

NIFFF

NEUCHÂTEL INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

1-9 JULY 2022

21ST
EDITION 



DESIGN: ENCOR-STUDIO

PRESSKIT

THE SWISS EVENT FOR FANTASTIC FILM, ASIAN CINEMA & DIGITAL CREATION

SUMMARY

NIFFF 2022

PROGRAMME 2022	2
INTERVIEW OF PIERRE-YVES WALDER, GENERAL & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	4
PRIZE AND JURIES	6
NIFFF IN NUMBERS	8
CEREMONIES	9
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION	10
ASIAN COMPETITION	24
THIRD KIND	26
ULTRA MOVIES	29
SWISS SHORTS (SSA/SUISSIMAGE COMPETITION)	32
INTERNATIONAL SHORTS	32
ASIAN SHORTS	33
SCREAM QUEER	34
AMAZING SWITZERLAND	38
SHADOWS OF LATIN AMERICA & SHARK NIGHT	39

NIFFF EXTENDED

JULY 4 : IMAGING THE FUTURE	40
JULY 5 : IMAGING THE FUTURE	41
JULY 6 : STORYWORLDS	42
JULY 7 : NEW WORLDS OF FANTASY	43

NIFFF INVASION

LA VILLA	44
CLASSICS RELOADED	45
QUEER-SF EXHIBITION	45
INNER RESISTANCE & KIDS@NIFFF	46

PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS

PRESS OFFICE	47
PARTNERS	48

PROGRAMME 2022

CÉRÉMONIES

LES CINQ DIABLES - Léa Mysius, FR, 2022, 95' - International Premiere

I AM WHAT I AM - Sun Haipeng, CN, 2021, 104' - Swiss Premiere

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

ASHKAL - Youssef Chebbi, FR/QA/TU, 2022, 92' - International Premiere

BLAZE - Del Kathryn Barton, AU, 2022, 101' - European Premiere

DUAL - Riley Stearns, US/FI, 2022, 94' - Swiss Premiere

FAMILY DINNER - Peter Hengl, AT, 2022, 97' - European Premiere

FREAKS OUT - Gabriele Mainetti, IT/BE, 2021, 141' - Swiss Premiere

HUESERA - Michelle Garza Cervera, MX/PE, 2022, 93' - European Premiere

HYPOCHONDRIAC - Addison Heimann, US, 2022, 96' - International Premiere

MEN - Alex Garland, UK, 2022, 100' - Swiss Premiere

NO. 10 - Alex van Warmerdam, NL/BE, 2021, 100' - Swiss Premiere

SOMETHING IN THE DIRT - Justin Benson & Aaron Moorhead, US, 2022, 116' - International Premiere

NOS CÉRÉMONIES - Simon Rieth, FR, 2022, 104' - International Premiere

THE COW WHO SANG A SONG INTO THE FUTURE - Francisca Alegría, CL/FR/US/DE/CH, 2022, 98' - Swiss Premiere

VESPER - Kristina Buozyte & Bruno Samper, LT/FR/BE, 2022, 113' - Swiss Premiere

ZALAVA - Arsalan Amiri, IR, 2021, 93' - Swiss Premiere

ASIAN COMPETITION

BAD CITY - Sonomura Kensuke, JP, 2022, 118' - World Premiere

DEMIGOD: THE LEGEND BEGINS - Chris Huang Wen-chang, TW, 2022, 103' - International Premiere

LEIO - Chalit Krileadmongkon & Chitpol Ruanggun, TH, 2022, 109' - World Premiere

LEONOR WILL NEVER DIE - Martika Ramirez Escobar, PH, 2022, 99' - Swiss Premiere

MAIKA - Ham Tran, VN, 2022, 105' - Swiss Premiere

SHIN ULTRAMAN - Higuchi Shinji, JP, 2022, 112' - International Premiere

THE ASSISTANT - Adrian Teh, MY, 2022, 124' - Swiss Premiere

THE ROUNDUP - Lee Sang-yong, KR, 2022, 106' - European Premiere

THIRD KIND

BABYSITTER - Monia Chokri, CA/FR, 2022, 87' - Swiss Premiere

BEAUTIFUL BEINGS - Guðmundur Arnar Guðmundsson, IS/DK/SE/NL/CZ, 2022, 123'

BROADWAY - Christos Massalas, GR/FR/RO, 2022, 97' - Swiss Premiere

DECISION TO LEAVE - Park Chan-wook, KR, 2022, 138' - Swiss Premiere

DIABOLIK - Manetti Bros., IT, 2021, 133' - Swiss Premiere

FALCON LAKE - Charlotte Le Bon, FR/CA, 2022, 100' - Swiss Premiere

FOGARÉU - Flávia Neves, BR/FR, 2022, 100' - Swiss Premiere

HOLY SPIDER - Ali Abbasi, DK/DE/FR/SE, 2022, 116' - Swiss Premiere

L'ANNÉE DU REQUIN - Ludovic Boukherma & Zoran Boukherma, FR, 2022, 84' - World Premiere

MIRACLE: LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT - Jang-Hoon Lee, KR, 2021, 117' - Swiss Premiere

LA NUIT DU 12 - Dominik Moll, FR/BE, 2022, 115' - International Premiere

WEDDING HIGH - Akiko Ohku, JP, 2022, 117' - European Premiere

ULTRA MOVIES

ACH DU SCHEISSE! - Lukas Rinker, DE, 2022, 90' - Swiss Premiere

DAY ZERO - Joey De Guzman, PH, 2022, 82' - World Premiere

DEADSTREAM - Joseph Winter & Vanessa Winter, US, 2022, 87' - International Premiere

EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE - Dan Kwan & Daniel Scheinert, US, 2022, 139'

INCANTATION - Kevin Ko, TW, 2022, 110' - Swiss Premiere

OCCHIALI NERI - Dario Argento, IT/FR, 2022, 90' - Swiss Premiere

PUSSYCAKE - Pablo Parés, AR, 2022, 82' - Swiss Premiere

SALOUM - Jean Luc Herbulot, SN, 2021, 84' - Swiss Premiere

SISSY - Hannah Barlow & Kane Senes, AU, 2022, 102' - European Premiere

THE DEVIL'S DECEPTION - Kabir Bhatia, MY, 2022, 98' - Swiss Premiere

THE TIMEKEEPERS OF ETERNITY - Aristotelis Maragkos, GR/UK, 2021, 64' - Swiss Premiere

VENEZIAFRENIA - Álex de la Iglesia, ES, 2021, 80' - Swiss Premiere

X - Ti West, US/CA, 2022, 105' - Swiss Premiere

SHADOWS OF LATIN AMERICA

DOMINGO AND THE MIST - Ariel Escalante, CR/QA, 2022, 86' - Swiss Premiere

PERLIMPS - Alê Abreu, BR, 2022, 76' - Swiss Premiere

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME - Victor Checa, PE/MX/EC/ES/DE, 2021, 82' - Swiss Premiere

INTERVIEW OF PIERRE-YVES WALDER GENERAL & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

THE NIFFF'S 21ST EDITION IS THE FIRST ONE UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP. HOW DID YOU APPROACH THIS TASK, AND WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE FESTIVAL?

My primary objective was to maintain the high standards and quality of the NIFFF's selection. I also have my heart set on searching for and promoting new talents in Switzerland and all over the world, and of course, on staying loyal to the creators who have made the festival's history, including some giants of cinema. The multidisciplinary aspect of the NIFFF is also very important. The fact that author Joyce Carol Oates will be our guest of honour and president of the international jury strengthens the flexibility of our editorial approach. Finally, we are continuing our efforts to explore digital creation in all its diversity.

THE FESTIVAL'S FORMAT THIS YEAR IS SIMILAR TO THE ONE PRE-PANDEMIC WITH 128 FILMS COMING FROM 46 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. AS YOU CONTINUE TO EXPLORE CINEMA BEYOND BORDERS, HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE MAIN TRENDS OF FANTASTIC FILMS WORLDWIDE?

