



**\*\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\*\***

## **NEW YORK INT'L CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2019 ANIMATORS ALL AROUND PANELISTS AND VISITING FEATURE FILMMAKERS**

***ANIMATORS ALL AROUND* WITH *HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON* TRILOGY  
DIRECTOR/WRITER DEAN DEBLOIS & DUTCH FILMMAKER MARLIES VAN DER WEL  
MARCH 9 AT THE SVA THEATRE AT 5:00PM**

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NYICFF FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE FOR POST-SCREENING Q&As

*\*\*Please submit requests for interviews with these filmmakers\*\**



Photos (Left to right):

*How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World* (2019), dir. Dean DeBlois. Courtesy: DreamWorks Animation and Universal Pictures; *Jonas and the Sea* (2015), dir Marlies van der Wel.

### **ANIMATORS ALL AROUND:**

Learn how animation goes from inspiration to sketch to screen directly from the creators in this exclusive NYICFF presentation chock-a-block with film clips and stories about finding your artistic voice and vision.

We're thrilled to share a very special behind the scenes look at the making of the new feature ***How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World*** with writer/director **Dean DeBlois**. He'll offer a look at his impressive career as the writer, director, and animator of the *How to Train Your Dragon* film trilogy, his work on *Lilo & Stitch*, *Mulan*, and more.

Continuing the special *Friends & Neighbors* spotlight on the Netherlands, Dutch filmmaker **Marlies van der Wel** will share her own unique style of animation and the meticulous artistry that goes into the making of her short films, including *Jonas and the Sea* and *Emily*.

Netherlands films are supported by *Never Grow Up!*, a joint effort of Dutch Performing Arts, the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in New York, EYE International, Netherlands Film Fund, Cinekid, Dutch Foundation for Literature, and DutchCulture. For more information, visit [dutchcultureusa.com/nevergrowup](http://dutchcultureusa.com/nevergrowup).

### **FEATURE FILMMAKERS IN PERSON Q&A'S FOLLOWING NYICFF SCREENINGS:**



Filmmaker: **Juan Antin**

Film: *Pachamama*

Date/Time: February 24 at 1:15PM, SVA Theatre

Synopsis: Tepulpai's your average kid—headstrong and a bit naughty. It may seem unusual that he has a pet armadillo and wants to be a shaman, but not if you live in the ancient Peruvian Andes like he and his wise friend Naïra do. The two embark on a young heroes' quest to locate their community's stolen treasure and must confront the Inca and newly arrived Spanish to retain their indigenous ways. With a vibrantly-hued palette and Pre-Colombian soundtrack of ancient flutes and condor wings, *Pachamama* exuberantly celebrates nature, culture, and community.



Filmmaker: **Likarion Wainaina (in conversation with Aisha Harris, Assistant Television Editor, *The New York Times*)**

Film: *Supa Modo*

Date/Time March 9 at 11AM, SVA Theatre

Synopsis: Plucky Jo's head is filled with the superheroes and action films that she so loves. Her posters of action heroes brighten the walls of the hospital where she battles cancer, and keep the spirits up and imaginations active for all the children who share her ward. So when her mother decides to take her home, she feels cut off from the community that helps her cope. It's Jo's older sister, Mwix, who understands that the magical, communal nature of filmmaking might be the very force to sustain Jo and the whole town of Mawel, proving it takes a village, and sometimes a movie, to make things better together.



Filmmaker: **Steven Wouterlood**

Film: *My Extraordinary Summer with Tess*

Date/Time: March 2 at 5PM, SVA Theatre

Synopsis: While Sam's family heads out for a Dutch island holiday of togetherness and fun, the 10-year-old decides it's the perfect time to train himself to be alone. Even if his teen brother is a know-it-all, Sam's got a great family and no reason to worry. But as the youngest, he fears one day he'll outlive everyone. His training is interrupted when he meets spirited Tess, who, on a pressing quest of her own, pulls Sam into her madcap scheme. The two discover that, as messy and vulnerable as it is, maybe togetherness isn't so bad.



