



6 - 14 JULY 2018

18<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

NIFFF - Press release, 18.04.2018

## David Cronenberg – President of the international jury for the NIFFF's 18<sup>th</sup> edition

It is with great honour that the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) will welcome one of the major figures of modern cinema: David Cronenberg. The Canadian director will be tasked with granting the H.R. Giger 'Narcisse' award for best feature to one of the 16 films selected for competition during the closing ceremony on July 14<sup>th</sup>. He will also partake in the NEW WORLDS OF FANTASY literary forum with a conference dedicated to his novel CONSUMED (2014), as well as his experience with adaptation throughout his film career. Festival-goers will also be able to know more about the filmmaker's influences through his *carte blanche*.

### DAVID CRONENBERG, A PRECURSOR OF MODERN GENRE FILMS

David Cronenberg takes his first steps as a director in 1967 in the realm of exploitation cinema, a genre he explores through his first few short and feature films. In spite of the restricted budgets allocated to his early projects, he proves himself an auteur capable of encapsulating his personal vision with powerful images. His first features **STEREO** (1969) and **CRIMES OF THE FUTURE** (1970) are already vehicles for the themes that will define his filmography, such as science, impulses, the body, and the darkest corners of the human soul.

From 1975 to 1996, Cronenberg makes his mark on the history of fantastic films with works such as **SHIVERS** (1975), **RABID** (1977), **THE BROOD** (1979), **SCANNERS** (1981), and **VIDEODROME** (1983). These unique films notably stand out because of the splendour of their radicalness and visual violence. His more mainstream efforts – **THE DEAD ZONE** (1983), **THE FLY** (1986), **DEAD RINGERS** (1988) – cement his position internationally. During the following ten years, he directs three mesmerizing and essential films, namely **NAKED LUNCH** (1991), **CRASH** (1996) and **EXISTENZ** (1999). Both auteur and genre pieces, they also foreshadow the direction contemporary aesthetics are about to take. Now a revered artist, he chooses to explore new grounds with the striking **HISTORY OF VIOLENCE** (2005), **EASTERN PROMISES** (2007), **COSMOPOLIS** (2012), and **MAPS TO THE STARS** (2014).

### A CINEPHILIC CARTE BLANCHE

The four films chosen by David Cronenberg as part of his *carte blanche* will give audience members an opportunity to learn more about his major influences, and to discover or revisit cinematic gems in the director's presence.

**THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN** (Jack Arnold, US, 1957)

**WOMAN IN THE DUNES** (Teshigahara Hiroshi, JP, 1964)

**HOOR OF THE WOLF** (Ingmar Bergman, SE, 1968)

**SPIRITS OF THE DEAD - TOBY DAMMIT** (Federico Fellini, FR/IT, 1968)

### NEW WORLDS OF FANTASY: HOW LITERATURE HAS CONSUMED THE WORK OF DAVID CRONENBERG

During this free public conference, hosted as part of the NIFFF Extended label, David Cronenberg will talk about his relationship with literature through the films he adapted from written material, and his own career as a writer. His first novel, **CONSUMED** (2014), which was lauded by Stephen King, has been translated into many languages.

INFOS : 12.07.18 / THÉÂTRE DU PASSAGE 2 / 16:00

#### Registration:

Press accreditations from May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, at [www.niff.ch](http://www.niff.ch) / online booking for **IMAGING THE FUTURE**, **STORYWORLDS** and **NEW WORLDS OF FANTASY** from June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, on [www.starticket.ch](http://www.starticket.ch)

NIFFF EXTENDED complete programme from May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

NIFFF complete programme from June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, on [www.niff.ch](http://www.niff.ch)

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