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## **Animation Dingle Festival Honours Renowned Animator Producer Michael Algar with Prestigious Murakami Award**

- Animation Dingle is proud to announce the recipient of this year's prestigious Murakami Award, sponsored by **Brown Bag Films**.
- Renowned animator producer **Michael Algar** will be honoured at the festival for his exceptional contributions to the world of animation.
- The **Murakami Award**, named after the legendary Japanese animator **Jimmy Teru Murakami** (村上輝明) (1933-2014) a founding father of Irish animation, recognises individuals who have demonstrated unparalleled innovation, vision, and impact in the field of animation.
- Murakami was a key figure in the establishment of the thriving Irish animation industry that we know today.

Animation Dingle Festival, known for its commitment to celebrating excellence in animation, is thrilled to bestow this honour upon **Michael Algar**. The Murakami award ceremony, set to take place during the festival, will serve as a tribute to Algar's remarkable career and legacy.

Michael Algar's groundbreaking work has not only captivated audiences worldwide but has also inspired generations of animators and storytellers. Michael has worked for over fifty years in the film industry. He was appointed first Chief Executive of the Irish Film Board (Screen Ireland) in 1982. In that capacity, he supervised the financing of selected feature and documentary films by Irish filmmakers. He has also represented Ireland on committees in the European Union and the Council of Europe concerning the development and improvement of film industries in Europe, leading to establishment of Eurimages. Credits include the features "Christmas Carol" and "Joseph, King of Dreams" as well as series "The Storykeepers", "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles", "Captain Star", "Budgie the Little Helicopter", "The Mad Cows", and many other specials and series. His most recent special was "Deposits" and most recent series was "MyaGo".

"We are thrilled that **Michael Algar** has been honoured with the **Murakami Award** in Dingle," said **Ethna Murakami**. "For Jimmy, Dingle wasn't just a destination; it was a sanctuary, a place where he found a true sense of home and belonging. Michael's recognition with this award is not just a testament to his talent, but also to his close bond with our family. He is not just a recipient of this award; he is a cherished family friend, and this recognition is all the more meaningful and couldn't be more well-deserved."

"It's a great honour for me to receive this award, named for my great friend and colleague Jimmy Murakami who inspired the development of the Irish animation industry". **Michael Algar**

Speaking on the announcement today, **Cathal Gaffney, Managing Director, Brown Bag Films**, sponsors of the award said "The Murakami Award is a prestigious lifetime achievement award in the field of Irish Animation, and Michael Algar is a most deserving recipient. Michael has been a consistent backbone of animation in Ireland, and he has worked in the industry for five decades. Of his many credits, he produced the original **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** back in 1989 working with Jimmy Murakami. Michael has always been generous with his time and has assisted countless animation producers and studios sharing advice and his experience."

## **ENDS**

### **About Jimmy T. Murakami (村上輝明):**

Jimmy T. Murakami (村上輝明), 1933-2014, was one of the founding fathers of Irish animation. He was a key figure in the establishment of the thriving Irish animation industry that we know today. In 1965 he launched his own company, Murakami-Wolf Productions, with business partner Fred Wolf. Murakami settled permanently in Ireland while working on Roger Corman's, 'The Red Baron' in 1971. His work in the 1986 feature, 'When the Wind Blows' produced some of the animator's most acclaimed work with 'The Snowman' remaining an enduring children's favourite to this day. Murakami Films opened in Dublin in 1989, with the studio producing popular television series such as 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles'. Cathal Gaffney of Brown Bag Films, called Murakami "a founding father of Irish Animation".

At Animation Dingle 2013, Jimmy T. Murakami, received the inaugural Murakami Award for his lifetime achievement in Animation. Of the event, he said

"I have been to hundreds of film festivals, all over the globe, for what seems to be the last hundred years, and in my opinion the Dingle Film Festival is the best among them all".

### **About Animation Dingle Festival:**

The Animation Dingle Festival, scheduled for 22-23 March, promises to be a captivating event. The festival showcases the best in animation from Ireland and around the world, featuring screenings, workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities for animation enthusiasts from around the world.

**Brown Bag Films** are the official sponsors of the prestigious Murakami Award.

<https://brownbagfilms.com/>

For more information about **Animation Dingle Festival and the Murakami Award**, visit

<https://animationdingle.com/press-release-centre/>

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