

PRESS
KIT



elli
and her MONSTER TEAM

DIRECTED BY
Piet de Rycker and Jesper Møller

CO-DIRECTED BY
Jens Møller

MUSIC BY
Amaury Laurent Bernier

BASED ON THE BOOK
"Elli - Ungeheuer geheim"
BY **Klaus Baumgart**
PUBLISHED BY **Baumhaus Verlag**



STORY BY
Jesper Møller
Piet de Rycker

SCREENPLAY BY
Jesper Møller
Piet de Rycker
Paul Risacher

A GERMANY-CANADA
CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN
Dreamin' Dolphin Film
ZOOPER Film
Traumhaus Studios

AND
Carpediem Film & Tv

PRODUCERS
Lilian Klages,
Thomas G. Müller
Marie-Claude Beauchamp

CO-PRODUCER
Michael Luda

PRODUCED WITH THE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION OF

GERMANY

MFG Baden-Württemberg
FFF Bayern
MDM Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung
MV Filmförderung
Thüringer Staatskanzlei
FFA Filmförderungsanstalt
DFFF Deutscher Filmförderfonds

CANADA

Québec Film and Television Tax Credit
Canada Media Fund
Sodec
Telefilm Canada
Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit
Shaw Rocket Fund

AND WITH THE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION OF

Crave
Radio Canada



SYNOPSIS



The little ghost Elli is looking for a new home and finds much more than that in an old fairground ghost train: a lovable community of monsters who are hiding from the outside world. Because that's where the monsters are in danger!

Based on the successful children's book of the same name by "Laura's Star" author Klaus Baumgart, Elli now haunts the big screen for the first time. A fun monster film about the happiness of having a family - even if it has yet to be found. The little ghost Elli desperately needs a new home. Her uncle Chamberlain has been kidnapped by mysterious drones and the old haunted mansion where she lived with him is no longer habitable. In her search for Chamberlain, she comes to a place where she suspects he is: an old ghost train at the fair. She doesn't find her uncle there, but she does find an illustrious community of monsters living there in secret: Martha the Yeti, Vampire Rolf and Knarf, a somewhat Frankenstein. The three are not thrilled about the new addition, especially as they run the risk of attracting the attention of the outside world. And monsters are not welcome in the outside world! But Elli is not so easy to shake off - luckily! On an adventurous escape, they forge a plan to save the monsters, fight the vicious little drones and free Elli's uncle. Because sometimes, the desire for a home is so strong that you can even find your family where you weren't looking.



WORLD PREMIERE at the *Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (ITFS)* on 27 April 2024

