



**6 - 14 JULY 2018**

**18<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**

*NIFFF - Press release - 14.07.2018*

## **NIFFF 2018: THE H.R. GIGER NARCISSE AWARDED TO GASPAR NOÉ'S CLIMAX**

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (6-14 July) is drawing to a close after 9 days of cinematic excitement that brought together 322 prestigious guests from 5 continents in the medieval city. The closing ceremony concluded with winning director Gaspar Noé accepting his H.R. Giger Narcisse for best feature film awarded by David Cronenberg for his sensational CLIMAX. With a total of 44,000 diverse festival-goers (2017: 42,000), from all over Switzerland and neighbouring countries, this 18<sup>th</sup> edition's numbers are at an all-time high, confirming the growing interest in the NIFFF's programme which celebrates the ever more dynamic genre films. The international competition met its objectives by offering an original and eclectic selection of the current productions to an impressive number of people in spite of the strong competition from regular theatrical releases. As the festival cements its place as a public favourite, professionals have also taken an active role in the section dedicated to the industry and to emerging Swiss filmmakers. The NIFFF Extended label, a forum for discussion and networking dedicated to contemporary audio-visual productions, has enjoyed a similar increase in popularity.

### **THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS**

This 18<sup>th</sup> edition was marked by the attendance of generous guests such as Jan Harlan, Stanley Kubrick's executive producer, who told the audience about one of the greatest director's genius before our screening of 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY on the Place des Halles, at our new Open Air. American filmmaker Ari Aster, director this year's most discussed horror film HEREDITARY was also present, as well as the main actress of WOMAN AT WAR, Halldora Geirharðsdóttir, who shared her infectious energy with us and was rewarded with a standing ovation. After the showing of their film PROFILE, Russian duo Timur Bekmambetov and Olga Kharina gave a conference on *screenmovies*, a concept that allows for an entire movie to be told through a computer screen. The AMAZING SWITZERLAND section and SSA/SUISSIMAGE short films competition ensured a strong national representation with the presence of many Swiss guests. David Cronenberg's masterclass gave the audience a unique opportunity to discuss his works. A passionate discussion with Gaspar Noé took place after his film's screening, which will be released in Swiss cinemas at the end of the year (19 September in the French-speaking region; 6 December in the German-speaking one).

### **THE NIFFF IN NUMBERS**

This 18<sup>th</sup> edition had a budget of CHF 2,175,000 and showed over 150 films divided into 14 categories during a period of 9 days. With a simultaneous seating capacity of 2,115 festival-goers, the 168 public screenings have included 104 feature films and 60 short films from 41 countries (7 world premieres, 5 international premieres, 9 European premieres and 54 Swiss ones). The free NIFFF Extended and NIFFF Invasion programmes offered 71 activities, 61 of which were conferences. The total of entries reached 44,000 (39,000 film tickets), which is a 4.7% rise from 2017.

## **NIFFF 2018 WINNERS**

### **H.R. Giger “Narcisse” award for best feature film (International Competition)**

CHF 10,000 given by the City of Neuchâtel

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#### **CLIMAX - Gaspar Noé, FR**

World sales: Wild Bunch (FR)

Distributor: Xenix Filmdistribution GmbH(CH)

#### **Awarded by the International Jury**

Stéphanie Argerich, Director, Switzerland

Lene Børglum, Producer, Denmark

David Cronenberg, Director, Writer, Canada

Nosipho Dumisa, Director, South Africa

Chris Stapp, Director, Illustrator, New Zealand

### **Silver Méliès for best European fantastic feature film**

Nomination

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#### **CLIMAX - Gaspar Noé, FR**

World sales: Wild Bunch (FR)

Distributor: Xenix Filmdistribution GmbH(CH)

#### **Awarded by the Méliès Jury**

Joel Basman, Actor, Switzerland

Marie-Christine Fontaine, Producer, France

Olivier Müller, manager at Teleclub, Switzerland

The film is nominated for the Golden Méliès, which will be chosen in October 2018 at the Sitges Film Festival by the European Fantastic Film Festival Federation (EFFFF).

