

# THE BEST OF OTTAWA 2009

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2010 | 8:30 PM

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# THE BEST OF OTTAWA 2009

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**Monday, September 27 | 8:30 pm**

Jack H. Skirball Series

This selection of 12 outstanding films from the Ottawa International Animation Festival 2009, most of which are Los Angeles premieres, reflects the vitality of experimental animation today and includes work from Canada, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Poland, and the United States. Each filmmaker demonstrates a passion for telling stories, whether abstract or figurative, and the works showcase the rich possibilities of animation as personal art. Films include **Eric Dyer's** mesmerizing *The Bellow's March*, **Diego Maclean's** haunting *The Art of Drowning*, and **David O'Reilly's** sci-fi drama *Please Say Something*, as well as works by **Jake Armstrong, Bastien Dubois, Julian Grey, Rao Heidmets, Stephen Irwin, Gary Leib, Ian Miller, Marv Newland,** and **Michal Socha**. Two new films by American animators who continue to delight, disturb, and enlighten—*Myth Labs* by **Martha Colburn** and *Presentation Theme* by **Jim Trainor**—are also screened.

**In person: Suzan Pitt, Ottawa International Animation Festival jury member**

"Martha Colburn's animations charge the frame with such ferocity that it almost hurts to watch... Tacitly these unconscious imaginings give rise to strikingly clear associations, which is why the work is so illuminating—not just for its ideational and aesthetic lushness but for its approach."

— Dena Beard, Berkeley Art museum/Pacific Film Archive

**PROGRAM** (TRT 81 min.)

Julian Grey: **OIAF 2009 Signal Film**

Head Gear Animation | Canada | 2009 | 0:45

The bouncing ball leads the audience to the 2009 edition of the Ottawa International Animation Festival.

Ian Miller: **Mac the Horny Mac Daddy**

University of the Arts | USA | 2009 | 1:07

Awarded Honorable Mention (Undergraduate Animation) at OIAF 09

Mak is a horny guy and nothing will get in the way of his goals.

Marv Newland: **Postalolio**

International Rocketship Limited | Canada & USA | 2008 | 5:02

Animated in traditional 2D pencil animation, traced onto blank, watercolor postcards, painted and mailed, every frame of Postalolio traveled through the international post. The animated journey of the main character is surrounded by postage stamps, cancellations, and handling marks.

David O'Reilly: ***Please Say Something***

David O'Reilly Animation | Ireland & Germany | 2009 | 10:00

Awarded Best Narrative Short at OIAF 09

A troubled relationship between a Cat and Mouse, set in the distant future.

Eric Dyer: ***The Bellows March***

Ride Pictures | USA | 2009 | 5:00

Anthropomorphized concertinas play out a Sisyphean cycle of destroy-create-destroy. Dyer bridges digital and physical processes in animation by creating, spinning, and shooting 18 hand-painted 3D printed sculptures (dubbed 'cinetropes') to make the film.

Michal Socha: ***Chick (Laska)***

Platige Image | Poland | 2008 | 5:03

Awarded HIT Entertainment GRAND PRIZE Best Student Animation OIAF 09

A humorous true-life story about male-female relations. Infatuation and its consequences are depicted in a ironic way: meeting a guy, dancing, having fun, a sexual act.

Stephen Irwin: ***The Black Dog's Progress***

UK | 2008 | 3:15

The Black Dog, unwanted by his owner, is thrown out into an unwelcoming neighborhood. On his journey, he's corrupted by acts of violence and grows determined to live happily ever after back home.

Martha Colburn: ***Myth Labs***

USA/2008/ 7:30

Myth Labs interweaves Puritan Visions, folk art, religious allegories, and victims of the current Methamphetamine epidemic.

Diego Maclean: ***The Art of Drowning***

Emily Carr University | Canada | 2009 | 2:07

Awarded Honorable Mention (Canadian Animation) at OIAF 09

Based on a poem by Billy Collins, The Art of Drowning ponders what awaits us at the end of the line.

Gary Leib: ***History of the Meat Packing District***

Twinkle LLC | USA | 2008 | 1:01

A cartoon history of the Meat Packing District of NYC, part of an ongoing commission from the New York Times. The series is called Concrete Jumble, and each short animation explores a different New York City neighborhood. New cartoons appear quarterly on the Times website.

Jim Trainor: **Presentation Theme**  
USA/ 2009/ 14:00

A Peruvian prisoner of war finds himself outmaneuvered by a hematophagus priestess. Based on a true story.

Jake Armstrong: **The Terrible Thing of Alpha-9!**  
School of Visual Arts | USA | 2009 | 5:45  
Awarded Best Undergraduate Animation at OIAF 09

A space bounty-hunter travels to a lonely planet to kill a terrible monster.

Bastien Dubois: **Madagascar, A Journey Diary (Madagascar, carnet de voyage)**  
Sacrebleu Production | France | 2009 | 11:30  
Awarded GRAND PRIZE for Best Commissioned Animation at OIAF 09  
Awarded Best Television Animation for Adults at OIAF 09  
Awarded National Film Board of Canada PUBLIC PRIZE at OIAF 09

The pages of the diary turn, then the drawings liven up, and we cover the luxuriant landscapes of Madagascar before being introduced to the Malagasy culture.

Rao Heidmets: **Inherent Obligations (Kaasündinud Kohustused)**  
OÜ Nukufilm | Estonia | 2008 | 10:00  
Awarded Nelvana GRAND PRIZE Best Independent Short Animation at OIAF 09

We can see the media playing a continuously greater role in the arrangement of social life. How can the largest companies fulfill the needs of vast numbers of consumers by changing themselves? The result of all this is a vulgar and rude 'modern world.

See <http://www.animationfestival.ca/> for more information about the Festival

Curated by Suzan Pitt and Steve Anker.

Funded in part with generous support from Wendy Keys and Donald Pels

## UPCOMING FILM/VIDEO PROGRAMS

**October 4:** *Erie* by Kevin Jerome Everson

**October 11:** Lewis Klahr: *Dreaming Over the Flux of Things Past*

**October 23:** *Between Displacement and Nostalgia: Conflicted Memories of Cuba*

**October 25:** *Revelations of the Everyday: Films and Videos by Vincent Grenier*

**November 1:** *Spectacles of Light: Films and Videos by Peter Rose*