

## LUCAS presents the latest children's movies from all over the world from 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September – Three World Premieres

- + First class feature films, animated films and documentaries for children from 22 countries
- + World premiers of "Tom Sawyer", "Frosch, Hase und das rote Telefon" and "Gekidnapped"
- + 3D Animation "Freddy Frogface" (International Premiere)
- + Symposium for the support of German children's cinema

**Frankfurt am Main (28<sup>th</sup> July 2011)** – The programme of the 34<sup>th</sup> International Childrens's Film Festival is set. From 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September the festival hosted by the German Film Institute will be showing 46 outstanding children's film productions from all continents. Nine feature films and 14 short films will take part in the competition, 23 more are going to be shown in the supporting programme. The movies of the competition were chosen from over 360 entries due to their high quality regarding content and artistic value. LUCAS is organized by the German Film Institute and will be the first film festival to take place in the newly reopened German Film Museum. Numerous filmmakers are coming to Frankfurt to talk about their movies with all visitors – kids and adults.

Altogether 46 movies from 22 different countries were selected, among those Australia, Japan, Russia, Iran, and Latvia. Thereby LUCAS allows a broad insight into the diverse environments of children as well as into various narrative styles and aesthetic means. This year the Netherlands are represented especially strongly. The movies of the competition will be screened in the original language with English subtitles and are going to be translated simultaneously into German during the showings.

The majority of the competing movies will be celebrating their German premiere at LUCAS. For three movies it will be their world premiere, including the German remake of the children's book classic TOM SAWYER by Mark Twain featuring popular actors such as Heike Makatsch, Benno Führmann and Joachim Król, nearly two months before its official release date. Other German entries are the short film KIDNAPPED, in which the bold Ida wants to force Hannes' affection, and the animated movie FROG, RABBIT AND THE RED TELEPHONE by the well-known illustrator Alla Churikova. Another highlight will be the international premiere of the Danish animated movie FREDDY FROGFACE in 3D, in which Victor and his dog have to stand up to the mean Freddy Frogface. Two more international premieres will be celebrated: BON VOYAGE, Dutch production which deals with the close relationship between little Jasmijn to her serious ill grandpa and the short Documentary AZZA about a twelve-year-old girl that doesn't want to wear her headscarf anymore. Festival director Petra Kappler: "We are extremely delighted that we can offer our audience three world premieres and three international premieres this year. The fact that many producers decided to show their movies for the first time at our festival, is proof to the high reputation of LUCAS among experts."

As a state-of-the-art centre for film culture and media competence, the new German Film Museum offers the ideal stage for LUCAS. In the course of the renovation the festival cinema was equipped with the latest technology, allowing for the movies to be shown on a high visual and acoustic level.

Accompanying the festival, a full-day Symposium on Subsidy Schemes for Children's Film Production will be taking place (Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September). Experts on the national and international children's film scene, producers and representatives of film institutes will be discussing how children's film can achieve a higher standing in Germany the way it does in other European countries.

For the supporting programme LUCAS has established two film series that will be running outside the competition: PANORAMA for young adults and MINIS for children of the ages from four to six. Festival director Petra Kappler: "During our research we frequently come across films that inspire, thrill, amuse and stay with us, but cannot participate in the competition due to regulations or age limitations. We do not want to withhold these impressive and partly prize-winning movies from our audience." In regard to their content the focus of the PANORAMA-films is on adolescents who find the courage to stand up to themselves even though they differ from standard expectations, for example through their sexual orientation or their understanding of gender roles.

The LUCAS-jury is made up of eight members and consists of four filmmakers and film experts, and four children. The Golden Letter is a new award worth a subtitling of the winning movie, founded by the Hamburg company for linguistic processing SUBS. Since the LUCAS Audience Award was very well received last year, the audience will again be able to vote for their favourite feature film in 2011.

A comprehensive supporting programme is dedicated to conveying media competence and film culture. The LUCAS workshop in the newly established area for media education along with the attached film studio offers an opportunity for children and adults to attend workshops on the topics of light, film music and cut-out-animation and to produce their own stop-motion movies. The Trickboxx of the children's television channel KIKA is also going to be a guest again. There will be a separate training programme on cinematic understanding for teachers and educators.

The 34<sup>th</sup> International Children's Film Festival LUCAS opens on Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> September, at 14.00h with a programme of prize-winning short animated movies and numerous guests.

## **DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE 34<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL LUCAS 4<sup>TH</sup> to 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011**

### **PRIZES AND JURYS**

A jury made up of children and adults will give away three LUCAS AWARDS: for the best feature film (endowed with 7.500€), the best short film (3000€) and for the best animated short film (3000€). Furthermore the audience is going to choose their favourite for the LUCAS Audience Award.

