



## NIFFF 2019: SPOTLIGHT ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> EDITION'S OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) paves the way for its June 20<sup>th</sup> press conference with the unveiling of part of its programme. The selection puts a new generation of filmmakers front and centre, both in Europe (Ulaa Salim, Vincent Mariette, Károly Ujj Mészáros) and North America (Jennifer Reeder, Jeremy Gardner & Christian Stella, Jovanka Vuckovic) to offer an enthralling overview of the fantasy genre today. This new generation exists side by side with the pillars of auteur cinema (Denis Côté) and the major players of the rebirth of European fantasy films (Måns Mårilind & Björn Stein, Christian Volckman). In addition, the NIFFF will have a special programme dedicated to the NEW DANISH SCREEN initiative called DANES DO IT BETTER!, which will focus on Danish inventiveness.

American indies will come in force with directorial debuts that have a true vision, whether it be in the teen movie genre (**KNIVES AND SKIN**) or the monster movie (**SOMETHING ELSE**). The world premiere of post-apocalyptic film **RIOT GIRLS** from Canadian director Jovanka Vuckovic will no doubt be a highlight of the programme that demonstrates the creativity of independent North American auteurs.

With **GHOST TOWN ANTHOLOGY**, Denis Côté offers an emotional study of Québec's rural communities that live in isolation during winter. Famous Swedish TV writer Måns Mårilind (**THE BRIDGE**, **MIDNIGHT SUN**) joins forces with Björn Stein for his feature film comeback in the wild romance **SWOON**, an ode to Baz Luhrmann's magic realism. Christian Volckman, who had made a name for himself with **RENAISSANCE**, is back with a new supernatural tale called **THE ROOM**, starring Olga Kurylenko.

New European filmmakers will also be celebrated this year. Vincent Mariette's second film, **LES FAUVES** (with an all-star cast that includes Lily-Rose Depp, Laurent Lafitte and Camille Cottin), sets the stage for a mysterious predatory hunt at a camp site. **SONS OF DENMARK**, Ulaa Salim's first feature, is a brutal political and polemical piece that will leave audiences stunned. In contrast, **7 REASONS TO RUN AWAY (FROM SOCIETY)**, a charmingly absurd anthology film, will highlight the creativity of a Spanish trio whose future work we look forward to. Following up on his outrageous musical **LIZA, THE FOX-FAIRY** (NIFFF 2015), Károly Ujj Mészáros is back with **X - THE EXPLOITED**, a deep dive in the world of police corruption in Budapest. To finish on a unique note, this European tour will take us to **EXTRA ORDINARY**, a Will Forte (**SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**)-led comedy that made a big splash at SXSW.

Intent on pursuing NIFFF's exploration of the dynamism and diversity of Latin American cinema, two very different but equally unmissable films will also be shown: **MONOS**, a Colombian paramilitary thriller whose reputation worldwide stems from its fascinating visual atmosphere, and **GHOST KILLERS VS. BLOODY MARY**, a zany tribute to **GHOSTBUSTERS** that gives the spotlight to Brazilian prankish humour.

### **SONS OF DENMARK**

Ulaa Salim, DK, 2019

Cast: Zaki Youssef, Imad Abul-Foul, Rasmus Bjerg

Festival contact: Danish Film Institute (DK)

Swiss premiere

In-Your-Face Anticipation

### **EXTRA ORDINARY**

Mike Ahern & Enda Loughman, IE/BE, 2019

Cast: Maeve Higgins, Barry Ward, Will Forte

World sales: Epic Pictures Group (US)

Swiss premiere

Paranormal Stupidities

### **X - THE EXPLOITED**

Károly Ujj Mészáros, HU, 2018

Cast: Mónika Balsai, Renátó Olasz, Zsófia Bujáki

Festival contact: Hungarian National Film Fund (HU)

Swiss premiere

Eerie Thriller

### **LES FAUVES (SAVAGE)**

Vincent Mariette, FR, 2018

Cast: Lily-Rose Depp, Laurent Lafitte, Camille Cottin

World sales: Elle Driver (FR)

Swiss premiere

Haunting Coming-of-age

### **7 REASONS TO RUN AWAY (FROM SOCIETY)**

Gerard Quinto, Esteve Soler & David Torras, ES, 2019  
Cast: Sergi López, Emma Suárez, Lola Dueñas  
World sales: Filmax (ES)  
Swiss premiere  
Absurd Take On Society

### **MONOS**

Alejandro Landes, CO/AR/NL/DE/SE/UR, 2019  
Cast: Sofia Buenaventura, Julian Giraldo, Karen Quintero  
Swiss distributor: Trigon-film (CH)  
Regional premiere  
Intense Chaotic Thriller

### **RIOT GIRLS**

Jovanka Vuckovic, CA, 2019  
Cast: Madison Iseman, Paloma Kwiatkowski, Munro Chambers  
World sales: AMP International (UK)  
World premiere  
Post-apocalyptic Teen Survival

### **SOMETHING ELSE**

Jeremy Gardner & Christian Stella, US, 2019  
Cast: Jeremy Gardner, Brea Grant, Justin Benson  
World sales: XYZ Films (US)  
International premiere  
Monstrous Love

### **KNIVES AND SKIN**

Jennifer Reeder, US, 2019  
Cast: Kate Arrington, Tim Hopper, James Vincent Meredith  
World sales: WTFilms (FR)  
Swiss premiere  
Fluorescent Teen Noir

### **DANES DO IT BETTER!**

Discover the first 6 films of a programme dedicated to highlight Danish inventiveness. Founded in 2003 with the objective of stimulating experimentation and inspiring new talents, the funding and development initiative **NEW DANISH SCREEN** has given way to one of the most dynamic cinematic movements in the world. The NIFFF offers to explore this cinema of innovations through a selection of titles.

### **FLOW**

Fenar Ahmad  
Hip Hop Adventure, DK, 2014, 89'

### **A HORRIBLE WOMAN**

Christian Tafdrup  
Domestic Horror, DK, 2017, 86'

### **BRIDGEND**

Jeppe Rønde  
Thriller - Coming of Age, DK, 2015, 95'

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Images are available on the press page of our website [www.niff.ch](http://www.niff.ch)

### **GHOST KILLERS VS. BLOODY MARY**

Fabrizio Bittar, BR, 2018  
Cast: Dani Calabresa, Léo Lins, Danilo Gentili  
World sales: Raven Banner (CA)  
International premiere  
Lame Ghostbusters Blood Massacre

### **RÉPERTOIRE DES VILLES DISPARUES (GHOST TOWN ANTHOLOGY)**

Denis Côté, CA, 2019  
Cast: Robert Naylor, Josée Deschênes, Jean-Michel Anctil  
World sales: Films Boutique (DE)  
Swiss premiere  
Bone-Chilling Ghost Story

### **SWOON**

Måns Mårlind & Björn Stein, SE, 2019  
Cast: Helena Af Sandeberg, Pernilla August, Mattias Banker  
Festival contact: Swedish Film Institute (SE)  
Swiss premiere  
Epic Pop Romance

### **THE ROOM**

Christian Volckman, FR/BE/LX, 2019  
Cast: Olga Kurylenko, Kevin Janssens, Francis Chapman  
World sales: Elle Driver (FR)  
Swiss premiere  
Supernatural Huis Clos

### **WINTER BROTHERS**

Hlynur Pálmason  
Familial Thriller, DK, 2017, 93'

### **CUTTERHEAD**

Rasmus Kloster Bro  
Claustrophobic survival, DK, 2018, 84'

### **SHELLEY**

Ali Abbasi  
Paranoid supernatural tale, DK, 2016, 90'