

A Milen Vitinov, ZDF, HFF „Konrad Wolf“ Co-Production | Directed by: Milen Vitinov | Technical Director and Rendering: Dennis Rettkowski | Set Design: Jan Schneider
Written by: Milen Vitinov, Vera Trajanova | Animation: Milen Vitinov, Lars Krüger, Martin Freitag, Nikolai Neumetzler, Michael Herm | Director of Photography: Olaf Aue
Sound Design: Michał Krajczok | Music: Stefan Maria Schneider | Music and Sound Re-Recording Mix: Marian Mentrup | www.talking-animals.com/risinghope



A Film By Milen Vitinov

Rising Hope



Rising Hope



SHORT FACTS

Animation Short, 10 min., Germany 2012

1:1:85, stereoscopic 3D

PRODUCTION

Milen Vitanov in co-production with

ZDF Siebenstein, Germany

Film and Television University "Konrad Wolf" HFF-Potsdam
and Talking Animals Animation Studio Berlin

SUPPORTED BY

Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg

BKM Germany

German Federal Film Board (FFA)

FESTIVALS

Berlinale International Film Festival (Germany)

Atlanta Film Festival (USA)

Cartoons on the bay "Pulcinella Awards" (Italy)

Anifest (Czech Republic)

ITFS International Animation Film Festival Stuttgart (Germany)

SICAF Seoul International Cartoon Animation Festival (South Korea)

Zlin International Film Festival for Children (Czech Republic)

Anima Mundi Animation Festival, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Curtas Villa du Conde (Portugal)

AWARDS

Special Pulcinella Award "Cartoons & Sport"
on the Cartoons on the Bay, in Rapallo, Italy

Rising Hope



LOGLINE

All know the way, but few actually walk it – Rising Hope, once the fastest horse in the world, dares to be one of the few.

SYNOPSIS

Rising Hope, who used to be the fastest horse in the world, suddenly turns into a loser. With the help of a new friend – a jack-of-all-trades hound – he finds hope and himself again.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Joshu was a famous Chinese Zen Master. One day a troubled monk approached him, intending to ask the Master for guidance. A dog walked by. The monk asked Joshu, "Does that dog have a Buddha-nature or not?"

Rising Hope, the main character in this short, is a famous racehorse. When he gets in trouble, a dog walks by. Well, I don't know what master Joshu answered about the dog in his story, but I'm sure that the dog in this movie has a Buddha-nature of a kind. He shows Rising Hope how to escape from the pressure to perform and how to find his own bliss.

Foto: Monique Ulrich



BIOGRAPHY

Milen Vitanov (Director)

Born 1978 in Prague and raised in Sofia, Milen graduated in Animation from the University of Film and Television HFF "Konrad Wolf" in Potsdam-Babelsberg in 2007. His graduation short "My Happy End" has participated in many international festival 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)

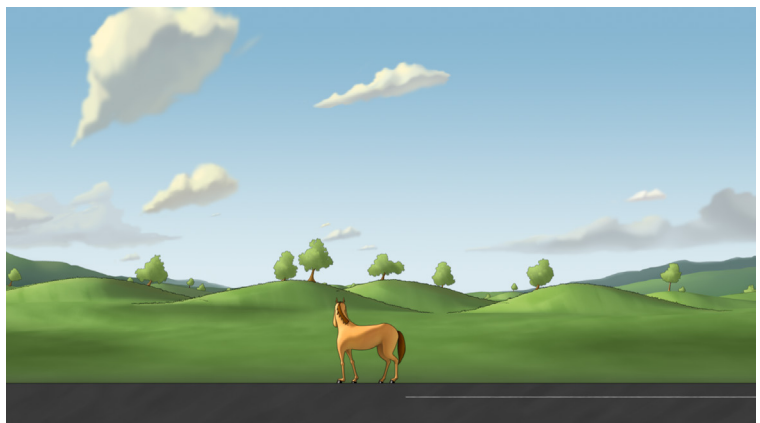
FESTIVAL AWARDS

for Milen Vitanov's short film "My Happy End" (selection):

- Annecy 2008 – Jury's special award for Graduation Films
- Animafest 2008, Zagreb Croatia – Best film for Children
- Chicago Int. Children's Festival 2007, USA – Children Jury Prize for Animation Films
- Edinburgh International Film Festival 2007, Scotland – Official Selection
- San Francisco International Film Festival 2008, USA – Official Selection
- Toronto World Wide Short Film Festival 2008, Canada – Official Selection
- SIGGRAPH 2008, Los Angeles, USA – Official Selection

Rising Hope

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Dennis Rettkowski (Rigging, Rendering, R&D, FX)

Dennis Rettkowski has over 10 years of working experience as VFX supervisor and graphics software developer and is currently working at Berlin based Talking Animals as a producer and technical director for animated films.



Lars Krüger (Animation)

During their studies of animation Lars Krüger and Milen shared a working room at the time when the idea to Rising Hope first arose. Lars liked the idea from the first draft of the script. Today he works as a freelance character animator based in Berlin Kreuzberg.



Michael Herm (Animation)

Freelance animator, director, 3D artist. Studied animation at the University of Film and Television (HFF) "Konrad Wolf" and later found animation to be a good way to distract himself from contemplating on the meaning of life.



