crossing*. Over the course of her three-decade career in animation, Florence Mialhe has created a small but precious body of award-winning films. A painter as well, her artistry shows through trademark techniques of using pastels or hand-painting each frame. Her richly picturesque films often explore subjects such as femininity, the human body, and desire. Mialhe has also employed less conventional methods in her animation such as using sand as a medium in *Méandres*, and creating the lyrical 25 *Passage des Oiseaux* on the pinscreen instrument, an 80-year-old technique that was featured during Animation First 2019.



THE CROSSING

Florence Mialhe | France, Germany, Czech Republic | 2020

Friday 20 March | 20:00 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 80'

For her first feature-length animation, Florence Mialhe employed a technique she had already mastered in her short films: painting directly onto glass plates, and then photographing and reworking them frame by frame. It's a demanding process for a feature-length production, but the impressive result, *The Crossing (La Traversée)*, was worth it: the loose yet realistic painting style literally and figuratively adds texture to the story of young refugees, forced to flee their native village in search of a safe haven.





YASS JOANNA QUINN!

Sunday 22 March | 13:30 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 75'

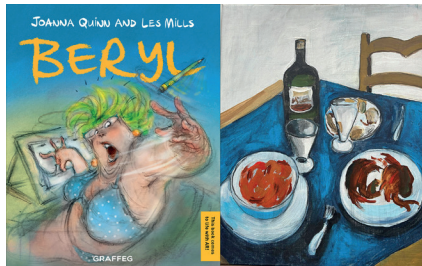
Immerse yourself in the animated world of Joanna Quinn, one of Britain's most celebrated animators. In this masterclass, Joanna will share practical insight into her life as a leading woman in the industry, discussing the obsession and the patience required to reach the pinnacle of the craft. Attendees will go behind the scenes through a showcase of original artwork and clips, culminating in a live animation demonstration on stage. This is a unique opportunity to witness the technique, humour, and talent of a true master.



BOOK SIGNING JOANNA QUINN + ART SALE MONIQUE RENAULT

Sunday 22 March | 15:00 | Kaboom Café at Eye | Amsterdam | 45'

This book celebrates director Joanna Quinn, scriptwriter Les Mills and their most beloved character, with sketches, storyboards, a graphic novel adaptation of *Affairs of the Art* (2021) and AR elements! Beryl is an energetic middle-aged woman, who has conquered the animation world with her wit, determination and reliably chaotic life. What is more, you'll be able to buy original artworks by artist Monique Renault, whose films are showing in Kaboom Classics this year.



YASS QUEEN! RÉKA BUCSI: THE ART OF INTUITIVE COMPOSITION

Friday 20 March | 14:15 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 75'

We are happy to host Réka Bucsi, a distinguished Hungarian animation filmmaker whose works are an innovative blend of surrealism and cosmic wonder. As a graduate of the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design (MOME), Bucsi first gained international recognition when her graduation project, *Symphony no. 42*, was shortlisted for the Oscars in 2014. Her career has since been marked by a series of prestigious accolades, including the Audi Short Film Award at the Berlinale for *Solar Walk* and a nomination for Best Short Film at the European Film Awards for *LOVE*.

In this masterclass, Bucsi will share the philosophy behind her organic creative process, which she compares more to composing music than to traditional directing. Rather than starting with a broad, serious topic, she builds her films from the ground up, starting with small, intuitive details in sound, color, and rhythm that eventually form a coherent, logical system.



KABOOM CLASSICS: MONIQUE RENAULT

Sunday 22 March | 15:30 | Eye Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 90'

Don't miss this: Monique Renault, a pioneering woman director in the Dutch animation scene, will be present at this oeuvre presentation. From her playfully activist early French and subsequent Dutch animations to her later, more intimate shorts, her female protagonists (mostly drawn with coloured pencil on paper) have remained independent, sensual free thinkers.

The Kaboom Classics series has been produced in collaboration with Eye. Some of Renault's early works, created in the late '60s and early '70s, have been digitised especially for this event.

Films in this program: *L'Écume des Jours: Title Sequence*, *El Condor Pasa*, *Trompe l'Oeil: Trailer*, *Psychoderche*, *"À la Vôtre..."*, *Out!*, *Cinemien: Leader*, *First International Feminist Film and Video Conference workshop*, *Borderline 1 + 2*, *In Nomine Domini*, *Long Live the Sexual Revolution!*, *Hands off!*, *Pas a Deux*, *La Donna è Mobile*, *L'Alliance*, *Holy Smoke*.



"À la Vôtre..."

WIKIPEDIA WRITING WORKSHOP ABOUT FEMALE ANIMATION FILMMAKERS

Friday 20 March | 12:30-16:00 | Eye Collection Centre | Amsterdam

In this workshop by Atria (Institute on Gender Equality and Women's History), Eye and Kaboom, you'll literally be writing history. Wikimedia instructors will help you master the world's greatest encyclopedia; animation historian Mette Peters will introduce the theme of female animators and their lack of representation. Register to participate on www.atria.nl.



Feature Films in Competition

ALL YOU NEED IS KILL

Kenichiro Akimoto | Japan | 2025

Saturday 14 March | 11:45 | Slachstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 90'

Friday 20 March | 20:15 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 90'

Second film adaptation of Japanese novel (following Edge of Tomorrow, 2014) shifts the lead role from Keiji to Rita and makes them civilians instead of soldiers. The Groundhog Day meets video game premise remains: each time Rita dies in the alien attack, her day starts over. Stylish design by Studio 4°C.



ALLAH IS NOT OBLIGED

Zaven Najjar | Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg | 2025

Thursday 19 March | 20:30 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 115'

(more info about the Amsterdam Opening on page 10)

Sunday 22 March | 15:00 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 75'

One moment you're playing in the streets of Guinea; next, you're a child soldier. On his way to his aunt in Liberia, twelve-year-old orphan Birahima is arrested by warlords, armed, drugged, and sent out on raids. An unsettling, moving, occasionally joyful, and extensively researched adaptation of a renowned Ivorian novel.



CHAO**Yasuhiro Aoki | Japan | 2025**

Sunday 15 March | 19:15 | Slachstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 90'

Friday 20 March | 15:45 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 90'

Office worker Stephan is accosted by the smitten mermaid princess ChaO who insists he loves her too. In an intricately detailed near-future Shanghai, they must navigate the urban masses, the politics between humans and merfolk, and their own romcom romance. Visually stunning Studio4°C production won the Jury Award in Annecy.

**DANDELION'S ODYSSEY****Momoko Seto | France, Belgium | 2025**

Saturday 14 March | 14:30 | Slachstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 90'

Saturday 21 March | 16:30 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 90'

The heroes of this epic interplanetary space adventure are... four dandelion seeds! Japanese director Momoko Seto spent years refining her exceptional technique, combining CGI characters with slowed-down and sped-up footage of real-life nature. No humans, no words – like a flora version of *Flow*. Paul Grimault Award, Annecy; Fipresci Award, Cannes.

Don't make a dash for the lobby just yet! Stick around after the credits for a 15-minute brain-tickle with the talk and performance *You May Call Me a Big Mermaid* from *Your Stomach* by Sol Enae Lee (Saturday 14 March) and talk with Ying Yi Wu (Saturday 21 March). Conversation supported by Het Filmgesprek.



DEATH DOES NOT EXIST**Félix Dufour-Laperrière | France, Canada | 2025**

Saturday 14 March | 18:15 | Slachstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 90'

Thursday 19 March | 22:00 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 90'

Urgent film on the moral dilemma any sensible person faces in these times of unhinged capitalism: insurrection or inaction? In a dreamlike forest, Hélène is confronted with the consequences of her political and personal choices. Hand-drawn animation with a fantastical colour palette won the top prize at the Ottawa animation fest.

Don't make a dash for the lobby just yet! On Saturday 14 March stick around after the credits for a 15-minute brain-tickle with our guest Rolf Deen. We're bridging the gap between popcorn cinema and deep theory to unpack the film's biggest "wait, what?" moments. Whether you're here for the aesthetics or a minor existential crisis, this quick-fire Q&A is the perfect digestive for the soul. Conversation supported by Het Filmgesprek.

**DECORADO****Alberto Vázquez | Spain, Portugal | 2025**

Sunday 15 March | 14:15 | Slachstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 95'

Saturday 21 March | 22:15 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 95'

Miserable mouse Arnold has the creeping '*Black Mirror* meets *The Truman Show*' suspicion that his whole world is a *decorado* – a set. With touches of *Unicorn Wars*' extreme violence, Vázquez adapted his own darkly humorous comic (2010) and short (2017) into a much more existential drama.



ENDLESS COOKIE**Seth Scriver, Pete Scriver | Canada | 2025**

Friday 13 March | 21:15 | Slachtstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 100'

Saturday 21 March | 19:45 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 100'

White Canadian Seth wants to record the stories of his Indigenous half-brother Pete for this oral history animated documentary. But that's not easy, with Pete's seven children and twelve dogs running around. It turns into a cartoonish, colourful, cosy chaos – without ignoring the mistreatment of First Nations by Canadian authorities.

**NOBODY****Yu Shui | China | 2025**

Saturday 14 March | 21:45 | Slachtstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 120'

Sunday 15 March | 11:45 | Slachtstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 120'

Friday 20 March | 17:45 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 120'

Sunday 22 March | 16:00 | Melkweg Cinema | Amsterdam | 120'

The most successful Chinese 2D animation ever confirms the growing strength of the national animation industry. This comical adventure of four yaoguai (animals with human capabilities and questionable morality), who impersonate the heroes from the classic novel *Journey to the West*, offers both contemporary social criticism and classical Chinese painting techniques.