CHARACTERS

ELLI

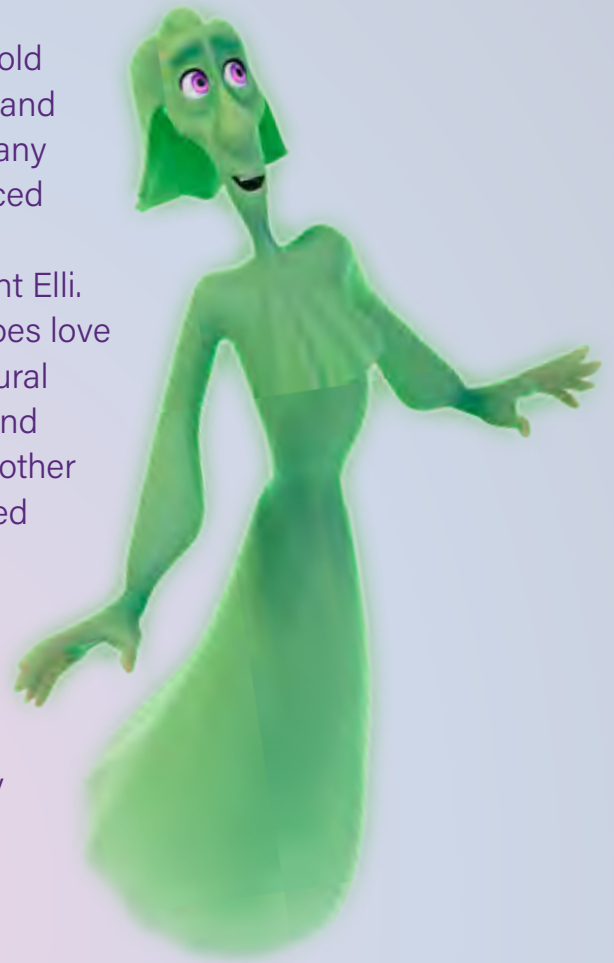
Elli is a 13-year-old ghost with a big heart and a magnificent teenage temper. She dreams of being part of a big, happy family and loves all living things freely and strongly – she could never dream of scaring anyone! When released, however, her impressive teenage temper results in an uncontrolled explosion of rather scary supernatural abilities. Nevertheless, Uncle Chamberlain, the old ghost with whom she lives, eagerly pushes her to embrace her scary powers and fulfill her ghostly legacy of scaring humans senseless. Elli herself fears the intensity of her abilities and, on top of that, she really dislikes swooshing through walls. Her attempts to keep her temper – and thus her powers – in check are severely challenged when her uncle is eliminated by Dronies, her home smashed to pieces, and her life turned upside-down. As she ventures into the world in search of her uncle, she accidentally finds – and subsequently loses – a group of

eccentric monsters who ultimately become part of the family she always wanted. But first, to save those she lost, she must finally accept her scary powers and turn them to her advantage, melding her heart and her morals with her ghostly teenage anger and stubbornness. In the end, love, family, and acceptance conquer all.



UNCLE CHAMBERLAIN

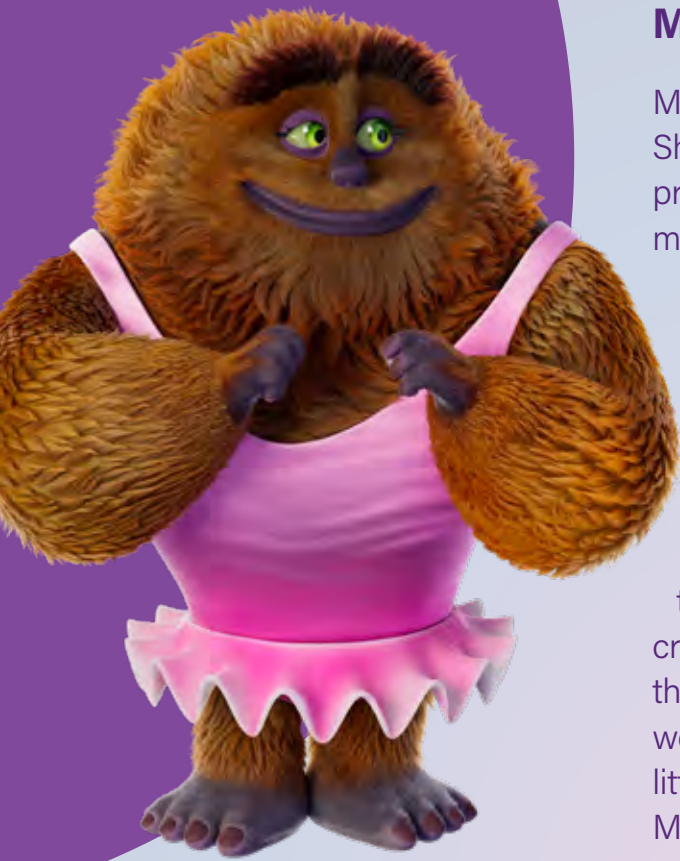
Elli's caring, but very strict, Uncle Chamberlain is an old and eccentric ghost who holds strongly to traditions and legacies. He maintains that the greatest ambition of any ghost should be to scare humans senseless. Convinced that ghosts are a superior form of monster, this is a purpose he tirelessly attempts to instill in the reluctant Elli. Despite being strict and unrelenting, Chamberlain does love Elli, and sees that the great potential of her supernatural abilities could benefit them both. As he is captured and imprisoned in the technological tower alongside the other monsters, he loses his heart only to become corrupted by the digital power handed to him. But, at the last moment, when all seems lost and he faces the possibility of losing Elli forever, he regains his heart and his acceptance for the world around him consequently expands. For why jealously hoard the monstrous legacy of scaring others, when the joy can be shared with a big family of fellow monsters?



