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Press Release, 11 April 2023

## **“New Voices – New Stories” is the Title of This Year’s APD Conference**

**Stuttgart – The APD conference is taking place as part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Animation Production Days on 26 April from 1.45 pm to 5.15 pm in the rotunda of the L-Bank in Stuttgart. Complementing the one-to-one meetings that are an integral part of the APD co-production and financing market, the conference offers animation professionals a platform to discuss current developments in the industry.**

This year, the conference is highlighting one of the major issues presently facing the media world: How can we ensure that the diversity of society is reflected in the programmes being made and how can young talent be promoted in such a way that as many different voices as possible have the chance to contribute their ideas and opinions? Local and global industry stakeholders will present best practice examples, initiatives and talent development programmes from across Europe, Africa and North America which all share the common goal of giving new artistic voices more visibility and supporting young talents on their way to becoming professionals.

In an opening conversation with Jinko Gotoh (FMX 2023 Program Chair) and Julie Ann Crommett (Collective Moxie), APD curator and conference host Prof. Lilian Klages will introduce the topic of this year’s conference. Together with APD curator and co-host Christophe Erbès, she will then present and discuss four fascinating case studies.

Prof. Andreas Hykade (Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg) and Benjamin Manns (SWR) will explain how the project “Ich kenne ein Tier” (English title: “I know an animal”) became a launchpad for young animation talents, while Irene Sparre (Sparre Productions) and Julie Lind-Holm (DR) will report on the special conditions under which the Danish-French TV series “Team Nuggets” was created.

The second part of the conference will begin with a look at the emerging animation talents of South Africa, the country-in-focus at this year's Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (ITFS). Orion Ross (The Walt Disney Company, EMEA), Stuart Forrest (Triggerfish) and Lesego Vorster (The Hidden Hand Studios) will present the animation anthology series “Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire” and will share insights into further initiatives and perspectives in the South African animation industry. As the fourth case study, Vanessa Pfeiffer (Warner Bros. Discovery) and Amanda Miller (Psyop) will present the HBO Max X WBD Access Animated Shorts Program, another exciting young talent programme which particularly promotes artists from historically underrepresented communities.

In addition to accredited APD participants, FMX and combi-ticket-holders and those with an ITFS accreditation for professionals are welcome to attend the APD conference. The event is being held in English.

Further information about the conference is available at:  
[www.animationproductiondays.de/programme/conference-2023](http://www.animationproductiondays.de/programme/conference-2023)

A total of 176 participants from 23 countries are accredited for the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of Animation Production Days, including around 110 producers and creatives and approximately 60

representatives from broadcasters, streamers, world sales agencies, distributors, funding institutions and other investors. The participants will be discussing and negotiating collaboration opportunities on the 50 newly developed animation projects selected for presentation at this year's APD as part of the event's co-production and financing market. Around 800 one-to-one meetings scheduled for this purpose are taking place from 26–28 April in the Württemberg State Museum (in the old castle in Stuttgart) as well as partly online.

An overview of all the selected projects can be found on the APD website:  
[www.animationproductiondays.de/projects-2023](http://www.animationproductiondays.de/projects-2023)

An overview of the participating companies can be found here:  
[www.animationproductiondays.de/participants-2023](http://www.animationproductiondays.de/participants-2023)

**Images:** [www.animationproductiondays.de/press/downloads](http://www.animationproductiondays.de/press/downloads)

*About Animation Production Days:*

*Animation Production Days (APD) is a joint venture between the [Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film \(ITFS\)](#) and the [FMX – Film & Media Exchange](#). APD is organised by the Film- und Medienfestival gGmbH in cooperation with the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg GmbH.*

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