



## **BRIDGING THE GAP ESTABLISHES ITSELF AS A LAB FOR ANIMATED PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.**

After successfully finishing its third edition, the international animation lab Bridging the Gap (BTG) has established itself as a platform for the international promotion of animation projects in development. The quality and diversity of the selected animation shows and feature films, along with the interest shown in the lab as a place to find new talents by professionals and decision makers of the sector, confirm the growth of this initiative, organized in the frame of ACERCA Training Program for the Development in the Cultural Sector of Spanish Cooperation. BTG also has the collaboration of the International Latin American Foundation for Public Administrations and Public Policies (FIIAPP); thanks to the main sponsorship of Cabildo de Tenerife through Turismo de Tenerife and INtech Tenerife (Science and Technology Park of Tenerife) and the collaboration of TLP Tenerife.

After celebrating its first two editions in Valencia, the lab came this year to Tenerife. The new city has been a key to this year's growth thanks to becoming the epicentre of the animation and the audiovisual sectors, which the island has been strengthening with the implementation of several initiatives like the incentives to attract shootings or the training programs like Animate. Along this line, island authorities recently announced the celebration of the Ibero-American Animation Quirino Awards for the first quarter of 2018.

A total of fourteen talents from all over the world participated from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July in this formative initiative which aims to strengthen and promote internationally animation projects from all around the world and facilitate the creation of international partnerships and networks.

Selected from more than a hundred applicants after an open call for submissions, the selected directors and producers received consulting meetings and lectures from industry experts for the strengthening of their projects. Some of these experts were Guadalupe Arensburg (Director of Short Film Acquisitions at Movistar + Spain), Shamik Majumdar (Creative Director of Walt Disney Europe), Nicolas Schmerkin (founder and director of the production and distribution company Autour de Minuit), Eric Goossens (producer and

founder of Walking The Dog), and the Head of Acquisitions at the French company Indie Sales.

Additionally, among the experts that attended the final pitch for the projects were Yago Fandiño (Director of Children's Content at RTVE), Manuel Cristobal (Executive Producer at Dragoia Media) and the consultants Paco Rodríguez, from Media Training and Consulting, and Belli Ramírez, co-founder of Mr.Cohl and line producer at Zinkia Entertainment.

In this new edition BTG's activities spread to different places of the island like the Integrated Center ITER of Granadilla de Abona, and Santa Cruz de Tenerife's spaces: TFcoworkIN in Dársena Pesquera, Taburiente Hotel and Tenerife's Auditorium Adan Martín.



## **DIVERSITY MARKS THIS YEAR'S SELECTION**

This year's selection was comprised of eleven projects that were chosen from a total of 105 applicants from America (74%), Asia (7%), Europe (14%) and Africa (5%). Talents from 29 countries applied to the open call: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Spain, Ethiopia, the United States, the Philippines, France, Greece, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Macedonia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Peru, United Kingdom, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

Half of the selected works are aimed at children and families while the projects for young people and young/adults represented 25% of the selection respectively. For the most

part, the projects will use mixed techniques and 2D and, to a lesser extent, CGI and stop motion.

As for the themes, the films and shows present crazy adventures, ancestral myths and legends, mysteries of the Earth and other galaxies, and fantastic stories starring aliens, immortal heroes, mythological characters, animals, robots and children.



### **A LAB OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Besides the professional space, BTG also offered a series of activities to Tenerife's audience. Among them, there is one day dedicated to animation co-organized with TLP Innova in which several experts will give lectures and presentations.

TLP Innova also included a round table about Youtube and animation held by Nikotxán, creator of the first Spanish webseries "Cálico Electrónico", and Enrique Vázquez, manager at Átomo Network, a community for Spanish-speaking artists and creators that has a total of 20 million views and 250 thousand Youtube subscribers; a presentation by Guillermo García Carsí, creator of "Pocoyó", about how to create a successful animation project; a case study of The Reward, about how to build an online community and a successful kickstarter campaign with Charlotte de la Gournerie; and a conference by Hernán a Greca, Senior Director of Creative Services at Cartoon Network Latin-America, who will speak about CarTube Network: Cartoon Network linear and non-linear.

Focused on the industrial sphere, BTG, along with Turismo de Tenerife and INTech Tenerife, organised a day of presentations and networking in which participants and experts from BTG took part alongside companies and professionals of the Canary Islands.

Since its first edition in 2015, Bridging the Gap has strengthened and internationally promoted around thirty animated feature film and series projects from all around the world. Among the projects that have participated in previous editions, we can stand out, among others, the Peruvian feature film "Nuna: The Last Myth of the Wamani" by Jimmy Carhuas and the production by Origami Estudio (BTG 2015), recently presented in the Marché du Film de Cannes as part of Annecy Goes to Cannes program; and the Ecuadorian series "Chakay, the Master of the Two Worlds" by Daniel Jacome and the production by Alicia Studio (BTG 2016), which received the main recognition in its category in the section Animation! of the Latin American market Ventana Sur.

This new edition of BGT has counted with the collaboration and participation of Tenerife's institutions and professionals like Intech Tenerife, Tenerife's Tourism, TLP Tenerife, SAVE Association, 3 Doubles, La Casa Animada, Salero Animation Studio, Mondo TV and Promineo Studio, as well as participants from the Animate program, and professionals like Diego Navarro, Carlos Roca, Miguel Ángel Fuertes, Argentina Oliva o Carlos Miranda.