Additionally, the International Federation of Film Societies F.I.C.C. has been awarding the Don Quixote Prize to one movie of the competition since 2004. Also, a young talent film, which deals with intercultural communication or cultural mediation in an exceptional manner, is awarded with the Golden Letter worth a subtitling. This award is founded by the Hamburg company for linguistic processing SUBS and is awarded for the first time this year.

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The LUCAS-Jury traditionally consists of school children, filmmakers and media experts. The four children between the ages 10-13 come from the Rhine-Main area. This year they will be deciding together with screenwriter Bettine von Borries, filmmaker and animation expert Stefan Schomerus, young Berlin actor Neil Belakhdar and Birgit Goehlnich from the Self-Regulatory Body for cinema (FSK), on the winners of the competition.

The "Fédération Internationale des Ciné-Club" is represented by its own jury.

## COMPETITION / CHOICE OF FILMS

The number of entries has increased steadily through the past years. This year the all-time-high of 362 films was reached. The decision on which of these films are taking part in the competition was made by a viewing committee with its several members coming from the LUCAS team and external media experts (media educator Brigitte Zeitlmann, director of the Hessen Film- and Media Academy Anja Henningsmeyer, ZDF-editor Jörg von der Steinen and chief editor of FILM-DIENST Horst Peter Kroll).

The films of the competition tell stories of friendship, family and adventure, yet they do not shy away from addressing events in the life of a child such as separation or illness. They are films that encourage and comfort children, show them possible solutions or provide them with role models, strengthen their development and most of all are fun. Festival director Petra Kappler about the choice of films: "The film has to convince with the quality of its content and artistry. It has to reach the children at eye level, reflect their present environment and still be sensuously created. At LUCAS we show films which you cannot simply consume but moreover are works that move the audience, make them think and trigger something inside them. Films that connect with their own emotions, impressions, experiences."

The LUCAS films of 2011 prove that directors around the world are concerned with the needs and problems of children and create high-quality films from that. The aspiration and enthusiasm of these filmmakers is reflected in the contents of the selected films. The broad geographic spectrum of participating countries leads to a vast range of topics, but at the same time it shows the questions and problems that connect children across all national borders.

## THE FEATURE FILMS OF THE LUCAS FILM FESTIVAL 2011

Twelve films from nine countries will participate in the feature film competition, two of which are animated films. Three films are shown outside of competition. This year it is remarkable that many of the films, selected from outstanding films from all over the world, are productions that deal with inconvenient and taboo subjects. Especially films from the Netherlands address topics such as separation, illness and death in a relaxed manner and even with great ease. Each young character finds his or her individual way to cope with the changes that occur them.

THE YEAR DOLLY PARTON WAS MY MUM (Canada 2011, Director: Tara Johns) from age 10  
Eleven-year-old Elizabeth is shocked when she finds out she is adopted. She does everything to find her biological mother.

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SECRET LETTER / BRIEFGEHEIM (Netherlands 2010, Director: Simone van Dusseldorp – Laureate at festivals in Utrecht and Amsterdam) from age 10

Eva's parents are always fighting. She decides to run away for one night so that their concern for her will bring them back together. But then she gets involved in an incredible criminal case.

WAYS TO LIVE FOREVER (Great Britain 2010, Director: Gustavo Ron – Laureate at festivals in Tallinn, Giffoni Valle Piana, Barcelona and Indianapolis) from age 8

Sam has Leukaemia. His teacher asks him to think of ways to live forever. Sam begins to explore life and death in different cultures and to fulfil his most important wishes.

BON VOYAGE (Netherlands 2010, Director: Margien Rogaar) from age 8

The news of the grandfather's serious illness cuts short the Verbeeks' travel plans. Only the youngest child seems to deal with the grandfather's impending death

BARDSONGS (Netherlands 2010, Director: Sander Francken) from age 8

Traditional bardsongs tell the stories of three children from India, Mali and Tibet. The children question their destiny, knowledge and other people's expectations.

LOU (Australia 2010, Director: Belinda Chayko – Laureate at Creteil Women's Film Festival) from age 10

When her father leaves the family, Lou blames her mother. But then her grandfather, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, moves in and thinks she is his wife.

