

# PRESS KIT ZOON (2022)

**SPECIFICATIONS** runtime 04 min 25 sec including credits  
country of origin Germany  
year 2022  
language no dialogue / no subtitles

**CONTACT** Jonatan Schwenk, jonatan.schwenk@gmail.com, +49(0)17696908689, [www.jonatan-schwenk.com](http://www.jonatan-schwenk.com), IG @jonatanschwenk

**DISTRIBUTORS** 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(at)miyu.fr  
Sales : Annabel Sebag sales(at)miyu.fr  
Theatrical Distribution German speaking territories: Kurzfilm Verleih Hamburg, verleih(at)shortfilm.com

**FILM TEAM** directed and produced by Jonatan Schwenk  
music, sound design and mix 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  
technical director on set 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  
3d models & textures Valentin Oellers, Ferdinand Kowalke  
2d tracking Maria Teixeira  
3d tracking Valentin Oellers  
compositing Marc Rühl, Jonatan Schwenk  
color grading Matthias Behrens (waveline), Jonatan Schwenk

**FUNDED BY** HessenFilm und Medien GmbH  
FFA (German Federal Film Board)

**LOG LINE** Small shimmering animals are in heat. A two-legged forest dweller encounters the lustful group. He and his companions snack on the little creatures and soon a feast begins.

**SYNOPSIS EN** 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.

**SYNOPSIS DE** Im dunklen Morast eines nächtlichen Waldes gehen matt schimmernde Axolotl ihren lustvollen Spielen nach. Genüsslich wird sich aneinander gerieben und geknabbert. Als ein großer, zweibeiniger Waldbewohner vorbei kommt, verspeist er kurzerhand eines der kleinen Tiere. Ein ungewöhnliches Spiel beginnt, während über dem Wald der Morgen dämmt.

**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 in stop-motion, whereas other puppets were moved in real time in front of the camera (guided on sticks). Later, the faces, hands and feet were digitally drawn by hand. The backgrounds consist of 3D elements, photos of built backgrounds, and paintings.

**ZU DEN TECHNIKEN  
DES FILMS** Der Film kombiniert in seiner hybriden Form verschiedene Techniken, wie Stop-Motion, Puppetry und 2D. Die Axolotl wurden aus Knete geformt und wurden Bild für Bild vor der Kamera animiert. Die Zweibeiner wurden als Puppen in Echtzeit vor der Kamera mit Hilfe von Stäben bewegt, die an ihren Gliedmaßen, Köpfen usw. befestigt waren. Später wurden die Gesichter, Hände und Füße digital von Hand gezeichnet. Die Hintergründe bestehen aus 3D-Elementen, Fotos und Gemälden.

**DIRECTORS BIO  
(LONG VERSION)** Jonatan Schwenk, born in Germany in 1987, is an independent animation filmmaker, 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 most recent film "Zoon" premiered at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. 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 Animafest Zagreb, SXSW, Palm Springs ShortFest, Annecy, Ottawa and Flickerfest, where it qualified for the Academy Awards. His graduation film "Zoon" premiered at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. As an animator and sound designer, his work has already been selected twice for the Berlinale, where he was 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. In April 2022, Schwenk participated in the prestigious NEF International Residency for Animated Films in Fontevraud, France. He is currently working on a script for a new short film.

**DIRECTORS BIO (SHORT VERSION)** Jonatan Schwenk is an independent animation filmmaker from Germany. He narrates his short films by fusing different techniques into hybrid forms. He focuses on handmade animation techniques like stop-motion, but also uses puppetry, 3D, hand-drawn animation or video.

His student film "Sog" (2017) received nearly 40 awards and mentions (including the Annecy Cristal) and was screened at prestigious film festivals such as SXSW, Palm Springs ShortFest, Zagreb and Ottawa. His graduation film "Zoon" premiered at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival and is currently traveling around the world.