Shorts in Competition

SHORTS 1: MIRROR, MIRROR, DON'T BE SHY

Friday 13 March | 19:30 | Slachstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 75'

Friday 20 March | 10:00 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 75'

God Is Shy | Jocelyn Charles | France | 2025 | 16'

Rock Song | Jadwiga Ligeza | United Kingdom | 2025 | 6' *

El Cuerpo del Cristo | Bea Lema | France, Spain | 2026 | 13'

Klonter | Levi Stoops | Belgium | 2025 | 14'

Fish-Thinking | Tobias Rud | Denmark | 2024 | 1'

Amarelo Banana | Alexandre Sousa | Hungary, Portugal | 2025 | 13'

What We Leave Behind | Jean-Sébastien Hamel, Alexandra Myotte | Canada | 2025 | 11'

Visiting the Zoo | Maria Zilli | Italy | 2025 | 4' *

* = student film



El Cuerpo del Cristo

SHORTS 2: FOR A CHANGE

Friday 13 March | 17:45 | Slachstraat Cinema 3 | Utrecht | 75'

Friday 20 March | 12:00 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 75'

Sh | Qi Duan | China | 2024 | 8' *

My Good Boy | Sara Priorelli | Hungary | 2025 | 6' *

Dollhouse Elephant | Jenny Jokela | Finland | 2025 | 11'

Red Meat | Eleni Aerts | Belgium | 2024 | 6' *

Jeanne & Jean Jean | Thanys Martin | France | 2024 | 7' *

Tako Tsubo | Eva Pedroza, Fanny Sorgo | Austria, Germany | 2024 | 6'

Autokar | Sylwia Szkiłłądź | Belgium, France | 2025 | 17'

Arguments in Favor of Love | Gabriel Abrantes | Portugal | 2025 | 10'

Ananasi | Anna Bawa | Sri Lanka | 2025 | 4'

* = student film



Jeanne & Jean Jean

SHORTS 3: THE WONDERFUL HAUNTED PLAYGROUND

Saturday 14 March | 13:00 | Slachtstraat Cinema 3 | 75'

Saturday 21 March | 14:30 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 75'

9 Million Colors | Bára Anna Stejskalová | Czech Republic, Germany, Norway | 2025 | 15'**Boundaries** | Seun Yee | South Korea | 2025 | 10'**Basketball Explorer Presents: The Shot Doctor** | Keith Pakiz | United States | 2025 | 5'**The Death of the Fish** | Eva Lusbaronian | France | 2025 | 14'**Max** | Emilien Pichon | France | 2025 | 15' ***The Amazing Adam!** | Areito Echevarria | New Zealand | 2025 | 9'**Duck & Sauerkraut** | Eloi Henriod | Switzerland | 2025 | 9'

* = student film



9 Million Colors

SHORTS 4: PAINTED ESCAPES

Saturday 14 March | 21:30 | Slachtstraat Cinema 3 | Utrecht | 75'

Saturday 21 March | 10:15 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 75'

To the Woods | Agnès Patron | France | 2025 | 15'**Dog Alone** | Marta Reis Andrade | France, Portugal | 2025 | 13'**Paradaiz** | Matea Radic | Canada | 2025 | 9'**Holiday** | Naohiro Zama | Japan | 2025 | 6' ***Tears** | Paulina Ziolkowska | Germany, Poland | 2025 | 9'**Paper Trail** | Don Hertzfeldt | United States | 2026 | 14'**FRIED!** | Lizzie Watts | United Kingdom | 2025 | 10' *

* = student film



Paradaiz

SHORTS 5: EXIST! EXIST! EXIST!

Sunday 15 March | 12:30 | Slachstraat Cinema 2 | 75'

Saturday 21 March | 12:15 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 75'

The Girl Who Cried Pearls | Chris Lavis, Maciek Szczerbowski | Canada | 2025 | 18'

You Are Not Part of the Cake | Ting-Jui Chen | Taiwan, United Kingdom | 2025 | 5' *

Extinction | Lucy McGonigal | United Kingdom | 2025 | 1' *

Wish You Were Ear | Mirjana Balogh | Hungary | 2025 | 10' *

2H14 | Luciano Lepinay | France | 2025 | 31'

S The Wolf | Sameh Alaa | France, Egypt | 2025 | 10'

* = student film



The Girl Who Cried Pearls

DUTCH SHORTS 1: NEW REALITIES

Saturday 14 March | 14:15 | Slachstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 75'

Friday 20 March | 12:15 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 75'

Mr Sun & Miss Universe | Souffien Melad | The Netherlands | 2025 | 7' *

Pembe & Eflatun | Alix Bortoli, Dal Park | The Netherlands | 2025 | 7'

Harmonies | Doortje Schoonbrood | The Netherlands | 2025 | 4' *

Murmuration | Tim Frijsinger, Janneke Swinkels | The Netherlands, Belgium | 2025 | 13'

Little October | Matas Pakutinskas | Lithuania, The Netherlands | 2025 | 8' *

Cell Buddies | Hidde Alberts, Arjen van der Plas, Miguel Reyes, Jurgen de Smit, Melle Windig | The Netherlands | 2025 | 5' *

Hanging There | Melissa Lettieri | The Netherlands | 2025 | 4' *

Unlearning Motherhood | Juliana Erazo Gómez | The Netherlands | 2025 | 11'

Lost and Found | Sem Assink, Mieke Woestenburger | The Netherlands | 2025 | 3'

Have to Have | Jordi van Ieperen | The Netherlands | 2025 | 6' *

Closing Hour | Tim Smink | The Netherlands | 2025 | 9' *

Art & Davey: Gaming | Kayne Mosch | The Netherlands | 2025 | 2'

* = student film



Mr Sun & Miss Universe

DUTCH SHORTS 2: BREAKING BOUNDARIES

Saturday 14 March | 18:00 | Slachstraat Cinema 1 | 75'

Saturday 21 March | 10:30 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 75'

Beef Tomato | Yvonne Kroese, Patty Stenger | The Netherlands | 2025 | 18'**Error: Connection Lost** | Uliana Gromyko | The Netherlands | 2025 | 5' ***In the Teeth of Time** | Patrick Raats | The Netherlands | 2025 | 9'**Dad Said** | Livia May | The Netherlands | 2025 | 7' ***Breaking Walls** | Jan-Dirk Bouw | Belgium, Norway, The Netherlands | 2025 | 23'**For Laika** | Nina Fock | The Netherlands | 2025 | 1' ***ZZZZZZ** | Julianne Spilt | The Netherlands | 2025 | 5' ***Sad Cat Crunch** | Jomane Al Mansoury | The Netherlands | 2025 | 3' ***You Don't Know How I Love You** | Yvette Bolder | The Netherlands | 2025 | 6' *

* = student film

*You Don't Know How I Love You***DUTCH SHORTS 3: GROW UP. RATHER, DON'T!**

Sunday 15 March | 10:00 | Slachstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 75'

Saturday 21 March | 12:30 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 75'

Trouble in Mind | Marlyn Spaaij | The Netherlands | 2026 | 13'**in the sand** | Ilja Bertrand | The Netherlands | 2025 | 6' ***Stick with Me** | Eva Bonnevits | The Netherlands | 2025 | 2'**APEX** | Arthur Lennips | The Netherlands | 2025 | 2' ***A Dog's Life** | Sophie Olga de Jong, Sytske Kok | The Netherlands | 2025 | 9'**I Take** | Eva Lenis | The Netherlands | 2025 | 2'**What Is | Is Now** | Jikke Lesterhuis | The Netherlands | 2025 | 2'**Not So Public Spaces** | Rares Pepple Andronic | The Netherlands | 2025 | 4' ***I can see Jay there** | Miguel Domingues | The Netherlands | 2025 | 15' ***SHOWTIME** | Bram Fokkens | The Netherlands | 2025 | 5' ***Balls & Chains** | Gabriella Gould | The Netherlands | 2024 | 2' ***Dead Spot** | Junaid Chundrigar, Paco Vink | The Netherlands | 2025 | 14'

* = student film

*Stick With Me*

SHORT DOCS 1: UNTANGLE THE SYSTEM

Saturday 14 March | 15:00 | Slachstraat Cinema 3 | 80'
 Friday 20 March | 10:15 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 80'

Their Eyes | Nicolas Gourault | France | 2025 | 23'
Better Man | Eliška Jirásková | Czech Republic | 2025 | 6' *
I'm Not Sure | Luisa Zürcher | Switzerland | 2025 | 10'
This Is Not Your Garden | Angélica Restrepo, Carlos Velandia | Colombia | 2025 | 13'
Passageways | Milla Cummings, Patrick Ouellet, Geneviève Tremblay | Canada | 2024 | 5'
Winter in March | Natalia Mirzoyan | Armenia, Estonia | 2025 | 16'
I'm Looking for Mr. Laser | Laura Boráros | Czech Republic | 2026 | 7' *

* = student film



Passageways

SHORT DOCS 2: FEVER DREAMS

Saturday 14 March | 10:00 | Slachstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 75'
 Friday 20 March | 16:00 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 75'

Ibuka, Justice | Ibuka Justice | Canada | 2024 | 23'
The Horizon from the Tip of the Nose | Étienne Bonnet | France | 2025 | 8'
Hunting | Lea Favre | Switzerland | 2024 | 11' *
Acid City | Will Freudenheim, Jack Wedge | United States | 2025 | 13'
Sixty-seven Milliseconds | Fleuryfontaine | France | 2025 | 15'
Biting the Hand That Feeds You | Chantal Peten | Belgium, France | 2025 | 6'

* = student film



Acid City

NEW DIRECTIONS

Friday 13 March | 19:45 | Slachtstraat Cinema 3 | 70'

Saturday 14 March | 11:00 | Slachtstraat Cinema 3 | 70'

Friday 20 March | 14:00 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 70'

A programme with voices who are underrepresented in the field of animation. Pack your backpack for a trip around the globe.

