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Secret Monsters: 10 fiendish Random Acts

Premiering: Channel 4, Autumn 2013



Images: We Are Not Amused © Vicki Bennett, Re-tolled © Sean Vicary

Animate Projects is pleased to be producing an array of amazing animations for Channel 4's Random Acts that will provide an insight into the world's hidden or secret monsters.

The slate considers the pseudo-science of cryptozoology - the search for creatures whose existence remains unproven. Many of these creatures feature in myths, legends and folklore across the globe, and include thunderbirds, the Loch Ness Monster, phantom cats, Bigfoot, colobockle, and the Chupacabra.

Animate has commissioned and acquired works from artists based in Austria, Japan, South America, Spain and the UK that respond to the theme. The artists bring inventive character design, hair-raising stories and a mix of animation techniques, to delight one and all.

The artists are: Vicki Bennett, Elizabeth Hobbs, Clemens Kogler, Mandy McIntosh, Jossie Malis, Motomichi Nakamura, Sean Vicary and Atsushi Wada.

Animate's Random Acts will be broadcast on Channel 4, randomacts.channel4.com and animateprojects.org from Autumn 2013.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

For more information visit: <http://bit.ly/10i44v4>

About the Artists and their Random Acts

Vicki Bennett

Vicki has been an influential figure in the field of audio visual collage, through her innovative sampling and appropriating of found footage and archives since 1991. In 2006 she was the first artist to be given unrestricted access to the entire BBC Archive. Her work has been shown at Tate Modern, Barbican, Sydney Opera House, Royal Albert Hall, Pompidou Centre in Paris, Maxxi in Rome and Sonar in Barcelona. Vicki is making two films:

We Are Not Amused: Who knows where ideas come from? You or me? Or THEM? The Muses are angry and they want their ideas back! This is a story of thieving and reappropriation, staged on a mythological platform.

The Golem, An Inanimate Matter: The Golem, a monstrous being of inanimate matter from Jewish folklore, is accidentally summoned from a book and wreaks havoc through a public library.

Elizabeth Hobbs

Elizabeth is an artist based in East London. She trained at Edinburgh College of Art and Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design. Amongst her many commissions, she made *The Emperor with Animate* in 2001. Her short films have been screened widely internationally and have won many awards. She also runs workshops in museums and galleries and lectures in animation at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge.

Imperial Provisor Frombald: Based on the true story of Imperial Provisor Frombald, who was the author of the first documented testimony of the exhumation of a suspected vampire in Serbia in 1725. Created by printing hand-carved rubber stamps onto 35mm film stock.

Clemens Kogler

Clemens studied Painting and Graphic Arts at Linz's University of Fine Arts, focusing on digital animation and illustration. He lives and works in Vienna, Austria.

Kitten: In an ordinary apartment a mysterious chain of events produces a creature which should be restricted to fantasy novels.

Mandy McIntosh

Mandy is a visual artist who works across disciplines mainly in the public domain. Her fashion textile background informs the odd look of her cinematic works which tell true stories. Recent works include thermal space suits for Galloway Dark Sky Park and an album of cosmological music with Kaffe Matthews.

A Thunderbird Ballad: an expressionistic sung documentary account of an attempted abduction by enormous birds who snatched a boy in 1977 as he played in the grass at home in Illinois. The subsequent bullying he endured begs the question, who were the monsters?

Jossie Malis

Jossie is an illustrator, animator and filmmaker of Peruvian-Chilean origin. Having grown up between two countries, he has spent the last decade between two continents (US and Spain) and is now sending signals to outer space from the island of Mallorca (Spain). His work is an acute commentary on humans and their weaknesses, their machines, their dreams and the mysteries of the universe.

Good Morning Isamu: A signal from space is sent to earth, one receiver is now ready to depart.

Motomichi Nakamura

Motomichi is an award winning animator and digital media artist. Born and raised in Japan, he moved to the US to study Communication Design and Illustration at Parsons School of Design in New York. His work has been exhibited at numerous museums worldwide including the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, the Museu Oscar Niemeyer in Brazil and Winzavod - Moscow Contemporary Art Center. Motomichi is making two films:

True Giant: A whale hunting ship finds an island-like mound of flesh sticking out of the surface of the ocean; they assume it is a whale and shoot it. This awakens the anger of the True Giant, who reveals his terrifying size and strength, enraged that his tail was mistakenly harpooned.

Tiny People Tribe: The story is based on 'Colobockle', a race of small people in folklore of the Ainu in the northern Japanese islands. Set in modern times, the tiny people try to live in harmony with the humans only to discover that the humans neither respect nor appreciate them. Fed up they start to show their evil side.

Sean Vicary

Sean is an artist based in west Wales, UK. He originally studied painting but became increasingly seduced by the possibilities of working in time-based media, his moving image pieces have been broadcast in the UK and exhibited worldwide. Recent projects have explored ideas of liminal space and identity, combining video installation with site-specific animation presented through a smartphone augmented reality browser.

Re-tolled: Draws on imagery of the Mari Lwyd and other folk ritual in an attempt to manifest the 'spirit' of the land. As trees are felled and the landscape altered, the reverberations are felt deep in the earth, disturbing creatures that are now only remembered in folk memory.

Atsushi Wada

Atsushi is a graduate of the Osaka Kyoiku University, Image Forum Institute of Moving Image and Tokyo University of the Arts. In a Pig's Eye (2010) won the Best Film at Fantoche International Animation Film Festival, and Silver Jabberwocky at Etiuda and Anima. The Mechanism of Spring (2010) premiered at the Venice Film Festival and The Great Rabbit (2012) won the Silver Bear at the Berlin Film Festival.

Anomalies: We try to enrich ourselves through prayer, faith and devotion to someone or something 'other'. Similarly, we believe in the existence of 'anomalies', such as unknowable and uncontrollable monsters. But can such beliefs advance us?

About Random Acts

Random Acts is Channel 4's short-form arts strand airing five nights a week and online at randomacts.channel4.com; over the course of a year it will showcase 260 specially commissioned three minute films chosen for their bold and original expressions of creativity. Visit <http://randomacts.channel4.com/>

About Animate Projects

Animate Projects is the only arts charity in the UK dedicated to championing experiments in animation. Our ambition is to support artists to use animation in new ways to create innovative and thought-provoking projects. We nurture the creative talent of artists, and encourage them to apply their skills to respond to briefs in unexpected ways. We enable artists to push the boundaries of what is possible - whether embracing advances in digital technologies, or reinventing the possibilities with traditional craft skills. To ensure all our projects reach the widest audiences, we work in partnership with leading broadcasters and national cultural organisations including Tate, Art on the Underground, , Barbican, Channel 4, BFI, and Crafts Council.

Further press information:

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