Fantastic films keep reinventing themselves in every part of the globe, be it in terms of themes or modes of production. The trends are diverse, which is why genre films are still as fascinating as ever. It's interesting that subgenres seem to be mixing more freely nowadays. It is no longer rare to see fantasy bleed into films that are not considered genre pieces. The porous nature of today's filmscape has given birth to unclassifiable works that are both deeply personal and often spellbinding.

IN 2021, YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO TACKLE THE FANTASY GENRE THROUGH THE LENS OF SOCIETY. THE SCREAM QUEER RETROSPECTIVE IS THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THAT JOURNEY. TELL US MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT'S INCEPTION.

*From the very beginning, I had some films in mind that I thought were essential. As we researched further, I discovered new angles we could look at the question from. After all, it is a complex topic. We had to make choices, otherwise we would have ended up with a 50-film retrospective! We met up with journalist Javier Parra, who wrote the book *Scream Queer - La representación LGTBIQ+ en el cine de terror (ed. Dos Bigotes)*, which was the*

biggest milestone for curating this programme, and of course for giving it a name. He was nice enough to let us borrow it. In the end, our retrospective is not supposed to be a complete overview, but an attempt at inclusivity and some sort of equity in terms of representation.

IN THE LAST YEARS, MORE AND MORE FANTASTIC FILMS HAVE CREATED THE BUZZ IN A-LIST FESTIVALS. WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH AN EVOLUTION ON EVENTS SUCH AS THE NIFFF? WHAT EDGE DO YOU HAVE OVER BIGGER FESTIVALS?

First of all, I am glad that fantasy films can create this sort of enthusiasm at various levels of the international festival circuit. These occurrences remain unusual, however, for non-specialist festivals. I think the NIFFF benefits from this because break-out films create and foster interest in the genre. The NIFFF remains the privileged place for observing fantasy and associated genres. Once again, we do not only show fantastic films, we also create multidisciplinary links, explore digital creation, promote innovation, and so on. Our role and our mission are different but complement each other.

PRIZE & JURIES

INTERNATIONAL JURY

- Joyce Carol Oates, Author, US
- Prano Bailey-Bond, Director, UK
- Robin Coudert (ROB), Musician & composer, FR
- Mariana Enríquez, Author, AR
- Martika Ramirez Escobar, Director, PH

MÉLIÈS JURY

- Lara Lom, VFX supervisor, CH
- Victorine Van Alphen, Audiovisual artist, NL
- Lee Cronin, Director, IE

SSA/SUISSIMAGE JURY

- Elie Grappe, Director, FR
- Carola Stern, SUISSIMAGE delegate, CH
- Adrien Kuenzy, Cinébulletin Redactor in chief, CH

CRITICS JURY

- Gérard Delorme, Journalist, FR (Chaos Reign)
- Judith Beauvallet, Journalist, FR (Demoiselles d'Horreur)
- Nicolas Martin, Journalist, FR (France Culture)

PRIZE & JURIES

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

10'000 CHF - H.R. Giger "Narcisse" Award for best feature film

Awarded by the City of Neuchâtel

5'000 CHF - Imaging The Future Award for best production design

Awarded by Centre Suisse d'Électronique et de Microtechnique CSEM

BROADCASTING - RTS Audience Award

Awarded by Radio Télévision Suisse

PROMOTION - NIFFF International Critics Award

Awarded by 3 international journalists

HAMILTON WATCH - Denis-de-Rougemont Youth Award

Awarded by the high school Denis-de-Rougemont

SILVER MÉLIÈS

NOMINATION - Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film - with MIFF

NOMINATION - Silver Méliès for best fantastic European short film - with MIFF

COMPETITION FOR THE BEST SWISS FANTASTIC SHORT FILM :

10 000 CHF - H.R. Giger "Narcisse" Award for the best short film / Awarded by SSA and Suissimage

ASIAN COMPETITION : HONORARY - Best Asian Film Award / Chosen by audience

COMPETITION FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM : HONORARY - Best Short Film Award/ Chosen by the audience

PRIX DE LA JEUNESSE BLAISE-CENDRARS : HONORARY - Awarded by the high school Blaise-Cendrars (La Chaux-de-Fonds).

NIFFF IN NUMBERS

PAST ATTENDANCE

Tickets sold in 2021	26'237
General attendance in 2021	34'921

FESTIVAL

Editions	21
Collaborators	77
Venues	8
Open Air	1

PROGRAMME 2022

Artistic works & creations	128
Feature Films	82
Short Films	39
Immersive installations	1
World premieres	11
International premieres	10
European premieres	7
Swiss premieres	44
Screenings	158
Countries represented	46
Free activities	38

CEREMONIES

OPENING CEREMONY

LES CINQ DIABLES (THE FIVE DEVILS) INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Léa Mysius, FR, 2022, 95'

Cast : Adèle Exarchopoulos, Sally Dramé, Daphné Patakia

Local distributor : Filmcoopi Zurich AG

Vicky, a strange and lonely little girl, has a gift: she can recreate any scent she wants which she then seals in carefully labelled jars. One day, her father's sister bursts into her life. Vicky sets out to recreate her scent and is transported into dark and magical memories that reveal secrets that have haunted her village and her family for too long. A mystical drama as dizzying as it is captivating.

CLOSING CEREMONY

I AM WHAT I AM

SWISS PREMIERE

Sun Haipeng, CN, 2021, 99'

Cast : Xin Li, Hao Guo, Men Li

World sales : Tiger Pictures Entertainment

To fend off the bullies who harass them, three young country boys take up the lion's dance. But the learning curve is much tougher than they imagined. As they push themselves to the limit, they will experience an epiphany. Both hyper-realistic and powerfully cathartic, I Am What I Am confronts its brilliant characters with a breathtaking tradition and allows them to transcend their quest for identity with an intensity rarely experienced in film.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

ASHKAL

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Youssef Chebbi, FR/QA/TU, 2022, 92'

Cast: Fatma Oussaifi, Mohamed Grayaâ, Aymen Ben Hmida

World sales: The Party Film Sales

FILM

An ambitious real estate project designed under the Ben Ali regime, the Carthage Gardens neighbourhood stopped mid-development because of the 2011 Tunisian revolution. What remains today is a ghost town made of unfinished buildings. As works finally resume, a burnt corpse is discovered. Fatma and Batal, two cops, are tasked with investigating. But when a second victim is found, their suicide theory falls through...

Mooring his narrative in an urban setting where ultra-modern buildings stand next to abandoned construction sites, **ASHKAL** (which means "shapes" in Arabic) transforms what could have been a traditional crime thriller into something more supernatural. The further the investigation goes, the deeper we plunge into the darkness of the human soul. Soon, wraiths from the Tunisian past start to re-emerge.

DIRECTOR

Youssef Chebbi studied art and filmmaking before he directed his first project in 2010: a short film entitled **VERS LE NORD**. A year later, he co-directed **BABYLON**, a documentary about Lybian refugees at the Tunisian border. The film won the International Competition award at Merseille's FID, and was screened at the MoMA in New York. The following year, he made another short called **LES PROFONDEURS**, which screened at various festivals and was broadcast on France Télévision. **ASHKAL** is his first fiction feature film. It was part of the 2022 Directors' Fortnight in Cannes.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

BLAZE

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Del Kathryn Barton, AU, 2022, 101'

Cast : Julia Savage, Simon Baker, Yael Stone

World sales : Mk2 Films

FILM

Blaze is a shy pre-teen who lives alone with her father in Sydney. One day, on her way home, she sees a woman getting violently assaulted in an alleyway. Petrified, she goes home in shock, aware she is the only witness. She has trouble processing what she saw and decides to tell her father. To overcome this traumatising experience, Blaze finds refuge in her imagination, with her dragon Zephyr, her childhood friend...

A harsh but galvanising initiation story, **BLAZE** impresses in the way it ambitiously makes use of the fantasy genre. Through an astounding mix of coarse realism and life-affirming, oniric moments, Del Kathryn Barton offers her protagonist a structure for self-healing. She uses a wide range of cinematic devices to manifest the (brutal) end of childhood and immerse the audience in her heroine's psyche. This first feature film is a striking sensory experience that sings the praises of imagination and the power of resilience.