KNARF

THE PATCHWORK MONSTER

A 15-year-old patchwork monster, Knarf is a compilation of human and mechanical spare parts, kept in place by bolts and wires. He was brought to life by a mad scientist and a massive charge of electricity that left the young monster alive, but with electric currents running over his makeshift body at random. Timid and kind, Knarf yearns for the love and acceptance of Martha and Rolf, the two adult monsters with whom he lives. Being a teenager is never easy. Add being the product of unwanted parts and an abnormality hunted by Dronies to the mix, and you get a very difficult cocktail. When Elli shows up, she and Knarf immediately click. He wants to help her, though deep-set insecurities whisper that he won't be able to. In the end, with Elli's help and kindness, Knarf begins to realize that, unlike his limbs, he is not a spare part. He belongs to a family.



MARTHA - THE YETI

Martha is a big, hairy yeti, with a big, hairy personality. She identifies as non-binary, but generally relies on the pronouns “she” and “her”. Martha is one of the three monsters Elli stumbles upon inside the Ghost Ride, and everything about her, from her size to her personality to her orange fur, is extravagant. She dreams of performing on the Top-Top Model TV-show, a dream that masks the trauma of her youth, during which she was forced to be ridiculed on-stage as a “hideous female yeti-monster”. Denial is the name of the game, and Martha is very good at denying reality; her past trauma, her present status as a refugee, her blooming crush on Rolf van Grufti, and so on. Despite this, however, the yeti possesses unending amounts of kindness, welcoming a lost and lonely Elli into the comforts of her little, hidden home. As the ultimate battle culminates, Martha reveals a surprising amount of courage and strength of character, overcoming her past trauma and need for constant validation, while embracing long-ago-forgotten parts of herself to help Elli save the captured monsters and defeat the great evil: the Quantrix.

ROLF - THE VAMPIRE

Rolf is a pretentious, centuries-old vampire with a proud past as a vaudeville stage actor. Though his stay in the Ghost Ride provides him with ample opportunities for scaring humans without being discovered by the Dronies, Rolf sees this only as a temporary solution. He never misses an opportunity to criticize the performances of his compatriots, Martha and Knarf, and constantly offers unsolicited advice on scaring. This plays into his ongoing feud with Martha, his infatuation with whom he staunchly ignores. Loathe to admit affection towards his fellow monsters, Rolf’s only concession to caring is towards his teeth, Teeth, who frequently indulges a bad habit of escaping the vampire’s mouth to go on a chomping-rampage alone. When Elli discovers the home hidden in the backrooms of the Ghost Ride, Rolf is immediately suspicious and argues vehemently for kicking her to the curb. As the story progresses, the cynical walls Rolf has so carefully built to protect himself are torn down. He realizes that, without love and family, his immortal life would be an empty one.



VOICES

SOPHIE NÉLISSE

Sophie Nélisse already has an impressive acting career despite her young age. We were able to admire her talent in her first major film role in Philippe Falardeau's *Monsieur Lazhar* in 2011. With this role she earned her first Jutra and Prix Genie in the supporting role category. In 2013, she landed the lead role in the feature film *The Book Thief* (Brian Percival), a role for which she received 3 awards (Spotlight Award at the Hollywood Film Festival and Best Newcomer at the Nevada Film Critics Society and Phoenix Film Critics)

