

Animation TV series concept & scriptwriting course: April 25 - July 8, 2022



Mousse & Bichon (Cartoon Forum 2019), *My granny is a terror* (Cartoon Springboard 2019), *Hippolyte la Montagne* (Poudrière scriptwriting residence for TV series): projects initiated during this scriptwriting course, and *Tales of Zale* (Cartoon Springboard 2019), developed after the course.

Thanks to the support of **the Europe Créative MEDIA programme**, since 2004, la Poudrière animation film-directing school has offered an **11-week scriptwriting training course** which is open to European animation professionals and graduate students:

- first part (3 weeks): producing a **TV special concept**
- second part (7 weeks): producing a **TV series concept**.

The course also includes a week at the **Annecy** international animated film festival and market in France.

Location: Valence, France

No. of participants: 10-12

Main trainers: Marine Lachenaud & David Sauerwein, Philippe Traversat & John Chambers

Main partners: Cartoon (Cartoon Forum), Belgium; The Animation Workshop, Viborg, Denmark

Registration fee: 1000€ (scholarships possible for non-French E.U participants (tuition fee/accommodation))

Deadline for application: April 5th, 2022

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Training objectives

Each group of 3 to 4 participants work together on creating a concept for a TV series and a TV special based on a children's book, in partnership with books publishers. Course participants can work from a variety of works selected for their visual presentation and narration (their potential, as a story, to be told in multiple episodes). Projects may be **developed in either French or English**.

Each course participant plays an active role in presenting their project in front of **a jury** of about fifty European industry professionals: book authors & publishers, illustrators, writers, directors, producers and broadcasters. The jury judges projects on their artistic merit, innovativeness and economic feasibility. These **pitch sessions** provide the participants with a unique opportunity to demonstrate their work in front of the full spectrum of decision-makers from the animation industry.

Target group

European animation graduates and professionals who have technical experience in the fields of graphic design, animation, story-board or lay-out and who would like to focus upon a career in film-making, and more specifically in **TV projects**.

Methodology

The teaching methodology is that of a **supervised project**. The working brief is given to participants as a group, following which each course participant or group benefit from individual supervision by each of the trainers. Supporting this working project are around **20 international industry professionals**. They are involved with the group as a whole, offering the benefit of their own professional experience and are open to Q & A sessions. Alternating between individual and group work offers both the potential to benefit from a core training programme and to develop each participant's own aptitudes and skills/knowledge base.

Description of the training curriculum

Part 1: Scriptwriting and book adaptation: TV Special (3 weeks)

The course is supervised by a script supervisor who teaches course participants an awareness of international norms of scriptwriting and script presentation. Course participants take a closer look at **literary adaptation**: the narrative thread, choosing a 'mise en scène', character development etc. Each group has to compose a **synopsis and statement of intent** relating to the work's adaptation to the screen, before writing an **extract from the script**. They also create **exploratory drawings** which will be used to illustrate their final presentation.

Each group of participants presents its concept during a **public reading** in front of scriptwriters, directors, producers & broadcasters, as well as the authors and editors of the books in question.

Part 2: Development of a concept for a TV series (7 weeks)

This module is devoted to developing a **concept for a TV or Web series** based upon a children's book. In addition to the challenges relating to scriptwriting (dialogue writing, creating a mini literary guidebook), this task also focuses on narration, scene breakdown, rhythm and artistic choices, in the spirit of the book's literary and visual identity. Course participants work in a group (3 to 4 participants per project). They also have to take production costs into account when considering issues of visual style and the technical choices they make, as it should be possible to produce their projects in Europe. They receive individual coaching from producers, who also help them prepare for their final 'pitch'.

Since 2007, la Poudrière works with **The Animation Workshop** in Viborg, Denmark, with the production of short animations in Viborg illustrating the concepts being developed at la Poudrière. All Viborg's first year students in the 'Bachelor of Arts' Character Animation course take part in this project, creating character animations based on the instructions given to them by course participants as they gradually develop their scripts. Course participants (one per group) spend **a week in Viborg supervising this animation work**, thus experiencing at first hand what a European co-production involves.

Each group present its project for a TV/Web series in a **pitch session** in reference to the Forum Cartoon, the event par excellence for European TV series coproductions. The presentation includes a mini literary & graphic guidebook, including storylines, scripts for a few episodes and several short animations. Made up of **50 European industry professionals** – writers, editors, directors, producers and broadcasters, **the jury** judges the project on its artistic merit, innovativeness and economic feasibility.

Part 3: Attendance at the Annecy International Animation Festival and Market (1 week)

The Annecy festival, held each year in June, is an excellent opportunity to watch films (shorts, features, TV series and TV specials, commissioned films); to gain an appreciation, through lectures and talks, both of the great diversity of international productions and of the financial and technological challenges the future holds, and to meet the biggest names in the international animated film industry - writers, directors, producers and broadcasters – in a setting that is perfectly suited to this purpose.

Applications

- a covering letter (motives for TV series development & scriptwriting) and a resume/CV, in PDF format
- visual elements, personal animation works (films or exercises).

More info on <http://www.poudriere.eu/en/formations/programme-europeen>

References

Projects professionally developed **by previous course participants** include:

- **TV series:** *Ariol*, broadcast on TF1 (season 1) and Canal+ Family (season 2), TPS and Radio Canada, and *Michel* (Canal+ Family, ZDF), two projects initiated during this training course; *Brazen* (*Culottées*) France Télévisions, ABC Australia, YLE Finland, RTP Portugal).

In development/production: *Vaudou Miaou* (Cartoon Forum 2015); *In Your Face* (Cartoon Forum 2018), *Mousse & Bichon* (Cartoon Forum 2019), a project initiated during this training course; *Doppelgänger*, *Here Comes The Future*, *Galaxy Camp* and *Tempo* (Cartoon Forum 2019); *Patouille* (Cartoon Forum 2020).

- **TV specials:** *Vanille* (France TV); *Neige* (France TV); *Shoom's Odyssey* (Canal+ Family, Piwi, RTBF, RTS).

In development/production: *Une guitare à la mer* (Cartoon Forum 2020), *Tufo* (Cartoon Forum 2018).