**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)

**TECHNICAL SPECS** aspect ratio 1.9:1  
sound 5.1 surround or stereo  
speed 25 fps  
screening formats available:  
ProRes422 (2048 × 1080) 25 fps, stereo  
ProRes422 LT (2048 × 1080) 25 fps, 5.1  
DCP 2k Full Container (2048 × 1080) SMPTE, 25 fps, 5.1  
h264 (2048 × 1080) 25 fps, stereo  
Closed Captions available  
hybrid techniques: stop-motion, puppets, 2D, 3D, paintings

**IMAGE MATERIAL** filmstills <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aXtJJpL4WUc8Dwz8peuOJewd2wUg9UmZ/view?usp=sharing>  
poster <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1geMZIOZpRg7Mjq-DKbuXfX7bhfEsmVon/view?usp=sharing>  
portrait director <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iqTJJc6lKR7fJnkADINLaAzCzf5bAYg5/view?usp=sharing>

**VIMEO LINK** <https://vimeo.com/953072985>

**TRAILER** <https://vimeo.com/662706061>

**BEHIND THE SCENES** <https://vimeo.com/942037162>

**AWARDS** \*NEF Animation Prize\* at Festival Premiers Plans d'Angers  
\*Short Tiger Award\* (a national german award)

**\*Audience Award\*** Animatricks Animation Festival Helsinki, Finland  
**\*Peer Raben Music Award\*** for composer David Kamp at Soundtrack Cologne, Germany  
**\*Honorable Mention\*** Mammoth Lakes Film Festival, USA  
**\*Honorable Mention\*** Festival International de Cine en Guadalajara, Mexico  
**\*Jury's Personal Pick\*** by Koji Yamamura, Hiroshima Animation Season 2022, Japan  
**\*Audience Award\*** Visual Poetry category, Hiroshima Animation Season 2022, Japan  
**\*Best International Animation Short\*** 34th Galway Film Fleadh, Ireland  
**\*Special Student Film Mention\*** Turku Animated Film Festival, Finland  
**\*Craft Award for Best Sound Design\*** Ottawa International Animation Festival (Canada)  
**\*Special Mention for Sound Design\*** Primanima World Festival of First Animations (Hungary)  
**\*Most Original Short\*** Sognielettrici (Electricdreams) International Film Festival (Italy)  
**\*ex aequo Audience Award\*** Warsaw Animation Film Festival (Poland)  
**\*Nomination Hessischer Hochschulfilmpreis\*** (Germany)  
**\*Jury Citation\*** 2022 Sweaty Eyeballs Animation Festival (USA)  
**\*2nd Mention Award International Graduation Short Film\*** Bitbang Festival Int'l de Animación (Argentina)  
**\*Best Animation Award\*** Filmschoolfest Munich (Germany)  
**\*Audience Award German Competition\*** Short Film Festival Cologne (Germany)  
**\*Best Original Score Award\*** London International Animation Festival (UK)  
**\*Jury Award European Competition\*** Kortfilmfestival Leuven (Belgium)  
**\*Lotte Reiniger Promotion Award for Animated Film\*** ITFS Stuttgart (Germany)  
**\*First Place\*** ASIF Animation Festival (Israel)  
**\*Special Mention\*** Festival of Animation Berlin (Germany)  
**\*Main Prize Best Animated Short\*** Camera Action Film Festival (Poland)  
**\*European Film Awards 2023 Short Film Candidate\*** ZINEBI Bilbao (Spain)  
**\*Best Foreign Short Prize\*** Muestra Audiovisual internacional (Colombia)

**FESTIVAL SELECTIONS** **Sundance Film Festival** 2022, Park City, USA, World Premiere 21st of January  
**Festival Premiers Plans d'Angers**, Angers, France  
**REGARD - Saguenay International Short Film Festival** (Canada)  
**Go Short International Short Film Festival Nijmegen**, Netherlands  
**Dresden Filmfest**, Germany  
**GLAS Animation Festival** (USA)  
**Seattle International Film Festival** (USA)  
**DC International Film Festival** (USA)  
**Milwaukee Film Festival** (USA)  
**14th Film Fest Petaluma** (USA)