Filmmaker: **Joya Thome**

Film: *Queen of Niendorf*

Date/Time: March 3 at 2:15PM, SVA Theatre

Synopsis: The classic boys-coming-of-age drama (think *Stand By Me*) gets a thoughtful, feminist update in the luminously filmed *Queen of Niendorf*. Ten-year-old Lea is bored of the vapid aspirations of most tween girls. So she alternates between lazily cycling through her sleepy village and the thrumming excitement of two new discoveries: a makeshift raft and treehouse boys' club. Skeptical because she's a

girl, the club members make her prove her mettle. Lea realizes that true bravery is not just what you do, but sometimes what you don't do—and isn't afraid to prove it.



Filmmaker: **Pierre Godeau**

Film: *Raoul Taburin*

Date/Time: March 9 at 1PM, SVA Theatre

Synopsis: The truth takes some freewheeling liberties in this story based on the work of beloved writer and illustrator Jean-Jacques Sempé. Raoul's hilly French town is crazy for vélos, bicycles that impart freedom and joy to all—all, that is, except Raoul. Everyone believes he's the resident expert and champion stunt rider, but he's never mastered cycling. Try as he might to reveal his secret, no one will buy it. Proving that even the biggest champ harbors a little imposter syndrome, Raoul Taburin warmly shows that weaknesses can be strengths when we learn to roll with them together.

**SVA THEATRE:** 333 W 23rd St, New York, NY 10011

**ABOUT NEW YORK INT'L CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL** Distinguished by its unique mission and high-caliber programming, New York International Children's Film Festival was founded in 1997 to support the creation and dissemination of thoughtful, provocative, and intelligent film for children and teens ages 3-18. Celebrating its 22nd year in 2019, the flagship New York City Festival takes place February 22 - March 17, and has grown from one weekend of films into the largest film festival for children and teens in North America. Presenting consistently sold-out screenings for the general public and weekday screenings for school groups throughout New York City over the course of four weeks at venues throughout the city, the Festival's rich and dynamic film program — drawn from roughly 2,500 international submissions — boasts over 100 short and feature films, filmmaker Q&As, retrospective programs, parties, premieres, audience voting, and a Closing Night celebration. The Festival is an Academy Award® qualifying festival, one of only four film festivals in New York State — and only two children's film festivals in the country — to hold that honor with the Festival's esteemed jury selecting the qualifying films. The Festival experience cultivates an appreciation for the arts, encourages active, discerning viewing, and stimulates lively discussion among peers, families, and the film community. In addition to presenting the annual event, New York International Children's Film Festival is a multifaceted arts organization that offers year-round engagement, including a nationwide touring program, filmmaking camps, and Film-Ed educational field trips for public and private schools, with free or reduced-cost school programs offering equal access to the art of film for all. New York International Children's Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, with support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York

State Legislature, and a Humanities New York Action Grant. Girls' POV programming is supported by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and Sony USA Foundation. Film-Ed is supported by AMC Cares. German films at the Festival are presented with support from the German Consulate. Japanese films at the Festival are supported by Japan-United States Friendship Commission. Netherlands films are supported by *Never Grow Up!*, a joint effort of Dutch Performing Arts, the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in New York, EYE International, Netherlands Film Fund, Cinekid, Dutch Foundation for Literature, and DutchCulture. NYICFF 2019 Media Sponsors are *The New York Times* and Common Sense Media.

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**NYICFF 2019 information:**

[www.nyicff.org](http://www.nyicff.org)

**Press Releases:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/230qadwwl6h7h00/AAA\\_O\\_4iX8sherdEfrMXYtRNa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/230qadwwl6h7h00/AAA_O_4iX8sherdEfrMXYtRNa?dl=0)

**Press Photos:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/iovhn9j1k8v58t9/AAAmDO3K8qvo9hailUV1Q6PGa?dl=0>

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