

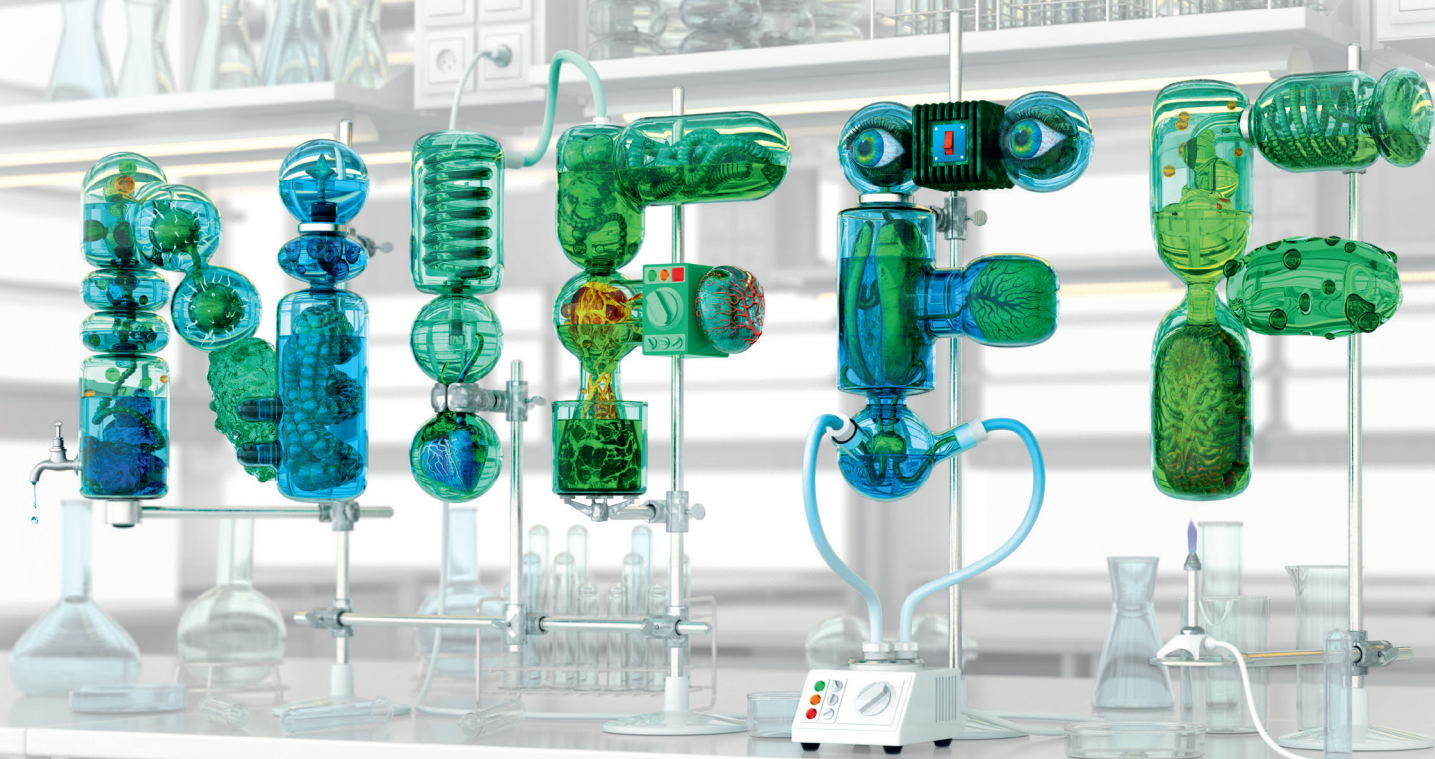
NEUCHÂTEL INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL



THE SWISS EVENT FOR FANTASTIC FILM, ASIAN CINEMA & DIGITAL CREATION

6 - 14 JULY 2018

18TH EDITION



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CONTENT

NIFFF

THE FESTIVAL

Press release	2
Interview of Anaïs Emery, Artistic director	4
Program 2018	6
Prices 2018	8
Jurys 2018	9
The NIFFF in numbers	10

COMPETITIVE SECTIONS

International Competition	11
New Cinema From Asia	27
SSA / SUISSIMAGE Competition	29
Silver Méliès Competition	30

NON-COMPETITIVE SECTIONS

Opening and ending	31
Films of the Third Kind	32
Ultra Movies	36
Amazing Switzerland	39
El Dorado	40
International Fantastic Short Films Program	41
New Shorts from Asia Program	42
What We Do In New Zealand	43
NIFFF welcomes David Cronenberg	45
Fantoché : A new perspective	46
Lionel Baier Carte Blanche	47
Friday the 13th	47

NIFFF EXTENDED

GSGS' 18	48
ITF	49
STORYWORLDS	50
NEW WORLDS OF FANTASY	51

NIFFF INVASION

52

GENERAL INFO

PRESS SERVICE	55
PRACTICAL INFOS	56
ORGANISATION	58
PARTNERS	60

PRESS RELEASE

NIFFF 2018 - NEUCHÂTEL, THE CAPITAL OF FANTASTIC CINEMA

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (6-14 July) is proud to reveal its official programme for the 18th edition, focused on highlighting the boldness of current productions. With David Cronenberg as President of the jury, the international competition will be composed of an overview of the most anticipated releases (UNDER THE SILVER LAKE from David Robert Mitchell, HEREDITARY from Ari Aster, MANDY from Panos Cosmatos), as well as first features from emerging talents (Tilman Singer's LUZ, Rasmus Kloster Bro's CUTTERHEAD, Justin P. Lange & Klemens Hufnagl's THE DARK), and the best of auteur cinema in the fantasy genre (CLIMAX from Gaspar Noé, DIAMANTINO from Gabriel Alamy and Daniel Schmidt, MUERE, MONSTRUO, MUERE from Alejandro Fadel). Daring experimental films will play alongside retrospectives and cartes blanches, to outline the history of genre cinema, notably with the CLASSICS RELOADED category, dedicated to restored version of renowned masterpieces screened at the Open Air. WHAT WE DO IN NEW ZEALAND, first-ever retrospective focused on New Zealand genre films, will take you to the other side of the world, and the EL DORADO section will make a comeback to pay homage to the limitless imagination of Latin American cinema. For its opening ceremony, the NIFFF will present the world premiere of the web series LE 5E CAVALIER, in collaboration with RTS. The Swiss premiere of HÔTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3 will conclude the festival on a quirky, funny, intergenerational note!

THE NIFFF IN A FEW NUMBERS

THE NIFFF's 18th edition has a total budget of CHF 2'175'000. Lasting 9 days, it will show over 150 films from 14 sections. It can welcome 2'135 viewers at the same time. The 168 public screenings will be composed of 104 features and 60 shorts from 41 countries, including 7 world premieres, 5 international premieres, 9 European premieres, and 54 Swiss ones. The free NIFFF Extended and NIFFF Invasion programmes will offer more than 71 activities, 61 of which are conferences.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

16 films will compete for the H.R. Giger "Narcisse" award to be given by David Cronenberg, which amounts to CHF 10,000 from the City of Neuchâtel. Among the competition's major players are the Swiss premieres of TIGERS ARE NOT AFRAID (Issa López), lauded by Guillermo del Toro, and of the most terrifying film of the year, namely Ari Aster's HEREDITARY. The adaptation of popular manga KASANE by Japanese filmmaker Satô Yûichi will have its World premiere here. Other highlights include the retro comedy AN EVENING WITH BEVERLY LUFF LINN which is Jim Hosking's second feature, whose first film made quite the impression at the 2016 edition, as well as Iranian social comedy PIG (KHOOK) from Mani Haghighi...

NEW CINEMA FROM ASIA

Working as a true indicator of where Asian genre cinema stands, this section is comprised of the newest trends from the Far East. This year will mark the return of Miike Takashi with the European premiere of LAPLACE'S WITCH. The crazy and colourful superhero flick BHAVESH JOSHI SUPERHERO from Vikramaditya Motwane (who won big at last year's NIFFF) will be shown, as well as the highly anticipated remake of the classic SATAN'S SLAVES by Indonesian filmmaker Joko Anwar...

FILMS OF THE 3RD KIND

Film genres intersect in this diverse selection of hybrid experiments and formally innovative movies. Prepare for an avalanche of Swiss premieres and prestigious guests: headstrong actress Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir from WOMEN AT WAR (SACD award at the International Critics' Week), Benedikt Erlingsson, screenmovies creator Timur Bekmambetov (and his film PROFILE), the adorable little (for the most part) monsters from MONSTER HUNT 2, and Frank Ribière, director of LA FEMME LA PLUS ASSASSINEE DU MONDE. Finally, Yannick Renier will be in attendance to present CARNIVORES in Swiss premiere, which he directed with his brother Jérémie Renier and tells a story centred on the carnivorous relationship between two sisters who work in the film industry.

ULTRA MOVIES

Looking for thrills? The ULTRA MOVIES category will test your limits with the most extreme works of the year. Guests include actress Amanda Plummer (Pulp Fiction, Hunger Games), who will present the international premiere of A YOUNG MAN WITH HIGH POTENTIAL from Linus de Paoli, and BLOOD FEST director Owen Egerton, who will introduce his horror film festival-set gorefest... There will also be the European premiere of Colin Minihan's latest gloomy film, WHAT KEEPS YOU ALIVE, and its blazing cast.

CONTACTS:

Bastien Bento
Press Coordinator
bastien.bento@niff.ch
T: +41 32 731 07 76
M: +41 79 934 34 63

Christian Ströhle
Presse Deutschschweiz
christian.stroehle@niff.ch
M: +41 79 390 47 69

Anicée Willemin
Press assistant and
accreditations
assist.press@niff.ch
M: +41 78 615 31 94

INTERVIEW WITH ANAÏS EMERY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

1. After 18 editions, the NIFFF keeps on growing and changing. What are this year's highlights?

I think that after 18 years of fighting for its own existence, the NIFFF is finally reaching its most interesting prospects. The festival's editorial policy, which puts the emphasis on a multidisciplinary, encompassing understanding of fantastic cinema, is aligned with the main global trends of filmmaking. We have cemented our role as a centre of excellence and discussion on visual productions in Switzerland and around the globe, as evidenced by our 4 labels, namely NIFFF, NIFFF Extended, NIFFF Invasion, and NIFFF On Tour.

The new Open Air set up in the historical centre of Neuchâtel is the 18th edition's main attraction. It is a great platform through which we can show quality films to a large audience. The selected features are perfectly in line with our programming requirements that favour cinephilia, discovery, and conversations between viewers and creators.

Also of importance is the attendance of world-class directors and creators from every continent on the planet, who will facilitate intellectually and culturally rich discussions in the NIFFF's ever jovial atmosphere.

2. The NIFFF welcomes all shades of genre cinema. What are the current industry trends?

Fantastic cinema may very well be the most dynamic genre of all. Since the dawn of the new millennium, its codes and methods of production have been reinvented without putting its global box office reign in jeopardy. Genre cinema has now entered the Cannes and Oscars competitions, continues to be the most profitable for studios, and has conquered other media (digital creation).

Diversity seems to define fantastic films on a global level. Since the NIFFF aims to offer an overview of the genre's major trends, our work has become that much harder, but also all the more fascinating, and yields amazing results.

Finally, its adoption by mainstream culture has turned it into even more of a catalyst for our societies and fantasies. Although full of monstrous figures, made-up landscapes, and thrilling effects, what drives the imaginary is the human element laid bare through the films in our programme.

3. The festival makes it its mission to present the genre's dynamism, and give the spotlight to the new generation of artists that contribute to it. How are our young Swiss creators faring?

The myth of fantasy as a commercial and brainless genre is thankfully on its way out. In neighbouring France, a fund for encouraging genre productions with the help of specialized collaborators has been created recently. Other European countries are developing similar strategies, but not Switzerland.

Our new generation can create extraordinary prototypes, but is then faced with specific obstacles such as the cost of visual effects, budget restrictions, or the challenges associated with tension-building screenwriting techniques. The NIFFF strives to be a networking platform that connects Swiss talents with international experts, as well as the bridge to a young and receptive audience from all over the country.

We endeavour to increase exposure by showcasing student films, and our work as film programmers has shown us that there are more and more Swiss productions, be they short films or features, that belong to fantasy or other related genres. In 2018, I bet on the web series *LE 5^E CAVALIER* for its opening ceremony. Born out of a project launched in partnership with the RTS and the SRG SSR, its production took less than a year, during which all parties got involved one way or another. Choosing this unique piece of work might take some viewers aback, but we need to show how concrete our commitment is by taking risks together so that new visions can take flight in Switzerland. Young filmmakers' experimental ideas are fostered through curiosity, openness, and solidarity.

