

# Upside Down

Film studio  
"Animācijas brigāde"



Stop motion • puppet animation • 12 min. • colour • digital • 16:9 • 2023 • Latvia

Directed by **Dace Rīdūze**

Andulis, the little bat, wakes up at the wrong time and discovers that he, unlike his fellow bats, loves sunlight and warmth. After making friends with Little Mouse who looks almost like him, Andulis is surprised to find out that, unlike in the bat's house, everything is not upside down in Little Mouse's house.



Nacionālais centrs







## Animācijas brigāde Puppet animation film studio

**Animācijas brigāde** is a puppet animation film studio which works with classic stop-motion techniques to create films, series and commercials. The studio, based in Riga, Latvia, was founded in 1966 by the puppet film and theatre director **Arnolds Burovs**. During the many years of operation **Animācijas brigāde** has produced over 140 puppet animation films with different talented directors at the helm. Most of the film scripts are original stories, some of which are based on Latvian or foreign literature/folklore or comic strips.

Perhaps the most standout feature of the films are the one-of-a-kind characters made by the imaginative and talented artists of the studio. The puppets are handmade by artisans with decades of experience in puppet sculpting, mechanisms, sewing and set building.

The studio consists of a tight-knit group of 16 professionals, and three filming pavilions. Most of the films produced by the **Animācijas brigāde** studio are around 5 – 10 minutes long and feature a fictional language, so anyone can grasp the story. **Animācijas Brigāde** continues its successful work using the classic puppet animation technique and is proud to keep this amazing art form alive and thriving.

### Animation series:

**The Rescue Team** (Avārijas brigāde) - 26 episodes, 1991 – 2010. These comic puppet film series, based on original scripts by the Latvian artist and writer Māris Putniņš, were directed by Jānis Cimmermanis and Dace Rīdūze. The main characters are Bembelate, Seelink and Poterick – tree young man who organize the Rescue team.

They save everybody and everything, that needs rescuing. Sometimes after their brave actions and activities there remains nothing to be rescued or saved.

**The Rescue Team in Europe** directed by Jānis Cimmermanis.

**Corrida** (Korrida), 2012

**Vāsa** (Vāsa), 2013

**Tower** (Tornis), 2014

**Secrets of Paris** (Parīzes noslēpumi) 2018

**London Holidays** (Londonas brīvdienas) 2019

**Greece Treasures** (Grieķijas dārgumi) 2021

**Animals** (Zvēri) - 7 episodes, 1996 - 2001.

Directed by Nils Skapāns /Dace Rīdūze/Māris Brinkmanis. Fun adventures of two friends: Tiger Kalamazu and Heron Konsel.



### Animation shorts:

**Hedgehogs and the City** (Eži un lielpilsēta) 2013, directed by Ēvalds Lācis, a story about forest animals moving into the city trying to survive alongside humans. The film has received 10 awards at various international film festivals around the world including two diplomas as the best children's film at the **International Berlin film festival Berlinale 2013** in Germany.

**Acorn Boy** (Zīļuks) 2010  
**Little Ruddy** (Sārtulis) 2013  
**Crispy** (Kraukšķītis) 2014  
**Hares' Big Day** (Zaķu lielā diena) 2015, created after beloved Latvian artist Margarita Stārase's children books. Directed by Dace Rīdūze.

### Animation dedicated to ecology:

**Forest Guards** (Meža sargi) 2015, directed by Māris Brinkmanis.

**Angry Bag** (Dusmukule) 2021, directed by Dace Rīdūze.

### For the little ones:

**The Piglet's Journey** (Ruksiša ceļojums) 2016, directed by Dace Rīdūze.

**Pea Children** (Zirņa bērni) 2020, directed by Dace Rīdūze, based on poem by noted Latvian writer Rainis.

### Full-length animated film

**Henry The Great** (Lielais Indriķis) 2023, directed by Jānis Cimmermanis. Based on the children's adventure novel "Wild Pies" (Mežonīgie pīrāgi) written by Māris Putniņš.

## More from Animācijas brigāde

Alongside movies and series, film studio **Animācijas brigāde** is producing also puppet animated advertisements and informative clips for local TV and other businesses such as Latvian Railway, The Nature Conservation Agency, The Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia and many others.

Great opportunity for children and their families are the animation workshops where they screen films and hold tours organized by studio artists. This offers a chance to see the films and learn about the process of stop-motion puppet film making. You can even model your own character and try recording a short film yourself. These events are being held at their studios, around Latvia and in travelling workshops abroad.





# Upside Down

Script **Dace Rīduze**

Director **Dace Rīduze**

Camera **Ēvalds Lācis, Deniss Skrobins**

Art **Ilze Dambe**

Composer **Jēkabs Nīmanis**

Sound editor **Anrijs Krenbergs**

Producer **Māris Putniņš**



## Dace Rīduze

### Animation:

**Upside Down** (Kājām gaisā) 2022

**Angry Bag** (Dusmukule) 2021

**Pea Children** (Zirņa bērni) 2020

**The Dust** (Puteklis) 2018

**The Piglet's Journey** (Ruksiša ceļojums) 2016

**Hares' Big Day** (Zaķu lielā diena) 2015

**Crispy** (Kraukšķītis) 2014

**Little Ruddy** (Sārtulis) 2014

**Acorn Boy** (Zīļuks) 2010

**Pig's Happiness** (Cūkas laime) 2009

**Smile, My Friend!** (Pasmaidi, draugs!) 2007

**Dream Dwarfs** (Miega rūķi) 2006

**Antlion** (Skudrulauva) 2004

**Firefly** (Jāņtārpiņš) 2002

**Cats** (Kaķi) 2002

**Up And Down** (Kaimiņu būšana) 2000



### Film studio

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