

NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

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NIFFF 2019: THE 19TH EDITION AT THE CROSSROADS OF IMAGINATION

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) completely embraces the possibilities of alterity in its ambitious programme for the 19th edition, which will take place from July 5th to July 13th. The competition will champion the universality of imagination by gathering visionary creators from all over the world in the thousand-year-old city. Films in the International Competition will compete for the H.R. Giger Narcisse award (CHF 10,000), granted by the City of Neuchâtel. This year's selection highlights the incredible dynamism of contemporary fantasy films, a genre that still holds a special place for master filmmakers and newcomers alike. Genre cinema is a bottomless well of rejuvenation and diversity, which invites the audience to step out of its comfort zone to understand today's world.

The gripping vision of emerging European auteurs (**THE LODGE**, Veronika Franz and Severin Fala; **THE HOLE IN THE GROUND**, Lee Cronin; **YVES**, Benoît Forgeard; **THE ROOM**, Christian Volckler) will rub shoulders with the American indie film scene (**SOMETHING ELSE**, Jeremy Gardner and Christian Stell; **KNIVES AND SKIN**, Jennifer Reeder; **DANIEL ISN'T REAL**, Adam Egypt Mortimer). As an international event, the festival also focuses on fantasies from Asia with a high-quality competition - **NEW CINEMA FROM ASIA** -, and from Africa with the retrospective **REFLECTIONS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**, in the presence of exceptional guests such as Ghanaian afrobeat duo **FOKN BOIS** and filmmaker Pierre-Alain Meier. The **EL DORADO** section will showcase three gems from Latin America, including the masterpiece **MONOS** directed by Alejandro Landes (winner of the Sundance Jury Prize). Dan Wechsler, one of the producers, will be in attendance.

The festival, which has become the point of convergence for contemporary audiovisual productions, will welcome seasoned artists like Denis Côté (who will present his **GHOST TOWN ANTHOLOGY**) and Miike Takashi, who will be back in Neuchâtel with **FIRST LOVE**. New artists will also make their sensational debut in the competition, among them young prodigy Blaise Harrison and his supernatural teen movie **LES PARTICULES**, and New Yorker Carlo Mirabella-Davis, who tackles the issues of patriarchy in **SWALLOW**. Auteurs with unique universes will complete the picture: Benoît Forgeard and his smart fridge called **YVES**, Brazilians Kleber Mendonça Filho and Juliano Dornelles with the social satire **BACURAU**, and Kiwi filmmaker Ant Timpson (important producer of New Zealand genre fare) who will present his (unhinged) Elijah Wood-led directorial debut **COME TO DADDY**. The climax of this edition will be the Swiss premiere of Lorcan Finnegan's **VIVARIUM**, in which Jesse Eisenberg and Imogen Poots are trapped in a nightmarish and labyrinthine neighbourhood.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The international competition will offer a vivid overview of contemporary fantasy cinema. Young Franco-Swiss director Blaise Harrison will take centre stage with his first fiction film **LES PARTICULES**, a feature that uses the CERN as a narrative accelerator. Eagerly awaited is the return of Spanish director Miguel Llansó, who will be presenting his new innovative creation **JESUS SHOWS YOU THE WAY TO THE HIGHWAY** with his actors. Also worth noting is the presence of Californian filmmaker Jeremy Gardner, for the International premiere of his monster tale **SOMETHING ELSE**.

NEW CINEMA FROM ASIA

As a main vector of influence on worldwide genre cinema, exciting Asian films will be featured in a competition that keeps the festival's heart beating at all times. Unstoppable and inimitable filmmaker Miike Takashi will take part with **FIRST LOVE**, his 103rd feature film. Japan is front and centre this year with the European premiere of Eguchi Kan's **THE FABLE**, an adaptation of the manga of the same name from Katsuhisa Minami. Korean director Lee Won-tae will attend the Swiss premiere of his film **THE GANGSTER, THE COP, THE DEVIL**, a nocturnal thriller who should leave audiences breathless in Europe as well as Asia. Another come-back is that of Zhang Yimou, director of **SECRET OF THE FLYING DAGGERS**, with his new swordplay epic, **SHADOW**.