DIRECTOR

Del Kathryn Barton is an Australian painter that is well-known for her psychedelic art, and her fantastical representations of animals and human beings. She has won multiple awards, including one for a portrait of actor Hugo Weaving. In 2015, she produced the animated film **THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE ROSE**, an Oscar Wilde adaptation. Produced in the middle of the pandemic, **BLAZE** is her first directorial effort has booked selections at both Tribeca and Sydney.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

DUAL

SWISS PREMIERE

Riley Stearns, US/FI, 2022, 94'

Cast: Karen Gillan, Aaron Paul, Theo James

Festival contact: Park Circus

FILM

In the near future, unemployed lone wolf Sarah is told she has an incurable illness. She only has a few months left. The young woman decides to hire the services of a cloning company, so that she will sort of live on and spare her family the pain of losing her. Soon after however, she learns that her illness faded away. But her clone is already here, and very much intent on replacing her as planned...

Centred around an excellent double performance from Karen Gillan (Doctor Who, Guardians of the Galaxy), **DUAL** is a gleefully satisfying original take on existentialist science fiction, with a hefty dose of black humour thrown in; that is, until the last act turns into an exciting action film! Rarely had genres merged so seamlessly for such a striking result.

DIRECTOR

After writing for several TV series, Riley Stearns directed three films, including **THE CUB**, which was shown at Sundance 2013. He moved on to feature films the following year with the thriller **FAULTS**, in which he directed his then-wife Mary Elizabeth Winstead. In 2019, he made the zany martial arts comedy **THE ART OF SELF-DEFENSE**. Entirely shot in Finland to avoid the US health measures, **DUAL** had its world premiere at the last Sundance festival.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

FAMILY DINNER

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Peter Hengl, AT, 2022, 97'

Cast : Pia Hierzegger, Michael Pink, Nina Katlein

World sales : WTFilms

Nominated for Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film

FILM

Simi is overweight and uncomfortable in her own skin. She decides to spend Easter weekend at her aunt Claudia's, a famous nutritionist. The teenager hopes to find the inspiration she is missing to get back in shape. But as soon as she gets there, she feels something might be off with her hosts' behaviour. Her cousin Phillip seems strangely hostile towards her, while her uncle Stefan acts way too flirty with her. And as far as her aunt's health tips, they become more and more aggressive as time passes...

Although it starts as an intimate drama about a teenager's struggle to deal with the judgement of others, **FAMILY DINNER** quickly evolves into a gripping, disturbing psychological thriller. The friendly Easter atmosphere is perverted to paint a nightmarish version of family reunions. Maybe you'll think twice before accepting the next invitation!

DIRECTOR

Austrian writer/director Peter Hengl studied at Vienna's Filmakademie, where he was a student of Michael Haneke. That is also where he met his wife Lola Basara, who produces his films. During his studies, Peter Hengl directed the short films **VADIM** and **DER HELD**, which were shown in about fifty festivals and won many awards. **FAMILY DINNER** is his first feature film. After making a big splash in Tribeca, this gem of an Austrian genre movie comes to the NIFFF!

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

FREAKS OUT

SWISS PREMIERE

Gabriele Mainetti, IT/BE, 2021, 141'

Cast: Claudio Santamaria, Aurora Giovinazzo, Pietro Castellitto

World sales: Rai Com, True Colors

Nominated for Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film

FILM

Rome, early 1940s. Israel is a Jewish magician at the head of a small circus that includes four creatures with supernatural powers. As the rise of fascism threatens their very existence, Israel disappears. Left alone, the four performers will try to escape, but Franz, a Nazi piano player who intends to exploit their powers to win the war, has other plans in mind. Nuanced, with colourful characters, **FREAKS OUT** gleefully celebrates strangeness and differences.

Five years after the successful **THEY CALL ME JEEG** in 2016, Italian director Gabriele Mainetti is back with his second project. **FREAKS OUT** invests history to better tell its characters' story in a colourful and spectacular world. The film won the Audience Award at the Rotterdam International Film Festival.

DIRECTOR

Born in 1976 in Rome, Gabriele Mainetti is a director, actor, composer, and screenwriter. He started off by playing in a few Italian films, before becoming a filmmaker with the short film **BASSETTE**, released in 2015. His first feature - **THEY CALL ME JEEG** (NIFFF 2016) - quickly gained traction and was acclaimed by audiences and critics alike, and won several prestigious awards. **FREAKS OUT**, his second feature, came out in Italy in 2021.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

HUESERA

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Michelle Garza Cervera, MX/PE, 2022, 93'

Cast : Natalia Solián, Alfonso Dosal, Mayra Batalla

World sales : XYZ Films

FILM

Valeria lives what many would deem an ideal life when she and her husband Raul become pregnant. But what should have been a dream come true soon turns into anxiety for the mother-to-be. Overcome with doubt, she must deal with her qualms and the lack of support from her family. Even worse yet, she starts having visions that are so bad, reality soon isn't quite like it used to be. In an attempt to free herself from her demons, she decides to reconnect with her past.

For her first feature, Mexican filmmaker Michelle Garza Cervera takes inspiration from the fears and anxieties associated with motherhood to create an intimate story where horror can manifest at every turn. She uses the fantasy genre as the perfect tool to share and warp Valeria's subjectivity and anguish. **HUESERA** makes Catholic traditions and spirituality clash with Mexican folklore, all the while drawing up a moving yet uncompromising picture of her protagonist.

DIRECTOR

Michelle Garza Cervera was educated at the Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica de Mexico City and at Goldsmiths' College in London. Although **HUESERA** is her first feature film, she already enjoys a solid reputation internationally thanks to her short films. And while she is just starting to take **HUESERA** from one festival to the next, Garza Cervera already has several projects in the pipeline, including **PALIZADA** (supported by the Mexican Film Institute) and an adaptation of a Mariana Enríquez short story.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

HYPOCHONDRIAC

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Addison Heimann, US, 2022, 96'

Cast: Zach Villa, Devon Graye, Madeline Zima

World sales: Reel Suspects

FILM

Will was raised by his mentally fragile mother. As a grown-up, he broke off all ties and left these painful memories behind him. He never speaks about it, not even with Luke, his new boyfriend. However, after 10 years of silence, his mother re-emerges to deliver a strange message to him, telling him to be wary of Luke. As his traumas resurface, Will starts his slow descent into hell. Now completely isolated, he falls prey to a hallucinatory crisis. The warped reality and terrifying creatures immerse the audience in the deeper recesses of psychological cinema.

HYPOCHONDRIAC is a solid horror movie with an edge. By focusing on people who suffer from mental illness, the film sheds a necessary light on situations we too often do not understand. Addison Heimann is an American filmmaker based in Los Angeles.

DIRECTOR

This fan of anime, comics, and genre films became frustrated with the lack of queer characters he could potentially identify with. Driven by his goal to make LGBTIQ+ representation evolve in genre films, he directed the **KAPPA FORCE** web series, as well as the short films **JEFF DRIVES YOU** and **AVA IN THE END**. These films were shown in many festivals in the United States. **HYPOCHONDRIAC** is his first feature film.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

MEN

SWISS PREMIERE

Alex Garland, UK, 2022, 100'

Cast : Jessie Buckley, Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu

Local distributor : Ascot Elite Entertainment Group

Nominated for Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film

FILM

Harper is a broken young woman who's had to deal with her husband's death. To overcome this ordeal and try to recharge, she rents a beautiful house in the green Hertfordshire countryside. As she starts finding her footing in this new place, Harper makes a series of troubling encounters. What initially seemed like a feeling of discomfort turns into a waking nightmare fed by the young woman's darkest memories and fears.

Shown at this year's Directors' Fortnight of the Cannes Festival, **MEN** is a macabre fable that boldly plays with folk horror tropes. Elevated by an incredible central performance from Jessie Buckley, the film is a sensory, anxiety-inducing experience. Its cinematography and music help create a perfectly gloomy world that will plunge the audience in the horrors of the human mind. Frights guaranteed!