4. What are three unmissable high points this year?

The NIFFF EXTENDED conferences should be intense and fascinating thanks to stellar guests such as the maestro David Cronenberg, and storytelling pioneers Timur Bekmambetov and Olga Kharina. New Zealanders Patrick Wagner and Rebekah Tisch will share some secrets from Weta Workshop and Weta Gameshop, the top tier providers of world-building and digital visual effects renowned for their work on *THE LORD OF THE RINGS*, *BLADE RUNNER 2049*, *AVATAR*, and *DR GRORDBORT'S*, among others.

The free Open Air screening of restored masterpiece *2001 : A SPACE ODYSSEY* in the presence of Jan Harlan – Stanley Kubrick's closest collaborator – is I think a particularly exciting event.

I bet that the *WHAT WE DO IN NEW ZEALAND* programme presentations by our special guests, which are sure to be immortalised as unforgettable moments for the cinephile and the curious alike.

Finally, I cannot wait to see how the audience reacts to the Swiss premiere of the already celebrated *HEREDITARY*...

OFFICIAL SELECTION

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

AN EVENING WITH BEVERLY LUFF LINN, Jim Hosking, USA/UK, 2018, 108', Swiss premiere
CLIMAX, Gaspar Noé, France, 2018, 95', Swiss premiere
CUTTERHEAD, Rasmus Kloster Bro, Denmark, 2018, 84', World premiere
DIAMANTINO, Gabriel Abrantes & Daniel Schmidt, Portugal/France/Brazil, 2018, 92', Swiss premiere
HEREDITARY, Ari Aster, USA, 2018, 120', Swiss premiere
KASANE, Satô Yûichi, Japan, 2018, 100', World premiere
LUZ, Tilman Singer, Germany, 2018, 70', Swiss premiere
MANDY, Panos Cosmatos, USA/Belgium, 2018, 121', Swiss premiere
MUERE, MONSTRUO, MUERE, Alejandro Fadel, Argentina/France/Chile, 2018, 109', Swiss premiere
PIERCING, Nicolas Pesce, USA, 2018, 81', Swiss premiere
PIG (KHOOK), Mani Haghighi, Iran, 2018, 90', Swiss premiere
THE DARK, Justin Lange, Austria, 2018, 91', European premiere
TIGERS ARE NOT AFRAID, Issa López, Mexico, 2017, 83', Swiss premiere
TIME SHARE, Sebastián Hofmann, Mexico/The Netherlands, 2018, 96', Swiss premiere
UNDER THE SILVER LAKE, David Robert Mitchell, USA, 2018, 139', Swiss premiere
WHEN THE TREES FALL, Marysia Nikitiuk, Ukraine/Poland/Macedonia, 2018, 88', Swiss premiere

NEW CINEMA FROM ASIA

BAD GENIUS, Nattawut Poonpiriya, Thailand, 2017, 130', Swiss premiere
BHAVESH JOSHI SUPERHERO, Vikramaditya Motwane, India, 2018, 153', Swiss premiere
HANAGATAMI, Ôbayashi Nobuhiko, Japan, 2017, 169', Swiss premiere
INUYASHIKI, Sato Shinsuke, Japan, 2018, 126', Swiss premiere
LAPLACE'S WITCH, Miike Takashi, Japan, 2018, 117', European premiere
OPERATION RED SEA, Dante Lam, China, 2018, 142', Swiss premiere
SATAN'S SLAVES, Joko Anwar, Indonesia/South Korea, 2017, 107', Swiss premiere

AMAZING SWITZERLAND

BLUE MY MIND, Lisa Brühlmann, 2017, 97'
CURRY WESTERN, Kamal Musale, Switzerland/United Kingdom/India, 2018, 105', World premiere
KATRINA'S DREAM, Mirko & Dario Bischofberger, Switzerland/Italy, 2018, 83', Swiss premiere
SICILIAN GHOST STORY, Fabio Grassadonia & Antonio Piazza, Switzerland/Italy/France, 2017, 122', Romandie premiere
TIERE, Greg Zglinski, Switzerland/Austria/Poland, 2017, 95', Romandie premiere

FILMS OF THE THIRD KIND

AMMORE E MALAVITA, Marco & Antonio Manetti, Italy, 2017, 133', **Regional premiere**

CARNIVORES, Yannick & Jérémie Renier, France/Belgium, 2018, 87', **Swiss premiere**

CORNÉLIUS, LE MEUNIER HURLANT, Yann Le Quellec, France, 2017, 105', **International premiere**

HOTEL ARTEMIS, Drew Pearce, UK/USA, 2018, 94', **Swiss premiere**

I KILL GIANTS, Anders Walter, USA/UK/Belgium, 2017, 104', **Swiss premiere**

LA FEMME LA PLUS ASSASSINÉE DU MONDE, Franck Ribière, Belgium/UK/USA, 2018, 102', **Swiss premiere**

MARY SHELLEY, Haifaa Al-Mansour, UK/Ireland/Luxembourg/USA, 2017, 120', **Swiss premiere**

MONSTER HUNT 2, Raman Hui, Hong Kong/China, 2018, 110', **Swiss premiere**

MUTAFUKAZ, Guillaume «Run» Renard & Nishimi Shojiro, France/Japan, 2017, 90', **Swiss premiere**

NUMBER 37, Nosipho Dumisa, South Africa, 2018, 90', **European premiere**

PROFILE, Timur Bekmambetov, USA/UK/Cyprus/Russia, 2018, 105', **Swiss premiere**

THE MAN WITH THE MAGIC BOX, Bodo Kox, Poland/Italy, 2017, 105', **Swiss premiere**

THE REAL ESTATE, Måns Månsson & Axel Petersén, Sweden/UK, 2018, 88', **Swiss premiere**

WOMAN AT WAR, Benedikt Erlingsson, Iceland/Ukraine/France, 2018, 101', **Swiss premiere**

ULTRA MOVIES

ATERRADOS, Demián Rugna, Argentina, 2017, 88', **Swiss premiere**

A YOUNG MAN WITH HIGH POTENTIAL, Linus de Paoli, Germany, 2018, 85', **International premiere**

BLOOD FEST, Owen Egerton, USA, 2018, 90', **European premiere**

GONJAM : HAUNTED ASYLUM, Jeong Beom-sik, South Korea, 2018, 95', **Swiss premiere**

LIVERLEAF, Naito Eisuke, Japan, 2018, 114', **European Premiere**

ONE CUT OF THE DEAD, Shinichiro Ueda, Japan, 2018, 96', **Swiss premiere**

PREMIKA, Siwakorn Charupongsa, Thailand, 2017, 90', **Swiss premiere**

THE FIELD GUIDE TO EVIL, V. Franz, S. Fiala, P. Strickland, A. Smoczynska, K. Gebbe, C. Evrenol, C. Reeder, A. Ahluwalia & Y. Veslemes, New Zealand, 2018, 117', **European Premiere**

THE GREEN FOG, Guy Maddin, Galen & Evan Johnson, USA, 2017, 63', **Swiss premiere**

WHAT KEEPS YOU ALIVE, Colin Minihan, Canada, 2018, 98', **European Premiere**

EL DORADO

CÓMPRAME UN REVÓLVER, Julio Hernández Córdón, Mexico/Colombia, 2018, 80', **Swiss premiere**

LOS BUSCADORES, Juan Carlos Maneglia & Tana Schembori, Paraguay, 2017, 102', **European Premiere**

MOTORRAD, Vicente Amorim, Brazil, 2017, 92', **Swiss premiere**

AWARDS 2018

COMPETITIONS

NEW AWARD 2018: THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX AWARD

The rights of one film from the official selection are acquired by distribution company **OUTSIDE THE BOX**.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

An overview of today's trends in fantastic cinema from around the world.

H.R. Giger «Narcisse» award for best feature film (CHF 10'000.-) - awarded by the City of Neuchâtel

Imaging The Future award for best production design (CHF 5'000.-) - awarded by CSEM

RTS audience award (broadcasting) - awarded by Radio Télévision Suisse
Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film (nomination) - with EFFFF

NIFFF international critics award (promotion) - awarded by Scifiworld (SP), Nocturno (IT), Deadline (DE), Screenanarchy (CA) and Mad Movies (FR)

Denis-de-Rougemont youth award (a Hamilton watch) - awarded by the high school Denis-de-Rougemont

NEW CINEMA FROM ASIA

An outline of the quality and diversity that characterise popular Asian cinema.

RTS audience award (broadcasting) - awarded by Radio Télévision Suisse

Best asian film award (honorary) - chosen by the audience

COMPETITION FOR THE BEST SWISS FANTASTIC SHORT FILM

A glimpse at the next generation of Swiss filmmakers.

H.R. Giger «Narcisse» award for the best short film (CHF 10'000.-) - awarded by SSA and Suissimage

Taurus studio award for innovation (CHF 2'000.- of post-production)

Silver Méliès for best fantastic European short film (nomination) - with EFFFF

JURYS 2018

INTERNATIONAL JURY

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

INTERNATIONAL CRITIC'S JURY

- **Christopher O'Keefe**, Journalist, Canada, ScreenAnarchy (CA)
- **Germaine Paulus**, Journalist, Germany, Deadline (DE)
- **Jean-Baptiste Herment**, Journalist, France, Mad Movies (FR)
- **Ignacio López Vaca**, Journalist, Spain, SciFi World (ES)
- **Andrea Monili**, Journalist, Italy, Nocturno (IT)

MÉLIÈS JURY

- **Joel Basman**, Actor, Switzerland
- **Marie-Christine Fontaine**, Producer, France
- **Olivier Muller**, Product manager at Teleclub, Switzerland

SSA - SUISSIMAGE JURY

- **Stéphane Goël**, Director SSA/SUISSIMAGE, Switzerland
- **Bruno Quiblier**, Shorts Programmer, Locarno Festival & Base-Court, Switzerland
- **Lisa Brühlmann**, Director, Switzerland

TAURUS STUDIO INNOVATION JURY

- **Jonas Follonier**, Editor in Chief, Le Regard libre, Switzerland
- **Claude Lander**, Taurus Studio Founder, Switzerland
- **Francine Pickel**, Financial Director, Lanterne Magique, Switzerland

THE NIFFF IN NUMBERS

Tickets sold in 2017 : 37'000

General attendance in 2017 : 42'000

FESTIVAL

- 18 editions
- Total budget : 2'175'000 CHF
- Collaborators (employees, exploitation) : 50
- Number of volunteers : 250

CAPACITY

- 6 locations
- 1 Open Air (250 covered tiered seats)
- Simultaneous seating capacity of all rooms : 2'135

PROGRAM 2018

- Feature films : 104
- Short films : 60
- World premiere : 7
- International premiere : 5
- European premiere : 9
- Swiss premiere : 54
- Number of screenings : 168
- Number of countries represented : 41
- Number of sections : 14
- Conferences : 61
- Pluridisciplinary creations : 9
- Free activities : 76

NUMBER OF GUESTS: 322

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

An overview of today's trends in fantastic cinema from around the world.

AN EVENING WITH BEVERLY LUFF LINN

SWISS PREMIERE

Jim Hosking, USA/UK, 2018, 108'

Cast: Aubrey Plaza, Jemaine Clement, Emile Hirsch

Producers: Park Pictures (US), Wigwam Films (UK), Rook Films (UK)

World sales: Protagonist Pictures (US)

The film

Lulu Danger is on the brink of depression. Unhappy with her unsatisfying, passionless, and monotonous marriage, she works at a second-class restaurant managed by her husband, who is more interested in money than in his wife. When she hears a magician named Beverly Luff Linn will soon be stopping by a neighbourhood hotel for one of his shows, she decides to leave everything behind and set off on an adventure.

Two years after the NIFFF patrons barely survived the electric shock that was *The Greasy Strangler*, Jim Hosking cements his status as an unparalleled world-builder with his second film. Trading slimy humour for bizarre situation comedy, the director leverages the talent of actors well-suited to his distinctive style. With legendary dance numbers and grunting scenes, *An Evening With Beverly Luff Linn* should effortlessly become the NIFFF 2018's most cult film.

The director

A Sundance regular, Jim Hosking has made a ton of crazy commercials for MTV. His short film *Renegades* was shown in Sundance in 2010. He then took part in the ABCs of Death 2 (2014) anthology with his segment named *G Is For Grandad*. His impossibly bonkers universe conquers the whole planet with *The Greasy Strangler*, his first feature shown at the NIFFF 2016. His mannerisms and love for pastel colours make Jim Hosking a very odd version of Wes Anderson.

Selected filmography

2016 - *The Greasy Strangler*

2014 - *ABCs of Death 2* (segment "G is for Grandad")

2010 - *Renegades* (short)

2006 - *Work* (short)

2003 - *Little Clumps of Hair* (short)

CLIMAX

SWISS PREMIERE

Gaspar Noé, France, 2018, 95'

Cast: Sofia Boutella, Romain Guillermic, Smile Kiddy

Producers: Arte France Cinéma (FR), Rectangle Productions (FR), Vice Films (FR), Wild Bunch (FR)

World sales: Wild Bunch (FR)

In the presence of Gaspar Noé

The film

In 1996, a troupe of young dancers gather in an isolated community centre to celebrate the end of rehearsals before their American tour. A small buffet has been set up for the occasion. Behind the stage shines a huge glitter curtain that looks like the French flag. It is a time of partying, dancing, and insouciance. But when the heads start spinning, tempers flare. The sangria isn't going down as well as anticipated...

