

NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

NIFFF - Press release, July 13th 2019

NIFFF 2019 : THE NIFFF STRIKES AGAIN

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) concluded its overview of world genre cinema on Saturday evening, after 9 days filled with emotion and no less than 350 guests. Attendance reached new heights with a total of 48'000 (2018: 44'000) including 34'000 public cinema tickets (2018: 32'000) and 39'000 entries including press, school and private screenings. As next year's 20th anniversary nears, the NIFFF solidifies its position as a major event for Swiss and international films with a steady growth. This year, the jury selected two works that give prominence to supernatural humour. The H.R. Giger 'Narcisse' award (CHF 10,000 provided by the City of Neuchâtel) was awarded to fantasy comedy **EXTRA ORDINARY** from Irish filmmakers Mike Ahern and Enda Loughman. Starring Saturday Night Live star Will Forte, the film stood out thanks to its remarkable sense of humour that has already made it a cult film of 2019. In addition, the international jury rewarded the astoundingly creative **JESUS SHOWS YOU THE WAY TO THE HIGHWAY** from Miguel Llansó with the Best Production Design award (CHF 5,000 provided by the CSEM). An outcome that shows creativity always pays off.

EMOTIONS GALORE

This 19th edition certainly had a good few emotional moments such as the historic signing of the SWAN charter for equality and inclusion in film festivals. The NIFFF is the first genre film festival to become part of this initiative. Our audience lauded the augmented Open Air, where turnout was at an all-time high. The screening of the legendary **LOONEY TUNES** made a lasting impression on our viewers and the Place des Halles. Actors Sergi Lopez and Jean Dujardin started the festivities with a bang during the Swiss premieres of **7 REASONS TO RUN AWAY (FROM SOCIETY)** and Quentin Dupieux's **LE DAIM**. The Asian competition took flight with the presence of Miike Takashi (**FIRST LOVE**), a regular visitor of Neuchâtel, and Korean filmmaker Lee Won-tae (**THE GANGSTER, THE COP, THE DEVIL**).

A STRONG NEW FORMAT FOR NIFFF EXTENDED AND INVASION

This year also saw the specialised NIFFF Extended label and the multidisciplinary NIFFF Invasion event coming closer together. Now planned as one, they create bridges between academia and the gaming industry through symposiums and various installations at the Temple du Bas. Another meaningful event was the futuristic presentation of Greg Broadmore, director of legendary studio Weta Workshop, as well as the one from Denis Pellerin, historian and custodian of the **DIABLERIES** collection from Brian May (the Queen guitarist).

SWITZERLAND AT THE FOREFRONT

The spotlight was on Switzerland all week long with exciting and interdisciplinary endeavours. The atmosphere was electric during the **FANTASTIC WEB CONTEST III** pitching sessions in collaboration with RTS. Malou Briand and Raphaël Meyer's (Box Productions) **LES ENFANTS TERRIBLES** won the contest and will go into production this summer. It will be ready for its world premiere at next year's NIFFF. Yann Gonzalez supported the 2019 promotion of ECAL young filmmakers with the **TALES OF YOUTH** programme. Also of note was the presence of Swiss emerging artists Blaise Harrison (with the CERN-set **LES PARTICULES**) and Simon Jaquemet for **DER UNSCHULDIGE**.

THE NIFFF IN NUMBERS

This 19th edition had a total budget of **CHF 2,339,000**. Over **9 days**, **150 films** divided into **15 categories** were shown. With a total capacity of **2,135 seats**, the **165 public screenings** included **90 feature films** and **69 short films** from **51 countries**, with **21 world premieres**, **5 international premieres**, **8 European premieres** and **51 Swiss premieres**. Free events NIFFF Extended and NIFFF Invasion were composed of **107 activities**, including **41 conferences**.