DIRECTOR

Alex Garland is a British writer, screenwriter, and director born in 1970. His first short story, **THE BEACH**, was published in 1996 and adapted into a film by Danny Boyle in 2000. Alex Garland also wrote the screenplays for **28 DAYS LATER** (2002) and **SUNSHINE** (2007), two films also directed by Boyle. In 2014, he became a director with the much talked about **EX MACHINA**, which won an Oscar for its special effects. **MEN** is his third feature film.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

NO. 10

SWISS PREMIERE

Alex van Warmerdam, NL/BE, 2021, 100'

Cast: Tom Dewispelaere, Hans Kesting, Anniek Pheifer

Festival contact: Nine Film

Nominated for Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film

FILM

40-something actor Günter lives a fairly normal life, splitting his time between his daughter, the new play he's working on, and his director's wife, with whom he is having an affair. But this well-oiled machine is going to slowly go wrong after a mysterious encounter, leading to more and more improbable events. Normality? More like wishful thinking!

Granted, the synopsis for **NO. 10** is sort of run-of-the-mill, but take our word for it and go see it without knowing more. You're in for the most offbeat and bawdy experience of the festival. Through mischief and deceit, Alex van Warmerdam toys with our expectations by making his seemingly familiar narrative implode on itself to explore the final frontiers of our disbelief. With, on top of that, a healthy dose of dry black humour you will not forget anytime soon.

DIRECTOR

Actor, writer, director Alex van Warmerdam, born in 1952, has an impressive career in the film and the theatre industry. His first movie, **VOYEUR** (1986), was a cringe comedy with touches of the absurd, and worked as a perfect calling card for his brand of filmmaking. **THE DRESS** (1996) screened in Venice, where it won the FIPRESCI award. Global recognition continued, especially with the disturbing **BORGMAN** (2013) which screened at Cannes, and the enjoyable **SCHNEIDER VS. BAX**, which was part of the NIFFF 2016.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

NOS CÉRÉMONIES (SUMMER SCARS)

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Simon Rieth, FR, 2022, 104'

Cast : Raymond Baur, Simon Baur, Maira Villena

World sales: Wild Bunch International

Nominated for Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film

FILM

In the summer of 2011, in the small coastal town of Royan, Tony and his younger brother Noé are playing near a cliff. Their game turns into near tragedy when Noé almost dies. Shortly after, following an umpteenth quarrel, their mother decides to leave her husband and takes both boys with her. Ten years later, Tony and Noé are now young adults. They come back to their childhood home to bury their father. While there, they bump into people they used to know, especially Cassandra, their childhood love. Old memories rise back to the surface, including dark secrets the brothers had chosen to hide deep in their subconscious...

NOS CÉRÉMONIES (SUMMER SCARS) is a visually radiant film with vivid and starkly contrasted colours, captured in majestic CinemaScope. This coming-of-age, a simultaneously invigorating and mortiferous experience, is a funny, sometimes upsetting, and often disturbing fraternal drama. Coarse realism mixes with dream-like fantasy, and the past merges with the present in this fascinating tale of life and death.

DIRECTOR

Simon Rieth may only be 26 years old, but he has already made six short films, among which **SAINT-JEAN** (2017) and **DIMINISHING SHINE** (2018), which screened in over 40 festivals and won many awards. He is also a very active music videos and commercials director. Although **NOS CÉRÉMONIES (SUMMER SCARS)** is his first feature film, he has already been part of the Critics' Week at the Cannes Film Festival.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

SOMETHING IN THE DIRT

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Justin Benson & Aaron Moorhead, US, 2022, 116'

Cast: Aaron Moorhead, Justin Benson, Sarah Adina Smith

World sales: XYZ Films

FILM

Recently arrived in a low-grade Los Angeles rental, Levi Danube meets and quickly befriends his new neighbour John Daniel, who has been living in the building for about 10 years. He tells Levi his new apartment hasn't been occupied for a long time. He quickly understands why when strange things start appearing in his home. With John's help, he will try to make sense of them by filming every step of his investigation...

Sort of a cross between **POLTERGEIST** and **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND**, **SOMETHING IN THE DIRT** is a story of everyday people trying to understand the unfathomable. The film's approach, both playful and creative, dons the attire of a fake documentary alternating between characters' interviews and reconstructions. An exciting mix of science fiction, paranoid thriller, and dark comedy, that pushes the envelope of what fiction can do.

DIRECTORS

Leading figures of American mumblecore Justin Benson and Aaron Moorhead have always been able to transcend their budget limitations while mixing genre with boldness and mastery. After the horror love story **SPRING** and the lovecraftian diptych **RESOLUTION/THE ENDLESS**, they made **SYNCHRONIC**, an ambitious time travel thriller. With **SOMETHING IN THE DIRT**, the filmmakers get back to their modest beginnings and once again demonstrate their talent for doing big things with little resources.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

THE COW WHO SANG A SONG INTO THE FUTURE

SWISS PREMIERE

Francisca Alegría, CL/FR/US/DE/CH, 2022, 98'

Cast : Mía Maestro, Enzo Ferrada Rosati, Benjamin Soto

Festival contact : Bord Cadre Films

FILM

In a river in southern Chile, the fish are dying from the pollution of a nearby pulp mill. Surrounded by the motionless fish floating on the surface, Magdalena, who had been dead for a long time, comes back to life and unearthes old wounds and well-kept family secrets. Magdalena's reappearance and her sudden influence on the environment soon arise curiosity and fear within her family. As the past is unveiled, an opportunity to reshape the future comes into view.

THE COW WHO SANG A SONG INTO THE FUTURE is a Chilean tale of magic realism about nature and motherhood, a visually striking ecological fable. Imbued with a strange melancholia, the film never aims at shocking or creating fear about the current climate crisis. It explores a vision that encourages audience members to think about their own actions. It is a hopeful reminder that it is not too late to fix some of the existing problems, and that the planet can find salvation through our collective effort.

DIRECTOR

Francisca Alegría holds a degree in directing from the Catholic University of Chile, as well as a degree in writing and directing from the University of Columbia. Her short film **AND THE WHOLE SKY FIT IN THE DEAD COW'S EYE** won the Best International Fiction Short award at the 2017 Sundance film festival. **THE COW WHO SANG A SONG INTO THE FUTURE** is her first feature film.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

VESPER

SWISS PREMIERE

Kristina Buozyte & Bruno Samper, LT/FR/BE, 2022, 113'

Cast: Raffiella Chapman, Eddie Marsan, Rosy McEwen

Local distributor: Koch Media

Nominated for Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film

FILM

Humanity has failed. While trying to avoid environmental collapse, governments invested heavily in genetic technology. It was nothing short of an utter failure, with lab-bred viruses spreading like wild fire, wiping out most edible plants and animals. In this hopeless world, Vesper dreams of a better tomorrow, and she is certain she can get there with her wits and skills in bio-hacking - and perhaps, also, with the help of a mysterious woman from one of the last oligarchist cities.

After the electroshock that was **VANISHING WAVES**, shown at the NIFFF and awarded with the Méliès d'Or in 2012, Kristina Buozyte and Bruno Samper push their sci-fi horizons even further with a dizzying post-apocalyptic film in which hope fuels everything. From its very start, one is spellbound by **VESPER**'s desolated world that contrasts with a wealth of ideas and a rich biodiversity. Powerful images, mesmerising actors, exhilarating story - **VESPER** is without a doubt one of this year's most creative movies.