She took part in several Quebec feature films, including *Endorphine* (André Turpin) in 2015, *1:54* (Yan England) in 2016, *Et au pire on se mariera* (Léa Pool) in 2017 and *Flashwood* (Jean-Carl Boucher) in 2019. In the international scene, Sophie acted the lead role of Gilly in the comedy-drama feature *The Great Gilly Hopkins* (Stephen Herek) with actresses Julia Stiles, Kathy Bates and Glenn Close in 2015. In 2019, she went on to play the role of Mia in the American horror film *47 meters down* (Johannes Roberts) alongside Mandy Moore and the same year, played the role of Zoe Tanner in the drama movie *Close* (Vicky Jewson) with Naomi Rapace. More recently, Sophie played the main role in *Irena's vow* (Louise Archambault) launched internationally in 2024 and winner of the Audience Award at the Vancouver International Film Festival and the LIUNA People's Choice Award at the Windsor International Film Festival.

On TV, she is in the main cast of the viral US series *Yellowjackets* (several directors) and was seen on the Canadian series *Transplant II* (several directors).

Nélisse Sophie © Laurent Theriault



CAROLINE DHAVERNAS

Caroline Dhavernas is very active on the big screen in Quebec, the US and Europe. We've seen her in *The Baroness* and *the Pig, Out Cold, De père en flic, Passchendaele* and *The Tulse Luper Suitcases*, to name a few. She also worked alongside Thierry Lhermitte in director Pierre-Paul Renders' Belgian co-production *Comme tout le monde*. In the U.S., she starred with Adrian Brody in *Hollywoodland*, with Chris Cooper and Ryan Phillippe in *Breach* and with Jennifer Aniston in *The Switch*. She also played the main role in Martin Villeneuve's *Mars et Avril*.

For several seasons, Caroline played the character of Dr. Alana Bloom in the popular American TV series *Hannibal*. This role brought her remarkable fame and recognition not only in the U.S., but around the world. The series was subsequently broadcast in French Canada on Addik TV.

This wasn't Caroline's first American series, as she appeared in Fox's *Wonderfalls*, ABC's *Off The Map* and made a few appearances in *Law & Order, Law & Order Criminal Intent* and *The Pacific*, produced by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks. In 2017, Caroline starred in the series *Mary Kills People*.

Now back on Quebec screens, she was part of the cast of Jean-Philippe Duval's film *Chasse-galerie*, the series *Blue Moon* and the feature film *De père en flic 2*. In 2020, she will appear in *Les beaux malaises 2.0* and, more recently, in the series *Aller simple* and in *Les cavaliers*, a youth series seen on UNIS in 2022.

Official Casting Picture Caroline Dhavernas ©Maxime Cote



DARRYL HINDS

Darryl Hinds is an alumni of the world famous *Second City* comedy show as a cast member of its Toronto Mainstage, where he wrote and performed five revues, and most recently returned to Direct the revue "*Chaos Menu: Disorder Up!*" Since his days at the *Second City* Darryl has worked on sitcom TV shows like *Overlord & The Underwoods* (where he was nominated for the 2022 CSA's for Best Comedic Actor), *Children Ruin Everything*, *Jann* but also on US Hulu drama series *Handmaid's Tale*, Canadian crime series *Private Eyes*, CBC's *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, and so many Christmas movies you'll lose count. Darryl was also a cast member of the legendary TV sketch troupe Royal Canadian *Air Farce* having mounted 5 of their famous New Years Eve Specials.

Darryl has also worked as a writer for *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* and CityTV's *Sunnyside*.







FILM TEAM

Piet de Rycker and Jesper Møller have been friends for many years and are now working together as co-writers and directors on **Elli and her Monster Team**. Piet de Rycker was responsible as screenwriter and director for successful animated films such as **The little ice bear** as well as **Princess Emmy**. Jesper Møller directed **Asterix and the Vikings**, **The Sandman and the lost sand of dreams** and the two **Mullewapp** films. Møller wrote the screenplay for **The tale of the four**.