NIFFF 2019 WINNERS

Prix H. R. Giger «Narcisse» award for best feature film (International Competition)
CHF 10,000 given by the City of Neuchâtel

EXTRA ORDINARY - Mike Ahern & Enda Loughman, Ireland, Belgium
World sales: Epic Pictures Group (US)

Awarded by the International Jury

Anaïs Bertrand, Producer, FR

Katrin Gebbe, Director, DE

Piodor Gustafsson, Producer, SE

Fernando Navarro, Screenwriter, ES

Alexandre O. Philippe, Director, CH

Special mention for her performance: Haley Bennett - in SWALLOW, by Carlo Mirabella-Davis, United States, France

Silver Méliès for best European fantastic feature film
Nomination

ABOU LEILA - Amin Sidi-Boumédiène, Algeria/France/Qatar
Distributor: Outside the Box (CH)

Awarded by the Méliès Jury

Denise Bücher, journaliste, CH

Evrin Ersoy, Creative Director, Fantastic Fest, UK

Valeria Richter, Creative Producer, DK

NIFFF's International Critics award (International Competition)
Promotion

SWALLOW - Carlo Mirabella-Davis, United States/France
World sales: Charades (FR)

Awarded by the NIFFF International Critics Jury

Roberto Della Torre, Journaliste, *Nocturno*, IT

Anna Géliert, Journalist, *Mad Movies*, FR

Rául Gil, Journalist, *SciFiWorld*, ES

James Marsh, Journalist, *Screen Anarchy* (CA), UK

Dominic Saxl, Journalist, *Deadline*, DE

Imaging The Future award for best production design (International Competition)
CHF 5,000 offered by the Swiss Center for Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM)

Awarded to Miguel Llansó, Anna-Liisa Liiver, Aitor and Fran Almuedo for JESUS SHOWS YOU THE WAY TO THE HIGHWAY, Miguel Llansó, Ethiopia/Spain/Estonia
World sales: Sergio Uguet de Resayre (ES)

Awarded by the International Jury
Anaïs Bertrand, Producer, FR
Piodor Gustafsson, Producer, SE
Fernando Navarro, Screenwriter, ES
Alexandre O. Philippe, Director, CH

Denis-De-Rougemont youth award (International Competition)
Honorary

COME TO DADDY - Ant Timpson, New Zealand, Canada, Ireland, United States
World sales : WTFilms (FR)

Awarded by the Denis-de-Rougemont High School Jury

Best Asian feature film (Asian Competition)
Honorary

THE FABLE - Kan Eguchi, Japan
World sales: Shochiku Co., Ltd (JP)

Awarded by the audience

RTS Audience award (International and Asian Competitions)
Broadcast

EXTRA ORDINARY - Mike Ahern & Enda Lougham, Ireland/Belgium
World sales: Epic Pictures Group (US)

Awarded by the audience

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

DISPERSION - Basile Vuillemin, CH
Prod: Basile Vuillemin (CH), KinoGeneva (CH)

Awarded by the SSA/SUISSIMAGE Jury

Corinne Frei, Suissimage Delegate, CH
Pascaline Sordet, Journalist, CH
Antoine Russbach, Director, CH

Silver Méliès for best fantastic European short film

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DISPERSION, Basile Vuillemin, CH

Prod: Basile Vuillemin (CH), KinoGeneva (CH)

Awarded by the SSA/SUISSIMAGE Jury

Corinne Frei, SUISSIMAGE Delegate, CH

Pascaline Sordet, Journalist, CH

Antoine Russbach, Director, CH

Taurus Studio award for innovation (Swiss Shorts Competition)

CHF 2,000 worth of sound post production services

HAND IN HAND, de Ennio Ruschetti, CH

Prod: Zürcher Hochschule der Künste (CH)

Awarded by the Taurus Studio Jury

Claude Lander, Taurus Studio Founder, CH

Ludovic Maggioni, Director, Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Neuchâtel, CH

Régis Mérillat, Journalist, CH

The NIFFF continues:

NIFFFONTOUR@CERN - FUTURE STORYWORLDS SWISS IMMERSIVE NARRATIVE WORKSHOP : 30.11-01.12 (CALL FOR PROJECT : 15.07 - 03.11)

NIFFF 2020: The festival's next edition will take place from **July 3rd to July 11th 2020.**

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

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