

## **Irish Animation Co production from Magma Films sweeps awards at Cinekid!**

Niko And The Way To The Stars is a family CGI animated feature co-produced by Galway based Magma Films. Together with Finnish film company Anima Vitae, Magma's own daughter company Ulysses Films in Germany and Afilm in Denmark, this remarkable children's film has picked up both the Cinekid Lion award in Amsterdam at the weekend for Best Film and has also received the audience award for best film.

It's the first time ever a film has picked up both awards.

The Cinekid Lion Awards, are extremely popular. The awards worth €15,000, help filmmakers to produce new inspiring projects and this way Cinekid aims to stimulate high quality films. Niko And the Way to the Stars, was supported by the Irish Film Board, and the Government of Ireland 481 tax incentive scheme.

**“We are delighted with these prestigious awards and doubly happy that the film has not only impressed the main jury at Cinekid so much, but has also reached out to our main audience - the children, who also voted it as their favourite. It's a must see film this Christmas“**

***Moe Honan Producer Magma Films***

Irish based writer Martein Thorisson co-wrote the screen play, while young Irish actor and voice talent Andrew Mc Mahon stars as the boy Niko. Morgan Jones, Paul Tylak, Aileen Mythen, Alan Stanford and many other Irish actors feature in the film's voice track which was originally cast and recorded in Ireland.

Wicklow based composer Stephen Mc Keon has also created a stunning orchestral film score.

Set to hit our cinema screens here in Ireland from November 28<sup>th</sup>, this exhilarating animated film tells the story about a reindeer boy who longs to fly and dreams of one day meeting his father who is a celebrity member of the famous Santa's Flying Forces. His desire to fly and find his real father leads him on a difficult and exciting journey accompanied by his true friend Julius, a flying squirrel, and Wilma a singing weasel whom they meet along the way.

**“ Niko is currently on release in Finland and enjoying the highest audience figures ever for a children's movie after its second week. Altogether it has sold to over 120 countries and the Weinstein Company has bought the film for the US and Pan Latin America”**

***Ralph Christians Executive Producer Magma Films***