DIRECTORS

Kristina Buozyte, born in 1982, studied at the Vilnius Academy of Music and Theatre. She graduated with a Master's degree in 2008. She subsequently worked on many projects and got noticed for her short films, including **CHANGE THE RECORD** (2005) and **THE COLLECTRESS** (2008). Versatile artist Bruno Samper, born in 1974, made a name for himself in design, digital arts, and interactive storytelling with augmented/virtual reality experiences. **VANISHING WAVES** (2012) was their first collaborative exploit, followed by their segment in **ABCS OF DEATH 2** (2014). **VESPER**, their latest project, was shot at the height of the pandemic.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

ZALAVA

SWISS PREMIERE

Arsalan Amiri, IR, 2021, 93'

Cast : Navid Pourfaraj, Pouria Rahimi Sam, Hoda Zeinolabedin

World sales: LevelK

FILM

In 1978, Massoud is tasked with investigating a case in Zalava, a small Kurdish village in the Iranian mountains whose inhabitants claim to be persecuted by a demonic presence. As a sceptic, the police officer is hell-bent on proving those superstitions wrong as swiftly as possible. With help from Malileh, a scientist sent by the government, Massoud will have to contend with an influential exorcist and try to rid the local community of his control...

Taking place on the eve of the Islamic Revolution, the **ZALAVA** plot questions the concept of faith by making science and beliefs clash, thus slowly blurring the line between them. Although the film is constantly on the verge of fantasy, it skilfully cultivates doubt by playing with the invisible and the suggestive. This results in a clever supernatural thriller from a region where the genre is rather rare.

DIRECTOR

With a degree from the Tehran University of Art, Arsalan Amiri started his career in the early 2000s when he wrote scripts and directed a few documentaries. As a loyal collaborator of film director Ida Panahandeh, he co-wrote **NAHID** in 2015, which won the Prix de l'avenir in Cannes, and worked on the writing, editing, and production of her next three films. Arsalan Amiri is part of the Kurdish minority and wanted to tell its story through fiction. That is what he accomplished with **ZALAVA**, his first feature film.

ASIAN COMPETITION

Year after year, Asian cinema has given undeniable proof of its vitality to audiences worldwide. And yet, those films remain hard to see in Switzerland. That is why the festival wanted to have a purely Asian competition. It focuses on the popular genres affiliated with fantasy, such as thrillers, swordplay movies, comedies, kung fu flicks, and so on.

BAD CITY

WORLD PREMIERE

Sonomura Kensuke, JP, 2022, 118'

Cast: Ozawa Hitoshi

World sales: RIGHTS CUBE Inc.

In a city riddled with corruption, a secret team is put together to bring down a mobster running for mayor. Backstabbing and betrayals galore in this intense thriller.

DEMIGOD: THE LEGEND BEGINS

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Chris Huang Wen-chang, TW, 2022, 103'

Cast : Huang Wen-tze, Chiang Tzu-hsiang, Chen Sz-shian

World sales: Pili International Multimedia Co., Ltd.

Against the advice of his master, a young swordsman gets involved in a clan conflict. The consequences will prove devastating... Prodigious animation and Dantesque battles in this gem of craftsmanship.

LEIO

WORLD PREMIERE

Chalit Krileadmongkol & Chitpol Ruanggun, TH, 2022, 109'

Cast : Pichaya Nitipaisalkul, Dhanantorn Neerasingh, Gena De Souza

World sales: Neramitnung Film Co., Ltd.

In northern Thailand, a competition offers a large sum of money to the first person to find water underground. The problem: there lies much more than just water under the surface. Run for your life!

LEONOR WILL NEVER DIE

SWISS PREMIERE

Martika Ramirez Escobar, PH, 2022, 99'

Cast : Sheila Francisco, Bong Cabrera, Rocky Salumbides

World sales: Cercamon

Struck by a falling television, a retired filmmaker dreams of being the heroine of an unfinished film. A wonderful love letter to the Philippines' beloved action and B-movies.

ASIAN COMPETITION

MAIKA

SWISS PREMIERE

Ham Tran, VN, 2022, 105'

Cast : Tom Dang, Elyse Dinh, Dustin Vuong Nguyen

Festival contact: Anderson Le

When a meteor crashes in the nearby countryside, Hung decides to investigate. A zany and cosmic adventure through a child's eye, under Vietnam's starry sky.

SHIN ULTRAMAN

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Higuchi Shinji, JP, 2022, 112'

Cast : Saitoh Takumi, Nagasawa Masami, Hidetoshi Nishijima

Festival contact: Tsuburaya Productions

Monsters are attacking Japan! As the government sets up a task force to fight the enemy, a silver giant appears. An iconic superhero for an already cult movie!

THE ASSISTANT

SWISS PREMIERE

Adrian Teh, MY, 2022, 124'

Cast : Iedil Dzuhrie Alaudin, Hairul Azreen, Henley Hii

World sales: ACT 2 Pictures

Zafik is incarcerated for a crime he did not commit. Released, he lets his rage erupt when he discovers that his family has been murdered. Malaysia, the new cradle of action cinema.

THE ROUNDUP

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Lee Sang-yong, KR, 2022, 106'

Cast : Don Lee, Son Suk-ku, Choi Gwi-hwa

World sales: K-movie Entertainment

In Vietnam to exfiltrate a suspect, a cop discovers that a murderer is targeting tourists. Star Don Lee leads the way in this fast-paced, wildly entertaining blockbuster.

THIRD KIND

The connections between fantasy and its related genres through a selection of films that investigate its boundaries.

BABYSITTER

SWISS PREMIERE

Monia Chokri, CA/FR, 2022, 87'

Cast: Nadia Tereszkiewicz, Monia Chokri, Patrick Hivon

World sales: BAC Films

Unemployed following an inappropriate gesture, Cedric seeks to free himself from his sexism and misogyny. Enter a mysterious baby-sitter. Sharp and heartfelt.

BEAUTIFUL BEINGS

Guðmundur Arnar Guðmundsson, IS/DK/SE/CZ, 2022, 123'

Cast: Birgir Dagur Bjarkason, Áskell Einar Pálmason, Viktor Benóny Benediktsson

World sales: New Europe Film Sales

Welcomed by a group of outcasts, a harassed child discovers fraternity, but also violence. As the situation gets out of hand, dreamlike visions push him towards an alternative path.

BROADWAY

SWISS PREMIERE

Christos Massalas, GR/FR/RO, 2022, 97'

Cast: Elsa Lekakou, Foivos Papadopoulos, Stathis Apostolou

World sales: Le Pacte

A dancer is taken in by a gang of pickpockets living in an abandoned entertainment complex. Teaming up with this community of pariahs introduces her to a whole new world. Electric!

DECISION TO LEAVE

SWISS PREMIERE

Park Chan-wook, KR, 2022, 138'

Cast: Tang Wei, Park Hae-il, Go Kyung-pyo

Local distributor: Filmcoopi Zurich AG

A man is found dead at the bottom of a cliff. Accidental fall or premeditated murder? The most elegant of directors amazes us once again with this ingenious and romantic thriller.

THIRD KIND

DIABOLIK

SWISS PREMIERE

Manetti Bros., IT, 2021, 133'

Cast: Luca Marinelli, Miriam Leone, Valerio Mastandrea

World sales: Beta Cinema

The transit of a priceless diamond arouses the interest of the dreaded, yet bewitchingly charming, thief. A contemporary adaptation of a famous Italian comic book from the 1960s.

FALCON LAKE

SWISS PREMIERE

Charlotte Le Bon, CA/FR, 2022, 100'

Cast: Joseph Engel, Sara Montpetit, Monia Chokri

World sales: Memento Films International (MFI)

In the hazy atmosphere of a Quebec summer, a Parisian teenager confronts his fears and experiences first love. A most delicate and sensitive coming-of-age story.

FOGARÉU

SWISS PREMIERE

Flávia Neves, BR/FR, 2022, 100'

Cast: Bárbara Colen, Allan Jacinto Santana, Eucir de Souza

World sales: MPM PREMIUM

Family secrets soon resurface when a young woman returns to her native village to confront the ghosts of her Brazilian past. A bold yet subtle drama.

HOLY SPIDER

SWISS PREMIERE

Ali Abbasi, DK/DE/FR/SE, 2022, 116'

Cast: Grazyna Misiorowska, Janusz Chabior, Barbara Kursaj

Local distributor: Xenix Filmdistribution GmbH

A journalist goes deep into the underbelly of the holy city of Mashhad to investigate the murders perpetrated by the "Spider Killer", who claims to be cleansing the streets of sinners.

