

NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

Press release, April 30th 2020

A SPECIAL DIGITAL ISSUE WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE 20TH EDITION, POSTPONED TO 2021

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) is sad to announce that its 20th edition must be postponed. It will take place from July 2nd to July 10th, 2021. Maintaining the original format of the festival has become impossible given the current health crisis and its impact on the film industry. The festival's organizers cannot, however, give up on promoting fantastic films and the future of audiovisual productions. Therefore, a one-of-a-kind online event will take place from July 3rd to July 11th, 2020, while a retrospective program ("Fantastique 20 20 20") will run from May 2020 on national TV and until 2021 in the major cinemas and audiovisual institutions in Switzerland.

The health crisis has stopped our committed team from giving birth to our anniversary edition, which we had started preparing over a year ago. As soon as the crisis hit Europe, the NIFFF considered many possibilities in terms of collaboration with the appropriate authorities. The core values of our festival - innovation, imagination and sharing - have remained front and centre for our organizers, who ultimately had no choice but to postpone the celebrations to next year. This includes the **SAUVAGE** retrospective, the **VIRTUAL WORLDS** exhibition at the Neuchâtel Natural History Museum, as well as the world premiere of the **BÂTARDS** web series from Malou Briand and Raphaël Meyer.

Fantastique 20 20 20: A year-long celebration

The **FANTASTIQUE 20 20 20** programme is an opportunity to relive 20 years of fantastic films and ponder on the genre's evolution through movies equally important to the festival and to the genre's mutations. These celebrations will start on May 15th on national television and will continue in autumn in our partner cinemas and audiovisual institutions in Switzerland. This travelling programme will be unveiled this May and will go on until the NIFFF's 20th edition next year.

A one-of-a-kind online and interactive event

More than ever before, the NIFFF wants people to celebrate the imaginary, which is necessary and salutary to mankind and society. Our team wants to turn this situation into an opportunity to reinvent the festival's function as an incubator for experimentation and as a forum for discussion between filmmakers, key player of the film industry and audiences. The NIFFF 2020 will exist through the following channels from July 3rd to July 11th:

- **An exclusive digital programme**, accessible for a fee, of about 20 exclusive films, which will compete for the RTS Audience Award. Viewers will choose the winner through a mobile app developed by the festival.
- **The launch of "NIFFF TV"**, a free, daily live show to go along with the online programme, which will allow us to discuss and reflect upon the current state of fantastic films. The show will be shot in a temporary television studio and work as a platform for national and international films and connect them with their audience.

This project does not mean that the festival is going digital. Its intent is to offer a one-of-a-kind event for everyone. **Details will be unveiled on June 18th**, which is when the full programme was supposed to be revealed.

The NIFFF wishes to express its solidarity and support to the film industry and to all events that had to be cancelled, as well as to anyone who has been affected by this unprecedented crisis.

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