



## NIFFF 2019: SWISS CREATION AT THE HEART OF THE NIFFF

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) acts as a springboard for new Swiss artists through film screenings, obviously, but also through programmes for encouraging innovation in storytelling. Working as testaments to the popularity of fantasy cinema in Switzerland, short films will take the spotlight with a selection of prestigious works that will compete for the SSA/SUISSIMAGE award (CHF 10,000). Students from the École Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne (ECAL) will also fuel your sense of wonder by showing, for the first time, their visions of the fantasy genre supervised by French director Yann Gonzalez (YOU AND THE NIGHT, KNIFE + HEART).

Already working as a platform for promotion and streaming, the NIFFF is branching out in order to stimulate a culture of experimentation. That is why the best concepts for Swiss web series will compete during the FANTASTIC WEB CONTEST III pitching session, in collaboration with the RTS. One of the 8 selected projects will go into production and will be shown at the NIFFF's 20<sup>th</sup> edition. Swiss researchers will also be part of the festivities with the never-seen-before IMMERSIVE LAB, an interactive project developed by The Institute for Computer Music and Sound Technology (Zurich University of the Arts) and the Swiss Centre for Affective Sciences (University of Geneva). In addition, presentations from the 2 winners of the FUTURE STORYWORLDS @CERN workshop will open up new horizons.

Finally, the carte blanche to a Swiss celebrity will be an opportunity for audiences to come closer to the cosmic stories of sci-fi writer **Laurence Suhner**, thanks to a selection of films that explore the various dimensions of first contact.

### AMAZING SWITZERLAND

As an overview of the best fantasy or related genre films that aims at promoting Swiss cinema, AMAZING SWITZERLAND will screen two innovative gems.

#### DAS HÖLLENTOR VON ZÜRICH

Cyrril Oberholzer, 2018, 93'  
Prod: tellfilm GmbH  
Distrib: tellfilm GmbH  
Furious Swissploitation

#### DER UNSCHULDIGE

Simon Jaquemet, 2018, 114'  
Prod: 8horses GmbH, Augenschein  
Filmproduktion GmbH, ZDF Zweites  
Deutsches Fernsehen, SRF Schweizer  
Radio und Fernsehen, ARTE, Teleclub AG  
Distrib: Ascot Elite Entertainment Group  
Spiritual Thriller

This year, a special project will also be part of this section. Piloted by Yann Gonzalez, the **CONTES MIROIRES DE LA JEUNESSE** workshop allowed eight ECAL students to dive in the depths of fantasy. A very stimulating exercise, as described by the French filmmaker himself: "These students completely embraced the fantasy genre and explored its possibilities, from dreamy romance to hallucinogenic experimental cinema, from zombie flicks to absurdist drama. These eight shorts filmed DIY-style with a fistful of Swiss francs pull out all the stops (HD, Super8, Super16, DV...) and coalesce into a surprising collection of imaginary self-portraits, with fantasy becoming a strange mirror for the poetic, abrasive sensibilities of these young filmmakers."

**À LA CRÊTE DES LAMES**

Rodrigo Muñoz, 2019, 10'  
World premiere

**JEGAN**

Keerthigan Sivakumar, 2019, 16'  
World premiere

**SHAMANIN**

Nikita Merlini, 2019, 8'  
World premiere

**BLOC B**

Nora Longatti, 2019, 11'  
World premiere

**LA RENARDE**

Coline Confort, 2019, 8'  
World premiere

**XX VIRUS**

Kimyan Flückiger, 2019, 11'  
World premiere

**FOLLIA ET LA MUETTE**

Lucas Giordano, 2019, 8'  
World premiere

**ON SE LE DIT POUR LA DÉTRESSE**

Lou-Théa Papaloïzos, 2019, 7'  
World premiere

**SWISS SHORTS - Swiss short films competition**

A key part of the programme since the festival's creation in 2000, the SSA/SUISSIMAGE award is a great way of evaluating the ability of Swiss cinema to reinvent itself. Each of the 8 selected films (which include 5 world premieres) has a powerful, unique identity that reflects the expressive qualities of the genre, especially as perceived by film schools (which make up a big part of the selection).

**BLOC B**

Nora Longatti, 2019, 11'  
Prod: École Cantonale d'Art de  
Lausanne Département Cinéma  
Regional premiere

**CONCRETE**

Pirmin Bieri, Luca Struchen,  
Aira Joana & Nicolas Roth,  
2018, 7'  
Prod: Hochschule Luzern  
World premiere

**DISPERSION**

Basile Vuillemin, 2018, 8'  
Prod: Basile Vuillemin,  
KinoGeneva

**FAIT DIVERS**

Léon Yersin, 2018, 18'  
Prod: Haute école d'art et de  
sign - Genève

**GRIMBART**

Daniel Grabherr, 2019, 18'  
Prod: Zürcher Hochschule  
der Künste  
World premiere

**HAND IN HAND**

Ennio Ruschetti, 2019, 4'  
Prod: Zürcher Hochschule de-  
der Künste  
World premiere

**EXISTE!**

Luca Zuberbühler, CH/BE, 2019, 9'  
Prod: Filmgerberei GmbH,  
LUCA School of Arts  
World premiere

**THE LONELY ORBIT**

Frederic Siegel & Benjamin  
Morard, 2019, 10'  
Prod: Team Tumult, SRF World  
premiere Schweizer Radio  
und Fernsehen  
World premiere

**CARTE BLANCHE TO A SWISS CELEBRITY: LAURENCE SUHNER**

Among the rare female authors of Planet Operas and influential figures of the Swiss comic book industry, Laurence Suhner made a name for herself with her series **QUAN TIKA**. The NIFFF gives carte blanche to the Geneva-based artist, who invites you to discover the cosmic worlds that influenced her.

**ARRIVAL**

Denis Villeneuve, US/CA, 2016, 116'

**CONTACT**

Robert Zemeckis, US, 1997, 150'

**DISTRICT 9**

Neill Blomkamp, ZA/US/NZ/CA,  
2009, 112'

The 19<sup>th</sup> edition's complete programme will be unveiled on June 20<sup>th</sup> during the press conference (10:30, Hôtel Beaulac) !

**Practical information:**

Professional accreditation requests can be submitted until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Online ticket bookings will be available on our site from June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Documents and visuals available press page of our website.

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