THIRD KIND

L'ANNÉE DU REQUIN (YEAR OF THE SHARK) WORLD PREMIERE**Ludovic Boukherma & Zoran Boukherma, FR, 2022, 84'**

Cast: Marina Foïs, Kad Merad, Jean-Pascal Zadi

Local distributor: Telepool GmbH

Nominated for Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film

At the dawn of her worst nightmare, retirement, a maritime cop is thrilled at the prospect of a final mission: to slay the shark roaming the Landes. The first French film of its kind.

THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**Dominik Moll, FR/BE, 2022, 114'**

Cast: Bastien Bouillon, Bouli Lanners, Anouk Grinberg

Local distributor: Ascot Elite Entertainment Group

When a teenager's burnt body is found, the police travel to the mountainous region of the crime scene to investigate. Interrogations and suspects ensue... But who might have committed such a despicable act?

MIRACLE: LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT SWISS PREMIERE**Lee Jang-hoon, KR, 2021, 117'**

Cast: Park Jeong-min, Im Yoon-ah, Lee Sung-min

World sales: Lotte Entertainment

Dreaming of opening a train station to improve the lives of his fellow villagers, a teenager relentlessly solicits the President with the help of a classmate. A marvel of comedy and emotion.

WEDDING HIGH EUROPEAN PREMIERE**Ohku Akiko, JP, 2022, 117'**

Cast: Shinohara Ryôko, Nakamura Tomoya, Sekimizu Nagisa

World sales: Shochiku Co., Ltd

How much worse can it get at a wedding than an overbooked venue, the arrival of an ex-lover and the mischief of a kleptomaniac? Wedding planner Maho will do everything to avoid disaster.

ULTRA MOVIES

Nocturnal screenings that unveil the strangest aspects of genre cinema.

HOLY SHIT! SWISS PREMIERE**Lukas Rinker, DE, 2022, 90'**

Cast: Thomas Niehaus, Gedeon Burkhard, Olga von Luckwald

World sales: The Playmaker Munich (a Brand Of B.a. Produktion GmbH)

Nominated for Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film

What could be worse than waking up locked in a portable toilet, with your arm impaled and your head in the bowl? Bad taste galore in this explosive shit show.

DAY ZERO WORLD PREMIERE**Joey De Guzman, PH, 2022, 82'**

Cast: Brandon Vera, Joey Marquez, Pepe Herrera

Festival contact: Reality Entertainment Inc

Unexpectedly released from jail just as a virus is turning everyone into bloodthirsty ghouls, an ex-commando must work tirelessly to find and save his family.

DEADSTREAM INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**Joseph Winter & Vanessa Winter, US, 2022, 87'**

Cast: Joseph Winter, Melanie Stone, Jason K. Wixom

Local distributor: Koch Media

A disgraced streamer attempts to restore his image by spending the night alone in a haunted house for the enjoyment of his subscribers. Real time has never looked so frantic.

EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE**Dan Kwan & Daniel Scheinert, US, 2022, 139'**

Cast: Michelle Yeoh, Stephanie Hsu, Jamie Lee Curtis

Local distributor: Filmcoopi Zurich AG

A Chinese immigrant's tedious life is turned upside down when she gains the power to tap into the lives she has led in other universes. Infinite Michelle Yeohs for a wild ride!

ULTRA MOVIES

INCANTATION

SWISS PREMIERE

Kevin Ko, TW, 2022, 110'Cast: Tsai Hsuan-yen, Huang Sin-ting, Sean Lin
World sales: Activator Co., Ltd.

After a lengthy therapy, a young mother tries to return to a normal life. But the curse she unleashed isn't done with her. Be prepared to hold on to the edge of your seat.

OCCHIALI NERI (DARK GLASSES)

SWISS PREMIERE

Dario Argento, IT/FR, 2022, 90'Cast : Ilenia Pastorelli, Asia Argento, Andrea Gherpelli
World sales: Wild Bunch International

Dario Argento, undisputed master of giallo, returns after more than 10 years with a gory and extravagant proposal in the spirit of his greatest works.

PUSSYCAKE

SWISS PREMIERE

Pablo Parés, AR, 2022, 82'Cast: Flor Moreno, Maca Suarez, Anahí Politi
World sales: Raven Banner Entertainment

A group of rockers find themselves at a loss when the town hosting their final gig is taken over by mutant zombies. Grab your raincoats: blood and bile are about to flow!

SALOUM

SWISS PREMIERE

Jean Luc Herbulot, SN, 2021, 84'Cast : Yann Gael, Evelyne Ily Juhen, Roger Sallah
World sales: Elle Driver

Following the extraction of a drug lord from Guinea-Bissau, three mercenaries are forced to hide in the mystical region of Saloum, Senegal. An ultra dynamic and intense film!

SISSY

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Hannah Barlow & Kane Senes, AU, 2022, 102'Cast : Yerin Ha, Lucy Barrett, Aisha Dee
Local distributor: Koch Media

Cecilia is obviously not welcome at the bachelorette party of Emma, her childhood friend. In this remote villa, tensions will erupt. Gore and black humour galore!

ULTRA MOVIES

THE DEVIL'S DECEPTION

SWISS PREMIERE

Kabir Bhatia, MY, 2022, 98'Cast : Azira Shafinaz, Nasha Aziz, Zul Ariffin
World sales: Jazzy Pictures

In the final stretch of pregnancy, Hajar travels to a country house where a midwife will help her give birth. But dark and evil forces invite themselves to the happy occasion. Nasty.

THE TIMEKEEPERS OF ETERNITY

SWISS PREMIERE

Aristotelis Maragkos, GR/UK, 2021, 64'Cast : Patricia Wettig, Dean Stockwell, Kate Maberly
World sales: Square Eyes

The Langoliers, Stephen King's much maligned TV movie, is transformed through a stunning work of reassembly and collage animation. A sinister but devilishly bewitching experience.

VENEZIAFRENIA

SWISS PREMIERE

Álex de la Iglesia, ES, 2021, 80'Cast : Ingrid García-Jonsson, Silvia Alonso, Goize Blanco
Festival contact: Park Circus

As Venetians struggle to keep their city free of invading tourists, a group of thirty-somethings head there for a weekend of partying they won't soon forget.

X

SWISS PREMIERE

Ti West, US/CA, 2022, 105'Cast : Mia Goth, Jenna Ortega, Brittany Snow
World sales: A24 Films

Texas, 1970s. A group of young filmmakers settle in the countryside to shoot a porno. When their hosts learn what kind of film they're making, they start attacking the crew.

SWISS SHORTS COMPETITION SSA / SUISSIMAGE

AVANT 3 NUITS

Minna Prader, CH/FR, 2022, 22'
SWISS PREMIERE

DUDE

Marco Jörgler, Tokay Yotimo, Konstantin
Rosshoff, CH, 2022, 5'
SWISS PREMIERE

LES HÉRITIÈRES

Avril Lehmann, CH, 2022, 15'
WORLD PREMIERE

LION'S CAGE

Linus vom Stumberg, CH, 2022, 15'
WORLD PREMIERE

MOSAIC

Eleonora Berra, CH, 2022, 8'
SWISS PREMIERE

MR. PETE & THE IRON HORSE

Kilian Vilim, CH, 2021, 8'

Fantastic Swiss Award, awarded by NIFFF at
Fantoche 2021

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

IN THE SOIL

Casper Kjeldsen, DK, 2021, 14'
SWISS PREMIERE

LE CENSEUR DES RÊVES

Raphaël Rodriguez & Leo Berne, FR, 2021, 18'
SWISS PREMIERE

PLAN-PLAN CUL-CUL

Alexandre Vignaud, BE, 2021, 18'
SWISS PREMIERE

RACHELS DON'T RUN

Joanny Causse, US, 2021, 14'
SWISS PREMIERE

THE LAST MARRIAGE

Johan Tappert & Gustav Egerstedt, SE, 2021, 16'
SWISS PREMIERE

WET

Marianne Bergeonneau, Lauriane Montppert,
Mélina Mandon, Cloé Peyrebrune, Elvira Taussac,
FR, 2021, 6'
SWISS PREMIERE

ASIAN SHORTS

KEYBOARD WARRIOR

Leo Liu, TW, 2022, 30'
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

MOSHARI

Nuhash Humayun, BD, 2022, 22'
EUROPEAN PREMIERE

OST.