Driven by the desire to film France's best dancers, Gaspar Noe demonstrates once again the scale of his talent. Free from all limitations, he and his loyal DP Benoît Débie make the camera spin, rise, nosedive, and rotate masterfully. The astounding, nihilistic and Pasolinian approach turns the film into a danse macabre performed on an insane soundtrack. A mesmerizing, furious ballet that will blow your mind.

The director

Born in 1963 in Buenos Aires, Gaspar Noé arrives in France at the age of 12. After studying films and philosophy, he starts off as an assistant director. He is the cofounder of production studio Les Cinémas de la Zone. He is quickly nicknamed the enfant terrible of French cinema, creating movies with unequalled visual and technical skills. He wins the Narcisse award for best picture at the NIFFF 2010 for Enter the Void. Climax marks his return to the International Competition.

Selected filmography

2015 - Love

2009 - Enter the Void

2002 - Irréversible

1998 - Sodomites (short)

1998 - Seul contre tous

1991 - Carne (short)

CUTTERHEAD**WORLD PREMIERE****Rasmus Kloster Bro**, Denmark, 2018, 84'**Cast:** Christine Sønderris, Samson Semere, Krešimir Mikic**Producers:** Beo Starling (DK), New Danish Screen (DK)**Festival contact:** Danish Film Institute (DK)**In the presence of Rasmus Kloster Bro****The film**

Rie is the PR manager of a new underground project. She goes to the huge construction site to ask the staff some questions. As she monitors the operations, alarms start sounding. Something is wrong. Panic spreads, and Rie finds shelter in a pressurized airlock with two workers. Trapped in this confined space with dwindling reserves of air and water, they will soon discover that fighting for survival implies letting out one's baser instincts.

Claustrophobes beware: CUTTERHEAD is going to test your limits! With his first feature film, Rasmus Kloster Bro explores the darkest recesses of the human species through a suffocating huis clos in which mud and sweat hide a contemporarily potent allegory. Its striking visuals and decaying characters make it a harrowing experience that provokes physical reactions that are difficult to forget.

The director

Danish director Rasmus Kloster Bro was born in 1985 in the North West of Jutland. He studied at the Danish Film School Super16 before going into fiction radio shows, short films, music videos, and video installations. His films KISS MY BROTHER (2010) and BARVALO (2012) won several festival awards. Cutterhead, which is receiving its world premiere at the NIFFF, was financed through a new programme from the Danish Film Institute, dedicated to helping young filmmakers make their first feature.

Selected filmography

2012 - Barvalo (short)

2011 - Liv (short)

2010 - Kys min bror (short)

DIAMANTINO**SWISS PREMIERE**

Gabriel Abrantes & Daniel Schmidt, Portugal/France/Brazil, 2018, 92'

Cast: Carloto Cotta, Carla Maciel, Filipe Vargas

Producers: Les Films du Bélier (FR), Syndrome Films (BR), Filmes do Tejo (PT)

Distributor: Koch Media (DE)

—

The film

Slicked back hair, Apollo's body, diamond earrings... DIAMANTINO is the greatest soccer star. Guided by visions of giant poodles, he goes right through every defence on Earth. But one day, his gift simply vanishes during the World Cup's final game. Thus starts a perilous existential journey for Ronaldo's spiritual twin.

DIAMANTINO is a pop maelstrom that blends all genres and aesthetic trends. The directing duo sets their sight on – and sets aflame! – everything they can: crime film, science-fiction, romance, political tale, neo fascism, migrant crisis, transhumanism, and giant dogs live alongside each other in scope as well as in 16 mm. Imagine if Kenneth Anger had engineered a mix between a classic Hollywood comedy and Zoolander. Needless to say, the end result is legendary, but also simultaneously naive and tender. No actual soccer game will ever be as exciting!

The directors

Gabriel Abrantes and Daniel Schmidt – dark-haired Portuguese and blond American, respectively – were born in the USA in 1984. Gabriel studied the fine arts in a New York public school, while Daniel went to the city's Tish School of Arts. They met in 2006 and started collaborating on short and medium-length films that get noticed. DIAMANTINO, their first feature, was shown at Cannes' International Critics' Week.

Selected filmography

2011 - Palácios de Pena

2010 - A History of Mutual Respect (short)

HEREDITARY**SWISS PREMIERE****Ari Aster**, USA, 2018, 120'**Cast:** Toni Collette, Gabriel Byrne, Alex Wolff**Producers:** PalmStar Media (US)**Distributor:** Ascot Elite (CH)**In the presence of Ari Aster****The film**

It all starts with a funeral. Annie Graham just lost her mother Ellen. Surprised at how little sadness she feels, she begins to think of her family ties. Why did Ellen take so much interest in her granddaughter, a child whose anxiety transpires through asymmetrical features and the haunted look in her eyes? What were the matriarch's enigmatic rituals all about? To solve those mysteries, Annie convinces her family to move into the deceased's house, a nest of secrets they'd had probably better leave buried. The Grahams will soon learn that the family heritage can be a burden to bear.

Unpredictable, nerve-racking, radical... HEREDITARY is a shock that is hard to accurately describe. By conjuring an incredible sense of suspense and using dizzying variations of scales, Ari Aster offers up a nightmarish vision of the family unit. No film had thus managed to strike fear at the very heart of its audience since THE EXORCIST! You are warned.

The director

After completing his studies at the American Film Institute, Ari Aster makes a name for himself in 2011 at the Slamdance Film Festival, thanks to THE STRANGE THINGS ABOUT THE JOHNSONS. This very controversial short film is about the incestuous relationship of an African American family. Five short films later, the New Yorker is causing a sensation thanks to his first feature. With the universally acclaimed HEREDITARY, Aster has entered the running for the title of new horror master.

Selected filmography

2016 - C'est La Vie (short)

2014 - The Turtle's Head (short)

2014 - Basically (short)

2013 - Munchausen (short)

2011 - Beau (short)

2011 - The Strange Thing About the Johnsons (short)

KASANE

WORLD PREMIERE

Satô Yûichi, Japan, 2018, 100'

Cast: Yoshine Kyôko, Tsuchiya Tao, Yokoyama Yu

Producers: Fuji Television Network (JP), Kyodo Television (JP), Kôdansha (JP), Toho Company (JP)

World sales: Pony Canyon (JP)

The film

Kasane dreams of a life on stage, but a huge face scar prevents her from showing off her natural talent. Everything changes when she inherits a magical lipstick from her mother, which allows her to take on the appearance of the people she kisses. It's obviously too good an opportunity to pass up, so she makes a strange deal with the beautiful Nina, an aspiring actress. But how far is Kasane prepared to go to keep Nina's face?

This adaptation of the successful KASANE manga combines Japanese folklore with Western dramaturgy to explore the Shakespearean torments of the characters, played by two wonderful young actresses. Their ambivalent, poisonous relationship will reach unimaginable intensity as the truth will force them to drop the act. Let this remind you why black magic always comes with suffering...

The director

55-year-old Satô Yûichi was born in Tokyo. His manga adaptations have made him a household name in Japan. In 2015, he directed POISON BERRY IN MY BRAIN, a delightful romantic comedy about a 30-something confused by the many voices she hears. A prolific and versatile filmmaker, he has worked for the film and television industries. This is his take on mangaka Matsuura Daruma's thought-provoking series.

Selected filmography

2018 - You, I Love

2015 - Poison Berry in My Brain

2013 - Strawberry Night

2009 - Black Gaisha

2009 - Guardian Angel

2007 - Kisaragi

LUZ**SWISS PREMIERE**

Tilman Singer, Germany, 2018, 70'

Cast: Jan Bluthardt, Johannes Benecke, Lilli Lorenz

Producers: Academy of Media Arts Cologne (DE), Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln (DE)

World sales: Yellow Veil Pictures (US)

In the presence of Tilman Singer & Dario Mendez Acosta

The film

At a bar, Nora intoxicates and charms a police psychiatrist. An easy prey, he soon becomes the new vessel for the demon in Nora's body, who is getting closer to the object of his desire. In the meantime, Luz, a young taxi driver who has been hurt and is disoriented, goes to a police station before launching into strange prayers. The aforementioned psychiatrist is called in. Under the police's supervision, he hypnotizes her in order to get her statement. A spiritual journey ensues...

Past, present, fantasies, and realities intertwine in this mesmerizing film where sounds and repetitions create an accented atmosphere and call on the audience to use their senses intensely. The beautiful score adds to this unique experience. The film was shot entirely at night on 16 mm. With its fresh take on possession, this poetic and harrowing thriller reinvents his sensory stimuli on a constant basis. A special, enthralling kind of film.

The director

Born in 1988, young German artist Tilman Singer went to the Cologne Academy of Media Arts in 2011, where he studied directing, writing, sound design, and animation. He directed several short films (some in stop motion animation), as well as music videos and commercials. Selected at the Berlinale, LUZ is his debut feature, which he produced with the same collaborators he had on his previous projects, including his creative partner Dario Méndez Acosta.

Selected filmography

2016 - Woman "Fever" (short)

2016 - El fin del mundo (short)

2014 - The Events at Mr. Yamamoto's Alpine Residence (short)

2014 - Vending Machine (short)

2014 - Bold Stokers (short)

MANDY

SWISS PREMIERE

Panos Cosmatos, USA/Belgium, 2018, 121'

Cast: Nicolas Cage, Andrea Riseborough, Linus Roache

Producers: SpectreVision (US), Umedia (BE), Legion M (US), XYZ Films (US)

Distributor: Koch Media (DE)

The film

Red and Mandy live happily, away from civilisation in a cabin in the mountain woods. One day, a cult invades their land and their life changes for the worst. Jeremiah Sand, leader of the fanatics, has Mandy kidnapped, and ultimately killed. Left for dead, Red eventually awakes to the realisation that he has lost everything, including his sense of reality. Revenge is the only thing that remains. Enraged and armed to the teeth, he sets out on a bloody killing spree, determined to slay every last one of the cult members.

An unrecognisable Andrea Riseborough and a possessed Nicolas Cage make Mandy an out-of-this-world experience. The main actor's surreal performance and the outrageously gore aspects of the film strengthen the psychedelic atmosphere and blur the limits of reality. An orgasmic, visceral revenge tale that borders on the supernatural and offers enthralling visuals.

The director

Son of George P. Cosmatos (Rambo II), Panos Cosmatos started out as a camera assistant on his father's second-to-last film TOMBSTONE (1993). He put on the director's hat in 2010 for BEYOND THE BLACK RAINBOW, a strange sci-fi thriller that boasts a fascinating cinematography and doesn't go unnoticed. MANDY, his second feature, allows the Italian-Canadian director to deliver another visually stunning film that seems to be burning with angst from beginning to end.

Selected filmography

2013 - Rewind This! (executive producer, NIFFF 2013)

2010 - Beyond the Black Rainbow

MUERE, MONSTRUO, MUERE**SWISS PREMIERE****Alejandro Fadel**, Argentina/France/Chile, 2018, 109'**Cast:** Esteban Bigliardi, Francisco Carrasco, Tania Casciani**Producers:** Unión de los Ríos (AR), Rouge International (FR), Uproduction (FR), Cinestación (CL)**World sales:** The Match Factory (DE)**In the presence of Alejandro Fadel****The film**

The decapitated body of a woman is found in the middle of a sheep herd. Her husband becomes the prime suspects and is sent to a psychiatric facility, even though he insists he is innocent and claims a monster did it. The police officer in charge of the investigation - also incidentally the victim's former lover - slowly comes to believe him as other murders occur. In the meantime, the husband keeps hearing the same voice over and over again saying "Die, monster, die..."

Although it starts off as a crime film, MUERE, MONSTRUO, MUERE quickly steps into horror territory. As it focuses on the protagonist's tortured mind, the narrative is ripe with hallucinations to convey a progressive, powerful feeling of fear. The elusive, relentless monster stands for a very real social violence. The plot eventually turns into a descent into insanity.

The director

The directorial debut of Buenos Aires University Film School graduate Alejandro Fadel is EL AMOR - primera parte, co-directed with Martín Mauregui in 2005. He also studied screenwriting, and wrote three scripts for Pablo Trapero, namely LEONERA (2008), CARANCHO (2010), and ELEFANTE BLANCO (2012). In 2012, he directed the internationally acclaimed LOS SALVAJES on his own. MUERE, MONSTRUO, MUERE is his second solo feature.

