

Six-minute Bird

"A little girl is captured by a bird on the cracking ice" - that is the catalogue description of the film by English animator Lucy Lee. It fits into one line. The list of awards this film has won requires many more lines.

□ What would you say is the situation of the animated film in Great Britain at present, in relation to film industry in general?

- Animated film and film

industry are quite separate. The funding bodies are separate even though there is some overlap. The funding you might get for animated film comes from different places. It's quite a

young industry. Animation is doing quite well in Britain, and in France now.

□ What is your opinion about computer animation? Don't you see it as a threat to traditional animation and a kind of its devaluation?

- It can be if the technology becomes more important than the film itself. A lot of people make films using a computer just a technical exercise. Sometimes there is no substance or story in the film, then it becomes pointless but what's important about the film is what it says to the audience no matter how it has been made.

□ Are you a professional filmmaker, or are you still a student?

- I'm a freelance animation director, I make living by animation but I prefer to make my own films, and I try to get funding for those. If I can't find somebody to fund the film, I fund it myself. I've always been making films, I don't know how or why. I just was compelled to do it.

□ Czechoslovak animation used to be one of the best in the world in the past. How much do British animators know about this successful period?

- Yes, many East European and Czechoslovakian animators were famous and their animation is still very highly regarded although we don't know how much longer... It has got a good reputation though and stu-

dents study it in schools.

□ How does it feel to be here?

- Oh, it's a wonderful festival, really friendly, and the sections are really well organized. It's strange for me being at a mostly live-action

festival with little animation. I don't really know that much about the fiction, live-action or documentary world but I've been to a lot of festivals and this is one of the best, and the hospitality is excellent.