Abhichoke Chandrasen, TH, 2021, 19'
SWISS PREMIERE

PERSONA

Moon Su-jin, KR, 2022, 7'
SWISS PREMIERE

SCUM

Wu Jia-sin, TW, 2021, 6'
SWISS PREMIERE

SCREAM QUEER

The **SCREAM QUEER** retrospective is dedicated to the representation of LGBTIQ+ culture in genre cinema. As part of the festival's 21st edition, this never-seen-before programme will include about twenty titles that will shine a light on fantasy or fanciful representations of homosexuality and trans identity through imaginary worlds. From the "big bad queer" to the celebration of differences, the NIFFF has found inspiration in a rich cinematic corpus to put into perspective varied visions and fantasies from the past and the present to revisit them in the light of a contemporary idea of fantastic cinema and queer culture.

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET 2

Jack Sholder, US, 1985, 87'

Freddy returns in this controversial sequel that defies expectations with a barely concealed gay narrative. A much maligned but now beloved sequel that fuses nightmares and S&M imagery.

BIG BANG LOVE, JUVENILE A

Miike Takashi, JP, 2006, 85'

Two detectives try to solve a murder by investigating inside a men's prison. The inimitable Miike surprises us with this fascinating and poetic film at the crossroads between artforms.

BOUND

Lana & Lilly Wachowski, US, 1996, 109'

A former prison inmate and her lover have the perfect plan: To steal millions from the mob and frame a crook for it. A dizzying first film from the directors of The Matrix.

DR. JEKYLL & SISTER HYDE

Roy Ward Baker, UK, 1971, 97'

In the London mist, the notorious scientist is transformed into the beautiful but psychotic Sister Hyde as a result of an experimental experiment. Variation on a classic.

DRACULA'S DAUGHTER

Lambert Hillyer, US, 1936, 71'

Countess Zaleska struggles to free herself from the urges that plague her. But does her torment stem from her bloodlust or from her irrepensible attraction to young women?

DYKE HARD

Bitte Andersson, SE, 2014, 90'

On their way to a musical competition, a lesbian rock band finds itself battling an army of ninjas, bikers and horny ghosts in a mix of musical, horror and science fiction.

PICTURES

Elio Quiroga, ES, 1996, 93'

A reclusive woman meets an artist who will change her life. Ideas and emotions overflow in this unclassifiable and forgotten film that evokes all of Almodóvar, Polanski and Buñuel.

HELLBENT

Paul Etheredge, US, 2004, 84'

It's Halloween in Los Angeles and a group of friends is hellbent on having fun and picking up guys. Just one problem: A killer is hiding among these new friends with benefits.

SCREAM QUEER

JENNIFER'S BODY

Karyn Kusama, US, 2009, 102'

Possessed, a teenage girl is consumed by desire for the flesh. Sexist clichés and her classmates suffer equally at the hands of her wrath in this initially misunderstood horrific comedy.

DAUGHTERS OF DARKNESS

Harry Kümel, BE/US/CA, 1971, 87'

In a deserted hotel, a couple meets a mysterious, bloodthirsty countess. A unique take on the immortal myth starring a beautiful, sensual Delphine Seyrig.

NIGHTBREED (DIRECTOR'S CUT)

Clive Barker, US/UK/CA, 1990, 120'

Midian, an underground city where monsters and freaks of all kinds take refuge, is threatened by a mad psychiatrist who has sworn the loss of this haven of peace... A baroque and explosive bestiary.

ORLANDO

Sally Potter, UK/RU/IT/FR/NL, 1992, 94'

The whimsical, free-spirited Orlando lives his transidentity through the centuries with nonchalance and fluidity. The role revealed Swinton as a unique, stimulating actress.

PSYCHO

Alfred Hitchcock, US, 1960, 109'

Norman Bates' motel reopens exceptionally for a queer reading of the most famous serial killer of all time. Cutting-edge filmmaking from Hitchcock.

SALOME

Charles Bryant & Alla Nazimova, US, 1922, 72'

Queer cinema's earliest steps in this classic story, based on a play by Oscar Wilde. A unique opportunity to experience this historical treasure the aesthetic of which is sure to spellbind you!

THE UNTAMED

Amat Escalante, MX/DK/FR/DE/NO/CH, 2016, 98'

A family's life is turned upside down when rumour spreads of an otherworldly creature, capable of fulfilling their every desire. A grotesque mixture of realism and unspeakable horror.

SCREAM QUEER

CARTE BLANCHE : OLIVER SIM

In addition to the **SCREAM QUEER** guests, the NIFFF is delighted to announce that The xx singer **Oliver Sim** will be in attendance. For his first solo project, the British musician will introduce an exclusive showing of **HIDEOUS**, a new musical directed by Yann Gonzalez that takes us to a fearsome world of 80s horror movies aesthetics. Oliver Sim will also have carte blanche to show films in relation to the retrospective.

CRIMINAL LOVERS

François Ozon, FR, 1999, 96'

Lost in a forest after an impulsive murder, a couple meets a strange woodsman. A violent world examined through the lens of a fairy tale and inspired by a true story.

THE LOST BOYS

Joel Schumacher, US, 1987, 97'

Bikers and vampires invade a quiet coastal town in California. A problem that a group of teenagers sets out to solve on their own. A generational cult film.

With **LES ÎLES** (Yann Gonzalez, FR, 2017, 24')

PSYCHO

Gus Van Sant, US, 1998, 105'

Come find the differences in this ultra-faithful remake of one of the seminal works of the slasher genre by the versatile and always audacious Gus Van Sant.

THELMA

Joachim Trier, NO/FR/DK/SE, 2017, 116'

A devout young woman leaves the deep countryside of the Norwegian seaside to start her studies. An unforeseen attraction is going to awaken an unknown and dark power within her.

CARTE BLANCHE : PINK APPLE

KNIFE+HEART

Yann Gonzalez, FR/MX/CH, 2018, 102'

Paris, 1970s. As a porn producer embarks on her most ambitious film, a serial killer starts murdering her actors one after the other. Delightfully flamboyant!

SCREAM QUEER : COURTS MÉTRAGES

Universes and sensibilities intersect in this selection of short films that celebrate otherness while redrawing, often playfully, the contours of monstrosity.

CRIATURA

María Silvia Esteve
AR/CH, 2021, 16'

HIDEOUS

Yann Gonzalez
UK, 2022, 22'
SWISS PREMIERE

DE LA TERREUR, MES SOEURS

Alexis Langlois
FR, 2019, 27'

TANK FAIRY

Erich Rettstadt
TW/US, 2021, 10'
SWISS PREMIERE

CONFERENCES

CONFERENCE DIDIER ROTH-BETTONI

It is not surprising that one of the pioneering masters of early fantasy cinema, James Whale, the author of **FRANKENSTEIN** and **THE INVISIBLE MAN**, was gay: his films are all odes to difference and tolerance. In his wake, monsters, vampires, aliens, and other creatures have been shrouded in queerness throughout the history of cinema, which this conference will attempt to revisit...

- **Didier Roth-Bettoni**, Film scholar, FR

TABLE RONDE - SCREAM QUEER

How has LGBTIQ+ representation evolved in genre cinema since its inception? Is the big bad queer really a thing of the past? What new portrayals are being created by contemporary filmmakers? Experts will examine this burning and always fascinating question.

- **Didier Roth-Bettoni**, Film scholar, FR
- **Javier Parra**, Film critic, ES
- **Bitte Anderson**, Filmmaker, SE

AMAZING SWITZERLAND

An overview of the best fantasy or related genre films that aims at promoting Swiss cinema.

