

NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

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NIFFF 2021: A FIERCE JUBILEE FOR THE 20th EDITION

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) is starting to outline the hybrid ecosystem that will be deployed for the celebrations from July 2nd to July 10th. Eager to maintain its role as an event for the city, the festival will once again take place in its most well-known locations, all the while offering parts of its programme online by leveraging the fully digital experience from last year. This modular programming will allow as many people as possible to enjoy the proceedings, with the hope that many can celebrate this anniversary edition in person.

The festival's organizers have prepared a special publication for this jubilee: **NIFFF 2000 - 2020: A REPERTOIRE OF IMAGINATIONS**. As the epitome of this anniversary edition, this retrospective project will present itself as a logbook going through two decades of genre cinema and the history of the festival through a wealth of diverse contributions.

The celebrations will also include a synergetic collaboration with the Neuchâtel Natural History Museum, through which the NIFFF will set up a series of immersive installations in relation to the 'SAUVAGE' exhibition. The relationship between humans and the animal world in the light of the climate crisis will echo through these two dimensions of the programme. Throughout the festival, conferences with experts and the early screening (June 15th) of the cult movie **ROAR** will introduce and explore this topic.

The complete programme will be unveiled during the press conference on June 17th.

THROUGH THICK AND THIN: A HYBRID FESTIVAL

The NIFFF team wants to be prepared for any eventuality, hence the hybrid and modular system that can adapt to restrictions and will allow for the main competitions to take place. The festival will be physically present in the city with an Open Air (Place des Halles), cinema screenings, an exhibition, and immersive installations at the Neuchâtel Natural History Museum, but parts of the programme will also be available online. The NIFFF Extended symposiums will include both remote and on-site guests during its conferences, which will be open to the public and streamed online.

NIFFF 2000 - 2020: A REPERTOIRE OF IMAGINATIONS

A bilingual book (French and German) will be published specifically for this anniversary edition. The collector's item will be composed of many essays, pictures, and documents telling the tale of the festival since its inception in 2000. Interviews and in-depth articles will recount the NIFFF's history, as well as explore the ecosystem of fantastic films and its evolution over the last 20 years. The guests' interventions and film screenings will offer the opportunity to go into it in depth.

This beautiful and ambitious book will benefit from the expertise of diverse contributors, as well as the collaboration with the daily newspaper **Le Temps** and the Department of Film History and Aesthetics of the **University of Lausanne**. Elevated by the work of Neuchâtel-based graphic designer **Tancredè Ottiger**, the book will invite festival-goers to rediscover two decades of fantastic films and immerse themselves in the history of an event that has become a landmark in the audiovisual landscape, in Switzerland and abroad.

The book can be pre-ordered online from June 17th. It will be available when the festival begins, and the launch party will take place on Sunday, July 4th. Also scheduled are roundtables dedicated to the NIFFF and the fantasy genre with distinguished remote and on-site guests.

SAUVAGE: THE NIFFF AT THE NEUCHÂTEL NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

As part of its temporary exhibition named **SAUVAGE**, the **Neuchâtel Natural History Museum (MHNN)** is joining forces with the festival. From hunting parties to picture safaris, 19th century collections, and museum dioramas, the core theme of this natural science exhibition will touch upon matters of philosophy, linguistics, anthropology, and poesy. It encourages doubts and questioning: are humans that different from wildlife?

Through this fascinating framework, and in sync with current events, the festival will set up a tour of the museum, as well as spectacularly immersive installations. This high tech, unique offering in Switzerland will echo the exhibition's themes and occupy the museum's permanent display areas. The **SAUVAGE** theme will be found throughout the programme, through film screenings and conferences with experts, artists, and scientists. As an introduction, the recently restored film **ROAR**, and its mother-daughter team Tippi Hedren and Melanie Griffith, will be shown on June 15th at 8 p.m - an ambivalent representation of feline takeover in fiction and on set.

CONTACT

Bastien Bento | Head of Press | bastien.bento@niff.ch | M: +41 79 934 34 63