Selected filmography

2012 - Elefante Blanco (writer)

2012 - Los salvajes

2010 - Carancho (writer)

2002 - Bolero

2002 - Sábado a la noche, domingo a la mañana

1999 - La familia Peterson

PIERCING

SWISS PREMIERE

Nicolas Pesce, USA, 2018, 81'

Cast: Christopher Abbott, Mia Wasikowska, Olivia Bond

Producers: BorderLine Films (US)

World sales: Memento Films Int. (FR)

The film

About to go on a business trip, Redd kisses his wife and son goodbye, then leaves. Except he is not really going to travel. He goes to the hotel room he had booked in order to fulfil desires he has been restraining since childhood and prepares to murder the prostitute he has hired with the tools in his luggage. At least, that's the plan, because his intricate scheme is going to take a very unexpected turn.

PIERCING is a Murakami Ryu short story adaptation conceived as a stirring homage to 1970s Italian cinema. Making good use of split screens and giallo-inspired music, Nicolas Pesce anchors his surrealistic and sadomasochistic world within a referential frame that makes it a pure cinephile pleasure. The strange relationship that develops between the main characters is both fascinating and unsettling. It questions customs and redefines the game of cat and mouse. How could we complain?

The director

Born in 1990, Nicolas Pesce studied at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts. He directed over 30 videos for artists such as Snoop Dogg and The Black Keys before going into feature films. His excellent horror film THE EYES OF MY MOTHER propelled him to the world's stage in 2016 at the Sundance festival. Pesce also created an animated show Malcolm McDowell and J.K. Simmons were involved with. PIERCING is his second feature. He is currently working on a new version of THE GRUDGE.

Selected filmography

2016 - The Eyes of My Mother

PIG (KHOOK)**SWISS PREMIERE****Mani Haghighi**, Iran, 2018, 90'**Cast:** Hasan Majuni, Leila Hatami, Leili Rashidi**Producers:** Dark Precursor Productions (IR), Filmiran (IR), Hedayat Film (IR), Tasvir Gostar Pasargad (IR)**Distributor:** Trigon (CH)**The film**

Hasan Kasmai is an Iranian director with an oversized ego whose career has recently taken a downturn. As an artist blacklisted by the authorities, he must settle for insecticide commercials. If the nosedive in popularity wasn't enough, his favourite actress leaves to work for his rival. Worse still is the fact that the serial killer targeting Tehran's most famous directors seems to completely ignore him. When he becomes a suspect, the public once again takes interest in him, just not the way he was hoping for.

Somewhere between a black comedy and a whimsical thriller, PIG looks critically at today's Iranian regime. Brushing aside the stereotypes often associated with it, he asks questions about male/female interactions, freedom of speech, and the national culture in the digital age. At a time when narcissism and the thirst for fame reign supreme, social networks are apparently just as bad as the political and religious institutions in terms of blind punishment and absurd censorship.

The director

Born in 1969, Mani Haghighi has been energising Iranian cinema for many years. In 2006, he proves his skills for dark comedies with MEN AT WORK. His 2016 effort, A DRAGON ARRIVES!, creates a buzz and is selected at the Berlinale. Just like PIG, this fantastical crime film could be seen as a cutting critique of contemporary Iran. Though he never states the obvious or indulges in stereotypes, Mani Haghighi uses humour to put his country's issues into perspective.

Selected filmography

2016 - 50 Kilo Albaloo

2016 - A Dragon Arrives!

2012 - Paziraie sadeh

2008 - Canaan

2006 - Kargaran mashghoole karand

2004 - Abadan

THE DARK**EUROPEAN PREMIERE**

Justin Lange, Austria, 2018, 91'

Cast: Nadia Alexander, Toby Nichols, Karl Markovics

Producers: Dor Film Produktionsgesellschaft (AT), First Love Films (CA)

World sales: MPI Media Group (US)

The film

A man on the run brings the boy he kidnapped to a supposedly haunted forest. Although he thought he would find a safe haven there, it turns out there does seem to be a monster in the woods. The boy is rescued by a mysterious young girl he eventually befriends. But his eyes have been sewn together by his abductor, and he cannot see what his new companion looks like: a livid, scarred, scrawny face, glazed eyes, and a mouth full of blood. She's the monster in the woods.

Focusing on children that have not been spared by the horrors of life (to say the least), **THE DARK** follows in the footsteps of **LET THE RIGHT IN**. The ghost story meets the zombie film in this sweet ramble in the forest. Visually pleasing and musically entrancing, **THE DARK** has a bewitching atmosphere, terrifying and realistic themes, as well as troubling and tragic characters. Where can one find humanity in the heart of such a dark and distressing world?

The directors

A graduate of Columbia University, Justin P. Lange started his career with short films: **SOMETHING LEFT** (2008), **VATER PAUL** (2010), and **THE DARK** in 2018. Klemens Hufnagl studied at the Vienna Film Academy before making a name for himself as a director of photography, notably on **MACONDO** (2014) and **BROTHERS OF THE NIGHT** (2016). They collaborated on **VATER PAUL** and **THE DARK**, the feature-length version of which they directed together. This is their debut directorial feature.

Selected filmography

2016 - *Brothers of the Night* (cinematographer, Hufnagl)

2014 - *Macondo* (cinematographer, Hufnagl)

2013 - *The Dark* (court)

2010 - *Vater Paul* (court)

2008 - *Something Lefts* (court)

TIGERS ARE NOT AFRAID**SWISS PREMIERE****Issa López**, Mexico, 2017, 83'**Cast:** Paola Lara, Hanssel Casillas, Rodrigo Cortes**Producers:** Filmadora Nacional (MX), Peligrosa (MX)**Festival contact:** Peligrosa (MX)**The film**

10-year-old orphan Estrella is fascinated with fairy tales and dreams of being a princess. One night, she makes a wish to be reunited with her recently deceased mother. It does come true, except she comes back as a rather unsettling ghost. Estrella runs away and takes shelter with a gang of street kids. As her new friends grow fond of her, she accommodates to the hardships of their life. As young as they are, they must make their stand against the local cartel.

TIGERS ARE NOT AFRAID is a beautifully grim coming-of-age movie that offers an uncompromising descent into the war between Mexican cartels. Like PAN'S LABYRINTH, the story seamlessly combines direct naturalism and nightmarish oneirism. This Mexican revelation inevitably won over Guillermo del Toro, a die-hard fan of the film alongside Stephen King, who has announced he will produce its talented director's next project.

The director

Mexican filmmaker Issa López started off as a television writer, notably for the LABERINTOS DE PASIÓN telenovela. She then transitioned to the big screen and wrote the Disney romantic comedy LADIES NIGHT, which became one of Mexico's most successful films ever. In 2006, she directed her first feature EFECTOS SECUNDARIOS. After the 2008 film CASI DIVAS, TIGERS ARE NOT AFRAID is her third movie.

Selected filmography

2018 - Todo Mal

2010 - Sucedió en un día

2008 - Casi Divas

2006 - Efectos secundarios

1994 - Quimera (court)

1994 - Tan callando (court)

TIME SHARE**SWISS PREMIERE**

Sebastián Hofmann, Mexico/The Netherlands, 2018, 96'

Cast: Luis Gerardo Méndez, Miguel Rodarte, Cassandra Ciangherotti

Producers: Piano (MX), Circe Films (NL)

World sales: Visit Films (US)

The film

The heavenly holidays Pedro had planned on spending with his wife and son at a seaside resort don't seem to be in the cards for him. Although the family is forced to share their villa with particularly rude strangers, Pedro feels like he is the only one bothered by the situation. To make matters worse, the staff is so unscrupulous they might just cause a deadly accident...

After *Halley* (2013), Sebastián Hofmann continues to explore the horror of everyday life through ordinary people. The massive holiday resort decorum stands as a dehumanizing framework that heightens the rising feeling of fear experienced by the characters. Surrealistic and troubling visions emerge from the elegant aesthetics, giving this absurdist comedy the qualities of a baroque horror piece. A disconcerting take on alienation that will have you think twice about booking your next holidays.

The director

A graduate of the Pasadena Art Center College of Design, Mexican filmmaker Sebastián Hofmann started off as a visual artist. In 2011, he co-founded his Mexico-based distribution and production company Piano. His first feature, *Halley* (2013), which was about a night watchman with a decaying body, created the buzz in Sundance. Four years on, he won the award for best screenplay at the same festival with *Time Share*, his second film.

Selected filmography

2012 - *Halley*

2012 - *Ismael* (court)

2011 - *Jaime Tapones* (court)

UNDER THE SILVER LAKE

SWISS PREMIERE

David Robert Mitchell, USA, 2018, 139'

Cast: Andrew Garfield, Riley Keough, Sydney Sweeney

Producers: Vendian Entertainment (US), Stay Gold Features (US), Good Fear Film + Management (US)

Distributor: Ascot Elite (CH)

The film

Unemployed and in his thirties, Sam is just another citizen of Los Angeles, dreaming of the day he becomes famous. He is about to finally make it to home base with his stunning and mysterious neighbour when she vanishes, leaving strange symbols behind her. Sam's obsessive quest through the City of Angels begins, soon leading him to discover its surrealistic arcana full of murders and conspiracies. What if our world were governed by a secret elite that communicates through codes and subliminal messages?

He already reinvented the slasher genre, now David Robert Mitchell is shaking all of Hollywood to its core. Sam, a spaced-out version of Philip Marlowe, leads an investigation that turns the film into a pop, sibylline crime thriller that feels like walking through a referential maze on acid. A burlesque, violent hare and hounds game that ends up being the missing link between Alfred Hitchcock, David Lynch, and Richard Kelly. Fascinating!

The director

David Robert Mitchell comes from Michigan. After getting his film degree at the Florida State University, he goes to Los Angeles and works as an editor before making VIRGIN, his first short film. In 2010, he masterfully probes the American youth with his first feature, THE MYTH OF THE AMERICAN SLEEPOVER. Four years later, he makes a splash with the horror phenomenon IT FOLLOWS, which won two awards at the NIFFF 2014. Today, he is back with a haunting exploration set in the world of Hollywood cinephilia.

Selected filmography

2014 - It Follows

2010 - The Myth of the American Sleepover

2002 - Virgin (court)

WHEN THE TREES FALL**SWISS PREMIERE****Marysia Nikitiuk**, Ukraine/Poland/Macedonia, 2018, 88'**Cast:** Sofia Halaimova, Anastasiia Pustovit, Maksym Samchik**Producers:** Solar Media Entertainment (UA), Directory Films (UA), Fokus In (MK), Message Film (PL)**World sales:** Latido Films (ES)**The film**

Larysa, a spirited and ambitious young Ukrainian, has recently moved to an isolated village with her 5-year-old cousin. Longing for a time when she won't have to stand the countryside and her strict grandmother anymore, the teenager falls for a thug whom she plans to run away with. But where can they run to when none of the roads lead anywhere and all dreams are forbidden?

Gracefully capturing the teenage spleen in the dystopian landscapes of the former USSR, *When the Tree Falls* centres on people that exist out of time. Using the run down town of Lozova as a sinister backdrop, the brutal crimes that are told sometimes become suffused with striking touches of magic realism. Half slow burning crime story, half spiritual hallucination, Marysia Nikitiuk's debut feature is a crowning achievement of photography, a revelation.

The director

Marysia Nikitiuk finished her film and drama studies at the Kiev Karpenko-Karyi University in 2012. She worked as a screenwriter before directing her first short film in 2014. Her script for *When the Tree Falls*, her first feature, won the award for best screenplay from Eastern Europe at Cannes in 2016. Today, she beautifully proves with the final film that her talent extends far beyond the page.

Selected filmography2018 - *Seraphyma*2016 - *Rabies: Skaz* (court)2015 - *Mandrake* (court)2014 - *It Trees* (court)

NEW CINEMA FROM ASIA

An outline of the quality and diversity that characterise popular Asian cinema.

BAD GENIUS

SWISS PREMIERE

Nattawut Poonpiriya, Thailand, 2017, 130'

Cast: Chutimon Chuengcharoensukying, Eisaya Hosuwan, Teeradon Supapunpinyo

Producers: GDH 559 (TH), Jorkwang Films (TH)

World sales: GDH 559 Co. (TH)

Two nerds join forces with rich spoiled brats to help them pass their high school diploma... by cheating. Pure escapist fare that reinvigorates the spy thriller.

BHAVESH JOSHI SUPERHERO

SWISS PREMIERE

Vikramaditya Motwane, India, 2018, 153'

Cast: Harshvardhan Kapoor, Nishikant Kamat, Priyanshu Painyuli

Producers: Eros International (IN), Phantom Films (IN), Reliance Entertainment (IN)

Festival contact: Phantom Films (IN)

Tired of the injustice they witness on a daily basis, two young men decide to make Mumbai a safer place. When they stand against a stronger foe, a hero will rise. Powerful.

HANAGATAMI

SWISS PREMIERE

Ôbayashi Nobuhiko, Japan, 2017, 169'

Cast: Shunsuke Kubozuka, Honoka Yahagi, Takako Tokiwa

Producer: PSC (JP), Karatsu Film Committee (JP)

World sales: Free Stone Productions Co. Ltd. (JP)

As Japan enters the Second World War, Toshihiko and his friends explore life. A gripping ode to youth which poetic charge is sure to impress.