FREDDY FROGFACE / ORLA FRØSNAPPER, 3D-animation (Denmark 2011, Directors Peter Dodd, Gert Fredholm) from age 8 – *World Premiere at LUCAS*

When a circus comes to town, Victor sees his chance to prove himself to everybody. If only it were not for the bully Freddy Frogface

THE RUNWAY (Ireland, Luxemburg 2010, Director: Ian Power – Laureate at Galway Film Fleadh) from age 8

Ireland 1983: Little Paco takes a crashed pilot home with him. By swindling, he convinces the villagers to help with repairing the aircraft.

TOM SAWYER (Germany 2011, Director: Hermine Huntgeburth) from age 8 – *World Premiere at LUCAS*

One night Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn witness the murder of the village doctor. Now they have to fear the murderer's revenge. German production with a well-known cast (Heike Makatsch, Benno Fühmann, Joachim Król et.al.)

## FEATURE FILMS AT LUCAS RUNNING OUT OF COMPETITION

TOTALLY TRUE LOVE / JØRGEN + ANNE = SANT (Norway 2010, Director: Anne Sewitsky – Laureate at Giffoni film festival) from age 8

Everybody around Anne constantly talks about love while she is actually quite happy to be too young for it. Until she meets Jorgen...

THE LIVERPOOL GOALIE / KEEPER'N TIL LIVERPOOL (Norway 2010, Director Arild Andresen – Laureate at festivals in Berlin, Malmo and Brussels) from age 8

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Since his father died Jo's mother is too afraid to let him do anything on his own. School is not easy for him either. But then Mari comes into his class.

TIGER & TATTOOS / TIGRE OG TATOVERINGER, Animation (Denmark 2010, Director: Karla Bengtson) from age 6

Maj lives with her uncle Sonny in his tattoo studio. When she issues a scribble on a sleeping customer they have to flee his dangerous bike gang.

## SHORT FILMS AT LUCAS FILM FESTIVAL 2011

At LUCAS 2011 fourteen short films, eight live-action films and six animated films from twelve countries, compete for two short film awards. Two films are shown out of competition. The films were carefully chosen according to age groups and bundled into four programmes.

**Short Film Programme 1** contains five beautifully created animated films in different styles and is aimed at children from the age of six. Little Mr. Finch who has to play dance music for a mean old lady while being trapped in a birdcage courageously leaves his prison in MUSICAL MR FINCH (Sweden, Germany 2010, Director: Michael Ekblad). Prince Rat heroically enters the dragon's lair to rescue his beloved princess. (PRINCE RAT / PRINZ RATTE, Germany 2011, Director: Albert Radl). The locals of a small village take on a cruel circus director to allow a gentle tiger family a better life (TIGER / TIGERIS, Latvia 2010, Director: Jānis Cimernis). In WALKIN' ON SNOW GRASS a squirrel bravely goes on a journey of discovery through an unknown, snowy landscape (Japan 2010, Director: Makiko Sukikara – Laureate at festivals in Seattle, San Francisco, Boston, Sarasota, Berlin, Stockholm, Deauville et.al. and rated special merit). And the friends Frog and Rabbit suddenly see the world with different eyes when they find a red telephone (FROG, RABBIT AND THE RED TELEPHONE / FROSCH, HASE UND DAS ROTE TELEFON Germany 2011, Director: Alla Churikova – *World Premiere at LUCAS*)

**In the Short Film Programme 2**, which we recommend for viewers from the age of eight, four animated films are shown. The films focus on children who are different, who feel lonely and abandoned and who try everything to end these conditions. In THE EYES OF THE LIGHTHOUSE / OS OLHOS DO FAROL (Portugal 2010, Director: Pedro Serrazina – Laureate at festivals in Évora and Horta) a grim father treats his daughter as if she was not there. But the girl has the ocean as a friend and does not give in. Little Arnaud lives in his own, fantastic world until he gets a pair of glasses (SPECKY FOUR EYES / CUL DE BOUTEILLE France 2010, Director: Jean-Claude Rozec – *out of competition*). The child in THE NAMELESS / LE SANS-NOM (France 2010, Director: Violaine Lecuyer) also spends his life isolated, without contact to others. But then sounds and images from outside enter his world and he goes on a journey to the outside world. In COAST WARNING / SHTORMOVOYE PREDUPREZHDENIE (Russia 2010, Director: Alexandra Shadrina – Laureate at Busan International Short Film Festival) a girl lives alone in a remote weather station and writes letters to herself so that the young postman visits her daily.