The Voice Of Mother | Mian Ijlal Ahmad | Pakistan | 2024 | 4' *

My Wonderful Life | Calleen Koh | Singapore | 2025 | 11'

K'uchu: A Childhood Place | Alessio Del Pozo Temoche | Peru | 2025 | 12'

Snake Soup | Zack Demirtshyan | Armenia | 2025 | 7'

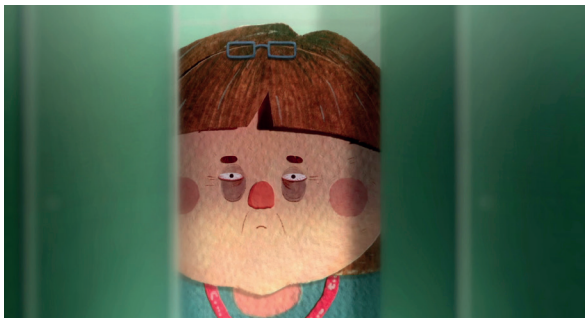
Chalisa | Swati Agarwal | India | 2024 | 6'

All This Death | Fadi Syriani | Germany, Lebanon, Poland, Qatar | 2025 | 16'

Saq Nikté and the Spirit of the Mask | Ester Weiner | Guatemala, Uruguay | 2025 | 5'

Meow Meow Meow the Meowsical | Velocity Jade De Lumen | Philippines | 2024 | 8' *

* = student film



My Wonderful Life

POETRY IN MOTION

Saturday 14 March | 17:15 | Slachtstraat Cinema 3 | Utrecht | 80'

Sunday 15 March | 10:15 | Slachtstraat Cinema 3 | Utrecht | 80'

Sunday 22 March | 19:00 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 80'

Step into a realm where animation dances to its own rhythm and filmmakers are poets with pixels. A programme of experimental, offbeat, peculiar, unorthodox - or brilliant shorts.

Merrimundi | Niles Atallah | France, Chile | 2025 | 21'

Strokes | Mykyta Lyskov | Ukraine | 2025 | 2'

Witness: An Organima Film | Nik Arthur | Canada | 2025 | 6'

Evacuations | Lilli Carré | United States | 2025 | 7'

Green Lung | Simon Hamlyn | United Kingdom | 2025 | 3'

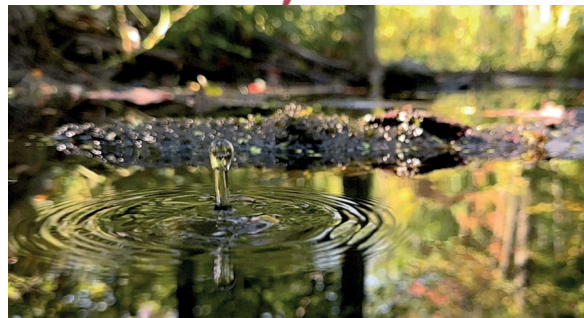
Cultivation, Harvesting and Dispersal of Thorns | Jeanne Girard | France | 2025 | 12'

Venezia Diorama | Nicolas Piret | Belgium | 2025 | 7'

Veils of Landscape | Chihiro Yamanaka | Japan | 2025 | 5' *

Ploo | Jon Frickey | Germany | 2025 | 15'

* = student film



Witness: An Organima Film

COMMISSIONED SHORTS

Saturday 14 March | 19:30 | Slachtstraat Cinema 3 | Utrecht | 70'

Sunday 22 March | 11:45 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 70'

In need of animator? Don't panic! These animators prove that the companies and initiatives that hired them were right. How right? Just look at these pieces of art!

Where Wool Speaks, and We Must Listen | Suresh Eriyat | India | 2025 | 8'

Lullaby | Louis Fourel | France | 2025 | 5'

Signal Film OIAF 2025 | Torill Kove | Canada | 2025 | 1'

Cartoon Lovers | Qieer Wang | United States | 2024 | 1'

De Lekkerste Recepten met 1 Kliik in Huis | Mascha Halberstad | The Netherlands | 2025 | 20"

BLON 2025 | Nathan Jurevicius | Canada, Lithuania | 2025 | 1'

Loading Nouns Gets Down | Chris Ullens | United Kingdom | 2024 | 4'

TED-Ed: What Happens to Your Brain Without Any Social Contact? | Camille Bovey | Switzerland, United States | 2025 | 7'

Mind The World, Pune Design Festival 2025 | Suresh Eriyat | India | 2025 | 1'

The Lighthouse: A Monument Valley 3 Story | Daniel Chester, David Prosser, Marie-Margaux Tsakiri-Scanatovits | United Kingdom | 2024 | 6'

Castle | Jeci Chen | Taiwan | 2024 | 7'

Van de Beste Makers: Lutjewinkel Kaas Moet Je Proeven | Mascha Halberstad | The Netherlands | 2025 | 20"

How Smart Are Crows? | Irida Zhonga | Greece, United States | 2025 | 5'

The Phoenix | Mary Yanko, Marlène Ciampossin | France | 2025 | 4'

WTF?! - 16th Anibar Animation Festival Trailer | Joni Männistö | Finland, Kosovo | 2025 | 1'

App O'Clock | Laurie Rowan | United Kingdom | 2025 | 5'

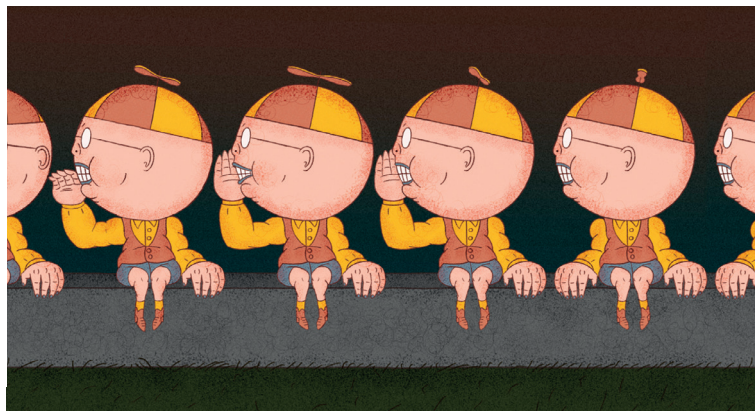
Lark in A Sky Shop | Marie Lavis | France, Luxembourg, United Kingdom | 2025 | 2'

Shades of Blue | Katya Mikheeva | France | 2025 | 3'

Sleeping Forecast | Joseph Wallace | United Kingdom | 2025 | 1'

Medice: ADHD | The Netherlands | 2025 | 3'

Feelslikeimfallinginlove | Raman Djafari | United Kingdom | 2024 | 4'



WTF?! - 16th Anibar Animation Festival Trailer



BONKERS SHORTS

Friday 13 March | 21:45 | Slachtstraat Cinema 3 | 75'

Saturday 14 March | 20:00 | Slachtstraat Cinema 1 | 75'

Saturday 21 March | 22:00 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 75'

Forget logic and sanity! Welcome to the madhouse of Kaboom: a bonkers short film collection where the bizarre reigns supreme.

Ducks | AJ Jefferies | United Kingdom | 2025 | 5'

The Joke's Butt | Barney Fagan | Germany | 2025 | 2'

The Undying Pain of Existence | Oscar Jacobson | Germany | 2025 | 5' *

Fish-Thinking | Tobias Rud | Denmark | 2024 | 1'

Gummy Mummy | Lydia Reid | United Kingdom | 2025 | 3'

Peter Hair | Arthur Studholme, Cosmo Wellings | United Kingdom | 2025 | 8'

Swol | Eva Grandoni | United States | 2025 | 5'

Existential Greg | Will Anderson | United Kingdom | 2025 | 9'

Poor Marciano | Alex Rey | Spain | 2025 | 7'

Art & Davey: Gaming | Kayne Mosch | The Netherlands | 2025 | 2'

Tuna Tartare | Lena Greene | United States | 2025 | 11'

Cowman | Jiwoo Kim | Canada | 2025 | 7'

Uncle Babysitter 3 | Tungwood Tung | Hong Kong | 2025 | 7'

Mamiko's Poop | Yasuteru Ohno | Japan | 2024 | 2' *

Street Race | Christopher Rutledge, Daniel Rutledge | Croatia, Denmark, United States | 2025 | 2'

* = student film



Cowman

BEST OF KABOOM 2026

Saturday 21 March | 19:30 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 120' (as part of the Kaboom Award Night, page 11)

Sunday 22 March | 17:00 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 75'

This is truly the crème de la crème. This single programme screens all the award-winning shorts of Kaboom 2026, handpicked by our esteemed juries and by our always enthusiastic, ever-critical audience. It will be a celebration of the present and future of animation – sure to whet your appetite for Kaboom 2027!



Expanded Animation

VR 1: LESBIAN SIMULATOR

Iris van der Meule | The Netherlands | 2025

13-16 March | 10:30-20:00 | HKU - AG | Utrecht | 40'

Mix the ingredients, drink the magic potion, choose a fashionable outfit and voilà – the mirror now reflects your own lesbian avatar. In this playful art game, you'll experience the good, the bad and

the beautiful of a queer life, guided by the Lesbian Goddess's voice. Score points, shoot hearts, and dance!



VR 2: LICHTUNG

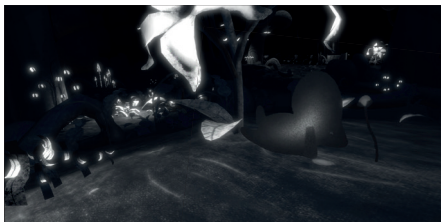
Aria Wolf | Germany | 2025

13-16 March | 10:30-20:00 | HKU - AG | Utrecht | 15'

A soothing nocturnal exploration of an unfamiliar forest, which increasingly reveals its beauty as you shine your torch around. Look at those trees, plants – or are those different creatures?

While one hides from the light, another emerges in all its glory. It's a rare focus on discovery rather than drama.

* student project



VR 3+4: COMPETITION SELECTION

13-16 March | 10:30-20:00 | HKU - AG | Utrecht

Galleries are the best, whether they host art or fancy bling bling. But we "one-upped" it! Step into our VR Gallery and immerse yourself in up to 5 unique VR experiences. Book a 45-minute time slot and choose how much time you spend on each adventure.