INUYASHIKI

SWISS PREMIERE

Sato Shinsuke, Japan, 2018, 126'

Cast: Kinashi Noritake, Hongô Kanata, Yûsuke Iseya

Producers: Fuji Television Network (JP), Kôdansha (JP), Toho Company (JP)

World sales: Pony Canyon Inc. (JP)

A father rejected by his own family reaches rock bottom when his doctor tells him he has cancer. His encounter with a blinding light will change everything. A new kind of superhero movie!

LAPLACE'S WITCH

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Miike Takashi, Japan, 2018, 117'

Cast: Sakurai Shô, Hirose Suzu , Fukushi Sôta

Producers: Oriental Light and Magic (JP), Rakueisha (JP), Toho Pictures (JP)

World sales: Toho Co. (JP)

The police call on a geochemist to solve strange murders caused by hydrogen sulphide. As the investigation unfolds, his scientific beliefs are strongly challenged when he meets a mysterious woman.

OPERATION RED SEA

SWISS PREMIERE

Dante Lam, China, 2018, 142'

Cast: Zhang Yi, Johnny Huang, Hai-Qing

Producers: Bona Film Group (CN), The P.L.A Navy Government TV Art Central of China (CN), Star Dream Studio Media (CN)

World sales: Emperor Motion Pictures (HK)

A suicide mission is launched with the help of soldiers called on to rescue hostages caught in the middle of a terrorist operation. Buckle up, because you've never seen an action film like this one.

SATAN'S SLAVES

SWISS PREMIERE

Joko Anwar, Indonesia/South Korea, 2017, 107'

Cast: Bront Palarae, Tara Basro, Endy Arfian

Producer: Rapi Films (ID), CJ Entertainment (KR)

World sales: CJ Entertainment (KR)

A recently deceased woman comes back to haunt her grieving family. This disturbing Indonesian box office sensation is sure to mess with your head.

SSA/SUISSIMAGE SWISS SHORT FILMS COMPETITION

A glimpse at the next generation of Swiss filmmakers.

COYOTE

SWISS PREMIERE

Lorenz Wunderle, 2018, 9', no dialogue, 16a

Prod: YK Animation Studio GmbH (CH) - info@yk-animation.ch

CRÉPUSCULE

SWISS PREMIERE

Pauline Jeanbourquin, 2018, 20', ov sub eng, 16a

Prod: École Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne Département Cinéma (CH), Nouvelle Tribu (CH) - ecal@ecal.ch

DAS MÄDCHEN IM SCHNEE

ROMANDIE PREMIERE

Dennis Ledergerber, 2018, 7', ov sub eng/fr, 16a

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

INTERVENTION IN EINER BANK

ROMANDIE PREMIERE

Matthias Sahli, 2017, 14', ov sub eng, 16a

Prod: Zürcher Hochschule der Künste (CH) - film.info@zhdk.ch

LIVING LIKE HETA

ROMANDIE PREMIERE

Bianca Caderas, Isabella Luu & Kerstin Zemp, 2017, 6', no dialogue, 16a

Prod: Hochschule Luzern (CH) - animation@hslu.ch

OOZE

ROMANDIE PREMIERE

Kilian Vilim, 2017, 5', no dialogue, 16a

Prod: Hochschule Luzern (CH), Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen (CH) - animation@hslu.ch

PROCHAIN TOUR

WORLD PREMIERE

Valentin Graff & Jonas Lacôte, 2018, 17', ov sub eng, 16a

Prod: Ramon + Pedro (CH) - valentin.graff@bluewin.ch

SOY TU PAPÁ

WORLD PREMIERE

Garrick J. Lauterbach, 2018, 15', ov sub eng, 16a

Prod: Letterbox Collective Filmproduktion (CH), Fidelio Films (MX) - info@letterbox-collective.com

FILM IN COMPETITION FOR THE SILVER MELIES

FULL-LENGTHS FILMS

A YOUNG MAN WITH HIGH POTENTIAL, **Linus de Paoli**, DE, 2018, 85'
AMMORE E MALAVITA, **Marco & Antonio Manetti**, IT, 2017, 133'
BLUE MY MIND, **Lisa Brühlmann**, CH, 2017, 97'
CLIMAX, **Gaspar Noé**, FR, 2018, 95' –
CORNÉLIUS, LE MEUNIER HURLANT, **Yann Le Quellec**, FR, 2017, 105'
CUTTERHEAD, **Rasmus Kloster Bro**, DK, 2018, 84'
DIAMANTINO, **Gabriel Abrantes & Daniel Schmidt**, PT/FR/BR, 2018, 92'
KATRINA'S DREAM, **Mirko & Dario Bischofberger**, CH/IT, 2018, 83'
LUZ, **Tilman Singer**, DE, 2018, 70'
MUTAFUKAZ, **Guillaume «Run» Renard & Nishimi Shojiro**, FR/JP, 2017, 90'
THE DARK, **Justin Lange & Klemens Hufnagl**, AT, 2018, 91'
THE MAN WITH THE MAGIC BOX, **Bodo Kox**, Poland/Italy, 2017, 105'
WHEN THE TREES FALL, **Marysia Nikitiuk**, UA/PL/MK, 2018, 88'

SHORT FILMS

COYOTE, **Lorenz Wunderle**, CH, 2018, 9'
CRÉPUSCULE, **Pauline Jeanbourquin**, CH, 2018, 20'
DAS MÄDCHEN IM SCHNEE, **Dennis Ledergerber**, CH, 2018, 7'
INTERVENTION IN EINER BANK, **Matthias Sahli**, CH, 2017, 14'
LIVING LIKE HETA, **Bianca Caderas, Isabella Luu & Kerstin Zemp**, CH 2017, 6'
PROCHAIN TOUR, **Valentin Graff & Jonas Lacôte**, CH, 2018, 17'
SOY TU PAPÁ, **Garrick J. Lauterbach**, CH, 2018, 15'

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

OPENING CEREMONY

LE 5^E CAVALIER

WORLD PREMIERE

Created by : JD Schneider, Julien Dumont & Kennocha Baud

Directed by : Julien Dumont, J.D. Schneider, Cédric Chabloz

Switzerland, 2018, 70'

Cast: Alexandra Marcos, Stéphanie Schneider, Georges Syusawa

Producers: Radio Télévision Suisse (CH), NIFFF (CH), DBFX Workshop (CH)

World sales: Radio Télévision Suisse (CH)

In the presence of Jean-Daniel Schneider, Julien Dumont, Kennocha Baud & Alexandra Marcos

The world turns nightmarish when Swiss pontifical guards' corpses are discovered. Four ghostly horsemen spread terror in their wake. The apocalypse is nigh...

CLOSING CEREMONY

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER VACATION

SWISS PREMIERE

Genndy Tartakovsky, USA, 2018, 85'

Voices: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez

Producers: Columbia Pictures (US), Media Rights Capital (US), Sony Picture Animation (US)

Distributor: Sony Switzerland

The merry band of monsters indulge in well-deserved vacations on a luxury ship. The cruise capsizes when Dracula falls for a descendant of Van Helsing!

FILMS OF THE THIRD KIND

The most anticipated premieres of the festival let the audience explore the relationship between thrillers and fantasy films.

AMMORE E MALAVITA

REGIONAL PREMIERE

Marco & Antonio Manetti, Italy, 2017, 133'

Cast: Claudia Gerini, Carlo Buccirosso, Giampaolo Morelli

Producers: Madeleine (IT), Manetti Bros. Film (IT), Rai Cinema (IT)

World sales: Rai Cinema (IT)

In the presence of Marco & Antonio Manetti

It used to be a fantasy but they've done it. The Manetti brothers' musical on the Neapolitan Camorra blows the whole gangster genre apart. Pure cinematic craziness.

CARNIVORES

SWISS PREMIERE

Yannick & Jérémie Renier, France/Belgium, 2018, 87'

Cast: Leïla Bekhti, Zita Hanrot, Bastien Bouillon

Producers: Chi-Fou-Mi Productions (FR), Mars Films (FR), Les Films du Fleuve (BE), RTBF (BE), VOO (BE), BE TV (BE), Canal + (FR), Ciné + (FR)

World sales: Elle Driver (FR)

In the presence of Yannick Renier

Mona lives in the shadow of her sister's, a big movie star. The sisters' relationship deteriorates when she accepts to become her assistant. A magnetic, terrifying thriller.

CORNÉLIUS, LE MEUNIER HURLANT

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Yann Le Quellec, France, 2017, 105'

Cast: Bonaventure Gacon, Anais Demoustier, Gustave Kervern

Producers: Agat Films & Cie (FR), Les Films de Mon Moulin (FR), Ex Nihilo (FR)

World sales: Films Boutique (DE)

In the presence of Yann Le Quellec

An isolated village welcomes a new miller with open arms. Problem is, the man howls at the moon every night. His integration is starting well... French comedy at its best.

HOTEL ARTEMIS

SWISS PREMIERE

Drew Pearce, UK/USA, 2018, 94'

Cast: Jodie Foster, Sofia Boutella, Jeff Goldblum

Producers: The Ink Factory (UK), Marc Platt Productions (US), Point of No Return (US)

Distributor: Ascot Elite (CH)

In the near future, the manager of a medical establishment for criminals only learns that one of her patients is here on a job. An all-star, nerve-racking thriller.

I KILL GIANTS

SWISS PREMIERE

Anders Walter, USA/UK/Belgium, 2017, 104'

Cast: Madison Wolfe, Zoe Saldana, Imogen Poots

Producers: 1492 Pictures (US), Ocean Blue Entertainment (US), XYZ Films (US), Umedia (BE), uFund (BE), Parallel Films (UK)

Festival contact: Festival Agency (FR)

Young Barbara is a giant killer. Her obsession entails spectacular perturbations. An intense, majestic tale about resilience.

LA FEMME LA PLUS ASSASSINÉE DU MONDE

SWISS PREMIERE

Franck Ribière, Belgium/UK/USA, 2018, 102'

Cast: Anna Mouglalis, Niels Schneider, Eric Godon

Producers: Fontana (BE), Sinner Films (UK)

Festival contact: Fontana (BE)

In the presence of Franck Ribière & Vêrane Frédiani

Pigalle, 1930s. Main star of the Grand Guignol theatre, Paula Maxa has died thousands of times on stage. While fascist leagues are forming in the city, a killer prowls the streets...

MARY SHELLEY

SWISS PREMIERE

Haifaa Al-Mansour, UK/Ireland/Luxembourg/USA, 2017, 120'

Cast: Elle Fanning, Douglas Booth, Bel Powley

Producers: Gidden Media (US), Head Gear Films (UK), Juliette Films (LU), Metrol Technology (UK), Parallel Films (UK), Sobini Films (US)

Distributor: Ascot Elite (CH)

200 years ago, Mary Shelley wrote Frankenstein, now considered a literary classic. This elegant biopic with an all-star cast focuses on the inception of said gothic masterpiece.

MONSTER HUNT 2

SWISS PREMIERE

Raman Hui, Hong Kong/China, 2018, 110'

Cast: Tony Leung Chiu-wai, Bai Baihe, Boran Jing

Producers: Edko Films (HK), Guidam Studios (CN)

World sales: Edko Films (HK)

The adorable monster capable of restoring peace between his species and mankind has vanished. This over-the-top sequel to the biggest Chinese blockbuster of all time will have you laughing out loud!

MUTAFUKAZ

SWISS PREMIERE

Guillaume «Run» Renard & Nishimi Shojiro, France/Japan, 2017, 90'

Voices: Orelsan, Gringe, Redouanne Harjane

Producers: Ankama Animations (FR), Studio 4°C (JP)

Distributor: MovieBiz (CH)

After a road accident, a pizza delivery boy starts seeing monsters everywhere. A waking nightmare the hero must go through to avoid an alien invasion!

NUMBER 37

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Nosipho Dumisa, South Africa, 2018, 90'

Cast: Irshaad Ally, Monique Rockman, Ephraim Gordon

Producer: Gambit Films (ZA)

Distributor: Indeed Films (BE)

In the presence of Nosipho Dumisa

Paralysed, Randal spends his days looking over his neighbourhood with his binoculars. His mission: solve the underworld's criminal activities that burden his life. Claustrophobics beware!

PROFILE

SWISS PREMIERE

Timur Bekmambetov, USA/UK/Cyprus/Russia, 2018, 105'

Cast: Valene Kane, Shazad Latif, Christine Adams

Producer: Bazelevs Entertainment (RU)

Festival contact: Bazelevs (RU)

In the presence of Timur Bekmambetov & Olga Kharina

An investigative reporter creates a fake Facebook account to contact a jihadi recruiter. A technical and narrative achievement that will leave no one unscathed.

