



ZOON

a short film by Jonatan Schwenk





SYNOPSIS

In the dark swamps of a nocturnal forest, a group of gleaming axolotls is in heat, nuzzling and nibbling one another's limbs. Soon a much larger, two-legged forest-dweller encounters the lustful group and reaches down to gobble one of the small shimmering creatures. His plump friends begin to partake as well and a feast begins.

While dawn is slowly breaking, a cheerful game begins higher up in the branches.



SPECIFICATIONS

original & english title	Zoon
year of production	2022
country of origin	Germany
running time	04:25 (including credits)
language	no dialogue
techniques	stop-motion, pupetts, 2D, 3D, paintings
sound mix	5.1 or stereo
aspect ratio	1:1,9
resolution	2K Full Container (2048 x 1080)
speed	25 fps
closed captions	english



CONTACT

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DISTRIBUTOR

Miyu Distribution, +33 (0)9 84 07 04 41, 16 rue de la Liberté, 13200 Arles, FRANCE
<https://www.miyu.fr/distribution/en/>

Festivals Laure Goasguen festival@miyu.fr

Sales Candice Costa and Annabel Sebag sales@miyu.fr



DIRECTORS FILMO

2009 Sisyphos Blues (animated short, 4:49 min)

2011 Maison Sonore (animated short, 4:44 min)

2017 Sog (animated short, 10:14 min)

2022 Zoon (animated short, 4:25 min)

DIRECTORS BIO

Jonatan Schwenk, born in Germany in 1987, is an independent filmmaker/ animator, sound designer and storyboard artist currently based in Berlin.

As a graduate from University of Art and Design in Offenbach and former guest student from Kunsthochschule Kassel, he focuses on combining various animation techniques into hybrid forms.

His animated short “Sog” received nearly 40 awards and mentions (including the Annecy Cristal for a graduation film) and has been screened at renowned film festivals around the world, including SXSW, Palm Springs ShortFest, Annecy, Ottawa, Zagreb and Flickerfest, where it qualified for the Academy Awards.

As an animator and sound designer, his work has been selected twice for the Berlinale, where he was also chosen as a “Berlinale Talent” in 2020. Schwenk also contributed the sound design for “Cops & Robbers”, directed by Florian Maubach, which won the German Short Film Award in 2018, as well as for “Rules of Play” by Merlin Flügel, which received a Cristal at Annecy in 2019.

CREDITS

directed and produced by Jonatan Schwenk
music & sound design David Kamp
screenplay Merlin Flügel, Jonatan Schwenk
puppet fabrication Anne Breymann, Hélène Tragesser,
Jonatan Schwenk
puppeteers Thalke Thyen, Max Mörtl, Maria Teixeira,
Merlin Flügel, Jonatan Schwenk,
Ramona Lüdemann, Carolina Iglesias
camera (real-time-part) Ferdinand Kowalke
stop-motion camera Jonatan Schwenk
best boy Björn Ullrich
assistant director Merlin Flügel
set manager Joey Arand
production assistant Carolina Iglesias
stop-motion animator Jonatan Schwenk
2d animators Marta Magnuska, Jonatan Schwenk
retouch & rig removal Mascha Balura, Lea Majeran, Maria Teixeira,
Aaron Farkas, Jade Stendel (PixelPEC)
Irina Rubina, Chengjie Xu, Yu Hao
2d tracking Maria Teixeira
3d tracking Valentin Oellers
compositing Marc Rühl, Jonatan Schwenk
color grading Matthias Behrens (waveline),
Jonatan Schwenk
graduation film at Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach
funding HessenFilm und Medien GmbH, FFA





ABOUT THE TECHNIQUES

In its hybrid form, Zoon combines techniques of stop-motion, puppetry and 2D.

The axolotl puppets were formed out of plasticine and were animated frame by frame, whereas other puppets were marionetted in real time in front of the camera.

Later, the faces, hands and feet were digitally drawn by hand. The backgrounds consisted of 3D elements, photos of built backgrounds, and paintings.