If You See a Cat | Atsushi Wada | Japan | 2025 | 37'

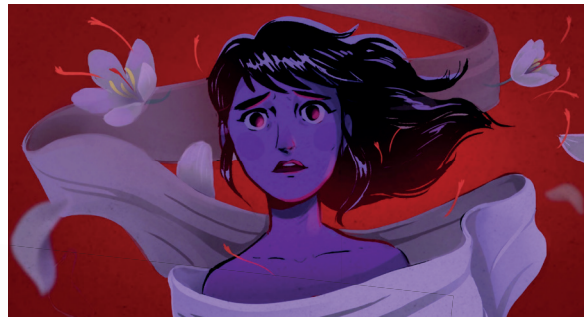
Less Than 5Gr of Saffron | Négar Motevalymeidanshah | France | 2025 | 7'

Revival Roadshow | Luke Conroy, Anne Fehres | The Netherlands | 2025 | 17'

Sense of Nowhere | Hsin-Hsuan Yeh | Belgium, Finland, France, Portugal, Taiwan | 2025 | 30' *

The Exploding Girl VR | Caroline Poggi, Jonathan Vinel | France, Greece | 2025 | 20'

* = student project



Less Than 5Gr of Saffron

VR 5: COMPETITION SELECTION

13-16 March | 10:30-20:00 | HKU - AG | Utrecht

Galleries are the best, whether they host art or fancy bling bling. But we “one-upped” it! Step into our VR Gallery and immerse yourself in up to 3 unique VR experiences. Book a 45-minute time slot and choose how much time you spend on each adventure.

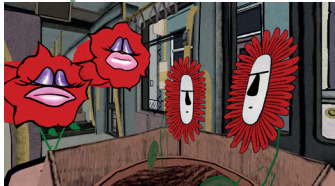
A Long Goodbye | Victor Maes, Kate Voet | Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands | 2025 | 30’

The Great Escape | Joren Vandenbroucke | Belgium, Luxembourg | 2025 | 25’

We Are Dead Animals | Tote Tiere Maarten | Germany, The Netherlands | 2025 | 20’



A Long Goodbye



The Great Escape



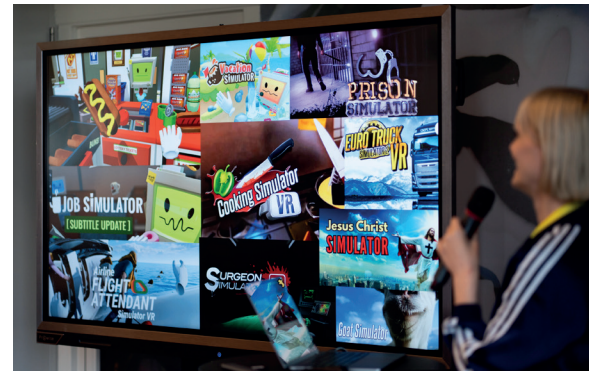
We Are Dead Animals

PANEL: CROSS-POLLINATING THE IMMERSIVE: AN ADRIE CONSORTIA DIALOGUE

Monday 16 March | 17:45 | Library Neude (Podiumzaal) | Utrecht | 60’

This panel offers a deep dive into the rapidly evolving landscape of immersive media in the Netherlands. Presented in collaboration with CIIC and participating ADRIE consortia, the session spotlights innovative projects currently being developed under the Artistic & Design Research for Immersive Experiences (ADRIE) fund.

Following their initial introductions at IFFR, representatives of the Dutch ADRIE consortia reconvene at Kaboom Animation Festival to explore the shift from individual missions to collective action. Together, they will discuss how their two-year research programs (2026–2027) can intersect and strengthen the wider Dutch animation and digital media ecosystem.



PANEL: FRENCH XR IN BENELUX - MEET THE FRENCH DELEGATION

Monday 16 March | 16:30 | Library Neude (Podiumzaal) | Utrecht | 60'

As France continues to be a global powerhouse in immersive arts, this session provides a gateway for the Dutch industry to connect with the French. The Institut Français will present the results of their mapping of XR distribution possibilities across the Benelux region, offering data for creators looking to scale their work across borders. Following the presentation, the French delegation—featuring representatives from innovative studios like Dark Euphoria, Studio Disnosc, and Escalenta—will take the stage to introduce themselves and their portfolios.



PANEL: THE FUTURE OF XR

Monday 16 March | 15:00 | Neude Library (Podiumzaal) | Utrecht | 60'

One thing is certain: Immersive Reality is still evolving, and its rules are not yet set. This panel explores how roles in XR are changing, what these roles mean for the audience, and which possibilities are most compelling. The Kaboom XR jury will reflect on where XR moves next, particularly in terms of narrative reinvention, audience participation, animation styles, and new visual materialities. The jury consists of XR researcher Sarah Lugthart, XR Creative Director and artist Manu Weiss, and producer, designer, and creative strategist Manuel Toledo Otaegui.



XR COMMUNITY MINGLE

Monday 16 March | 19:00 | Library Neude (NODA bar) | Utrecht
Join us for a drink with XR creators, producers and industry leaders, as we reflect on Kaboom's 2026 XR programme, envision the future of immersive technology (you've heard it here first!), and be the first to know the winner of the Kaboom Award for Best VR. **Free access**



Special Events

SOCK PUPPET CHARACTER WORKSHOP

Saturday 21 March | 13:30-15:30 | Kaboom Café at Eye | Amsterdam

In this free hands-on workshop, you will turn a sock into a puppet with its own identity, quirks and secret agenda. No sketching. No rules. Just socks, fabric, buttons, wigs, wool, and your imagination. BYOS or grab one from our stack! And remember: the puppet creates you as much as you create them. When you're done, you will be sent on a friendly mini quest in and around the Eye building. All in preparation of the *It's Alive! Show* (page 63), where you can experience the true birth of your sock puppet. **Free access / walk-in at any time**

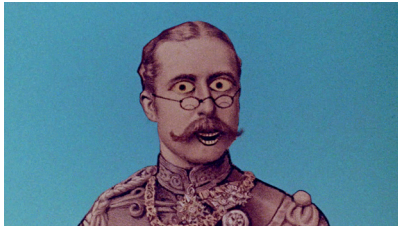


ANIMATION PUB QUIZ

Sunday 22 March | 16:30 | Kaboom Café at Eye | Amsterdam | 90'

Think you know your Miyazaki from your McLaren? Your Looney Tunes from your Lotte Reiniger? Then prove it! Hosted by the festival's resident animation wizards Roloff de Jeu and Maarten van Gageldonk, this quiz is as wild as a Masaaki Yuasa feature and as competitive as the Oscars. (And of course, we also gladly welcome amateurs.)

Expect mind-bending questions about known and lesser-known icons and studios. Entry is **free**, but do register your team (max 6 members) at the bar in the Kaboom Café an hour before we start. Absurdly creative team name is mandatory.



BOOK PRESENTATION ANIMATION IN THE NETHERLANDS

Saturday 14 March | 12:30 | Slachstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 90'

Finally! This is the first ever comprehensive overview of Dutch animation history, covering the development of both the art form and the industry, as well as providing profiles of notable animators, from Marten Toonder to Nina Gantz. Written by animation expert Ton Gloudemans, it's the culmination of forty years of writing about the medium.

This program includes the screening of various Dutch classics, like *Father and Daughter*, *Anna and Bella* and *A Single Life*.



Father and Daughter (Michael Dudok de Wit, 2000)

HERE, QUEER AND TOTALLY SINCERE

Sunday 15 March | 18:00 | Slachstraat Cinema 3 | Utrecht | 75'
 Friday 20 March | 22:15 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 75'

A joyful celebration and exploration of queerness in animation. In collaboration with Queer Film Festival Utrecht.

My Name is Lilith | Leo Luna Robert-Tourneur | France | 2025 | 14'

You Are Not Part of the Cake | Ting-Jui Chen | Taiwan, United Kingdom | 2025 | 5' *

Canvas | Max van Wijgerden | The Netherlands | 2025 | 3' *

The 12 Inch Pianist | Lucas Ansel | United States | 2025 | 8' *

Mis-Angel | Wyatt Carson | United Kingdom | 2025 | 6' *

Light within | Martijn Kersten | The Netherlands | 2025 | 4' *

Placeholder | Elisa Belì Borrelli | Ireland | 2025 | 7'

Conchiglia | Matilde D'Ottavio, Mario Grigolon, Federica Murolo, Sophia Stoyanova | Italy | 2025 | 7' *

The Left-Handed Snail | Gabryël Aury, Matteo Boulard, Valentin Decombes, Mathys Mysius, Clement Nahmias, Louis Velaine | France | 2025 | 8' *

Tuna Tartare | Lena Greene | United States | 2025 | 11'

* = student film



Tuna Tartare

MASTERS OF ANIMATION

Sunday 15 March | 12:15 | Slachstraat Cinema 3 | Utrecht | 80'

They've co-shaped the language of animation, pushed some boundaries here and there, and inspired others to do the same. Now, these 21st-century masters of animation return with bold new works that prove they're far from done. The films in this programme are playful and profound, and unmistakably the work of masters at the height of their craft. A unique opportunity to witness works by seasoned top talents - still innovating, still surprising, still essential.

Life With an Idiot | Théodore Ushev | France | 2025 | 18'

Dark Globe | Donato Sansone | Italy, France | 2024 | 3'

Water Girl | Sandra Desmazières | France, Portugal, The Netherlands | 2025 | 15'

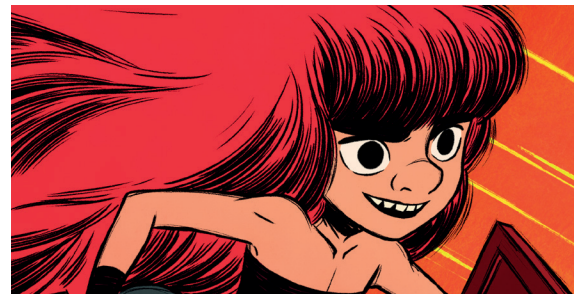
The Graffiti | Ryo Orikasa | Japan, United States | 2025 | 13'

UM | Nieto | France | 2025 | 8'

Blessed | Birute Sodeikaite | Canada | 2025 | 8'

King Kong vs. Pinocchio | Janet Perlman | Canada | 2025 | 3'

Éiru | Giovanna Ferrari | Ireland | 2024 | 13'



Éiru

OSCAR SHORTS

Sunday 15 March | 16:15 | Slachtstraat Cinema 3 | Utrecht | 65'

A true tribute to the animation genre and to one of the most influential and historic film awards in the world.