THE MAN WITH THE MAGIC BOX

SWISS PREMIERE

Bodo Kox, Poland/Italy, 2017, 105'

Cast: Olga Boladz, Piotr Polak, Sebastian Stankiewicz

Producers: Alter Ego Pictures (PL), Hanine Films (PL), Kreatywna Europa (PL), Vargo (IT)

World sales: Reel Suspects (FR)

Warsaw, in the future. An amnesiac is hired as a concierge by a company. A radio station that plays old music takes him back to the past... An astounding time waltz.

THE REAL ESTATE

SWISS PREMIERE

Måns Månsson & Axel Petersén, Sweden/UK, 2018, 88'

Cast: Léonore Ekstrand, Christer Levin, Christian Saldert

Producers: Flybridge (SE), Across the Alley (SE), Entertainment INT (SE)

Festival contact: Swedish Film Institute (SE)

A 60 something with a bumpy past inherits a building in Stockholm. What initially looks like a godsend soon turns out to be a nightmare. But no worries: she's ready to clean up the mess. Run!

WOMAN AT WAR

SWISS PREMIERE

Benedikt Erlingsson, Iceland/Ukraine/France, 2018, 101'

Cast: Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir, Jóhann Sigurðarson, Juan Camillo Roman Estrada

Producers: Gulldrengurinn (IS), Vintage Pictures (IS), Köggull Filmworks (IS), Solar Media Entertainment (UA), Slot Machine (FR)

Distributor: Filmcoopi (CH)

In the presence of Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir

A 50-something declares war on the local industries that are destroying the Highlands of Iceland. A brilliant eco fable with a strong protagonist who will stop at nothing!

ULTRA MOVIES

Midnight screenings unveil the strangest aspects of genre cinema.

ATERRADOS

SWISS PREMIERE

Demián Rugna, Argentina, 2017, 88'

Cast: Ariel Chavarría, Maximiliano Ghione, Norberto Gonzalo

Producer: Machaco Films (AR)

World sales: Aura Films (AR)

Obscure forces terrorize a neighborhood. Aided by a highly trained unit, the cops start investigating. A horror shock that won't help you keep your cool in the middle of the heatwave.

A YOUNG MAN WITH HIGH POTENTIAL

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Linus de Paoli, Germany, 2018, 85'

Cast: Adam Ild Rohweder, Amanda Plummer, Pit Bukowski

Producers: Hahn Film AG (DE), Schattenkante (DE)

World sales: Schattenkante (DE)

In the presence of Linus de Paoli, Adam Ild Rohweder & Amanda Plummer

A nerd becomes one of his charming classmate's object of desire. The awkward boy doesn't know how to approach the situation which, obviously, soon goes off the rails. Not a feel-good movie!

BLOOD FEST

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Owen Egerton, USA, 2018, 90'

Cast: Robbie Kay, Tate Donovan, Zachary Levi

Producer: Rooster Teeth Productions (US)

World sales: Rooster Teeth Productions (US)

In the presence of Owen Egerton

Three mates ecstatically travel to a horror film festival, not knowing they will soon fall prey to their favourite monsters. Buckle up, there will be blood!

GONJAM : HAUNTED ASYLUM

SWISS PREMIERE

Jeong Beom-sik, South Korea, 2018, 95'

Cast: Lee Seung-wook, Mun Ye-won, Park Ji-hyun

Producer: Showbox Corp (KR)

World sales: Showbox (KR)

Set on getting as many views as possible, a group of social media stars venture into an abandoned asylum. But the supposedly haunted building holds more than a few surprises... Blublublu!

LIVERLEAF**EUROPEAN PREMIERE**

Naito Eisuke, Japan, 2018, 114'

Cast: Anna Yamada, Hiroya Shimizu, Rinka Ôtani

Producers: Nikkatsu (JP), Nippon Shuppan Hanbai K.K. (JP), Video Audio Project (JP)

World sales: Nikkatsu (JP)

An atrociously bullied student is pushed over the edge when her classmates do the unthinkable. One of the bloodiest revenge tales in Japanese cinema ensues.

ONE CUT OF THE DEAD**SWISS PREMIERE**

Shinichiro Ueda, Japan, 2018, 96'

Cast: Hamatsu Takayuki, Mao, Syuhama Harumi

Producers: ENBU Seminar (JP), Panpokopina (JP)

World sales: Third Window Films (UK)

The filming of a zombie flick is interrupted by...zombies! Every cinephile should be wooed by this wildly inventive comedy. Already a cult film!

PREMIKA**SWISS PREMIERE**

Siwakorn Charupongsa, Thailand, 2017, 90'

Cast: Natthacha De Souza, Nutthasit Kotimanuswanich, Todsapol Maisuk

Producer: Transformation Films (TH)

World sales: M Pictures (TH)

In a newly renovated hotel, guests are targeted by a vengeful ghost who gives them one clear choice: sing or die! Warm up your vocal chords, and don't hit the wrong note!

THE FIELD GUIDE TO EVIL**EUROPEAN PREMIERE**

V. Franz, S. Fiala, P. Strickland, A. Smoczynska, K. Gebbe, C. Evrenol, C. Reeder, A. Ahluwalia & Y. Veslemes, New Zealand, 2018, 117'

Cast: Birgit Minichmayr, Sarah Navratil, Niharika Singh

Producers: Aurum Film (PL), EchoWolf Productions (GR), Legion M (USA), Moviebar Productions (HU), Timpson Films (NZ)

Festival contact: The Festival Agency (FR)

The most promising genre filmmakers explore the myths and legends of their respective countries in this first class anthology. From the producer of Housebound.

THE GREEN FOG
SWISS PREMIERE
Guy Maddin, Galen & Evan Johnson, USA, 2017, 63'
Producer: Extra Large Productions (US)

Festival contact: The Festival Agency (FR)

When filmmaker Guy Maddin pays homage to San Francisco, the result is a superb kaleidoscopic montage that references Vertigo, as well as forgotten gems. Splendorous.

WHAT KEEPS YOU ALIVE
EUROPEAN PREMIERE
Colin Minihan, Canada, 2018, 98'
Cast: Hannah Emily, Brittany Allen, Martha MacIsaac

Producer: Digital Interference Productions (CA)

World sales: MPI Media Group (US)

The romantic getaway weekend a young woman was envisioning doesn't exactly go as planned when her friend's tortured past emerges. Sharpen your survival skills!

AMAZING SWITZERLAND

An overview of the best fantastic films (or affiliated genres) aimed at promoting the Swiss industry.

BLUE MY MIND

Lisa Brühlmann, 2017, 97'

In the presence of Lisa Brühlmann

Pressured by her authoritative parents and attracted by the school's group of cool kids, a teenager from Zurich undergoes an all-together unexpected transformation. Unsettling.

CURRY WESTERN

WORLD PREMIERE

Kamal Musale, Switzerland/United Kingdom/India, 2018, 105'

In the presence of Kamal Musale

Burying one's parent is never easy, especially when one must go back to a native country they know nothing about, and rub shoulders with a dynamite-loving anarchist.

KATRINA'S DREAM

SWISS PREMIERE

Mirko & Dario Bischofberger, Switzerland/Italy, 2018, 83'

In the presence of Mirko & Dario Bischofberger & Hugo Lippens

Longing for motherhood, Katrina meets up with her lover again. Currently recovering at the hospital following a serious accident, he isn't quite the man he used to be...

SICILIAN GHOST STORY

ROMANDIE PREMIERE

Fabio Grassadonia & Antonio Piazza, Switzerland/Italy/France, 2017, 122'

In the presence of Antonio Piazza

After Giuseppe vanishes, his classmate refuses to accept it and sets out on a quest to find him. She will discover a terrifying world she never suspected could exist. Spine-tingling.

TIERE

ROMANDIE PREMIERE

Greg Zglinski, Switzerland/Austria/Poland, 2017, 95'

In the presence of Greg Zglinski

A car accident triggers a series of bizarre events for a couple whose concepts of reality soon start dissolving one by one. A classy, disturbing film.

EL DORADO

This programme explore the possibilities of South American genre cinema.

CÓMPRAME UN REVÓLVER

SWISS PREMIERE

Julio Hernández Córdón, Mexico/Colombia, 2018, 80'

In the near future, drug dealers rule over Mexico, where a young girl tries to live her childhood. Science-fiction at its best.

LOS BUSCADORES

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Juan Carlos Maneglia & Tana Schembori, Paraguay, 2017, 102'

A young newspaper boy goes on a frantic quest for a hidden treasure. Marvellous!

MOTORRAD

SWISS PREMIERE

Vicente Amorim, Brazil, 2017, 92'

Young bikers are being hunted by machete-loving lunatics. A particularly stylised slasher.

INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC SHORT FILMS PROGRAM

AN ISLAND**SWISS PREMIERE****Rory Byrne**, Ireland, 2017, 13', no dialogue, 16a**Prod:** And Maps And Plans (IE) - rory@andmapsandplans.com**CHOSE MENTALE****SWISS PREMIERE****William Laboury**, France, 2017, 21', ov sub eng, 16a**Prod:** Bobi Lux (FR), Canal+ (FR), Capricci Films (FR) - jimmy.martin@capricci.fr**END OF THE LINE****SWISS PREMIERE****Jessica Sanders**, USA, 2018, 14', ov, 16a**Prod:** Altina Films (US) - js@jessicasandersfilm.com**LA NUIT DES SACS PLASTIQUES****INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE****Gabriel Harel**, France, 2018, 18', ov sub eng, 16a**Prod:** Kazak Productions (FR) - festival@kazakproductions.fr**MILK****SWISS PREMIERE****Santiago Menghini**, Canada, 2018, 10', ov sub fr, 16a**Prod:** Newton's Cradle (CA) - coordo@travellingdistribution.com**PIZZAMONSTER****INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE****Kurt Platvoet**, The Netherlands, 2018, 12, ov sub eng, 16a**Prod:** July Film (NL) - platvoetkurt@hotmail.com

NEW SHORTS FROM ASIA PROGRAM

CRYING FREE SEX**SWISS PREMIERE****Iwasaki Tomohiko**, Japan, 2018, 15', ov sub eng, 16a**Prod:** Iwasaki Tomohiko (JP) - rockit360@gmail.com**FRENCHIES****SWISS PREMIERE****Lin Kuan-fu**, Taiwan/USA, 2017, 13', ov, 16a**Prod:** Lin Kuan-fu (TW), Loyola Marymount University (US) -
punkwho@gmail.com**MY WORLD****INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE****Jun Li**, Hong Kong, 2018, 30', ov sub eng, 16a**Prod:** Fresh Wave Film Festival Limited (HK) - simon_au@freshwave.hk**THE LADY FROM 406****INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE****Lee Kyoung-mi**, South Korea, 2017, 14', ov sub eng, 16a**Contact:** Central Park Films (KR) - centralpark.co@gmail.com**THE LAST FISHERMAN****EUROPEAN PREMIERE****Ngo Shal**, Vietnam/USA, 2018, 12', ov sub eng, 16a**Prod:** Ngo Shal (VN), Acres New York (US) - shal@acresnewyork.com

WHAT WE DO IN NEW ZEALAND

CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS OF FANTASTIC CINEMA IN AOTEAROA

The NIFFF is partnering with the NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION (NZFC), which is celebrating 40 years of New Zealand cinema, to create the very first retrospective dedicated to fantasy and genre films from the mythical island. Since its inception in 1977, the NZFC has supported many creative and multicultural projects, ranging from popular blockbusters to indie films. This strategy broke away from the country's cinematic traditions, theretofore entirely centred on documentaries.

WHAT WE DO IN NEW ZEALAND will reveal the hopes and fears of the people from Aotearoa with a programme that includes rare gems and cult classics, as well as modern successes. Our guests will also discuss the industry's history and future challenges during various conferences. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to meet the major creative forces of New Zealand cinema.

SLEEPING DOGS

Roger Donaldson, 1977, 107'

THE SQUARECROW

Sam Pillsbury, 1981, 88'

SMASH PALACE

Roger Donaldson, 1981, 108'

UTU (REDUX)

Geoff Murphy, 1984, 118'

GOODBYE PORK PIE

Geoff Murphy, 1981, 105'

MR. WRONG

Gaylene Preston, 1984, 88'

DEATH WARMED UP

David Blyth, 1984, 78'

THE QUIET EARTH

Geoff Murphy, 1985, 91'

THE NAVIGATOR: A MEDIEVAL ODYSSEY

Vincent Ward, 1988, 90'

AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE

Jane Campion, 1990, 158'

ONCE WERE WARRIORS

Lee Tamahori, 1994, 102'

HEAVENLY CREATURES

Peter Jackson, 1994, 99'

PERFECT STRANGERS

Gaylene Preston, 2003, 96'
In the presence of Gaylene Preston

THE DEVIL DARED ME TO

Chris Stapp, 2007, 75'
In the presence of Chris Stapp

BOY

Taika Waititi, 2010, 87'

THE DEAD LANDS

Toa Fraser, 2014, 107'

HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE

Taika Waititi, 2016, 101'

THE CHANGEOVER

Miranda Harcourt & Stuart McKenzie, 2017, 95'

AND...