FILMS OF THE THIRD KIND

An ode to the diversity of fantasy cinema, the **FILMS OF THE THIRD KIND** section is filled with highly anticipated premieres. Prepare to discover the BDSM world of Finnish filmmaker Jukka-Pekka Valkeapää (**DOGS DON'T WEAR PANTS**) and the tale of redemption of a skinhead portrayed by Jamie Bell (**BILLY ELLIOT**) in Guy Nattiv's **SKIN**. **ABOU LEILA** from Algerian director Amin Sidi-Boumédiène and **ACHOURA** from Franco-Moroccan filmmaker Talal Selhami reflect the will of the festival to explore cinematic treasures from the Middle East. Iconic Spanish actor Sergi López will present **7 REASONS TO RUN AWAY (FROM SOCIETY)** alongside Gerard Quinto, one of the directors of this absurdist horror anthology.

ULTRA MOVIES

This out of competition section focuses on radical and powerful visual experimentations. This includes the European premiere of the nightmarish **BLISS** (with actor Jeremy Gardner in attendance), and the world premiere of Canadian director Jovanka Vuckovic's **RIOT GIRLS**. Featuring unusual model Melanie Gaydos, **TOUS LES DIEUX DU CIEL**, which is among the year's most intriguing projects, will be presented by Quarxx, its creator. Humour will not be forgotten with Olivier Afonso's **GIRLS WITH BALLS**, about the survival tale of a female volleyball team pursued by degenerate hunters - with Denis Lavant and Orelsan guest starring!

THE NIFFF IN NUMBERS

This 19th edition has a total **budget of CHF 2,339,000**. Over a period of **9 days**, it will show over **150 films** belonging to **15 categories**. With a combined capacity of **2,135 seats**, the **165 public screenings** will include **90 feature films** and **69 short films** from **51 countries**. The programme is composed of **21 world premieres**, **5 international premieres**, **8 European premieres** and **51 Swiss premieres**. Free events NIFFF Extended and NIFFF Invasion will offer **107 activities**, including **41 conferences**.

The complete programme is available on our presskit or on our website : www.niff.ch!

Practical information:

Presskit, guest list and images are available on the [press page](#) of our website.

Professional accreditation requests can be submitted until July 1st.

Online ticket bookings will be available on our website from June 20th.

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.stroehle@niff.ch
M: +41 79 390 47 69

Melissa Girardet

Press assistant
melissa.girardet@niff.ch
M: +41 78 635 06 83

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★ : GUESTS

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

- BACURAU - Kleber Mendonça Filho & Juliano Dornelles, Brazil/France, 2019, 132' - Swiss Premiere ★
- COME TO DADDY - Ant Timpson, Zealand/Canada/Ireland/USA, 2019, 94' - European Premiere ★
- DANIEL ISN'T REAL - Adam Egypt Mortimer, USA, 2019, 96' - European Premiere
- EXTRA ORDINARY - Mike Ahern & Enda Lougham, Ireland/Belgium, 2019, 94' - Swiss Premiere ★
- HIS MASTER'S VOICE - György Pálfi, Hungary/Canada, 2018, 108' - Swiss Premiere
- JESUS SHOWS YOU THE WAY TO THE HIGHWAY - Miguel Llansó, Ethiopia/Spain/Estonia, 2019, 85', World Premiere ★
- KNIVES AND SKIN - Jennifer Reeder, USA, 2019, 111' - Swiss Premiere
- LES PARTICULES - Blaise Harrison, Switzerland/France, 2019, 98' - International Premiere ★
- RÉPERTOIRE DES VILLES DISPARUES - Denis Côté, Canada, 2019, 97' - Swiss Premiere ★
- SOMETHING ELSE - Jeremy Gardner & Christian Stella, USA, 2019, 83' - International Premiere ★
- SONS OF DENMARK - Ulaa Salim, Denmark, 2019, 119' - Swiss Premiere
- SWALLOW - Carlo Mirabella-Davis, USA/France, 2019, 94' - International Premiere ★
- THE HOLE IN THE GROUND - Lee Cronin, Ireland, 2019, 90' - Swiss Premiere ★
- THE LODGE - Veronika Franz & Severin Fiala, UK/USA, 2019, 100' - Swiss Premiere
- THE ROOM - Christian Volckman, France/Belgium/Luxembourg, 2019, 100' - Swiss Premiere ★
- YVES - Benoît Forgeard, France, 2019, 102' - Swiss Premiere ★