**Short Film Programme 3** is suitable for visitors from the age of 8 and shows three films about confident children who overcome the obstacles in their lives with great courage and know exactly what they want. The documentary I'M NEVER AFRAID / IK BEN ECHT NIET BANG! (Niederlande 2010, Director: Willem Baptist) gives an insight into the life of eight-year-old Mack who wants to become the Dutch motocross-champion. In AZZA, also a short documentary, the camera follows the self-confident, buoyant twelve-year-old Azza in her decision to take off her headscarf (Netherlands 2010,

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Director: Saskia Gubbels). In the short feature JENSEN LIVES HERE / HER BOR JENSEN (Denmark 2010, Director: Martin Strange-Hansen) Sofie tries to dissuade her parents from separating with the clever employment of her hamster Jensen.

**In the Short Film Programme 4** we assembled four short features for children from the age of eight, which shows children from all kinds of regions with their hopes and dreams that could not be more different. In Belgium, Tom and P'tit Lu dream of coming closer to their football idol but can't afford it (CRISTIANO'S SHIRT / LE MAILLOT DE CRISTIANO Belgium 2011, Director: Vincent Bruno), while nine-year-old war refugee Mohammed's biggest wish is to be able to go back home (MY NAME IS MOHAMMED Iraq, Great Britain, Jordan 2011, Director: Sinan Najm Abdullah et.al. – Laureate at festivals in Beirut and Rotterdam – *out of competition*). Little Yeongbin is devastated when he learns that his beloved teacher is getting married (THE LITTLE HELPER / SIMBURUM Republic of Korea 2010, Director: An Sojin). In KIDNAPPED / GEKIDNAPPED (Germany 2011, Director: Sarah Winkenstette – *World Premiere at LUCAS*) outsider Ida locks up her crush Hannes in their classroom to force him to kiss her.

## SUPPORTING PROGRAMME – FILMS FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS + WORKSHOPS

### SERIES "DUTCH SPECIAL" (from 8 years)

In our DUTCH SPECIAL we want to give a platform to more outstanding short films from the Netherlands, that deal with the topic of being different. These three films accompany the Symposium on German Subsidy Schemes for Children's Cinema (08.09), which will also take a closer look at Dutch film productions.

FLYING ANNE / ANNE VLIEGT (Netherlands 2010, Director: Catherine van Campen) is a short documentary about Anne who suffers from Tourette's syndrome and learns to no longer hide her ticks and compulsions. I FEEL / IK VOEL, IK VOEL, WAT JIJ NIET VOELT (Netherlands 2010, Director: Elsbeth van Noppen), also a short documentary, features Robert and Jasmijn, who have a particularly intense connection to nature and believe in supernatural beings. In the short feature MARIJN (Netherlands 2010, Director: Lilian Sijbesma – Laureate at festivals in Eindhoven and Giffona) little Marijn suddenly loses her mother who liked to perform magic during dinner.

### FILM SERIES PANORAMA FOR YOUNG ADULTS

With this series, which was introduced successfully last year, LUCAS offers a panorama of international productions that address adolescents and young adults. Sudden changes on the way to adulthood, individual life concepts that have to prove themselves – these are topics, which young adults are able to identify themselves with. Regarding the content, this year's PANORAMA-films focus on youth, who find the courage to stand up for themselves even though they differ from the norm because of their sexual orientation or understanding of gender roles. All PANORAMA-films are shown in their original versions with English subtitles and are translated simultaneously into German during the screenings.

### FILMS IN THE PANORAMA-SERIES

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In the coming-out-film HARVEST / STADT, LAND, FLUSS (Germany 2011, English subtitling, Director: Benjamin Cantu – Laureate at the Teddy-Award Berlin) two apprentices at a farm develop a cautious affection for each other. Elin and Agnes also discover their feelings for one another in FUCKING ÅMÅL (Sweden, Denmark 1998, German subtitling, Director: Lukas Moodysson – Laureate at festivals in Berlin, Halifax, Kyiv, Stockholm and Haugesund). But in their hometown it is difficult to find oneself and oppose prejudices. The protagonist of the tragicomedy SASCHA (Germany 2010, English subtitling, Director: Dennis Todorovic – Laureate at festivals in Hof, Bilbao, Prague and rated special merit) is in love with his piano teacher but pretends to be in a heterosexual relationship. Despite the high expectations and traditional beliefs of his parents he finds the courage to take his life into his own hands. The shy Signe also has to learn the hard way to prove herself against constant pressure from outside and about gender role clichés in the Swedish film A THOUSAND TIMES STRONGER / TUSEN GÅNGER STARKARE (Sweden 2010, English subtitling, Director: Peter Schildt). In WINTER'S BONE (USA 2010, German subtitling, Director: Debra Granik) the province is not only annoying but becomes life threatening for 16-year-old Ree, when she has to face a whole village community and their criminal intrigues in order to save her family's home.