08.07, PASSAGE 2, 16:00 – 17:00

CONFERENCE: WHAT WE DO IN NEW ZEALAND

The idiosyncrasies of New Zealand cinema will be discussed by our distinguished guests.

Gaylene Preston, Director, NZ

Rebekah Tisch, Art director, NZ

Chris Stapp, Director, Illustrator, Musician, NZ

Moderator: **Marc Checkley**, Content producer

09.07, PASSAGE 2, 16:15 - 17:15

WHAT WE DO IN WETA

Two representatives of the famous Weta company - hailed worldwide as a model for visual effects creation - will tackle the specificities of their creative process.

FANTASY WORLD BUILDING AT WETA WORKSHOP: HOW WE BLEND COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION WITH THE LATEST IN DIGITAL DESIGN

Rebekah Tisch, Art Director, Weta Workshop Ltd, NZ

PRODUCING GAMES FOR MIXED REALITY: 5 YEARS OF MISTAKES, SURPRISES AND AMAZEMENT AT WETA GAMESHOP

Patrick Wagner, Head of Interactive, Weta GameShop Ltd, NZ

NIFFF WELCOMES 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 and 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.

CARTE BLANCHE

FREAKS

Tod Browning, USA, 1932, 64'

A troupe of abnormal artists working at a fair become the targets of a greedy trapeze artist. A dark-as-they-come gem.

THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN

Jack Arnold, US, 1957

Durch den Kontakt mit einem giftigen Insek-tizid schrumpft ein Mann auf Minia-turgrösse. Achtung, eine Katze!

WOMAN IN THE DUNES

Teshigahara Hiroshi, JP, 1964

Auf der Suche nach einer unbekannten Käfer-art bleibt ein Hobby-Insektenfor-scher in einem Küstendorf stecken.

HOOR OF THE WOLF

Ingmar Bergman, SE, 1968

Beim Inselurlaub wird ein geplagter Künst-ler von seiner Vergangenheit eingeholt. Horror vom schwedischen Meister.

SPIRITS OF THE DEAD - TOBY DAMMIT

Federico Fellini, FR/IT, 1968

Fellini macht aus einer Novelle von Edgar Allan Poe ein flamboyant-makabres Meis-terwerk. Grosse Kunst.

HOMMAGE

VIDEODROME

David Cronenberg, CA, 1983, 87'

Ein TV-Boss wird in eine neue Realität kata-pultiert, nachdem er ein seltsames Sendeformat erworben hat. Long Live the New Flesh!

EXISTENZ

David Cronenberg, CA/UK/FR, 1999, 97'

Eine Game-Designerin muss auf der Flucht ihr neuestes VR-Werk testen, um herauszufinden, ob es tödliche Bugs en-thält.

CRASH

David Cronenberg, CA/UK, 1996, 100'

Zwei durch einen Verkehrsunfall lädierte Men-schen blühen auf in sexuellen Akten zwischen Menschenfleisch und Karrosse-rie.

COSMOPOLIS

David Cronenberg, Canada/France/Portugal/Italie, 2012, 109'

Unterwegs zum Haareschneiden begibt sich ein junger Milliardär in seiner Limou-sine auf eine unberechenbare Odyssee.

FANTOCHE : A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Fantoche, the Baden International Animation Film Festival, presents short films selected by twelve children and teens that had to flee their country and come to Switzerland.

KRAKE, Julia Ocker, DE, 2015, 3'48

LA PETITE POUSSE, Chaïtane Conversat, FR/CH, 2015, 9'33

LA MOUFLE, Clémentine Robach, BE/FR, 2014, 8'7

REMUBOT 1.0, René Müller, CH, 2016, 3'21

DER KLEINE VOGEL UND DAS BLATT, Lena Von Döhren, CH, 2012, 4'

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR BELONGINGS WHEN YOU LEAVE, Nina Bisyarina, RU, 2012, 5'40

LÄMMER, Gottfried Mentor, DE, 2013, 4'12

SOME THING, Elena Walf, DE, 2015, 7'

SNOWFLAKE, Natalia Chernysheva, RU, 2012, 6'

SUPER GRAND, Marjolaine Perreten, CH, 2014, 1'32

MIA, Wouter Bongaerts, BE/NL, 2013, 9'3

DER GROSSE BRUDER, Jesus Pérez & Elisabeth Hüttermann, CH/DE, 2011, 6'6

FANTASTIC SWISS AWARD

Awarded at the 2017 edition of Fantoche (Fantastic Swiss Award granted by the NIFFF), the nightmarish Ooze will be shown out of competition as part of the Swiss short film programme.

OOZE, Kilian Vilim, 2017, 5', no dialogue, 16a

LIONEL BAIER CARTE BLANCHE

A unique approach of fantastic films through the lens of a specific Swiss cultural figure.

Lionel Baier has become a central figure of Swiss cinema thanks to his films, his work as producer, and his position as the director of the film department at the ECAL (École cantonale d'art de Lausanne). He has chosen 3 unmissable pop cultural objects that encapsulate his references.

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET PART 2: FREDDY'S REVENGE

Jack Sholder, USA, 1985, 87'

His claws are as sharp as ever, so Freddy Krueger comes back to haunt the teens on Elm Street. An orgasmic sequel.

CUJO

Lewis Teague, USA, 1983, 93'

An adorable St Bernard terrorizes a small town after contracting rabies. One of the finest Stephen King adaptations.

LITAN: LA CITE DES SPECTRES VERTS

Jean-Pierre Mocky, FR, 1982, 88'

Awoken by a mysterious voice, a woman sets upon to explore the city of Litan at the time of the carnival.

FRIDAY THE 13TH

Can you think of anything better than a screening of Friday the 13th on Friday the 13th? Join us in warding off the powers of evil by rewatching this seminal slasher on the big screen, along with The Burning, another 80s gem inspired by the success of Sean S. Cunningham's film.

FRIDAY THE 13TH

Sean S. Cunningham, USA, 1980, 95'

The supervisors of a teenage camp are brutally massacred one by one. What's going on at Crystal Lake?

THE BURNING

Tony Maylam, USA/CANADA/UK, 1981, 91'

After being set on fire at a summer camp, a concierge returns to the scene of the crime armed with an edge trimmer to punish the youngsters responsible for his ordeal.

NIFFF EXTENDED

The NIFFF EXTENDED is a free event supplementary of the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival. It is an opportunity to articulate the main challenges faced by fantasy-based visual productions in Switzerland, as well as everywhere else in the world. As a networking forum that encourages discussions, it will tackle topics such as digital creation, new information technologies, audiovisual screenwriting, and contemporary literature. About 100 experts will gather to share their insights on the industry's future.

GSGS' 18

GAMIFICATION & SERIOUS GAMES

05.07 - 06.07, PASSAGE 2, 08:15 - 18:00

The GSGS'18 symposium bridges industry needs with innovative approaches by highlighting the playfulness of the training, ecological, management, and communication methods. This event involves over 70 national and international speakers in an attempt to close the gap between academia and the industry. On top of the 50 demos and presentations related to healthcare, engineering, and social matters, the audience will be encouraged to actively partake in the various debates and roundtables.

Detailed program and times: www.gsgs.ch

EPIC GAME JAM

VIDEO GAME CREATION

06.07 - 08.07, INFO: EPICGAMEJAME.COM

Calling all creators: the EPIC GAME JAM is coming back for a 5th edition full of surprises. You know the drill: participants will be creating a video game under certain restrictions (limited time, unusual framework, piñata, a myriad of themes to follow, and 2 teams competing in a no-holds-barred face-off).

Information on www.epicgamejam.com

IMAGING THE FUTURE

DIGITAL CREATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES (09.07 - 10.07)

09.07, PASSAGE 2, 09:30 - 16:00

ARTIFACTS & ARTIFICES (09:30 - 14:30 (NETWORKING INTERLUDE))

A series of conferences dedicated to the digital techniques used by creators willing to explore new realms of interaction and perception.

Gilles Jobin, Choreographer, Director of WOMB (3D), CH / **Peter Philip Weiss**, Sound Designer, Performer, CH / **Oliver Latta & Bruno Leòn**, Creative Artists, Motion Designers @extraweg.com, DE / **Christophe Guignard**, Patrick Keller & Dr Christian Babsky, Architects, Associates & Founders of fabric | ch, CH / **Matthieu Jaccard**, Moderator, Art Historian, CH

SWISS FILM INDUSTRY NEXT GENERATION: Le 5^e CAVALIER (14:45 - 16:00)

Winner of the Fantastic Web Contest set up by the RTS and the NIFFF in 2017, Le 5^e CAVALIER (THE 5th HORSEMAN) is a supernatural web series that will bring an apocalyptic vision of Geneva to life. The artists behind this ambitious Swiss production will share their experience on the creation of its visual effects.

JD Schneider, Director, Titan Films, CH / **Julien Dumont**, Director, Producer, Titan Films, CH / **Kennocha Baud**, VFX Supervisor, DBFX Workshop, CH

WHAT WE DO IN WETA (14:45 - 16:00)

Two representatives of the famous Weta company - hailed worldwide as a model for visual effects creation - will tackle the specificities of their creative process.

FANTASY WORLD BUILDING AT WETA WORKSHOP: HOW WE BLEND COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION WITH THE LATEST IN DIGITAL DESIGN (16:15 - 17:15)

Rebekah Tisch, Art Director, Weta Workshop Ltd, NZ

PRODUCING GAMES FOR MIXED REALITY: 5 YEARS OF MISTAKES, SURPRISES AND AMAZEMENT AT WETA GAMESHOP

Patrick Wagner, Head of Interactive, Weta GameShop Ltd, NZ

10.07, PASSAGE 2, 09:30 - 17:30

09:30 - 14:30

FOCUS ON AVENGERS : INFINITY WAR

Anthony and Joe Russo's blockbuster will be discussed in details by its main VFX supervisors, who oversaw the creation of its universe and visual effects. A rare opportunity to learn more about the conception of such a gigantic production.

Lara Lom & Helen Newby, Cinesite, CH/UK / **Graham Page**, DNEG, UK / **Robert Allman**, Framestore, UK / **Ian Failes**, moderator, vfxblog.com, AU

VIDEO GAMES & CINEMA (15:00 - 17:30)

Video game creators are extremely literate in contemporary storytelling techniques. At the crossroads between video game and cinema, the Imaging The Future symposium will welcome three artists among nowadays' most creative storytellers.

Raoul Bardet, Writer and Director, FR / **Jehanne Rousseau**, CEO, Spiders Games , FR / **David Wise**, Composer, UK

METADRIVE

A playful and interactive installation from Manuel Schmalstieg and Swann Thommen, with the participation of Anthony Fleury (HE-Arc Engineering student).

Exhibition at the Temple du Bas from July 6th to July 14th, 2018.

STORYWORLDS

AUDIOVISUAL STORYTELLING (11.07)

11.07, PASSAGE 2, 14:00 - 15:00

MOVIE CRITICS IN THE ERA OF THE WEB 2.0

Social media has had a profound impact on information consumption. Critics, YouTubers and digital editors will discuss the possibilities offered by new information technologies.

François Theurel (Le Fossoyeur de films), YouTuber, FR / **Frédéric Mercier**, Journalist, Transfuge, Le Cercle, FR / **Nicolas Dufour**, Digital Publishing Manager, Journalist, Le Temps, CH

11.07, PASSAGE 2, 15:15 - 16:15

BAZELEVS: FROM FILM TO SCREEN MOVIES

Kazakh director Timur Bekmambetov made a name for himself with the blockbuster NIGHT WATCH (RU, 2004). Since then, he has been expanding his filmography through projects that are heavily marked with formal innovation. In 2015, he teamed up with Olga Kharina to develop a new "high concept" genre where storytelling exclusively occurs through screens.

Timur Bekmambetov, Director, Producer, Screenwriter, CEO Bazelevs Production, RU/US / **Olga Kharina**, Director, Producer, Screenwriter, Bazelevs Production, RU/US

11.07, PASSAGE 2, 16:30 - 17:15

FUTURE STORYWORLDS 2018

The NIFFF and his partners CineGlobe and THE Port at CERN are issuing a second call for projects with the intent of strengthening scientific accuracy in fiction. This informative session will detail the conditions of registration for the 2018 edition. The most promising immersive project from 2017 will also be presented.

THE DAY WE BECAME ALIENS - RUMINATIONS ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN, Salomé Guillemin, CH, 2017

NEW WORLDS OF FANTASY

CONTEMPORARY FANTASY LITERATURE (12.07)

12.07, PASSAGE 2, 13:30 - 14:15

FROM 2001, A SPACE ODYSSEY TO TODAY – WHEN FICTION IMAGINES THE POST-HUMAN

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of **Stanley Kubrick's** masterpiece 2001, A SPACE ODYSSEY, the 502001.CH group (composed of UniZH, the Phink!, UniNE, and Science-Valais) will set up a high quality forum exploring the prospective potential of fictional universes.

