

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

animatedexeter

11 - 23 FEB 2008
schools' week 11-15 Feb

"...it's not just about cartoons!..."



THE BEST OF WORLD ANIMATION RETURNS TO EXETER

11-23 February 2008

Featuring a rich mix of traditional crafts and digital media technologies, Animated Exeter 2008 will showcase the **latest animation shorts** from around the globe, **exhibitions** of current and classic animators' work, **master classes** with the industry's best and workshops for the young and old, novice and experienced.

Now in its ninth year and set to attract over 17,000 visitors in 2008, Animated Exeter is the **longest dedicated animation festival in the UK**. Over a 13-day period and with a fantasy and imagination theme, venues across the City as well as Honiton and Dartington will host over 140 different films, 50 workshops and a programme of special exhibitions and free events for all to enjoy.

ANIMATED EXETER EXCLUSIVES

Quay Brothers: The Festival will welcome the first evert UK showing of Dormitorium, an exhibition that will include the work of the famous yet elusive Quay Brothers. The brothers will even appear on stage 'in conversation with Suzanne Buchan' providing a very rare occasion to experience them discussing their extensive career achievements.

More/see over...

Persepolis: Another proud boast of the Festival is hosting an advanced screening of Persepolis, a film described by Sandra Hebron of the London Film Festival as 'one of the best and most distinctive animated films for grown-ups to appear in recent years....the most talked about film in this year's Cannes festival, where it shared the Jury Prize.'

OTHER FEATURE ANGLES:

Education - Schools Week (11-15th Feb) comprises a multitude of activities from Animation exploration days (animation workshops with artists) to an animation careers day for budding animators

Half term family fun - the festival's interactive workshops will provide the perfect creative fun for all the family during half term (South West)

Animation communication - Animation is a perfect way to communicate a message with any audience. Animated Exeter will be screening various 'communication through animation' works including Aardman's plasticine animals designed to raise disability awareness. The festival's year round work also includes projects such as working with the NHS to experiment with animation as a therapy when working with young offenders.

Regional interest - Forkbeard Fantasy theatre company are located in the heart of the South West and will be heavily involved in the Festival including their Fantasy and Imagination exhibition. Their current work, through the use of animation, tackles the hot potato that is global warming. Three regional talent competitions will also be held during the festival (more details below), and the South West animator short film showcases the best films from the South West.

As well as showcasing short films by some of the world's most talented animators, the festival will also host screenings for the **British Animation Awards**, providing an opportunity to cast votes on a diverse range of new British animation including short films, student work, music videos and animated adverts made over the past two years.

A key element of the festival is the **South West Showcase**, which continues to demonstrate the wealth of animation talent resident in the South West, from emerging talent in schools to practising professional animators. Three high quality competitions take place during the festival including **ExAnimation**, which encourages under 18's in the South West to submit their creative work; **Best of the West** celebrates the best student animation films from the South West and South Wales; **Screen out Loud** involves the best amateur and professional animation from the South West.

More/see over...

It's not just about films and careers though as anyone can join in with **hands-on animation** workshops, ranging from drop-in **taster sessions** for children, to **master classes** for professionals and animation students. There's also a promise of anarchic *interactive* fun over the first weekend of the festival. Whether people want to brush up on their life drawing skills, find out about computer animation techniques, enjoy modelling characters or simply spend some creative time with the kids, fun is guaranteed!

Nick Capaldi, South West Executive Director of Arts Council England, said, '*Animated Exeter allows children and young people to take the first steps towards a career in the creative industries and interested amateurs can learn from specialists in animation.*'

ANIMATED EXETER HIGHLIGHTS

➤ **Exhibitions**

Animated Exeter 2008 will see the UK premiere of the Quay Brother's exhibition ***Dormitorium*** at the University of Exeter and a very rare opportunity to hear the Quay Brothers talking about their unique work (Saturday 16th February 2008). The creators of Peter Gabriel's Sledgehammer video, the Quays are among the most original and most imitated filmmakers worldwide.

Details of the other exhibitions taking place throughout Animated Exeter can be found at www.animatedexeter.co.uk from December 2007 onwards.

➤ **Schools Week**

Screenings for schools - A series of international short animation programmes and screenings introduced by animation filmmakers/artists with ***ExAnimation*** screenings touring schools and colleges in the South West.

Animation Exploration Days - 60 students per day will be invited to join animation artists for introductory animation workshops and for guided tours of animation exhibitions at participating Exeter venues.

The Animation Careers Event - Taking place on the last day of Schools Week in partnership with Exeter College, students will have the chance to investigate future careers in animation.

More/see over...

- **Persepolis** - 8.30pm, Exeter Phoenix, 15th February
Involving a Q&A with directors Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Parronau, this advanced viewing involves a film described by Sandra Hebron of the *London Film Festival* as 'one of the best and most distinctive animated films for grown-ups to appear in recent years....the most talked about film in this year's **Cannes festival**, where it shared the Jury Prize.' Visit www.animatedexeter.co.uk from December 2007 onwards for further information.
- **Workshops**
A comprehensive range of **professionally led** animation projects and workshops for **children**, young people, **families** and **adults** will run throughout the festival.
- **Screenings**
More than 20 different feature films and compilations will be shown over 40 screenings. Films include **Ratatouille**, the latest hit animation film about a rat fulfilling his dream of becoming a top chef and Sylvain Chomet's impressive **Belleville** **Rendezvous**, a playfully macabre animation feature about a club-footed grandmother preparing her grandson to be a world-class cyclist.
- **Interactive Media Weekend**
This new event, planned and delivered in partnership with Exeter Phoenix Media, will showcase the latest interactive media developments affecting the animation industry. The Weekend's events target 14-19 year olds and a higher education student audience with a Media Centre Open Day, Future Shorts Interactive Presentation and other linked events. This will also include Fresh 08, Exeter Comic Expo and the Family Fun Games event. Visit www.animatedexeter.co.uk in December 2007 for further information.

Animated Exeter is the country's longest and most diverse animation festival, providing entertainment and learning opportunities for children, families, young people, enthusiasts, professionals and industry. With tickets for most events costing under £10, plus free exhibitions and some free events and workshops, the festival is an affordable and fun way to liven up the winter months!

Animated Exeter is a City Council initiative made possible with support from Arts Council England South West, South West Screen Lottery funding, Exeter Picturehouse, Exeter Phoenix, Spacex, Exeter Film Society, University of Exeter, plus generous business and volunteer support.

More/see over...

For tickets and a free brochure (available 5 January 2008) of all events, join the mailing list online www.animatedexeter.co.uk or call 01392 665885. Tickets go on sale from 5 January 2008.

Ends

For further information, please contact Alexis Thornely on 01392 278801 or email pr@onevoicemedia.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Animated Exeter is a City Council initiative made possible with support from: the Arts Council England, South West Screen, Creative Partnerships South West, Devon in Schools Initiative, Exeter Picturehouse, Exeter Phoenix, Spacex, Exeter Film Society, Exeter College, University of Exeter as well as generous business and volunteer support.

Full programme details will be available in December on www.animatedexeter.co.uk.

The free programme brochure will be available in the New Year. Tickets go on sale from 5 January 2008. The brochure hotline number is 01395 265198.

[South West Screen](http://www.southwestscreen.co.uk) is the regional public agency for leading strategic development and promotion of film, TV and digital content. They are based at St Bartholomews Court, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 5BT. Tel: 0117 952 9977 info@swscreen.co.uk