

A Milen Vitinov, ZDF and Activist38 production

Created by Milen Vitinov and Vera Trajanova

MISHOU



WWW.TALKING-ANIMALS.COM/MISHOU

VOICE ARTISTS: METODI LITZEV AND VERA TRAJANOVA SCREENPLAY: VERA TRAJANOVA AND MILEN VITINOV DIRECTED BY: MILEN VITINOV DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND COLOR GRADING: OLAF AUE
EDITOR: JENS PRAUSNITZ SET DESIGNER AND MINISSETS: SUSANNA JERGER ADDITIONAL PROPS: ALEX FRIEDRICH ANIMATION AND COMPOSITING: MILEN VITINOV AD: VERA TRAJANOVA
MUSIC: LEONARD PETERSEN SOUND DESIGN AND MIX: MICHAL KRAJCZOK FOLEY ARTIST: PETER ROIGK CHARACTER DESIGN: MILEN VITINOV AND MARTA ANDREEVA
ADDITIONAL ANIMATION: DALIBOR RAJNINGER AND MARIE JOSEPHINE TUCHOLSKI CLEAN-UP: MILEN VITINOV, SAMUEL WEIKOPF AND JOST ALTHOFF TYPO: LETTERSOUP
PRODUCERS GERMANY: MILEN VITINOV AND VERA TRAJANOVA CO-PRODUCER GERMANY: ZDF, REDAKTION SIEBENSTEIN CO-PRODUCERS BULGARIA: MINA MILEVA, VESELA KAZAKOVA - ACTIVIST 38
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MISHOU

SHORT FACTS

Animated short, 7 min
2D drawn animation and stop motion

CO-PRODUCTION

Milen Vitanov
Aktivist38
ZDF Germany

SUPPORTED BY

FFA Germany
BKM Germany
NFC Bulgaria



LOGLINE

The lives of four lively arctic hares take a turn after discovering a strange new creature.

MAKING OF

Some time ago we came across an article about the rising number of tourists in the Arctic. Fun for the tourists - bad for the environment. We'd read about unscrupulous tourists invading the scientist's station, leaving unsightly garbage waste and disturbing the Arctic animals. We had an idea! - what happens to the animals, when the tourists are gone?



We imagined a world, where the animals took care of the environment. We imagined four hares who lived in an abandoned polar station and this is where MISHOU started.



Our goal was to set a clear visual distinction between the “human world” and the Arctic nature. To contextualize the environmental impact we chose a combination of miniature sets and hand drawn animation. We decided to depict everything related to the humans as haptic sets. The „materiality“ of the sets contrasts to the clear lines and reduced colors of 2D animation.

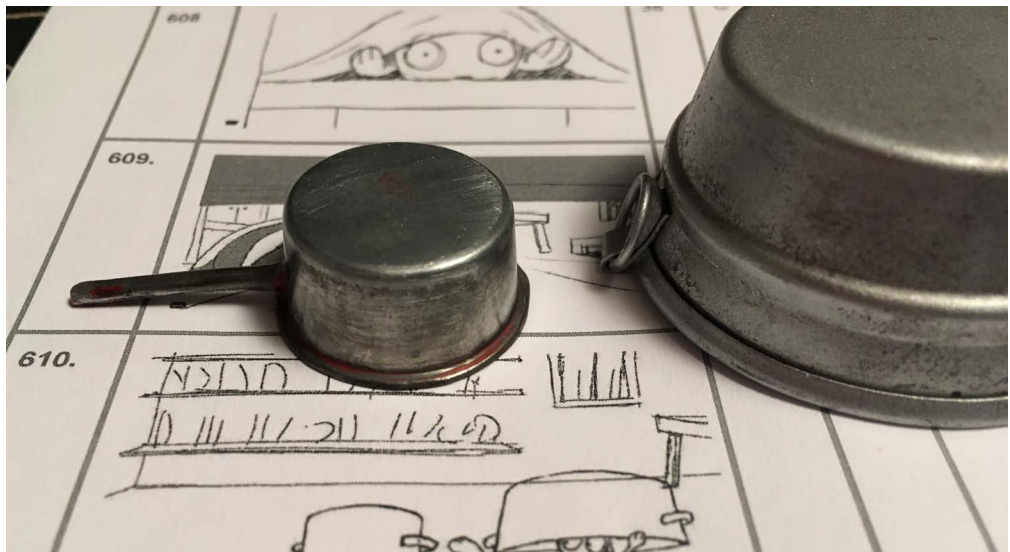
We were very happy to work with awesome stop motion professionals like SUSANNA JERGER who was part of the Berlin model unit for “Isle of Dogs” (Wes Anderson). Susanna created a rich miniature world, using various materials - paper, glass, plastic, wood, fabrics, ready-made miniature objects. She created objects and environments, natural forms and substances, which gave the movie a strong haptic visuality. This evoked a physical character in the 2D drawn animation, so the two separate worlds coexist and are connected.