Olaf Aue (Director of Photography)

After serving his apprenticeship as an advertising photographer in Hamburg, he graduated in Aesthetic Communication and Cultural Sciences in Hildesheim. He is a guest lecturer on Digital Cinematography, HD and Digital Cinema at the DFFB (German Film and Television Academy Berlin) and the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences. With nearly 20 years of professional experience in cinematography, he keeps on exploring different conceptions. Rising Hope is the second animated stereoscopic 3D movie on which he has worked after "Flamingo Pride" (director: Tomer Eshed), awarded in SIGGRAPH and Animago last year.



Vera Trajanova (Script Consulting)

Bulgarian scriptwriter, freelance writer and journalist from Russian descent, based in Berlin. She holds a BA in History from the Humboldt University of Berlin, and is currently studying Screenplay Writing at the University for Film and Television (HFF) "Konrad Wolf" in Potsdam. Her articles have appeared in major magazines and newspapers in Bulgaria.



Jan Schneider (Set Design)

He graduated in Graphic Design at the University of Applied Sciences in Munich (1996), worked for a number of years as a freelance set designer for computer games, and then graduated from the University for Film and Television (HFF) "Konrad Wolf" in Production Design (2009), where he specialised in digital image processing, set extension, 3D modelling and VFX. He currently lectures at the same university in the Faculty of Production Design.



Jens Prausnitz (Editor)

Jens Prausnitz is a passionate filmmaker and editor. He is working since 10 years professionally for Polish Television (TVP, MTV, Kino Polska), advertising agencies (DDB, Saatchi, TBWA, Leo Burnett), and edited several short, and one German feature film. In 2007 he was nominated for a Cannes Lion with his spot "Homeless" in the category "Public Awareness".



Martin Reimers (Set Design)

Martin Reimers studied Editing at the University for Film and Television (HFF) "Konrad Wolf" in Potsdam-Babelsberg. Lives and works in Berlin.



Michał Krajczok (Sound Designer)

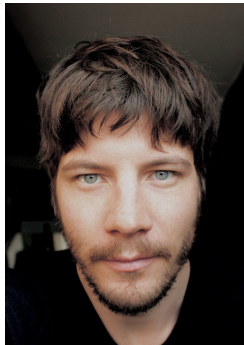
Michał was born in Poland and emigrated with his family to Germany at the age of 10. From the fascination of grandpa's piano over experiments in classical, rock and jazz music, he developed his passion towards music and further on towards sound for film. He moved to Berlin to study Sound Engineering at the HFF "Konrad Wolf" in 2003, working on projects such as "Cocoon Child" and "The Tell-Tale Heart" as well as several live action films.



Stefan Maria Schneider (Music)

Stefan Maria Schneider studied Composition at University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, Media Composition at Academy of Music "Hanns Eisler", Berlin, and Film Music at Academy for Film and Television "Konrad Wolf", Potsdam-Babelsberg.

Stefan wrote music for the directing debut of German actress Franka Potente of "Run Lola Run" fame. He worked for the British composer John Powell ("Face Off", "Bourne Identity", "Ice Age") and co-orchestrated Powell's Academy Award nominated soundtrack for "How To Train Your Dragon".



Marian Mentrup (Music)

Specialized in sound design and music production for film and new media. Besides that he also worked as a re-recording mixer on more than 30 short and long films from 16 mm mono up to stereoscopic 3D films with Dolby EX. His work has been heard on film festivals like Cannes, Berlinale, the BAFTAs in London, in Los Angeles, Toronto and many more and has won several awards. Currently he is working as a freelancer in London and Berlin.



Voice talent - Felix Freese

Felix took part in several theatre- and theatre youth club productions, as well as off theatre projects. Since 2009 he is studying Acting at the University for Film and Television (HFF) "Konrad Wolf" and has since then worked on internal projects. He played in "Mittagshitze" (director: Moritz Richard Schmidt) and "Die Nacht singt ihre Lieder" (director: Peter Hecker). Theatre projects: "Amadeus", "Mit dem Feuer spielen", "Kabale und Liebe", "Die Passionsspiele", "Die Räuber".

Rising Hope

FULL CAST & CREW

Directed by: Milen Vitanov

Rigging, Rendering, R&D, FX: Dennis Rettkowski

Animation: Milen Vitanov, Lars Krüger, Martin Freitag,
Nikolai Neumetzler, Michael Herm

Additional Animation: Monira Kamal, Stefanie Schmiedel,
Maxim Vassiliev

Director of Photography: Olaf Aue

Character Design: Milen Vitanov

Set Design: Jan Schneider

Modeling: Dennis Rettkowski, Michael Herm

Script: Vera Trajanova, Milen Vitanov

Editing support: Martin Reimers, Jens Prausnitz

Title and graphic design: Stefan Müssigbrodt, Sabine Loos

Music: Stefan Maria Schneider, Marian Mentrup

Music performed by: Brandenburg Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Re-Recording: Stefan Haberfeld

Sound Design: Michał Krajczok

Voices – Rising Hope: Sebastian Schulz, Felix Freese

Voices – additional Horses: Nourfa, Loonita, Malaysia,
Horses from Hoppegarten, Berlin

Horse supervisor: Regina Pormann

Additional voices: Ines Ferreira, Sonja Rohleder,
Gregor Dashuber, Sebastian Schulz, Veronika Samartseva,
Annette Jung, Jan Köster, Michał Krajczok

Foley Artist: Peter Roigk

Foley Editing: Hannes Schulze

Re-Recording: Marian Mentrup

Line Producer HFF: Holger Lochau

Producer: Milen Vitanov

ZDF Department: Annick Hillger

Artistic Guidance: Prof. Christina Schindler

Rising Hope

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