**10th International Changing Perspectives Film Festival** (Turkey)  
**Animatricks Animation Festival** (Finland)  
**Mammoth Lakes Film Festival** (USA)  
**Kurzfilmfestival Hamburg** (Germany)  
**Friss Hús Budapest International Short Film Festival** (Hungary)  
**Krakow Film Festival** (Poland)  
**Animafest Zagreb** (Croatia)  
**The Norwegian Short Film Festival** (Norway)  
**Festival Internacional de Cine en Guadalajara** (México)  
**Short Waves Festival** (Poland)  
**Rooftop Films Summer Series** (USA)  
**Palm Springs International ShortFest** (USA)  
**Desertscape Int'l Film Festival** (USA)  
**Galway Film Fleadh** (Ireland)  
**Insomnia International Open-Air Animation Film Festival** (Russia)  
**Guanajuato International Film Festival** (Mexico)  
**Festival Internacional de Animación Chilemonos** (Chile)  
**SIGGRAPH 2022 Computer Animation Festival** (Canada)  
**Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** (USA)  
**22nd Tel Aviv Animation Festival** (Israel)  
**Open-Air Filmfest Weiterstadt** (Germany)  
**18th Annual HollyShorts Film Festival** (USA)  
**Hong Kong International Film Festival** (Hong Kong)  
**HAS Hiroshima Animation Season 2022** (Japan)  
**Monterrey Film Festival** (Mexico)  
**Concerto Film Festival** (Italy)  
**Turku Animated Film Festival** (Finland)  
**NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA)** (USA)  
**Le long weekend du court** (Canada)  
**Festival Silhouette** (France)  
**SHORTS MÉXICO** (Mexico)  
**Telluride Film Festival** (USA)  
**L'ÉTRANGE FESTIVAL** (France)  
**Fantoche** (Switzerland)  
**Pictoplasma** (Germany)  
**Helsinki International Film Festival** (Finland)  
**Festival Stop Motion Montréal** (Canada)

**Ottawa International Animation Festival** (Canada)  
**Viborg Animation Festival** (Denmark)  
**Encounters Film Festival** (UK)  
**Court Métrange** (France)  
**Calgary International Film Festival** (Canada)  
**Vancouver Int'l FF** (Canada)  
**Primanima World Festival of First Animations** (Hungary)  
**Bolton Film Festival** (UK)  
**Animatou Geneva Animation Film Festival** (Switzerland)  
**Drunken Film Fest Oakland** (USA)  
**Sognielettrici (Electricdreams) International Film Festival** (Italy)  
**Warsaw Film Festival** (Poland)  
**Philadelphia Film Festival** (USA)  
**SPASM Festival de Courts Métrages Insolites de Montréal** (Canada)  
**Sweaty Eyeballs Animation Festival (USA)**  
**Kuandu International Animation Festival (Taiwan)**  
**Devour! The Food Film Fest** (Canada)  
**Uppsala Short Film Festival** (Sweden)  
**Bitbang Festival Internacional de Animación** (Argentina)  
**Warsaw Animation Film Festival** (Poland)  
**Big Cartoon Festival** (Russia)  
**Denver Film Festival** (USA)  
**New Chitose Airport International Animation Festival 2022** (Japan)  
**Leeds International Film Festival 2022** (UK)  
**AFI FEST FILMFESTIVAL 2022 (American Film Institute)** (USA)  
**Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur** (Switzerland)  
**Filmfestival Augenblick** (France)  
**Pink Screens** (Belgium)  
**ZINEBI International Festival of Documentary and Short Film of Bilbao** (Spain)  
**Animage International Animation Festival Of Pernambuco** (Brazil)  
**interfilm Berlin 38th International Short Film Festival Berlin** (Germany)  
**2022 PÖFF Shorts Black Nights Film Festival** (Estonia)  
**Filmschoolfest Munich** (Germany)  
**Flensburger Kurzfilmtage** (Germany)  
**exground filmfest 35** (Germany)  
**Foyle Film Festival** (Northern Ireland)  
**KFFK/Kurzfilmfestival Köln N°16** (Germany)