JESPER MØLLER (DIRECTOR)



Jesper Møller is an acclaimed director, writer, and animator on a long string of animated feature films and TV series. He worked for 20 years with animation majors such as Warner Bros, Walt Disney, Sony, Don Bluth, and Danish A. Film, before funding Parka Pictures in 2008, an independent animation company dedicated to

creating, developing, and producing original animated storytelling for all formats with a strong emphasis on feature films. Jesper Møller is also a founding partner and creative spearhead of German animation studios Eagle Eye Film Production and Zooper Film, both located in Ludwigsburg, Germany. He worked as a director on **Astérix et les Vikings** (2006) and **Mullewapp** (2009) and as senior animator on **Eight crazy nights** (2002), **Help! I'm a fish** (2000) and **Hugo: The movie star** (1996).

PIET DE RYCKER (DIRECTOR)



Piet De Rycker studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent, Belgium. He began his career in the early 1980s with comic strip publications. His first short film **The Old Storyteller** was released in 1981, followed by the TV series **Quick** and

Flupke in 1985/86. He contributed to numerous animation films, including those produced by Don Bluth. Since 1997, he has collaborated with Thilo Graf Rothkirch (co-director) and Maya Gräfin Rothkirch (producer) on animated films such as **Tobias Totz and His Lion** (1999), **The Little Polar Bear** (2001), **Laura's Star** (2004), and **The Little Polar Bear 2** (2005).

JENS MØLLER (CO-DIRECTOR)



Jens Møller has been working in animation for 30 years, with an extensive experience in both feature films, short films, TV series and commercials. Originally educated with a master's in architecture and production design, he has been working with a broad range of animated productions

over the years. As a director he has been working for TV series and TV specials such as **Ninjago-masters of spinjitzu** and **Lego Star Wars** and he has recently directed the 3D animated features **Daily Fables** (2018) and **The Ogglies** (2021). He is currently working as a director on the animated feature **Fleak** and as Co-Director on 3D animated Feature **Elli and her monster team**. Jens has also worked as a teacher at various European film schools over the years.

AMAURY LAURENT BERNIER (MUSIC COMPOSER)

Amaury Laurent Bernier grew up in Paris and has lived in Hamburg since 2015. Multi-talented and fascinated by music and cinema since childhood, he worked as a songwriter, composer, arranger, tour musician, producer and sound engineer. He then combined his two passions, music and film, with his work for various productions for cinema television and streaming. Bernier's work, which now spans 120 projects across all platforms, has earned him multiple awards, including the 2017 London International Awards in the Music Adaptation category. Bernier also continues to release solo albums, which have been streamed

over 1.5 million times on Spotify in the past two years. His works include the series *Atomic Puppet* (2017), the internet production *34 Days in Lockdown* (2020), the TV film «*Das Leben vor mir*» (2018), additional music for *Emily Atef's 3 days in quiberon* (2018), animated feature film *Princess Emmy* (2019), *Sandra Burger's Totem* (2022) and currently the film music for *Natja Brunckhorst's comedy Two to One* (2024) with Sandra Hüller, Max Riemelt and Ronald Zehrfeld.



LILIAN KLAGES (PRODUCER)

Professor Lilian Klages, a studied urban planner and sociologist, has worked as an executive producer for international animated feature films and TV series in the areas of development, financing and production since 1995. Klages is CEO and Executive Producer of the German companies Dreamin'Dolphin Film based in Munich and Zooper Film in Ludwigsburg as well as Executive Producer of Parka Pictures in Copenhagen.

Her productions include the cinema films *Help! I am a fish* (2000), *Asterix and the Vikings* (2006), *The Fabulous Four* (2018), *Harvie and the magical museum* (2017), *Latte and the magic waterstone* (2019) and the animated series *Legends of*

Chima (2013). He most recent animated feature *Elli and her monster team* will be released in 2024.