### FILM SERIES MINI – SHORT ANIMATED FILMS FOR VISITORS BETWEEN THE AGES OF FOUR AND SIX

In our well-established SERIES FOR MINIS short and easily understandable animated films will be entertaining our youngest audiences, again this year. The films are geared towards the needs and abilities of preschoolers.

FROG, RABBIT AND THE RED TELEPHONE (Germany 2011, Director: Alla Churikova – also in our Short Film Programme 1) Frog and rabbit are bored when suddenly a red telephone falls down from the sky. // KOYAA – THE EXTRAORDINARY / KOYAA – LAIF JE DĪST ODBIT (Slovenia 2010, Director: Kolja Saksida) When Koyaa leaves his house in the morning his shoe laces suddenly do what they want. // ELSA AND THE BEDTIME STORIES / ELSA OCH GODATTSAGORNA (Sweden 2010, Director: Christian Ryltenius). Elsa's soft toys help her falling asleep with an exciting bedtime story. // SPOT AND SPLODGE AT THE DENTIST / PRICK OCH FLÄCK TANDTROLLAR (Sweden 2011, Directors: Lotta Geffenblad, Uzi Geffenblad) After Spot and Splodge have eaten too many sweets their teeth are full of dots. That means: Let's go to the dentist! // HOW SHAMMIES BATHED / KĀ LUPATIĀI MAZGĀJĀS (Latvia 2010, Director: Edmunds Jansons) The Shammies experience a lot of adventures on the way to the bathtub. // DAY-FLOWER / EINTAGSBLUME (Germany 2010, Director Yoshe Malkus – Laureate at festivals in Potsdam and Prague) While the mouse is waiting for a flower to bloom, it falls asleep.

### SHORT ANIMATED FILMS OF THE OPENING PROGRAMME

APOLLO (Germany 2010, Director: Felix Gönnert – Laureate at festivals in Nantucket, Leipzig, Rio de Janeiro, Berlin) A little boy steals a toy that has magic power. MOUSE FOR SALE (Belgium 2010, Director: Wouter Bongaerts – Laureate at Short Film Festival Leuven) At a pet shop a little mouse's biggest wish is to be taken home by a child. RUMOURS / RUMEURS (France, Belgium 2011, Director: Fritz Standaert) Three rabbits hear a terrible noise. When they warn all the animals in the forest everybody panics. FUTURE / ZUKUNFT (Germany 2011, Directors: Kyne Uhlig, Nikolaus Hillebrand) Children fantasize about how people will live in the future. SPECKY FOUR EYES / CUL DE BOUTEILLE (France 2010, Director: Jean-Claude Rozec – Laureate at festivals in Aspen, Stoke-on-Trent – also in the Short Film Programme 2). Little Arnaud's glasses are huge and terribly heavy. ALL THAT CATS (Hungary 2009, Director: Matyas Lanczinger). Musical cats turn the city into a big concert.

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## ABOUT LUCAS – PORTRAIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

This year, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> September LUCAS already celebrates its **34<sup>th</sup> festival edition**. Being Germany's oldest Children's film festival LUCAS stands for successful and lasting mediation of film culture and media competence. The heart of the festival is its independently selected competition programme consisting of films with high thematic and artistic value for children from the ages of six to twelve. The film programme is complemented by outstanding films for younger children beginning from the age of four and for adolescents and young adults.

The international competition focuses on high-quality film productions from around the globe. With this orientation the festival offers an important overview for industry insiders and specialised journalists. The film market with all competition entries and specially invited productions, provides accredited professional visitors with a unique survey of the worldwide children's and youth film productions.

The international competition series are complemented by a well developed and attractive supporting programme, that is supposed to strengthen the ability of youths to criticise and evaluate media.

The series of advanced training for cinematic understanding informs teachers about the festival programme and supports them with incorporating film and media paedagogy into their lessons.

Together with the weekly magazine "Die ZEIT" LUCAS 2010 published a children's film edition.

Having been founded in 1974 the festival belongs to the figureheads of the Filmland Hessen and enriches the culture of the city of Frankfurt with its international films and guests.

It is hosted by the German Film Institute in the German Film Museum, Frankfurt am Main

LUCAS – International Children's Film Festival is supported by the city of Frankfurt am Main, the German Government's Commissioner for Culture and Media, the Hessian Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts as well as the Hessian Film Fund, the Saalbau GmbH, the city of Eschborn and LPR Hessen.

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