**Hiroshima International Film Festival** (Japan)  
**ANINATION Jerusalem Animation Festival** (Israel)  
**StopTrik IFF Stop Motion Competition** (Slovenia/Poland)  
**39th Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival** (Germany)  
**Kinofest Lünen** (Germany)  
**Longue Vue sur le Court Festival** (Canada)  
**Anilogue** (Hungary)  
**London International Animation Festival** (UK)  
**Animateka** (Slovenia)  
**International Film Festival Etiuda&Anima** (Poland)  
**Le festival des courts-métrages mutants** (France)  
**Leuven Int. Short Film Festival** (Belgium)  
**Phenomena Festival 2022** (Brazil)  
**Festival Séquence Court-Métrage** (France)  
**Bilbao Int. Anim. Community Festival – ANIMAKOM FEST** (Spain)  
**Busan International Animal Rights Film Festival** (South Korea)  
**35th Minimalen Short Film Festival** (Norway)  
**PIAFF - Paris International Animation Film Festival** (France)  
**Internationales Filmwochenende Würzburg** (Germany)  
**Jacksonville Film Festival** (USA)  
**Anima Brussels** (Belgium)  
**ANIMAC** (Spain)  
**Carrousel international du film de Rimouski** (Canada)  
**Vilnius International Film Festival Kino pavasaris** (Lithuania)  
**Int. Kurzfilmwoche Regensburg** (Germany)  
**Glasgow Short Film Festival** (UK)  
**Landshut Short Film Festival** (Germany)  
**Kaboom Animation Festival** (Netherlands)  
**Athens International Film and Video Festival** (USA)  
**KURZSUECHTIG 2023** (Germany)  
**RiverRun International Film Festival** (USA)  
**Fantaspoo - International Fantastic Film Festival of Porto Alegre** (Brazil)  
**Florida Film Festival** (USA)  
**Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film** (Germany)  
**cellu l'art Kurzfilmfestival Jena** (Germany)  
**Visioni Fantastiche Film Festival** (Italy)  
**Materia Magica - Lėlių teatro festivalis** (Lithuania)

(more selections to be announced soon)

**REACTIONS & INTERVIEWS** [Jonatan Schwenk The Story First. Then the Animation | shortfilm.de](https://www.shortfilm.de/jonatan-schwenk-the-story-first-then-the-animation/)

[Zoon by Jonatan Schwenk: Interview](#)

<https://anchor.fm/concorto-film-festival/episodes/Jonatan-Schwenk---Director-of-Zoon-e1og9j2>

[Jonatan Schwenk in conversation on Zoon screening at Cannes and his working process](#)

[10 Unmissable Shorts At Bolton Film Festival 2022 // WeAreDN](#)

[Trickfilm Festival Stuttgart : Kraft der Einzelbilder | ray Filmmagazin](#)

[Film » Zoon | Deutsche Filmbewertung und Medienbewertung FBW](#)

[Reviews of Zoon • Letterboxd](#)

A lesson in evolution. White bright tetrapod-like creatures with cute tails and faces swim out of the sea and start playfully mating. Darker, obscured animals — more human-like in appearance — arise and eat these creatures for dinner, their voices incoherent singsongy murmurs. In Jonatan Schwenk's enjoyable, off-beat animation, feasting on the natural world is given an otherworldly sheen. The bodies ascend to the heavens and then evaporate, perhaps displaying the natural course of consumption. Little is explained, but on a pure cinematic level, there is something incredibly satisfying here.

**(directorsnotes.com)**

(...) Im Grunde erzählt Jonatan Schwenk in seinem Kurzanimationsfilm in nur vier Minuten die Geschichte der gesamten Menschheit. (...)

**(FBW Filmbewertung)**

“The film is a song of praise to the magic of cinema and beauty which needs no message or metaphor to strike a chord. It stands out as a reminder, not to forget that sometimes the prevalence of the enigma and inexplicable fascination can be beautiful.”

**(Jury ZINEBI Bilbao. 2022)**