In addition, Lilian Klages has been involved for many years as curator of the Animation Production Days in Stuttgart, head of the «Animation Producing» course at the Animation Institute in Ludwigsburg and is an examiner for the bachelor's graduates of the animation programme in Viborg, Denmark. Lilian Klages is co-founder of the German branch of Women in Animation.



MARIE-CLAUDE BEAUCHAMP (PRODUCER AND DISTRIBUTOR)

Marie-Claude Beauchamp is well known to the arts community in Canada and Europe, having produced and financed over 400 hours of children's programming for both features and television. She has also been involved in the production of 3 award-winning Canadian music albums, 20 children's books and 2 museum exhibitions to date. In 2024, she will

be celebrating the 20th anniversary of CarpeDiem Film & TV, an audiovisual production company which she founded in 2004.

Since the creation of CarpeDiem, Marie-Claude has produced several



children's series, including *Grand Star*, *My life Me*, *Silly Bitty Bunny*, the TV movie *Leon's Animated Stories* to name a few. In the Spring of 2013, she releases the first 100% Quebec 3D animated film in stereoscopic format, *The Legend of Sarila*, co-produced with Les Productions 10e Avenue.

In 2014, Marie-Claude built a franchise by adapting in animation the feature film *Snowtime!*, winner of the best box office in Canada and sold internationally with a great success in China. This was followed in 2018 by an animated spin-off series entitled *Snowsnaps*, broadcasted by Corus and sold in major international territories, including France (Canal + and Piwi), Germany (KIKa), Italy (RAI), England (SKY), the United States (Disney Chanel), Finland (YLE) and Spain (TV3) and more. 2018 also marks the theatrical

release of a second feature of the IP, *Racetime* nominated in numerous festivals worldwide.

Since 2020, she has produced 3 new projects: *Butterfly Tale* released in Canada on October 13, 2023 and being sold internationally in 2024. *Elli and the monster team*, a film co-produced with Germany and scheduled for release in autumn 2024, and Joy Eternal, a 2D animated series co-produced with Finland and Spain.

In 2017, she created Pink Parrot Media, an international sales agent company acquiring animated features, animation TV series, Live Action and family features to give producers a valued and comprehensive opportunity where they feel comfortable and convinced that their projects are considered.

FILM TEAM QUOTES

TRISTAN WEIS (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)

«Working on the 3D-animated CGI feature film as a lead technical director was a dynamic and fulfilling experience. I particularly enjoyed the collaborative nature of the project, seamlessly connecting studios from all over the world.»



IULIAN GRIGORIU (ANIMATION DIRECTOR)

«For me, one of the most interesting and challenging part was the build-up of the characters acting rules which happens in different steps. The first one was to exchange with the directors and to see how they envision them. In a second time, I did my research and I believe this was my best time in the production because I started to model their personalities, like a puzzle, and even create back stories about their life before the action takes place.»

TONIO FREITAG (FX SUPERVISOR)

«I loved the challenges and the creative freedom of creating stylized effects and it was amazing to see what a talented and dedicated team could accomplish.»

CAROL RATAJCZAK & TOBIAS TREBELJAHR (ART DIRECTORS)

«It was a great experience to work with so many international teams and talented artists and to give shape to the strong vision. Especially since the translation from concept to the final medium is always a challenge. And this project was incredibly fun to see how all the tiny pieces come together in the end.»



NICOLA WULF (LINE PRODUCER)