### **International Critics award (International Competition)**

Promotion

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#### **PIERCING - Nicolas Pesce, US**

World sales: Memento Films Int. (FR)

#### **Awarded by the NIFFF International Critics Jury**

Christopher O’Keefe, Journalist, Canada, *Screen Anarchy* (CA)

Germaine Paulus, Journalist, Germany, *Deadline* (DE)

Jean-Baptiste Herment, Journalist, France, *Mad Movies* (FR)

Ignacio López Vaca, Journalist, Spain, *Scifiworld* (ES)

Andrea Monili, Journalist, Italy, *Nocturno* (IT)

### **Imaging The Future award for best production design (International Competition)**

CHF 5,000 offered by the Swiss Center for Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM)

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#### **To Alan Lampert for PIERCING - Nicolas Pesce, US**

World sales: Memento Films Int. (FR)

#### **Awarded by the International Jury**

Stéphanie Argerich, Director, Switzerland  
Lene Børglum, Producer, Denmark  
David Cronenberg, Director, Writer, Canada  
Nosipho Dumisa, Director, South Africa  
Chris Stapp, Director, Illustrator, New Zealand

**Denis-De-Rougemont youth award (International Competition)**  
A Hamilton watch

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**UNDER THE SILVER LAKE - David Robert Mitchell, US**  
Distributor: Ascot Elite Entertainment (CH)

**Awarded by the Denis-de-Rougemont High School Jury**  
Rosa Arrivé, Tim Engel, Carlo Rossel, Daniel Alves, Nathan Glardon

**Best Asian feature film (Asian Competition)**  
Honorary

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**BAD GENIUS - Nattawut Poonpiriya, TH**  
World sales: GDH 559 Co. (TH)

**Awarded by the audience**

**RTS Audience award (International and Asian Competitions)**  
Broadcast

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**KASANE - Satô Yûichi, Japan**  
World sales: Pony Canyon (JP)

**Awarded by the audience**

**H.R. Giger "Narcisse" award for best Swiss short film**  
CHF 10,000 offered by the SSA and Suissimage

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**CREPUSCULE - Pauline Jeanbourquin, Switzerland**  
Prod: Ecole cantonale d'Art de Lausanne - Département cinéma (CH), Nouvelles Tribu (CH) -  
ecal@ecal.ch

**Awarded by the SSA/Suissimage Jury**  
Stéphane Goël, Director SSA/SUISSIMAGE Delegate, Switzerland  
Bruno Quiblier, Shorts Programmer, Locarno Festival & Base-Court, Switzerland  
Stefan Jäger, Producer, Switzerland

**Silver Méliès for best fantastic European short film**  
Nomination

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The film is nominated for the Golden Méliès, which will be chosen in October 2018 at the Sitges Film Festival by the European Fantastic Film Festival Federation (EFFFF).

**Taurus Studio award for innovation (Swiss Shorts Competition)**

CHF 2,000 worth of sound post production services

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**DAS MÄDCHEN IM SCHNEE - Dennis Ledergerber, Switzerland**

Prod: Visual Arts GmbH - info@cut-up.tv

**Awarded by the Taurus Studio Jury**

Jonas Follonier, Editor in Chief, Le Regard libre, Switzerland

Claude Lander, Taurus Studio Founder, Switzerland

Francine Pickel, Financial Director, Lanterne Magique, Switzerland

**Outside the Box Award**

National distribution

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**CÓMPRAME UN REVÓLVER - Julio Hernández Cordon, Mexico / Colombia**

Distributor: Outside The Box (CH)

**The NIFFF continues:**

**NIFFF ON TOUR - Future Storyworlds VR: Call for projects**

The NIFFF joins forces with CineGlobe to put out a call for projects aimed at promoting visionary writing on the themes of utopia and sustainable development. More information will be given at the official launch time in September 2018.

**NIFFF 2019:** The festival's next edition will take place from Friday July 5<sup>th</sup> to Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Our press team remains at your disposal for requests pertaining to additional information, visuals, and video clips.

**Contact and additional information:**

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