Forevergreen | Nathan Engelhardt, Jeremy Spears | United States | 2025 | 13'

Playing God | Matteo Burani | Italy | 2024 | 9'

Snow Bear | Aaron Blaise | United States | 2024 | 11'

The Shyness of Trees | Maud Le Bras, Sofiiia Chuikovska, Lina Han, Simin He, Jiaxin Huang, Loïck Du Plessis D'argentré, Bingqing Shu | France | 2024 | 9' *

Three Sisters | Konstantin Bronzit | Cyprus | 2024 | 14'

Retirement Plan | John Kelly | Ireland | 2024 | 7'

* = student film



Forevergreen



Live Performances

CINE-CONCERT: ELULU

Sunday 15 March | 17:15 | Slachtstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 60'

In a unique intersection of surrealism and electronic improvisation, *Elulu* arrives as a multisensory cinema experience. Directed by Chilean filmmaker Gabriel Verdugo Soto, *Elulu* is a visual, science fiction dialogue between mother and son.

Musician Daniel Kordik is known for his work with synthesizers and field recordings. In the Cineconcert Kordik translates the film's organic textures and bodily mutations into a dense, atmospheric soundscape. Expect a performance where the boundaries between the screen and the room blur—a sonic journey that breathes life into the film's imagery, ranging from delicate ambient whispers to tectonic rhythmic shifts.



CINE-CONCERT: PUSS IN BOOTS

Sunday 22 March | 11:00 | Eye Cinema 1 | Amsterdam | 60'

We slip into the winter months with a musical and visual adventure. With a storyteller, live animations and 50 musicians who take you into the story of the Pussed Cat.

Actor Pieter van Dijk talks about the cunning cat who manages to make his young owner rich through cunning and deception. The 50 members of the Amsterdam Symphony Harmony, from Amsterdam North, play the music of composer Franco Cesarini. Animator Anoeska Huige (De Animatiebus) makes moving images at the storytelling concert by means of paper puppetry and analog animation. These images are continuously projected on the big screen behind the orchestra. After the performance, the children themselves can try on the animation table or musical instruments. This cine-concert is for every generation.



BUURMAN EN BUURMAN LIFE COACHING: A JE TO, DOE JE ZO!

Sunday 15 March | 15:00 | Slachstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 90'

Hey Buur! Find your inner Buurman or Buurman (Pat or Mat) in this special one of a lifetime life coaching event. Through the observing of full episodes and practicing extraordinary mind-expanding activities you will embody the loved, 'healthy', helpful, friendly, creative, slapstick buurman way of life. Be prepared to laugh, play, ask, fix, unscrew, tie-up, and perfect your A JE TO! It will all be presented by two Buurman en Buurman life-philosophy experts. The event is in **Dutch**, but the course will transcend language. For ages 9 to 99!



IT'S ALIVE! SHOW

Saturday 21 March | 17:00 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 120'

Kaboomer Mathijs Stegink presents a fun, messy and warm evening about physicality in animation culture. Too philosophical? Here's what we actually do: watch films, play an absurd quiz about objects with souls, watch live animators, and interview animators about creating life. Before the show starts, make your own sock puppet in the Kaboom Café! (More info on page 54)

Birdcalls | Malcolm Sutherland | Canada | 2005 | 5'

DyE ft. Egyptian Lover: She's Bad | Dent de Cuir | Canada | 2014 | 4'

Existential Greg | Will Anderson | United Kingdom | 2025 | 9'

Eyes | Lucas Zanotto | Italy | 2017 | 1'

How a Train Works | WVV | Japan | 2025 | 2'

Love & Theft | Andreas Hykade | Germany | 2010 | 7'

Overtime | Oury Atlan, Thibaut Berland, Damien Ferrie | France | 2004 | 5' *

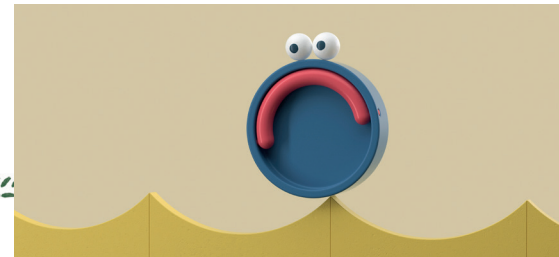
Six Kinetic Characters | Lucas Zanotto | Italy | 2019 | 2'

Smile | Lucas Zanotto | Italy | 2020 | 2'

Stems | Ainslie Henderson | United Kingdom | 2015 | 2'

Witness: An Organima Film Water Sequence | Nik Arthur | Canada | 2025 | 1'

* = student film



Smile

INSIDE THE TV BOX, I FOUND THE TRUE STORY OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE

Friday 20 March | 20:00 | Filmhuis Cavia | Amsterdam | 90'

A storytelling performance and screening of three short films by Ahmad Saleh.

“In this performance, I stand before the audience to narrate true stories from my journey—from outside Palestine to inside, and back out again. The films serve as chapters in this narrative, complementing my live narration. Throughout the performance, I intermittently dim out the lights to allow the films to speak for themselves before resuming the live narration.

I was born in Saudia Arabia to a family of Palestinian origin. During my childhood in the 1980s, the first intifada began. Concerned about their families back home, my parents couldn't stop watching the news. My childhood was marked by a contrast: a peaceful life with one small window looking at Palestine through the TV screen. As the situation worsened, the window into Palestine grew larger and larger until it felt as if we were living there daily.”



Freakish Delights

MONONOKE THE MOVIE

There is nothing that looks like Kenji Nakamura's Mononoke movies. A unique chance to see the first two parts of this psychedelic trilogy on the big screen. You will also see an exclusive unique teaser of the soon to be finished third part of the series.

MONONOKE THE MOVIE - THE PHANTOM IN THE RAIN

Kenji Nakamura | Japan | 2024

Friday 13 March | 19:00 | Slachtstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 90'
Saturday 21 March | 19:00 | Melkweg Cinema | Amsterdam | 90'

MONONOKE THE MOVIE: CHAPTER II - THE ASHES OF RAGE

Kenji Nakamura, Kiyotaka Suzuki | Japan | 2025

Friday 13 March | 21:00 | Slachtstraat Cinema 1 | Utrecht | 75'
Saturday 21 March | 21:00 | Melkweg Cinema | Amsterdam | 75'



COMMON SIDE EFFECTS MARATHON

Friday 20 March

19:00 | Melkweg Cinema | Amsterdam | 80' (episodes 1-3)

20:45 | Melkweg Cinema | Amsterdam | 70' (episodes 4-6)

22:15 | Melkweg Cinema | Amsterdam | 95' (episodes 7-10)

A marathon of the acclaimed Adult Swim series *Common Side Effects*, that has been hailed as one of the year's best conspiracy thrillers. With a new season coming soon, what better way is there to brush up on the first season than a marathon screening in the cinema?



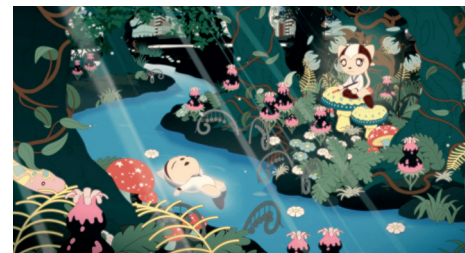
TAMALA 2030: A PUNK CAT IN DARK

t.o.l | Japan | 2025

Saturday 14 March | 20:30 | Slachtstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 130'

Sunday 22 March | 19:00 | Melkweg Cinema | Amsterdam | 130'

Climate crisis, capitalism, pandemic – the same catastrophes that plague our planet, also threaten to destroy Cat Earth. This time with more complex animation and a slightly easier-to-follow storyline – although you can never really know what'll happen, when Tamala's ready for "another fucking day".



UKRAINIAN HORROR ANIMATION

Friday 20 March | 22:00 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 70'

From folktales to body horror, and a touch of dark humor, Kaboom unearthed gems across Ukraine. A terrifying odyssey beginning in the Soviet era, with a short film that emerged from the underground movement. Stay on the edge of your seat, all the way into the 80s and 90s, with a few debuts influenced by the Ukrainian independence era. We'll follow these new voices over time to see how they mature, bringing our journey to a chilling end.

Mars-XX | Iryna Gurvych | Ukraine | 1969 | 8'

Terrible Revenge | Mykhailo Titov | Ukraine | 1988 | 20'

Spooky Muzzles | Alexander Bubnov, Volodymyr Honcharov, Valerij Konoplov, Vadym Tiuriayev | Ukraine | 1991 | 10'

Scaries and Terrors | Natalia Chernyshova, Natalia Marchenkova | Ukraine | 1993 | 8'

Love's Secret Domain | Vadym Tiuriayev | Ukraine | 1994 | 9'

Julia's Birthday | Natalia Marchenkova | Ukraine | 1994 | 15'



Terrible Revenge

UNCANNY WITH KENZIE

Sunday 15 March | 19:30 | Slachstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 80'

Screams first. Laughs later. Promise! Venture into the uncanny of the human body with this special screening, curated by Mackenzie Fincham.

Sisowath Quay | Stéphanie Lansaquet, François Leroy | France | 2025 | 16'

Candice | Swann Valenza | France | 2024 | 3'

Larval | Alice Bloomfield | United Kingdom | 2025 | 12'

Hungry Hollow | Sarah Ruyle | United States | 2025 | 6' *

Betrayer | Shengxue Shi | Japan, China | 2025 | 11' *

Avant de Rentrer... | Arthur Bonneau | France | 2025 | 16' *

In the Mist | Renming Liu | China | 2024 | 6'

Underground Invaders | Meggie Bernier, Shera Courtalhad, Ines Dolivet, Dana Guyot, Maëlle Metaireau, Ines Molinier | France | 2024 | 9' *

* = student film



Candice

Let's Talk!