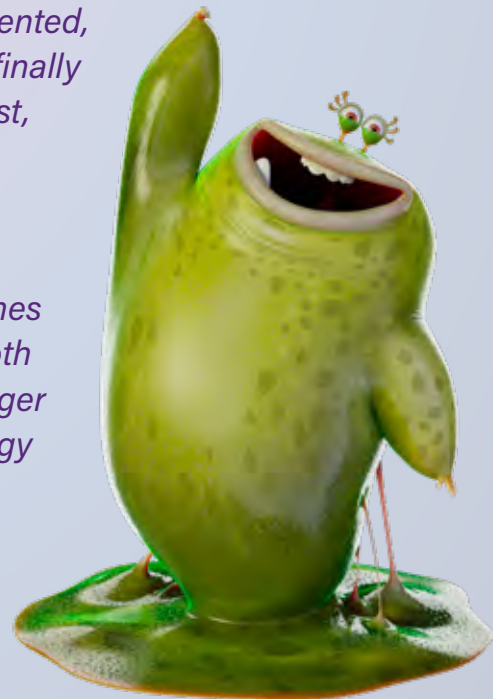
«For me Elli is a real heroine, she doesn't become one through external circumstances, but only through her will and her own personal development - that's what makes her special.»

JESPER MØLLER (WRITER & DIRECTOR)

«Creating an animated movie is an almost an unimaginable endeavor, where vision, endurance, creativity, and teamwork are put to the ultimate test. Yet at the same time, its also a magical experience, a dazzling ride, where every step forward is charged with joy and an amazing feeling of team spirit. And for me, having spent the last 8 years on Elli and the wonderful, talented, and dedicated people of the entire «Monster Team» and now finally escorting her to the silver screen, has been the wildest, funniest, and most crazy «ghost train ride» of my life!

«What is the movies main message?»

The movie works on many levels and touches quite a few themes that we believe are not only important but also relatable for both children and grown ups everywhere. There's the theme of danger and how carelessly handing over too much power to technology can be fatal for life as we know it. But more important, there is a very central message about respect and inclusion and the danger of dividing our world into «them and us». Finally, and maybe dearest to all our hearts, stand the message that «family is the one you choose with your heart».



LILIAN KLAGES (PRODUCER)

What about Elli's story is so special for you and how can she serve as a figure of identification for children?

«Elli is searching for security and a family, for a place where she is safe and accepted. These themes are universal, but through the character of Elli, through her determination, her commitment and her drive, Elli gives us hope that it is worth standing up for our convictions. Elli is basically a typical teenage girl who knows one thing for sure: she doesn't want to swoosh through walls, it makes her sick. Elli also has a tremendous temper, and when she gets angry, she develops a whole lot of energy. But Elli is also incredibly vulnerable and wants nothing more than a big family, even though she is a spirit in her own way. I think that many children will recognise themselves in the character of Elli and can identify with these goals, especially in a world in which you first have to find your way as an adolescent.»

How important is it for an animation production to have the world market in mind right from the start? And what impact does this have on story development and the film production itself?

«We develop stories that are universal and work for all children. In this sense, we have the global market in mind right from the start of the creation process. The material that we produce deals with topics that are universal on one hand, and deal with contemporary issues on the other. We address with passion and handled on a personal basis challenges and problems that today's children are facing.»







TECHNICAL INFORMATIONS

ENGLISH TITLE

Elli and her Monster Team

PRODUCTION COUNTRIES

Germany, Canada

RUNNING TIME

87 Minutes

GENRE

Adventure, Family, Comedy

IMAGE FORMAT

Full Container ; 1:1,89

ADAPTATION OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK:

**«Elli Ungeheuer geheim» by
Klaus Baumgart**

RELEASE YEAR

2024

STORY

**Jesper Møller, Piet de Rycker,
Paul Risacher**

LANGUAGES

**English
German
French (Quebec)**

SCRIPT

Jesper Møller, Piet de Rycker

SOUND FORMAT

Stereo & 5.1 & 7.1

DIRECTORS

Jesper Møller, Piet de Rycker

CO-DIRECTOR

Jens Møller





CONTACTS

MARIE CLAUDE BEAUCHAMP

President / Partner

marie-claude@pinkparrotmedia.ca
+1 (514) 270-2522 ext.228

TANIA PINTO DA CUNHA

*Vice-President / Partner / Head of
International Sales & Acquisitions*

tania@pinkparrotmedia.ca
+34 629 459 075

→ PINKPARROTMEDIA.CA