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Hey Fuzzy Yellow

TOON2TANGO

Talking entertainment with Toon2Tango

Kids and family entertainment venture Toon2Tango was founded nearly five years ago by an experienced and successful management duo, **Hans Ulrich Stoef, CEO and co-founder** and **Jo Daris, CCO and co-founder at Toon2Tango.** Now, as the founders explain, the company is well positioned to grow and enhance its offering.

Hans Ulrich Stoef





Jo Daris

Could you tell us something about the evolution of Toon2Tango, and how it has changed?
Ulli Stoef: My co-founder Jo Daris and I had already enjoyed success in production and brand building when we formed Toon2Tango. Toon2Tango specialises in IP creation, development, financing, production, distribution and brand building, with a focus on kids and family entertainment. Our hit shows to date include *Agent 203* and *Monster Loving Maniacs*, with many other highly anticipated shows and one movie in production or on the way.

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FOCUS ON



Showtime

Jo Daris: Our goal is to become one of the leading European animation companies. When LEONINE approached us, they were already very successful in the kids and family business in Germany, mainly within the fields of co-production for theatrical distribution, home entertainment and audio. However, LEONINE was looking to expand into production, financing and 360° distribution in the field of animation on an international level. LEONINE saw us as the ideal partner. In late 2023 we announced that Toon2Tango had become a wholly owned subsidiary of the newly founded LEONINE Animation Studios, owned 50% by LEONINE Holding GmbH and 50% by the founding partner, Germany's leading independent media company. It's a dream partnership, offering us the creative freedom and economic support that brings us closer to our goal of being a major player in the European animation scene.

What are you working on at the moment?
U.S.: Lots of things! We have just greenlit our brand-new 2D animated show *Showtime*, which was first introduced to the market at Cartoon Forum 2022. The 52x11-minute series, commissioned by KIKA and co-produced by Digitoonz India, Telegael Ireland and Edel Germany, will be ready for delivery in 2026. Two new shows we'll highlight at MIPCOM and MIPJUNIOR are definitely worth mentioning now. With a lot of industry buzz behind it, *Hey Fuzzy Yellow* (52 x 11'), is a fresh, highly original 2D animated pre-school show. This is a spirited, very amusing new spin on childhood edutainment with a focus on thinking and self-expression through exploration and play, with very funny, original songs. *Hey Fuzzy Yellow* is a co-production by Toon2Tango, Curiosity Ink Media, Treehouse Republic, Will Production and Hotel Hungaria Animation. 26 episodes are available now; the remaining 26 episodes are set for delivery at the beginning of 2025. The show was created and developed by Måns Swanberg and Toon2Tango and commissioned by the Irish public broadcaster RTE. It has been pre-sold to Warner Media, Latam.

Agent 203



J.D.: Coming to screens at the beginning of 2025 but skewing slightly older is *Dinomite and Lucy*, a new animated 39x11-minute show set in an alternative prehistoric world in which dinosaurs are the superior species. Based on an internationally successful series of books called Minus Drei, by German author Ute Krause, it's very funny and original. Admired animation experts TRIKK17 and M.A.R.K.13™, together with Fabriques d'Images and ZDF, are co-producing this delightful new venture. Toon2Tango has entered into a partnership with ZDF Studios, the commercial subsidiary of ZDF, to jointly work on the distribution of this fantastic new show.



Dinomite and Lucy

You also have a number of shows already being broadcast. How are your existing hits doing?
U.S.: Yes! *Agent 203* is one of Toon2Tango's biggest hits to date. A 26 x 22' CGI adventure-comedy primarily targeted at girls aged 6-10, this, the world's first Spy-Fi show, is a co-production between Toon2Tango, Mondo TV and Cosmos Maya Animation distributed by Toon2Tango and Mondo TV. We're also considering a second season and a movie.

J.D.: The clever, original and very funny kids' animation *Monster Loving Maniacs*, a 52 x 11-minute 2D comedy for 6-10-year-olds, is about three siblings trained as monster hunters by their tough old grandfather.
Now available in 150 countries and a ratings hit on CBBC in the UK, Monster Loving Maniacs is produced by Ja Film and co-produced by Mondo TV, Belvision and Ginger Pictures and distributed by Toon2Tango and Mondo TV. The show has been commissioned by leading public broadcasters Super RTL (Germany) and DR (Denmark). Further broadcast partners include SVT, NRK, VRT's Ketnet and RTL Klub.

How would you sum up Toon2Tango's position today?
U.S.: We can see that our shows are resonating with both kids and families as well as broadcast partners. We are always working hard to add to our successes in production and distribution – but knowing that our skills are complemented and supported by LEONINE's expertise and reach is a major boost to our aim of becoming one of the leading European animation companies. This is a very exciting time for us.