THE NETHERLANDS FILM FUND: ANIMATION WHAT'S UP?!

Saturday 14 March | 16:45 | Slachtstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 60'

Extremely useful for many animators. The Netherlands Film Fund presents the funding possibilities for animation (long, short mid-length and Ultrakort, the 'ultra short' programme), illustrated with inspiring examples from recent years. What does the fund expect and how does it work? Meet the team responsible for selecting your project and fire your questions during the Q&A. **Free access**



LET'S TALK: ETHICAL AI

Sunday 22 March | 12:00 | Kaboom Café at Eye | Amsterdam | 75'

As Generative AI transforms the landscape of digital media, the animation industry stands at a critical crossroads. Is AI a black box that threatens to replace the artist, or is it a new medium for high-level craftsmanship? Join Swedish director Arvid Tappert for a deep dive into the evolving ethics of AI in animation. **Free access**



FILMMAKERS TALKS

Meet the people behind the animation. Who breathed life into this creation, what inspired them, what kept them going, and what were the challenges, surprises and unexpected whispers from the muses that resulted in some of the most eye-catching films at Kaboom 2026? Intimate, cosy and informative – and all your questions are welcome. **Free access**

Filmmakers Talk 1

Saturday 14 March | 11:00 | Kaboom Café at Slachtstraat | Utrecht | 75'

Filmmakers Talk 2

Sunday 15 March | 11:00 | Kaboom Café at Slachtstraat | Utrecht | 75'

Filmmakers Talk 3

Friday 20 March | 12:00 | Kaboom Café at Eye | Amsterdam | 75'

Filmmakers Talk 4

Saturday 21 March | 11:00 | Kaboom Café at Eye | Amsterdam | 75'



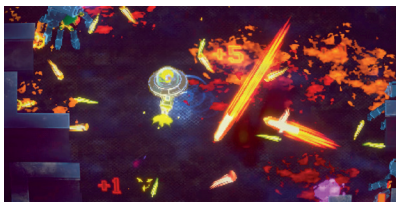
Kaboom Games

20-22 March | Game Hall at Eye | Amsterdam

Why settle for reality when you can play in worlds of infinitely more possibilities? Animation may whisk you away to surprising realms, but games let you live in them. At this year's festival, we've got interactive adventures for everyone - whether you're a button-mashing beginner or a battle-hardened pro. So, power up, press start, and game on! **Free access**

UNSHINE ARCADE

Mart Snijders | The Netherlands | 2025
An arcade full of secrets, a sentient virtual pet in the prize cabinet, a stealth shooter roguelite arcade machine and one way to escape: win tickets!



BREADLEG

Mary Tallontire | United Kingdom | 2025
A cheerful little game about running around a Scottish village as a loaf of bread with legs. Collect those socks! Avoid being eaten! * student work



POCO

Micah Boursier | United States | 2025
Help the world's smallest clown return to their giant walking circus, in this charming and richly detailed 2D/3D hybrid point-and-click adventure game. * student work



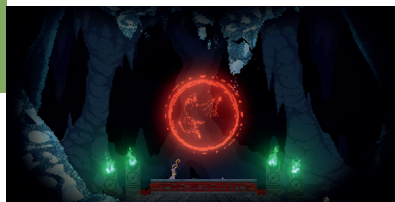
WELCOME TO APPROX AI!

Zofia Bochińska | The Netherlands | 2025
We still have choices. This interactive novel explores the ethics of hacktivism, using retro computer graphics, 8-bit music, and the thrill of an office setting. * student work



RIFT RIFF

Adriaan de Jongh | The Netherlands | 2025
Jump a rift, fight off monsters, plunder their world. Rift Riff is a strategic mix of juicy tower loadouts, varied monster behaviours, and forgiving mechanics.



NOITA

Nolla Games | Finland | 2019
Spectacular magical action roguelite in which each pixel is 'physically simulated'. Meaning that materials, enemies and you can all melt, burn or evaporate in awesome ways.

DROP DUCHY

The Arcade Crew | France
| 2025

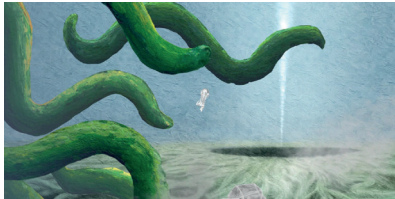
Refreshing take on the iconic geometric puzzle gameplay: not just clearing lines, but building a realm using an array of pieces to overcome enemy challenges.



THE MASTER'S PUPIL

Pat Naoum Games | Australia
| 2023

In this hand-painted puzzle-adventure game, you're wandering across Monet's iris, helping him create his masterpieces by completing puzzles based upon physics, space, and colour.



TERRA NIL

Free Lives | South Africa |
2023

Transform a barren, lifeless landscape into a thriving, vibrant ecosystem. Then recycle your buildings and leave no trace that you were there. Reclaim the wasteland!



XENOPURGE

Traptics | Greece | 2025
In this tense tactical auto battler, you remotely command an elite squad through several computer screens. Help them to search, recover and destroy the alien threat.



CRYPTMASTER

Paul Hart, Lee Williams |
United Kingdom | 2024
Words control everything in this bizarre, dungeon-crawling adventure. You guide four ancient heroes, resurrected by the Cryptmaster, through catacombs and a buried city.



THE RED STRINGS CLUB

Deconstructeam | Spain | 2018
Cyberpunk narrative experience with cinematic pixel art, about fate and happiness, featuring the use of pottery, bartending and impersonating people to take down a corporate conspiracy.



HASTE

Landfall - HASTE Team |
Sweden | 2025

Run fast, soar through the air, and master your landings as you speed through procedural worlds to outrun the end of the universe!

Kaboom Kids

CINEMA PETIT (3+)

Sunday 22 March | 10:00 | Eye Cinema 2 | Amsterdam | 50'

You're never too young to have a good time at the movies! Cinema Petit lets our youngest audiences enjoy an infinitely charming selection of cute and educational animated shorts from all over the world.

In the cinema, these films will be live-dubbed in Dutch.

Noelle's Barn | Pascale Hecquet | Belgium, France | 2025 | 6'

Dreaming of Flight | Elena Walf | Germany | 2025 | 5'

I Take | Eva Lenis | The Netherlands | 2025 | 2'

Cloud Fish | Noé Garcia | Belgium, France | 2025 | 5'

Porcelain | Grace Kwok | Singapore | 2025 | 3' *

Sketches on Ice | Marion Auvin | Belgium, France | 2025 | 4'

Little Wings | Dajana Jefremova | Latvia | 2025 | 5' *

Beelong | Daan van Dongen | The Netherlands | 2025 | 2' *

Tatarang! | Manri Kim | South Korea | 2024 | 6'

First Flight | Adrian Jaffé | Germany | 2025 | 3'

Pol de Piratenmuis: Grotmonster | Bouwine Pool | The Netherlands | 2025 | 7'

* = student film



First Flight

SHORT SWEETS (6+)

Sunday 15 March | 10:30 | Slachstraat Cinema 2 | Utrecht | 75'

Name something better than melting away at the sight of sweet animated short films. We'll wait (BUT THERE IS NOTHING BETTER)! The whole family is invited to enjoy a whimsical selection of animated shorts for children 6 and up.

In the cinema, these films will be live-dubbed in Dutch.

Tiddler | Alex Bain, Andy Martin | United Kingdom | 2024 | 23'

A Pain in the Butt | Elena Walf | Germany | 2025 | 5'

I Found a Box | Eric Montchaud | France | 2025 | 9'

A Serious Thought | Jonas Taul | Estonia | 2026 | 16'

Once Upon a Time in Dragonville | Marika Herz | France, Switzerland | 2024 | 9'

Simon Small | Are Austnes, Yaprak Morali | Denmark, Norway, Sweden | 2024 | 14'



Tiddler

KABOOM X DE SIEN: PEUTERBIOS (3+)

Sunday 15 March | 10:30 | De Sien | Utrecht | 45'

Nobody is too young for Kaboom. For toddlers (and their carers) we even have a special programme, with awesome, appropriate shorts. *Presented in Dutch.*

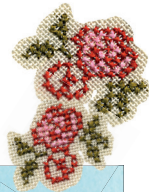
Found! | Juliette Baily | France | Belgium | 2025 | 5'

Pol de Piratenmuis: Waterglifiers | Bouwme Pool | The Netherlands | 2025 | 7'

Dreaming of Flight | Elena Walf | Germany | 2025 | 5'

Little Wings | Dajana Jefremova | Latvia | 2025 | 5'

Porcelain | Grace Kwok | Singapore | 2025 | 3'



Found!

Exhibitions

AR EXHIBITION: HUMAN TOUCH

13-16 March | 10:30-20:30, Mondays 10:30-18:00 | HKU - AG | Utrecht

It has become a (freely accessible!) tradition: our AR poster exhibition in collaboration with Animated Women/World and The Illustration Embassy. This year at AG, HKU's exhibition space in the centre of Utrecht (where you'll also find the VR selection).

We asked animators, illustrators and other creative minds from around the globe to create a five to thirty-second animation and a matching artwork, inspired by the festival theme *Human Touch*. Their artisanal, emotionally expressive results form an intriguing, inspiring, international reaction to a world that is becoming increasingly automated and standardised, and will come to digital life thanks to Augmented Reality. **Free access**



KABOOM INDUSTRY DAYS

17-18 March | HKU Media (Oudenoord) | Utrecht

Step right up and enter the beating heart of the animation world! The Kaboom Industry Days 2026 are your platform for inspiration, networking, and industry know-how. Whether you're a student, a seasoned pro, a daring freelancer or a studio head, this is where you need to be.

