Ugly INFO

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WEB ugly-film.com
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CLIPS vimeo.com/album/3364397
GIFS giphy.com/channel/uglyfilm
CROWDFUNDING kickstart.ugly-film.com
STILLS, POSTER, MEDIA press.ugly-film.com/ugly_pics.zip

FILM TEAM Direction: Nikita Diakur & Redbear Easterman
Music: Enrica Sciandrone, Cédric Dekowski, Felix Reifenberg
Recording, Mix, Sound Design: Nicolas Martigne, David Kamp / studiokamp
Mastering: Bernd Thurig
Animation Assistance: Gerhard Funk, Phil Maron, Nicolas Trotignon
End Titles: Bastian Schiffer
Assets & FX: Ozan Korkut, Chris Lühning, Mitch Martinez from mitchmartinez.com, Julia Merkschien, Hannes Raff
Associate Producer: Amid Amidi
Production Funding Liaison: Karsten Matern

LOG LINE A broken simulated short film about kindness, respect and coexistence.

SYNOPSIS An ugly cat struggles to coexist in a fragmented and broken world, eventually finding a soulmate in a mystical chief. Inspired by the internet story 'Ugly the Cat'.

ANIMATION TECHNIQUE Animation in Ugly is a combination of puppeteering and dynamic computer simulation and varies between physically accurate and broken. The Ugly characters are ragdolls built from interconnected dynamic body parts. To enable the characters to interact with the environment, the body parts are fixed to animated controllers via simulated strings.

DIRECTOR'S BIO Nikita Diakur is a Russian-born film maker based in Mainz, Germany. He studied Animation at the Royal College of Art in London, where he produced "Fly on the Window" that went on to screen at international film festivals such as Zagreb, Annecy and Edinburgh. Diakur is now making short films influenced by prominent internet stories and animated via the process of computer simulation.

FILMO RCA Graduation Film: Fly on the Window (2009)

STATEMENT Traditional computer animation is non-linear. The animator tweaks and adjusts everything by going back and forth between different states of the animation. Thus, he is in control of the outcome. Contrary, when simulating, the animator gives up control by outsourcing several tasks to the computer. The computer executes these tasks based on calculations and outputs a linear simulation result. The animator interacts with the computer and is in control only to a certain degree.
Animating like this feels like real-life filmmaking: Like a real actor, the computer follows the action set by the animator and produces results that are realistic, broken and personal. Accordingly, the focus shifts from outcome to process. The animator is left with the challenge to find the right balance between staying in control and leaving room for randomness.

ARTICLES "The Beautiful Side of 'Ugly': How A Film Embraced Errors And Happy Accidents In CG" Cartoon Brew - May 12, 2017
"Nikita Diakur's Ugly Dynamics" CGWTF - Apr 17, 2016
"Aimez vous les chats miteux?" L'Oeil de Links, Canal+ - Jan 30, 2017
"New Film Uses Awesome Marionette Animation to Tell the Story of an Ugly Cat" Inverse - Oct 23, 2015
"Nikita Diakur | Ugly Animationsfilm" Selbstdarstellungssucht - Oct 10, 2015
"Ugly Embraces Broken Computer Animation to Tell its Story" Killscreen - Feb 8, 2016

Film Type	Animation, Experimental, Short
Technique	Computer Simulated Puppetery
Genre	Drama/Spiritual/Comedy
Runtime	11:54min
Completion Date	22 April 2017
Country of Origin	Germany
Aspect Ratio	1.9:1
Screening Formats	DCP flat, 5.1; h264 HD letterboxed, stereo
Language	no dialogue

FESTIVALS / AWARDS

June
Animafest Zagreb, Int Competition, International Premiere, 6 June - Award: Special Mention
IKFF Hamburg, German Competition, German Premiere, 8 June
Palm Springs Shorts Fest, Animal Instincts, North American Premiere, 23 June
River Film Festival, Padua, Competition, Italian Premiere, 26 June
Edinburgh International Film Festival, Int Animation, UK Premiere, 27 June

July
Shorts At Moonlight, Frankfurt, 13 July
Durban International Film Festival, African Premiere,13-17 July
Open-Eyes Filmfest, Marburg, 23. July

August
Rhode Island International Film Festival, 11 Aug
Turku Animated Film Festival, Finland Premiere, 26 Aug
ASIFA South, Atlanta, 26 Aug
Odense Film Festival, Animation Competition, Denmark Premiere 28 Aug

September
Pixelatl, Cuernavaca, Mexican Premiere, Programme Love is in the Air, 5-10 Sep
Prix Ars Electronica, Linz, Austrian Premiere, 7-9 Sep - Award: Honorary Mention
Fantoche, Baden, Swiss Premiere, 6 Sep - Award: New Talent
BOZAR Electronic Arts Festival, Brussels, Belgium Premiere, 14-30 Sep
Encounters, Bristol, 22 Sep - Award: Grand Prix
Supernova, Denver, 23 Sep - Award: 3rd Place
Calgary International Film Festival, 23 Sep & 26 Sep
Ottawa Animation Festival, Canada Premiere, 20 & 23 Sep - Award: Nelvana Grand Prize
PIAFF, Paris, 23 Sep
Wasteland Film Festival, desert CA USA, 28-30 Sep
Linoleum, Kiew, 28 Sep - 1 Oct

October
Milano Film Festival, 3 Oct
Filmfestival Münster, 7 Oct
Minikino Film Week, Bali, 8-13 Oct
Brno 16, Czech Premiere, 11-14 Oct - Award: Student Jury Prize
Festival de Cine de Madrid, 12-24 Oct
Braunschweig International Film Festival, 17-22 Oct
Primanima, Hungarian Premiere, 18-21 Oct - Award: Best First Film & Primasound Special Mention
Carmel Film Festival, 18-22 Oct
Banja Luka, Bosnien-Herzogovina, 23-28 Oct
CRAFT International Animation Festival, Indonesia, Digital World Panorama, 24-28 Oct
International Weekend of Animation, Wiesbaden, 26-29 Oct - Audience Award: Best German Animation
EFA Short Film Weekend in Uppsala, Sweden, 26-29 Oct
Festival Cinéma International Rouyn-Noranda, Espace Court, 26-27 Oct
Multivision Festival, St Petersburg, Russian Premiere, 28 Oct - 20 Nov
KDIAF, Taipei, Taiwan Premiere, 29 Oct - 5 Nov - Award: Special Mention

November
Indie Memphis Film Festival, 1-6 Nov
New Chitose Airport Int Animation Festival, Japan Premiere, 2-5 Nov - Award: New Talent
Green Screen Environmental Film Festival, Port of Spain, Trinidad Tobago, 2-10 Nov
Asiana International Short Film Festival, South Korean Premiere, 2-11 Nov
Fredrikstad Animation Festival, Norwegian Premiere, 9-12 Nov
Alcine47, Madrid, 10-17 Nov
Klappe Auf!, Hamburg, 10-12 Nov
Kurzfilmfestival Köln, 17&19 Nov
Norwich Film Festival, 17-19 Nov
PÖFF Shorts, Tallin, Estland Premiere, 21-26 Nov
Festival Tous Courts, Aix-En-Provence, 27 Nov - 2 Dec
FILMZ Mainz, 30 Nov