



## **BRIDGING THE GAP ANIMATION LAB: FROM TENERIFE TO THE WORLD**

After successfully completing its fourth edition, the international animation laboratory Bridging the Gap (BTG) has become a platform for international promotion of animation projects in development from the island of Tenerife.

The quality and diversity of the selected animation series and feature films, together with the interest aroused by the laboratory among professionals and decision makers of the sector as a place to discover new talent, consolidate the growth of this initiative organized within the framework of the ACERCA Program of Training for Development in the cultural sector of Cooperación Española. BTG has the main sponsorship of the Cabildo de Tenerife through its Areas of Turismo de Tenerife and Tenerife 2030: Innovation, Education, Culture and Sports with INtech Tenerife (Science and Technology Park of Tenerife).

After holding its first two editions in Valencia, the laboratory landed last year in Tenerife. The new headquarters has been key in the growth registered these two years by the laboratory thanks to the commitment of the island to strengthen the development of the animation and audiovisual industry through the implementation of various initiatives, such as incentives for filming attraction, the Quirino Awards or the Ibero-American Animation Co-production Forum.



A total of twelve talents from around the world participated from July 15 to 21 in this training initiative that has been promoting international animation projects for four years from all over the world and facilitating the creation of international collaborations and networks. "Bridging the Gap is no longer just an intensive workshop but an international recognition. The projects that have gone through this workshop are synonymous with quality after having been immersed in a whole week of consultancies and master classes to take the projects forward and that it can have a place in the international market", point out its creators, Guadalupe Arensburg and José Luis Farias.

Chosen from more than eighty applicants after an open call, the directors and producers selected received advice and master classes from industry experts, among them the script consultant Carlos Bleycher; the director and animator Jossie Mallis; the art director Maroto Bambino; the producers Paco Rodríguez, Risa Cohen and Manuel Cristóbal; the director of the short film acquisitions department of Movistar + Spain, Guadalupe Arensburg; the creative director of Walt Disney Europe, Shamik Majumdar; the founder and director of the production and distribution company Autour de Minuit, Nicolas Schmerkin; or the head of acquisitions of the French company Indie Sales, Eleanor Coleman.

Among the experts who witnessed the final pitch of the projects were also Iván Miñambres (Uniko), Gerardo Álvarez (U-tad), Francisco Menéndez (Welaw) and Guillermo García Carsí (El Señor Studio); as well as the Tenerife companies La Casa Animada, Salero Animation Studio, 3 Doubles Productions, Mondo TV, Tomavisión and B-Water Animation Studio.

The activities were carried out in the ITER, Technological Institute and of Renewable Energies, in Granadilla de Abona, in the south of the island; and in Tf CoworkIN Dársena Pesquera and Tenerife Auditorium Adán Martín, both in Santa Cruz de Tenerife.



### **A selection aimed to adult and teen audiences**

This year's selection was made up of eleven projects, which were chosen from a total of 84 applicants from America (71%), Asia (4%), Europe (22%) and Africa (3%). Talent from 19 countries was presented to the call: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Spain and Venezuela.

Unlike previous years, half of the selected works are designed for adult and teen audiences, while projects aimed at children and families represent 30% of the total. For the most part, the projects will be made with 2D and mixed techniques; and to a lesser extent, CGI and cut out.

The Bridging the Gap 2018 selection has included the following projects:

#### Feature films

- "Capablanca's Secret" by Álvaro Castellanos, Alejandro Cruz & Irene Fernández (Spain).
- "You Son of a Bitch!" by David Liongoren (Philippines)

## Series

- "The Adventures of Eloisa" by Ana Comes & Agustina Comedi (Argentina).
- "Mechathlon" by Juan Diego León & Milton Guerrero (Peru).
- "Millennials and How to Identify Them" by Diego Porral Soldevilla (Spain).
- "Gang Tracking" by Juan Ángel Andino & Nahuel Poggi (Argentina, Chile).
- "The Pleasefixers" by Ariel Arburola & Carlos Redondo (Costa Rica).
- "Princess Greta of Kalamata" by Teresa & Salomé Rodríguez Hage (Spain).
- "Tally Molly" by Marta Gennari (Ecuador, Italy, Poland).
- "What Would Jesus Do?" by Andrea Cataño & Julián Hernández (Colombia).
- "Wooden Mirror" by Sergio Sanchez Navarro (Italy, Spain).

## **A expanded lab in Tenerife**

This was the second edition that BTG organized in Tenerife, reflecting the decided commitment that is being made to the animation on the island with the support of training activities like this one, as well as hosting reference events such as the Quirino Awards and the Ibero-American Animation Co-Production Forum, attracting new companies and supporting the flourishing local sector.

In this sense, in addition to the professional space, BTG also offered a series of activities open to the public, including the TLP Innova conference dedicated to animation - organized with TLP Tenerife-, which included lectures and master classes as "Puppies in Progress, a look at the creative development and work in progress of Disney 101 Dalmatian Street" by Shamik Majumdar (The Walt Disney Company); "Animation projects and video games that break barriers" by Risa Cohen (European Film Bonds); and "How to work as a concept designer for USA in a robe from Villaverde" by Maroto (Bambino Monkey).

On the other hand, focused on the field of industry, BTG organized together with Turismo de Tenerife and INTech Tenerife a day of presentations and networking in which BTG participants and experts participated together with companies and professionals from Tenerife.

Since its first edition in 2015, BTG has strengthened and promoted more than 40 animation feature film and series worldwide, many of which continue to advance in its development and production process. Among the projects that have participated in previous editions, we can mention, among others, the Peruvian film "Nuna, the last myth of the Wamani" by Jimy Carhuas and production of Origami Studio (BTG 2015), a film that was presented at the Marché du Film de Cannes ; the Ecuadorian series "Chakay, crossing the bridge" by Daniel Jacome and produced by Alicia Studio (BTG 2016), which received the main recognition in its category in the Animation section! of the Latin American market Ventana Sur.

## **About BTG**

BTG is an initiative organized inside the Program ACERCA of Training for Development in the cultural sector of Spanish Cooperation and with the collaboration of the International Latin American Foundation for Public Administrations and Public Policies (FIIAPP). The project has as its main sponsor the Cabildo de Tenerife through Turismo de Tenerife and its Are Tenerife 2030: Innovation, Education, Culture and Sports with Intech Tenerife (Scientific and Technological Park of Tenerife).

In addition, it counts with the collaboration of TLP Tenerife and the support of 3D Wire International Animation, Video Games and New Media Market; DIBOOS, Spanish Federation of Associations of Animation Production Companies; SAVE, Canarian Association of Companies and Professionals of the Animation, Video Games and Visual Effects Sector; U-tad University Center of Technology and Digital Art; and the Film Development Council of The Phillipines.