INDUSTRY DAY 1: KABOOM CAMP

10:00	Doors open!
10:15 - 10:30	Kaboom Camp Kick Off Auditorium
10:30 - 12:00	Masterclass: Playful Approaches to Animation with Studio Yonk Auditorium
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch break Atrium
12:30 - 14:00	Industry Focus: Anime How does it work? Auditorium
14:00 - 14:30	Coffee break HKU Entrance / Atrium
14:30 - 15:30	Best Showreel Contest Auditorium
14:30 - 16:00	Table Talks: Break the Ice Meeting room 1, <i>open registration</i>
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break HKU Entrance / Atrium
16:00 - 17:00	Industry Jubileum: 25 years of Submarine Auditorium
16:15 - 17:30	Debutants Meet Studios: 1-on-1 Meetings Meeting room 1, <i>invitation only</i>
17:15 - 18:00	New Talents' Screen Takeover Auditorium
18:30 - 19:00	Walk to ACU Gathering point at reception, leaving together at 18:30
19:00 - 22:00	Debutants Ball & Afterparty ACU

INDUSTRY DAY 2: KABOOM PRO

09:45	Doors open!
10:00 - 10:15	Kaboom Pro Opening Speech Auditorium
10:15 - 10:45	Benelux Look-Ahead (Updates & Announcements) Auditorium
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break HKU Entrance / Atrium
11:00 - 12:30	Animation Industry Meeting (Sector Overleg) Meeting room 2, <i>invitation only</i>
11:00 - 12:30	French XR Delegation Meet Studios Meeting room 1, <i>invitation only</i>
11:15 - 12:15	Introducing French Producers Auditorium
12:15 - 13:00	Lunch break Atrium
13:00 - 14:30	Dutch Animation School Working Session Meeting room 2, <i>invitation only</i>
13:00 - 15:00	Kaboom PRO Meet Up Space Atrium, <i>open registration</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Benelux Animation Pitch Presentations Auditorium, part 1
14:15 - 15:00	Benelux Animation Pitch Presentations Auditorium, part 2
15:00-15:30	Coffee break HKU Entrance / Atrium
15:15 - 17:00	Benelux Animation Pitch 1-on-1 Meetings Meeting room 1, <i>invitation only</i>
15:30 - 17:00	The Art of Asking Vrijplaats Animation Research Results Auditorium
17:00 - 18:30	Industry Drinks HKU Entrance
19:15 - 21:00	Benelux Co-Production Dinner Hygge, <i>invitation only</i>

DAY 1: KABOOM CAMP

Your ultimate industry crash course! This is where young talents and new voices shine (including illustrators and XR creators). Expect a celebration of the Dutch and international animation community and exciting, useful encounters with studios, mentors, and funders. Don't miss interactive ice-breaking roundtables and our all-time favourite: Best Showreels Contest and the Debutants Ball.

KABOOM CAMP KICK OFF & STUDIO YONK MASTERCLASS

Tuesday 17 March | 10:15-12:00 | Auditorium

Fuel up for a strong start to CAMP Day! Once you've had your morning coffee, join us at HKU to kick off Industry Days 2026. We begin with a warm welcome by Kaboom Creative Director **Aneta Ozorek**, followed immediately by an inspiring masterclass from **Studio YONK: Playful Approaches to Animation**.

In this session, YONK will share how entering the animation world with little experience shaped their approach and led to a studio focused on playful methods. They will discuss their experiences creating work in the commercial sector and show how they use a variety of technologies to craft visually striking, human-driven animations.

Studio YONK (NL) is a 3D animation studio using Virtual Reality and live, performance-driven tools to create playful character designs and animations. Their practice blends raw, childlike sculpting with polished finishes, and experiments with the animation process to produce maximalist and delightfully strange work.

Moderator: **Anna Eijsbouts**

BEST SHOWREELS LOOP

Tuesday 17 March | All day | Mobile Cinema / HKU Entrance

What is better than a photo booth? An animation booth! Watch the showreels of the ten selected debutants, which will be playing all day in our intimate (2 seats only!) mobile cinema.

INDUSTRY FOCUS: ANIME *How Does It Work?*

Tuesday 17 March | 12:30-14:00 | Auditorium

We've all dreamt of moving to Japan to make anime, but how does the anime industry actually work? And how can Western animators successfully collaborate with Japanese makers? In this session, CGI Director **Masaya Inaba** (*ChaO*) shares his experience working in Japan and abroad. Join him on his fascinating journey from engineering to entertainment and get a glimpse behind the scenes of the anime studios.

Masaya Inaba is a Japanese animation CGI artist and director with over a decade of experience, known for integrating CG, hand-drawn animation, and background art on complex, story-critical scenes in feature anime productions.

Still curious how anime works? Long time anime fan **Florian Walraven** will take you through his career of analyzing anime, making anime parodies and working on anime recaps. Anime aesthetics is an ever-growing phenomenon in the industry, but it also has a rich history worth exploring. As an outsider of the anime industry, Florian shares his journey on how anime can inspire, teach, and even build careers.

Florian Walraven, HKU animation graduate of 2014, co-founded the animation Studio Pegbarians (2013) and is currently active as animator/writer/director for Studio Pikeman. Clients have included Frame Order, Vanoss Gaming, MSD, Submarine, Supercell, Mashed and Cas van de Pol.

Moderator: **Anna Eijsbouts**



BEST SHOWREEL CONTEST

Tuesday 17 March | 14:30-15:30 | Auditorium

Witness the next generation of animators at The Best Showreels Screening & Contest. Selected graduates will showcase their skills on the big screen in a session designed for both recruiters and fans. Whether you are hiring or just admiring, this is the place to discover the freshest talent on the scene. Our jury of industry experts will give live feedback and decide the winner of the Best Showreel award, which will be announced at the end of the day.

Selected Debutants: **Yvette Bolder, Yen-Ling Chen, Grey Duijn, Nina Fock, Bram Fokkens, Jordi van Iperen, Zoë Onderweegs, Tim Smink, Paula Socías Villanueva, Rachel Rietjens, Zoe Onderweegs**
Moderator: **Roloff de Jeu**

TABLE TALKS: BREAK THE ICE

Tuesday 17 March | 14:30-16:00 | Meeting room 1, open registration

Dive into crucial industry topics with our series of interactive, 20-minute roundtables. This is your chance to speak directly with the experts: discuss financing with the **Dutch Film Funds**, explore archival footage with **Sound & Vision**, or let **Ursula van den Heuvel** from Kaboom Distribution demystify film distribution. **Eva Bonnevits & Ayoola Tubosun Olagunju** will share strategies for approaching producers and Ultrakort, while special guest **Alizée Musson** introduces animation scriptwriting alongside her new book. Plus, don't miss the chance to connect with the **Dutch Directors Guild**.

How to join: Find the Kaboom team in the meeting room to sign up for a free slot. We will rotate sessions to ensure as many attendees as possible can take a seat at the table.

INDUSTRY JUBILEUM: 25 YEARS OF SUBMARINE

Tuesday 17 March | 16:00-17:00 | Auditorium

For 25 years, Amsterdam-based studio Submarine has pushed the boundaries of animation. Join us as **Janneke van de Kerkhof** recounts the lessons learned along the way. This session is not only a spotlight on one of the most successful Dutch animation studios, but also a masterclass in making your way in the industry. Essential for

anyone who's curious about Dutch animation's history and future. Submarine is a production company housing the biggest animation studio in the Netherlands, which produces feature films and series for partners like Netflix and Amazon. Working with emerging new talents and some of the biggest names in European animation, they have captivated international audiences for 25 years. Their work includes Fox and *Hare Save the Forest*, and the original series *Undone*.

Moderator: **Anna Eijsbouts**

DEBUTANTS MEET STUDIOS: 1-on-1 Meetings

Tuesday 17 March | 16:15-17:30 | Meeting room 1, invitations only

A closed session for the selected upcoming Dutch animation talents who will meet with various Dutch animation studios. To advance further in their careers, the Debutantes will present their portfolios, get feedback on their work, and ask burning questions to seasoned industry professionals.



NEW TALENTS' SCREEN TAKEOVER

Tuesday 17 March | 17:15-18:00 | Auditorium

Are you the next superstar in animation? We have an open screen for students who want to display their talent to the world, with a unique chance to receive real-time feedback from established industry experts. Whether you want to showcase a quick scene, a showreel, or just an animation concept, you are welcome to join. Just bring your USB stick with a maximum of 5 mins of content, or present your web portfolio, and get ready to dazzle the crowd!

Moderator: **Roloff de Jeu**

DAY 2: KABOOM PRO

WALK TO ACU

Tuesday 17 March | 18:30-19:00 | Gathering at reception, *leaving together at 18:30*

Ready to party? Whether you are new to Utrecht or just want some company, skip the navigation and join our group walk to ACU for the Debutantes Ball. We gather at the main entrance at 18:30 to guide you to the ball!

DEBUTANT BALL & AFTERPARTY *Including the Best Showreels Award Ceremony*

Tuesday 17 March | 19:00-22:00 | ACU

End the day on a high note at ACU. Join us for drinks, music, and the crowning of the Best Showreel winner. The stakes are high this year: thanks to the Keep an Eye Foundation, our first-prize winner takes home a trip to the Annecy Animation Film Festival. We are also awarding professional Toon Boom licenses to the second and third-place winners. It's the perfect way to celebrate emerging talent—complete with a spectacular performance you won't want to miss.



From in-depth presentations to expert sessions and one-on-one meetings, Kaboom PRO is the place to be for Dutch and international professionals to connect and collaborate. Among other programs, we will see the return of the Benelux Animation Pitch for short and feature productions, an initiative to strengthen and consolidate regional talent.

KABOOM PRO OPENING & BENELUX LOOK AHEAD

Wednesday 18 March | 10:00-10:45 | Auditorium

Time to get down to business. Join us in opening the PRO day at Kaboom with a welcome by Kaboom creative director **Aneta Ozorek**. Then, get up to speed with the newest developments and projects to look forward to!