NEW CINEMA FROM ASIA

- FIRST LOVE - Miike Takashi, Japan/UK, 2019, 108' - Swiss Premiere ★
- FLY BY NIGHT - Zahir Omar, Malaysia, 2018, 100' - Swiss Premiere
- FLY ME TO THE SAITAMA - Takeushi Hideki, Japan, 2019, 107' - Swiss Premiere
- RESIDE - Wisit Sasanatieng, Thailand, 2018, 103' - Swiss Premiere
- SHADOW - Zhang Yimou, China/Hong Kong, 2018, 116' - Swiss Premiere
- THE FABLE - Kan Eguchi, Japan, 2019, 123' - European Premiere
- THE GANGSTER, THE COP, THE DEVIL - Lee Won-tae, South Korea/USA, 2019, 109' - Swiss Premiere ★
- THE PREY - Jimmy Henderson, Cambodia, 2018, 93' - Swiss Premiere

FILMS OF THE THIRD KIND

7 REASONS TO RUN AWAY (FROM SOCIETY) - Gerard Quinto, Esteve Soler & David Torras, Spain, 2019, 75' - Swiss Premiere ✨

ABOU LEILA - Amin Sidi-Boumédiène, Algeria/France/Qatar, 2019, 140' - Swiss Premiere

ACHOURA - Talal Selhami, France/Morocco, 2018, 100' - Swiss Premiere ✨

DOGS DON'T WEAR PANTS - Jukka-Pekka Valkepää, Finland/Latvia, 2019, 105' - Swiss Premiere ✨

FEEDBACK - Pedro C. Alonso, Spain/USA, 2019, 97' - Swiss Premiere

FREAKS - Zach Lipovsky & Adam B. Stein, Canada/USA, 2018, 104', Swiss Premiere

LES FAUVES - Vincent Mariette, France, 2018, 83' - Swiss Premiere

ROMULUS & REMUS: THE FIRST KING - Matteo Rovere, Italy/Belgium, 2018, 127' - Swiss Premiere

SKIN - Guy Nattiv, USA, 2018, 120' - Swiss Premiere

SWOON - Måns Mårilind & Björn Stein, Sweden, 2019, 104' - Swiss Premiere

THE BEACH BUM - Harmony Korine, UK/France/USA/Switzerland, 2019, 95' - Regional Premiere

WE ARE LITTLE ZOMBIES - Nagahisa Markoto, Japan, 2019, 120' - Swiss Premiere

WEREWOLF - Adrian Panek, Poland/Germany/Netherlands, 2018, 88' - Swiss Premiere

X – THE EXPLOITED - Károly Ujj Mészáros, Hungary, 2018, 111' - Swiss Premiere

ULTRA MOVIES

BLISS - Joe Begos, USA, 2019, 80' - European Premiere ✨

EXTERMINADORES DO ALÉM CONTRA A LOIRA DO BANHEIRO - Fabrício Bittar, Brazil, 2018, 103' - International Premiere

GIRLS WITH BALLS - Olivier Afonso, France/Belgium, 2018, 77' - Swiss Premiere

RIOT GIRLS - Juvanka Vuckovic, Canada, 2019, 82' - World Premiere

RISE OF THE MACHINE GIRLS - Kobayashi Yuki, Japan, 2019, 75' - World Premiere

THE LEGEND OF THE STARDUST BROTHERS - Tezka Makoto, Japan, 1985, 100' - Swiss Premiere

THE POOL - Ping Lumpraploeng, Thailand, 2018, 91' - Swiss Premiere

TONE-DEAF - Rickard Bates Jr., USA, 2019, 87' - International Premiere

TOUS LES DIEUX DU CIEL - Quarxx, France, 2018, 102' - Swiss Premiere ✨

WHY DON'T YOU JUST DIE? - Kirill Sokolov, Russia, 2018, 95' - Swiss Premiere

EL DORADO

BREVE HISTORIA DEL PLANETA VERDE - Santiago Loza, Argentina/Germany/Brazil/Spain, 2019, 75' - Swiss Premiere

MONOS - Alejandro Landes, Colombia/Argentina/Netherlands/Germany/Sweden/Uruguay, 2019, 102' - Regional Premiere ✨

MORTO NÃO FALA - Dennison Ramalho, Brazil, 2018, 110' - Swiss Premiere