The biggest challenge for DoP OLAF AUE was the lighting of the miniature sets so they convincingly interact with the drawn animated characters, while still adding rich textured atmosphere. MISHOU is his third cooperation with director Milen Vitanov, exploring variety of animation techniques - 3D, 2D and even 2 1/2 D .



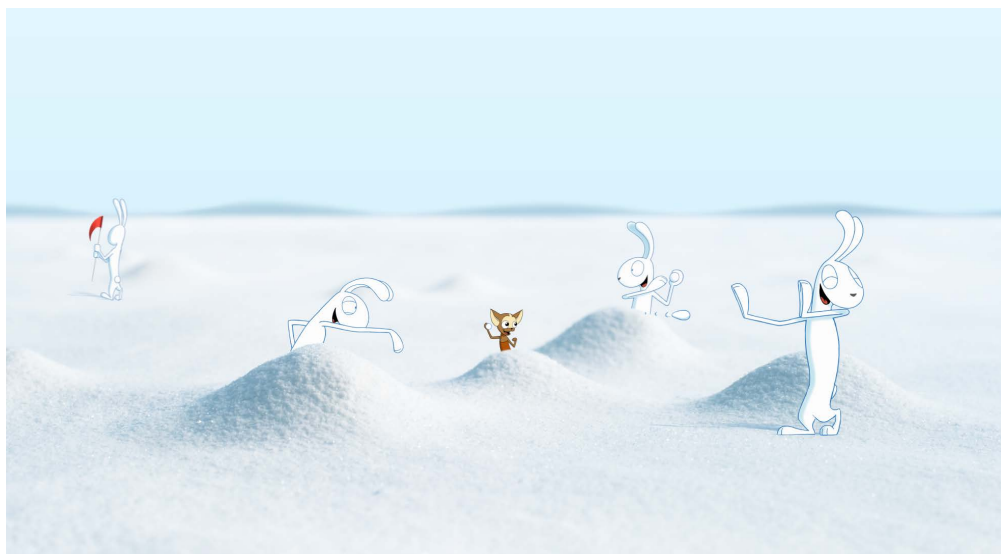
Sound designer MICHAŁ KRAJCZOK, experienced in creating rich and complex sounds for animation, created tailor-made sound environments for every character and every object. He gave each scene its own sense of identity and managed perfectly even the less 'noisy' snow-atmosphere. You even might sense in the sounddesign the beginning of the friendship between the tiny dog and the hares.



Next we aligned with the award-winning composer LEONARD PETERSEN, who created the music for the lively kitchen jam session. In this scene the animated hares play impromptu on a kitchen ware and they perform quite “bumpy”. Leonard played and recorded a number of real instruments and kitchenware to create the perfect score, which displays the imperfect but wholehearted jam session by the animals.