BEST SHOWREELS LOOP

Wednesday 18 March | All day | Mobile Cinema / HKU Entrance

What is better than a photo booth? An animation booth! Watch the showreels of the ten selected debutants, which will be playing all day in our intimate (2 seats only!) mobile cinema.

ANIMATION INDUSTRY MEETING (Animatie Sector Overleg)

Wednesday 18 March | 11:00-12:30 | Meeting room 1, in Dutch / invitation only

In this closed session, the Dutch animation sector will gather to discuss current issues and work together to help the industry move ahead. In collaboration with NAPA and the Dutch Academy for Film.

Moderator: **Doreen Boonekamp**

FRENCH XR DELEGATION MEET DUTCH STUDIOS: 1-on-1 meetings

Wednesday 18 March | 11:00-12:30 | Meeting room 2, invitation only

In this exclusive session, a distinguished delegation from the French XR industry meets with Dutch studios with XR experience. The goal is to exchange ideas, foster connections, and lay the groundwork for future international collaborations.

INTRODUCTION FRENCH PRODUCERS

Wednesday 18 March | 11:15-12:15 | Auditorium

Kaboom is proud to present a curated selection of French producers and studios. Join us as they unveil their latest projects and share their future ambitions. We are thrilled to host this delegation and look forward to fostering meaningful connections between our international guests and the audience.

DUTCH ANIMATION SCHOOLS WORKING SESSION

Wednesday 18 March | 13:00-14:30 | Meeting room 2, in Dutch / invitation only

During this session, heads of animation departments of Dutch schools dive deep into their curriculums and diverse educational approaches. How can they create a compelling yet accessible educational program? How can they stay connected to the fast-evolving animation industry and its changing demands? Working together to establish standards for high-quality internships and developing a joint plan for visits by external practitioners could be the first step.

KABOOM PRO MEET UP SPACE

Wednesday 18 March | 13:00-15:00 | Atrium

Spot an exciting name on the guest list and need a space and moment to approach them for a talk? Is there a peer or a partner who you would like to meet and suggest a potential collaboration? This moment is for you to act! Come to our Kaboom PRO Meet Up Space for animation professionals and make connections with our international guests. No prior registration is required.

BENELUX ANIMATION PITCH

Wednesday 18 March | 13:00-15:00 | Auditorium

The Benelux Animation Pitch is back at Kaboom! The event showcases animated short and feature films from the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Designed for projects in the early stages of development, it connects creators with key industry representatives, fostering collaboration opportunities within the region.

The teams will pitch in front of the Kaboom PRO audience and then participate in curated one-on-one meetings.

Moderator: **Karin Vandenrydt**

BENELUX ANIMATION PITCH – OFFICIAL SELECTION

At the Edge of the Woods, dir. Sophie Olga de Jong, prod. Peter Lindhout, the Netherlands

Leonore, dir. Louise Bongartz, pro. Bastien Martin, Belgium

Lio - A Futureball Story, dir. Albert 't Hooft, prod. Arnaud Rijken, the Netherlands

P's & Q's, dir. Lauri Saunders & Annechien Strouven, prod. Laure Van Medegael, Belgium

Pellen, dir. Cheyenne Goudswaard, prod. Richard Valk, the Netherlands

Sue and the Soil Critters, dir. Pim ter Braak, prod. Rinskje Raap, the Netherlands

The Spaghetti Ladies, dir. Leticia van Neerven, prod. Baran Sedighian, the Netherlands

TheK09isAlive, dir. Grey Duijn, prod. Sem Assink, the Netherlands

To Be Seen, dir. Eddy Wu, prod. Richard Valk, the Netherlands

BENELUX ANIMATION PITCH 1-ON-1 MEETINGS

Wednesday 18 March | 15:15-17:00 | Meeting room 1, invitation only

In a closed session, the participants of the Benelux Animation Pitch will have the chance to have the dedicated pre-arranged one-on-one meetings with the invited decision-makers from Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg to discuss their projects and foster potential future collaborations.

THE ART OF ASKING *Vrijplaats Animation Research Results*

Wednesday 18 March | 15:30-17:00 | Auditorium

Meet the eight animation directors selected for FilmForward's Vrijplaats: Animation residency. Curated by film journalist **Dana Linsen** and animation director **Anna Eijsbouts**, this talent development programme offers professionals the essential time, budget, and space to conduct in-depth research into their practice. In this session, the participants reveal the projects and research questions they have explored over the past seven months. Join moderator Anna Eijsbouts for a deep dive into the work of **Dario van Vree, Juliana Erazo, Mackenzie Fincham, Marlyn Spaaij, Phillip Ullman, Pip Williamson, Şirin Bahar Demirel, and Vera van Wolferen.**

INDUSTRY DRINKS *Including BAP winner announcement*

Wednesday 18 March | 17:00-18:30 | Atrium

Let's wrap up the day with a networking drink! This year, the event will also feature the announcement of the Benelux Animation Pitch Award winner - made possible by CFAP. Come to celebrate and meet the talent behind the most impressive pitch!

Co-hosted by DAFF, Kunstenbond en DDG

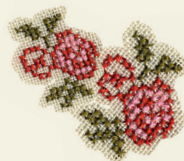
BENELUX CO-PRODUCTION DINNER

Wednesday 18 March | 19:15-21:00 | Hygge, invitation only

When producing an animation film, the best co-productions are based not only on funding opportunities, match of technique and project timelines but also on mutual trust, good knowledge of each other's production landscapes and similar creative taste. Well, tasting the dinner together helps as well!

Industry Days Partners: Dutch Film Fund, Keep an Eye Foundation, CFAP, K.F. Hein Fonds, Dioraphte, HKU, DDG, DAFF, Kunstenbond, NAPA, SeeNL, Sound & Vision, Toon Boom, Indyvideo, Cowboy Anime, YONK Studio, ACU, Film Forward

Kaboom Team 2026



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Annabet Langkamp Business Director

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Maarten van Gageldonk Head of Program
Department
Emma Heikens Program Assistant

CURATORS

Eline Soumeru Games
Bo ten Kate Games
Roloff de Jeu Kaboom Classics
Saverio Wielkens Commissioned
Michael Veerman Audience interaction
Mette Peters Kaboom Classics
Iris van der Meule VR
Mathijs Stegink Workshop
Manu Weiss AR exhibition
Mackenzie Fincham Programmer
Noa Mac Donald Programmer
Alla Gadassic Signed in Ink
Danyil Pinko Ukrainian Horror
Animation

INDUSTRY

Anna Bormans - Liebermann Head of Industry
Jessica Cohen Industry Producer
Yana Zaharieva Industry Assistant
Ursula van den Heuvel Kaboom Distribution

EDUCATION

Eva Rijs Kaboom Education

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

Rabia Sitabi - Stigter Head of Marketing & Communication
Adina Constantin Online Communication & Web Editing
Graphic designer
Lynn Gommans Digital Content
Maura Kretschmann Assistant Online Communication
Nia Daskalova Copywriter
Kees Driessen Photography & Copywriter
Jaime Korbee Editor
Szymon Antoni Jędryś SEO & Ad Specialist
Cengiz Can

POSTER

Bea Lema

FESTIVAL LEADER

Bea Lema
Manu Viquera
Victor Garcia
Paula Pinto

PRODUCTION

Nicole Akkermans Head of Production
Lisette de Haart Festival Producer
Hayat Zoheir Volunteers
Coordinator
Laura Bos Program Producer
Carla Navarro Guest Manager
Britt Raes Guest Angel
Federico Quadrino Production Assistant
Wiebe Beckman Location Manager
Nikki Jansen Location Manager
Alexandra Milteer Location Manager

MODERATORS

Aneta Ozorek
Anna Eijsbouts
Jürgen Theuns
Maarten van Gageldonk
Mackenzie Fincham
Roloff de Jeu
Doreen Boonekamp
Karen Vandenrydt
Sol Enae Lee
Ying Yi Wu
Rolf Deen
Danielle Guirguis
Elaine, Nijs, Roef, Mus, Ot, Mink Erkamp

JURY ASSISTANTS

Dick Grinwis Dutch & Doc
Giovanni Simioni VR Jury
Amber van Toorn International Jury

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

Yorrick de Nooijer Head of Technical Production / QC (Indyvideo)
Otto de Vries Industry Technique (Indyvideo)
Kim van Engelen Film checks / QC
Krystal Jfs Games technique
Maarten Huismar Playlists
Silvie Wolff Projectionist
Emma Jongmans Projectionist
Fiona Verkleij Projectionist
Henk Rhebergen Projectionist
Kim Lohuis Projectionist
Maarten Huismar Projectionist
Toine Nieuwenhuis Projectionist
Tom Hendrixx Projectionist
Nienke Krikke Light operator
Marieke Koedijk Sound engineer
Rik van Leeuwen Sound engineer

FILM REVIEWERS

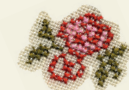
Liz el Saadany
Maik Hagens
Mackenzie Fincham
Lucas Toornvliet
Noa Mac Donald
Razan Hassan
Ayoola Olagunju
Clara Giruzzi
Kleopatra Vorria
Zlatelina Tsokova
Grey Duijn
Nancy Denney-Phelps
Kim Alexander
River Roest
Cox Janssens

THANK YOU!

Edgar Witteveen, Counted
Dennis Pasveer, This way up
Peter van Neer, Have a Byte
Vincent Drabbe, Have a Byte
Trix van Alphen, The Publicity Company
Job, Joris & Marieke
Saskia Maas
Steven Strik
Alice Hermans
Pablo Gonzalez de la Torre Rodriguez
YONK
Emilia Mazik
Dymme Plomp
Esther Bannenberg
Ton van Capelle
Minhong Yu
All our fantastic volunteers! ♥

FESTIVAL BABIES

Staś Łuczak-Chorodryński
Yuvalushka Golan



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Tag us in your festival pictures!
 @kaboomfestival