Daniela Cerqui, Associate Professor and Researcher in Anthropology, UNIL, CH

Simon Spiegel, Post-doctorate in Film Studies, UNIZH, CH

Marc Atallah, Director of LA MAISON D'AILLEURS, Associate Professor and Researcher, UNIL, CH

12.07, PASSAGE 1, 14:30 - 15:45

JAN HARLAN - A TALK ABOUT FILM PRODUCTION AND OUR INNER FANTASY

As a friend and right-hand man to **Stanley Kubrick**, **Jan Harlan** has notably worked as executive producer on several cinematic landmarks such as THE SHINING (1980), FULL METAL JACKET (1987), EYES WIDE SHUT (1999), and ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A.I. (2001). He will come back on his fascinating career and share his vision of creativity.

12.07, PASSAGE 1, 16:00 - 17:00

HOW LITERATURE HAS CONSUMED THE WORK OF DAVID CRONENBERG

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.

12.07, THEATRE DU PASSAGE, 17:00 - 18:00

BOOK SIGNINGS

Online registration from June 21st, 2018 on www.starticket.ch

NIFFF INVASION

The NIFFF also extends into the heart of the city. A series of events for people of all ages are scheduled in various locations around Neuchâtel. These screenings, installations, exhibitions or interactive activities work as an introduction to the genre for the uninitiated, who will also be able to enjoy the charms and atmosphere of the city.

NIFFF OPEN AIR

Five genre gems in gloriously restored versions will be screened free of charge on the iconic Place des Halles, in the heart of the historical part of Neuchâtel. The 250 tiered seats and other deckchairs await!

THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME (08.07.2018 – 22:15)

Irving Pichel & Ernest B. Schoedsack, US, 1932, 63'- Most Elegant Masterpiece

Taken in by a mysterious count, a shipwrecked traveller soon finds out his host entertains a rather unique hunting hobby...

VERTIGO (09.07.2018 – 22:15)

Alfred Hitchcock, US, 1958, 128'- Spellbinding All-Time Classic

A detective must overcome his worst fears to solve his last case. A dizzying accomplishment.

UTU (REDUX) (10.07.2018 – 00:30)

Geoff Murphy, New Zealand, 1984, 118'- Ferocious Maori Western

A former Maori soldier of the British army sets out on a bloody quest for vengeance. A landmark in the cinema of New Zealand.

DEAD RINGERS (11.07.2018 – 00:30)

David Cronenberg, Canada/US, 1988, 116'- Twin Introspective Thriller

Two gynaecologists who are also identical twins live a shared common existence. Their relationship goes South when they meet an actress.

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (12.07.2018 – 22:15)

Stanley Kubrick, US, 1968, 149'- Outerspace Metaphysical Masterpiece

Man, knowledge, the universe... with this majestic cosmic ballet, Kubrick delivered his intergalactic masterpiece.

VR SPACE: THE VIRTUAL PSYCHO PAGODA

In collaboration with the Geneva International Film Festival

The NIFFF joins forces with the Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF) for the second year in a row to offer an overview of innovations in VR and digital creation. The 2018 programme focuses on the Asian imagination.

AN OBITUARY, Jean Yoon, KR, 2017, 14', VR 360°

BLOODLESS, Gina Kim, KR/US, 2017, 12', VR 360°

HELP ME, You Tae-kyung, KR, 2018, 10', Interactive VR Experience

SHE'S ALREADY GONE, Yu Hong, CHN/DK, 2017, 8', Interactive VR Experience

YOUR SPIRITUAL TEMPLE SUCKS, John Hsu, TW, 2017, 10', VR 360°

HYPER-REALITY, Matsuda Keiichi, JP, 2016, 6', Video Installation

Every day, Temple du Bas, 4 to 8 p.m., free entry

LE 5^E CAVALIER EXHIBITION

Behind the scenes of the web series LE 5^E CAVALIER

This multimedia exhibition will lead you through the creative process of a unique Swiss web series. From sculpture to moulding and animatronics, this visually ambitious thriller's aesthetics borrow from horror, fantasy, and science fiction.

Every day, Temple du Bas, 4 to 8 p.m., free entry

KID-O-NIFFF

Short films programme (75') in collaboration with AnimaFilms RPN

About 20 animated short films made by students from Neuchâtel (from the 4th to the 11th school year) will take you on the extraordinary adventures of robots and superheroes, out to discover far away lands as well as the everyday life of school pupils.

06.07, Les Arcades cinema, 5 p.m.

THE EPIC SAGA OF A YOUNG MAORI GIRL

In collaboration with La Lanterne Magique

Discover the fabulous saga of Paï, a brave 12 year old girl who can communicate with whales and wants to become her village's new leader. But no woman has ever been allowed this privilege... A beautiful fantasy set among the Maori people, who live out their lives according to their traditions and the rules of nature.

WHALE RIDER, Niki Caro, 2002, New-Zealand, 101'

07.07, Les Arcades cinema, 2:30 p.m., suitable from 6 years of age

LA BOUCHE, Mathias Forbach (2018)

Mathias Forbach is a contemporary artists from Vevey who made a name for himself in Switzerland and elsewhere thanks to his bright, colourful visual style. The NIFFF's 18th edition provides an opportunity for the Parking du Port to give him a free rein and let him create a fresco which will swallow the cars that venture into his den. This creation will work as a tribute to jury president David Cronenberg by referencing 5 cult scenes from his filmography in Mathias Forbach's style. Will you spot them?

06.07 - 14.07, Parking du Port

MUSIC@NIFFF

DJ sets at the Jardin anglais (Festival OFF), after parties at the Temple du Bas, and a festive, summery atmosphere that will last for the whole 9 days of the NIFFF. Don't miss the guests you can dance the night away with!

Complete after parties programme:

6 July - Indie Dance, Nu Disco | RITALINE DJ set | SUPERMAFIA VJ set

7 July - Underground Clubbing from Asia | YAN – The Observatory, Saigon | GRAZ – Savage, Hanoi | DJ set

11 July - A Glimpse Into 80's Swiss Electronic Music | ORSETT – Traffic | DJ set

12 July - Aftershow by Couleur3 | Dj set

13 July - Digging La Chaux-de-Fonds City Library | SCHNAUTZI – La Sélection, Radio Nova Lyon | DJ set

14 July - Tropical Groove, Afro Beat and Oriental Sounds | ALMA NEGRA – Sofrito / Hearst | DJ set

CHORÉOKÉ

In collaboration with Couleur 3

Don't like karaoke? Try choreoke! Everyone must follow the choreographies showed on screen, from the most famous to the craziest scenes in cinema. As an aftershow, dancing will continue with a DJ set from Couleur 3.

12.07, Temple du Bas, from 22:15, free

MARCHÉ FANTASTIQUE (03/05/07/10/12/14, Saturday until 3 p.m., Place du Port)

The Neuchâtel market has partnered up with the NIFFF and will move to the Place du Port during the festival! There will be animations, culinary surprises, and themed music events on Saturdays. A great time for people of all ages.

PRESS OFFICE

BEFORE THE FESTIVAL : You can send your registration form for accreditation until Wednesday, June 27th. Confirmations and press screening times will be sent at the end of June.

The accreditation fee is CH 60. It gives access to NIFFF EXTENDED events but requires booking.

Our press team is at your disposal for interview requests, additional information and questions regarding the programme.

DURING THE FESTIVAL : the office is open to journalists and professionals on the 1st floor of the Théâtre du Passage, Maximilien-de-Meuron 4, 2000 Neuchâtel.

OPENING HOURS :

Théâtre du Passage, 1st floor

06.07 : 14:00 - 19:00

07.07 - 14.07 : 9:00 - 18:00

CONTACT :

Bastien Bento

Press Coordinator

bastien.bento@niff.ch

T: +41 32 731 07 76

M: +41 79 934 34 63

Christian Ströhle

Presse Deutschschweiz

christian.strohle@niff.ch

M: +41 79 390 47 69

Anicée Willemin

Press assistant and
accreditations

assist.press@niff.ch

M: +41 78 615 31 94

PRACTICAL INFOS

PRICES

1 Film: CHF 14.-

Multipass 4 Films: CHF 50.-

Multipass 10 Films: CHF 110.-

Festival Pass: CHF 170.-

PRESALES : www.starticket.ch

TICKETING

Théâtre du Passage

From 10 a.m. until the start of the last showing

CINÉMA ARCADES, REX, STUDIO, THÉÂTRE DU PASSAGE, NIFFF Open Air :

Opens 30 min before the start of the first showing

Closes 30 min after the start of the last showing

OFF@NIFFF - JARDIN ANGLAIS

Food services and DJs

06.07 - 07.07 / 12.07- 14.07 : 02:00

08.07- 11.07 : 01:00

NIFFF OPEN AIR

La place des Halles

530 seats (256 covered)

Screenings: from 10:15 p.m. regardless of the weather, audio headsets provided

AFTERS@NIFFF - TEMPLE DU BAS

DJs & drinks

06.07 - 07.07 / 11.07- 14.07 : 01:00 - 04:00

NEUCHÂTEL'S MARKET - PLACE DU PORT

Tuesdays 3rd and 10th & Thursdays 5th and 12th, from 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays 7th and 14th, from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.: food, beverages, and free music.

WIFI@OFF

Video 2000 will offer free Wi-Fi access at the Jardin anglais throughout the festival.

TRANSPORT**SPECIAL DISCOUNT AT THE PARKING DU PORT**

Festival-goers pay only CHF 5.- for a whole day's parking. Just leave your car there and come get your discounted parking ticket at the Théâtre du Passage.

TAXICAB TAXIS

Take advantage of a special taxi fare for 1 to 6 people according to travel zones! All you need to do is call the Taxicab office and show your travel voucher to the driver : 3 zones/3 fares: CHF 15 (green zone), CHF 45 (red zone), CHF 75 (blue zone)

The vouchers can be obtained at the festival box offices and bars.

Taxicab: 032 724 12 12

Online booking at www.taxicab.ch/offre

For addresses beyond the proposed zones, the fare is the price for zone 3 + the distance beyond that.

SOFT MOBILITY - NIFFFROULE

The NIFFF by bicycle! Neuchâtelroule stations are located near the Temple du Bas, Passage des Arcades, and Jardin anglais. More info on www.neuchatelroule.ch

GOODIES

Catalogue : CHF 5.-

Canvas bag : CHF 10.-

Poster : CHF 10.- (F4), CHF 5.- (A2), CHF 2.- (A3)

Hip pack : CHF 20.-

T-Shirt : CHF 25.-

Sweatshirt : CHF 49.-

Knife NIFFF Victorinox : CHF 19.-

Available at all box offices and all 3 shops (Jardin anglais, Temple du Bas, and Place des Halles)

ORGANISATION

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Fanny Guichard, Communication & Sponsoring Director
Cyrille Dos Ghali, Administrative Director

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Vincent Frei, Consultant

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Caroline Hirt, **Toni Fisler**, **Jérémie Wuthrer**
Cuany, Epic Game Jam Coordinators

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white brand design, Graphic Designer and Editor
Loïc Valceschini, Coordinator & Redactor
Redactors: **Marion Besençon**, **Thibaud Ducret**, **Anaïs Emery**, **Thomas Gerber**, **Fanny Guichard**, **Chloé Hofmann**, **Maryke Oosterhoff**, **Raphaëlle Pralong**

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Georges Wyrsh (German)
Joseph Barnes, Interpreter

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Suzanne Richard, Arcades Coordinator
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Camille de Dieu, Passage 2 & ITF Coordinator
Gabriel Grossert, Temple du Bas Coordinator

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Marie Geiser, DCP Master
Clément Borel, Redhat Gnome
Louis Jean, Live Recordings Supervisor
Moyleang Tan, Streaming Assistant
Christopher Mondt, Filmprojektion Mondt
Equipement and Technical Supervisor
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Laurent Finck, David Gaud, Lumens 8
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Christelle Michel, Technic Angel
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Manlio Lapi, Dialoghi di Luce

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Marjan Trajkov, Bars Staff's supervisor
Sébastien Oulevay, After's bar supervisor
Dorian Bascou, Cups manager
Jean-Marie Lehmann, Wildcard
Linda Virchaux, Catering

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white brand design
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Manuel Romero

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Jimmy Roura, Photographer
Claire Zombas, Photographer
Motini Production, Video
Frédéric Ambroisine, Video & Instagram

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Evolution Notebook

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Yves Cernuschi, Realization

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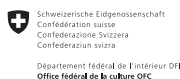
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**NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL**

THE SWISS EVENT FOR FANTASTIC FILM, ASIAN CINEMA & DIGITAL CREATION