MISHOU ist the 4th collaboration between director MILEN VITANOV and writer VERA TRAJANOVA. They believe filmmaking at it's core is a collaborative process. Bringing on the right cast and crew and letting them have a say in the creative process is extremely important.





MILEN VITANOV is born 1978 in Prague, raised in Sofia and graduated in Animation from the University of Film and Television "Konrad Wolf" in Potsdam-Babelsberg in 2007. His graduation short "My Happy End" has participated in many international festivals and received numerous prestigious awards. Together with a group of fellow HFF-graduates and friends he co-founded the Talking Animals Animation Studio in Berlin.

Filmography:

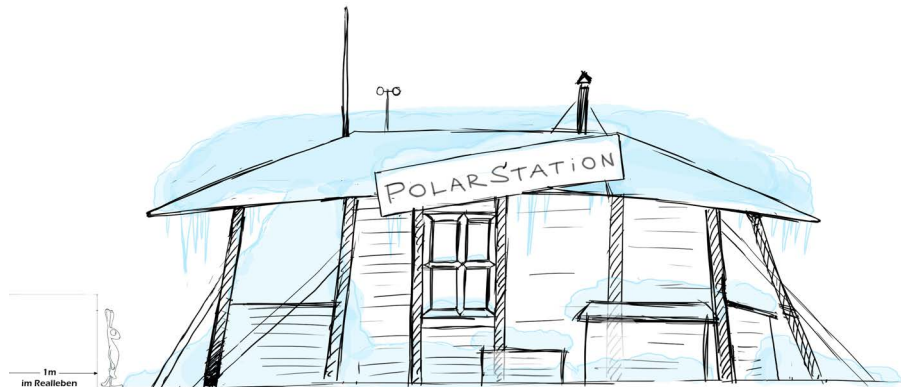
My Happy End (2007)
Rising Hope (2012)
Natural Novel in 8 Chapters (2015)
Bango Vassil (2016)
Mishou (2020)



VERA TRAJANOVA is a Bulgarian scriptwriter from Russian descent, based in Berlin. She holds a BA in History from the Humboldt University of Berlin, and MA in Screenwriting from the Film University in Potsdam. Her shorts participated in many international festival and received numerous prestigious awards.

Filmography

2011 Gefühl (doc, dir. Chris Miera)
2012 Rising Hope (animation, dir. Milen Vitinov)
2013 Geteilt (fiction, dir: Chris Miera)
2015 Natural Novel in 8 Chapters (animation dir. Milen Vitinov)
2016 Bango Vassil (animation, dir. Milen Vitinov)
2020 Mishoul (animation, dir. Milen Vitinov)



CAST & CREW

VOICE ARTISTS

Metodi Litzev
Vera Trajanova

SCREENPLAY

Vera Trajanova
Milen Vitanov

DIRECTOR

Milen Vitanov

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND COLOR GRADING

Olaf Aue

EDITOR

Jens Prausnitz

SET DESIGNER AND MINISETS

Susanna Jerger

ADDITIONAL PROPS

Alex Friedrich

CHARACTER DESIGN

Milen Vitanov
Marta Andreeva

ANIMATION

Milen Vitanov

ADDITIONAL ANIMATION

Tourists: Dalibor Rajninger
Fox: Marie Josephine Tucholski

CLEAN-UP

Milen Vitanov
Samuel Weikopf
Jost Althoff

SOUND DESIGN AND MIX

Michal Krajczok

VOICE RECORDING

Michal Krajczok

MISHOU

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FOLEY ARTIST
Peter Roigk

MUSIC
Leonard Petersen

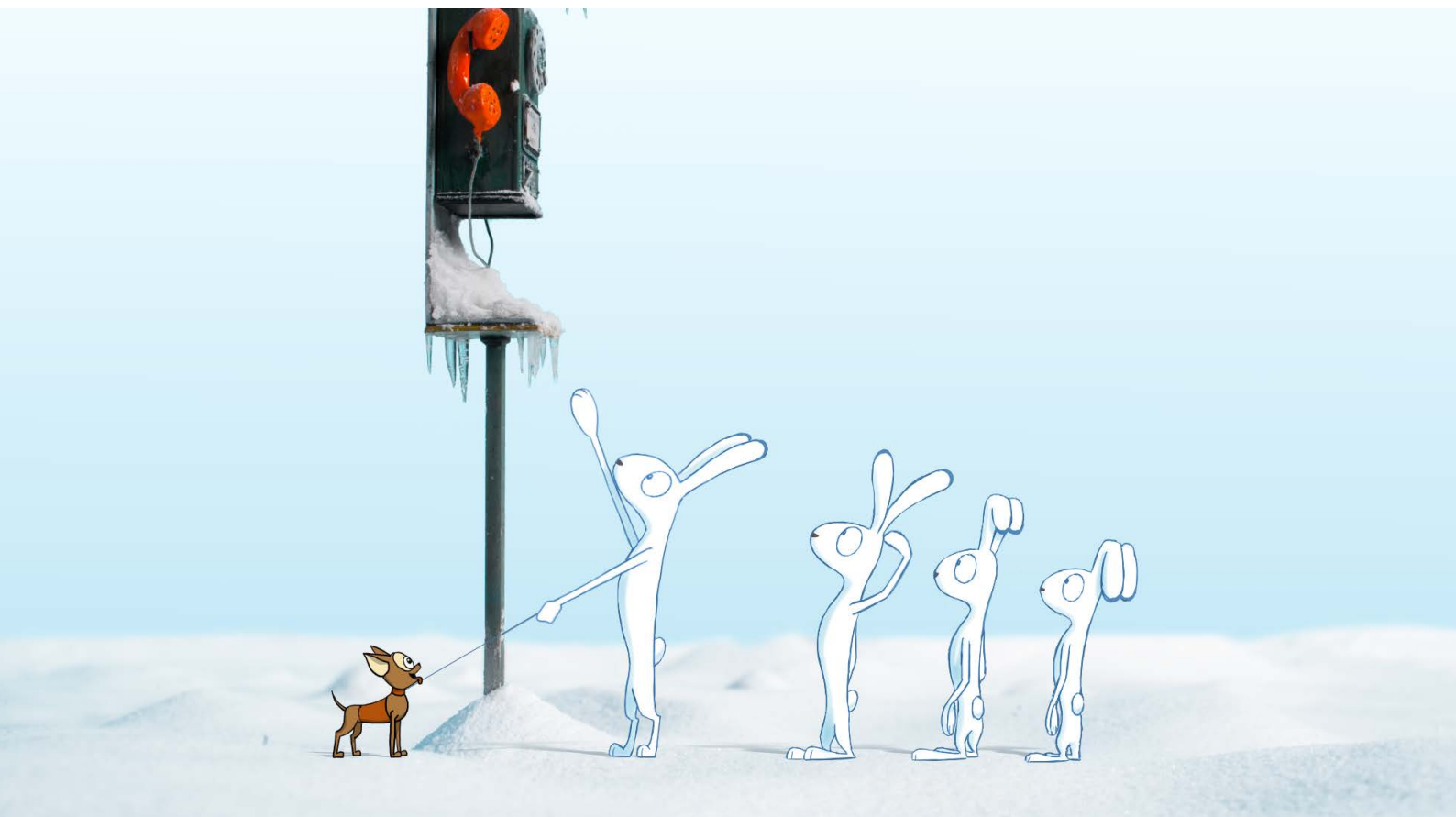
WITH THE SUPPORT OF
FFA
BKM
and NFC Bulgaria

PRODUCER GERMANY
Milen Vitanov

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Vera Trajanova

CO-PRODUCER GERMANY
ZDF, Redaktion Siebenstein

CO-PRODUCER BULGARIA
Mina Mileva, Vesela Kazakova - Activist 38



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