DIE SCHWARZE SPINNE

Markus Fischer, CH/HU, 2022, 115'

Cast: Marin Blülle, Philipp Droste, Mária Dér
Local distributor: Ascot Elite Home Entertainment

A midwife makes a pact with the Devil to save her village from Teutonic knights, only to be scourged by a plague. Based on the horrific short story by Jeremias Gotthelf.

SOUL OF A BEAST

Lorenz Merz, CH, 2021, 110'

Cast : Ella Rumpf, Pablo Caprez, Luna Wedler
Local distributor: Ascot Elite Home Entertainment

Nominated for Silver Méliès for best fantastic European film

In a summer frenzy, a teenage father falls in love with his best friend's enigmatic girlfriend. A surreal and mystical hurricane of emotion and suffering. Invigorating.

LA CHAMBRE

Yvan Butler, CH/FR, 1982, 98'

Cast: Yves Beneyton, Ludmila Mikaël, Michel Cassagne
Local distributor: RTS - Radio Television Suisse

Stricken with a mysterious contagious disease, a young scientist is quarantined and subjected to inhumane conditions by a government seeking to keep the matter quiet.

AUX FRONTIÈRES DU FANTASTIQUE 2.0

Short film program, CH, 2022, 60'

Local distributor: Haute école d'art et de design, HEAD - Genève
WORLD PREMIERE

Sélection de courts produits dans le cadre d'un atelier sur le cinéma fantastique par des étudiant-es de la Haute école d'art et de design de Genève (HEAD - Genève).

SHADOWS OF LATIN AMERICA

A window on what the Latin American genre cinema has to offer.

DOMINGO & THE MIST

Ariel Escalante, CR/QA, 2022, 86'

World sales: Films Boutique
SWISS PREMIERE

In the heart of Costa Rica's tropical mountains, where mystical secrets and infinite beauty lurk, greedy builders covet the land of widower Domingo. Bewitching.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Victor Checa, PE/MX/EC/ES/DE, 2021, 82'

World sales: Outsider Pictures
SWISS PREMIERE

Fueled by a desire for independence, young Teo joins a gang of young criminals, much to the chagrin of his father, an electrician devoted to the invention of a mysterious machine.

PERLIMPS

Alê Abreu, BR, 2022, 76'

World sales: Best Friend Forever
SWISS PREMIERE

Two secret agents from enemy kingdoms help each other to save the Perlimps, magical beings trapped by the Giants. This sumptuous ecological fable is an absolute visual delight.

SHARK NIGHT

A mythical and terrifying creature, the shark has carved out an essential place for itself within genre imagery. A selection of prime cuts.

YEAR OF THE SHARK

Ludovic Boukherma & Zoran Boukherma, FR, 2022, 84'

WORLD PREMIERE (see p. 28)

TINTORERA: KILLER SHARK

René Cardona Jr., MX/UK, 1977, 85'

Two shark hunters flirt with an attractive British woman while tracking a large tiger shark that is terrorizing the East Coast of Mexico. 100% guaranteed genuine sharks!

NIFFF EXTENDED

A free complement to the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF), the **NIFFF EXTENDED** label is a series of conferences that aim at exploring the future of cinema and the audiovisual industry. The various topics (digital creation, new information technology, audiovisual screenwriting, and contemporary literature) make this multidisciplinary forum for reflection and networking the perfect opportunity to gather about a hundred experts who will be sharing their vision of what is to come.

JULY 4: IMAGING THE FUTURE

GAME-POWERED CINEMA

Twenty years ago, legendary game designer Hideo Kojima predicted a future when video games and film would become one. By greatly complicating conventional film shoots, the pandemic has accelerated filmmakers' use of game engines as a flexible and cost-effective virtual production tool. But what exactly is a game engine, what is its potential and what aesthetic perspectives does it hold for cinema?

- **Ben Cowell-Thomas**, DFX supervisor, DNEG, UK
- **Vesselin Efremov**, Principal creative director, Unity, BG
- **Moritz Zumbühl**, Founder & president of Blindflug Studios, CH
- **Moderation: Stéphane Laurenceau**, Journalist at RTS, CH

A NEW ERA FOR THE VFX INDUSTRY

In this session Ben Cowell-Thomas, DFX Supervisor at **DNEG**, will break down **THE MATRIX RESURRECTIONS'** dojo fight sequence. He'll specifically focus on how **DNEG** utilised Unreal Engine for rendering, why this convergence of technology is so exciting, and the benefits it offers. He'll also look forward to the near future to discuss the technology innovations that will positively impact the VFX and film industry.

- **Ben Cowell-Thomas**, DFX supervisor, DNEG, UK

THE EVOLUTION OF TAIWANESE PUPPETRY

How did **Pili International** turn the Taiwanese glove puppetry (budaixi) into one of the most popular television programs in Taiwan as well as movies? The film's master puppeteer will go over the history of the art form as well as its modern integration of virtual effects technology.

- **Lin Kuei-hsieh**, Senior puppeteer, TW
- **Alex Chen**, Producer, TW

In partnership with **Taiwan Creative Content Agency (TAICCA)**.

LOVE, DEATH & ROBOTS: 3 EPISODES, 3 FLAVOURS

From breaking arms in outer space to getting lost in the tall grass, we'll analyze the art direction behind 3 episodes of **LOVE, DEATH & ROBOTS** and unravel how each narrative got its own unique, aesthetic fingerprint. No story is the same and in true form-follows-function-fashion we'll break down how each style came to be.

- **Bram Sels**, Art director, Axis Studio, BE

JULY 5: IMAGING THE FUTURE

AHEAD OF THE GAME: MOTION & EMOTION

Besides the feelings provoked by their magnificent visual and sonic landscapes, **FAR: CHANGING TIDES** and **GIBBON** have recently stood out for their ability to construct poignant narratives through the unique language of video games. The creators of these two games will discuss the strategies they deploy to elicit both emotional and reflective responses.

- **Felix Bohatsch**, CEO, Broken Rules, AT
- **Fabio Baumgartner**, Programmer & sound designer, Okomotive, CH

AHEAD OF THE GAME: ENVIRONMENTAL STORYTELLING

The studios of **White Paper Games** (UK) and **Naraven Games** (CH) specialize in creating narrative games that value our actions and observation. Their virtual worlds feed our curiosity and it is up to us to reveal the whole story and its mysteries. Presentations and exchange between some of the games and brains behind the recent narrative maturity of the medium

- **Pete Bottomley**, Founder, White Paper Games (UK)
- **Julia Jean**, Creative director, Naraven Games, CH
- **Lucie Robert**, Lead designer, Naraven Games, CH

AHEAD OF THE GAME: THE ART OF SELF-IMPROVEMENT

Failure, a difficult feeling that nevertheless occupies an essential place in videogame logic. How do you provide a game experience that pushes players to perfect their technique without discouraging them? Our guests will lift the veil on this delicate balancing act.

- **Théo Caselli**, Combat designer (Sifu), Sloclap, FR
- **Sandro Dall'Aglio**, Game designer, Digital Kingdom, CH
- **Jordan Layani**, Creative director (Sifu) and founding member of Sloclap, FR
- **Benjamin Vurlod**, Artistic director, Digital Kingdom, CH

Moderation **AHEAD OF THE GAME** : **David Javet**, Narrative designer & co-founder of the GameLab UNIL-EPFL, CH

JULY 6: STORYWORLDS

HOW FEMALE WRITERS ARE SHAPING KOREAN SERIES

South Korean series have enjoyed unprecedented visibility lately. However, the country has been excelling in television productions for several years, thanks in particular to female showrunners and scriptwriters. NIFFF Extended highlights the fascinating creativity of those series which are taking over the audiovisual market by welcoming several renowned talents.

- **Chung Seo-kyung**, Screenwriter, KR
- **Kim Eun-hee**, Screenwriter, KR
- **Lee Kyoung-mi**, Director & screenwriter, KR
- **Moderation: Pierce Conran**, Film critic, IR

CASTING INTERACTIF : DANS LA PEAU DE SIR THOMAS

DANS LA PEAU DE SIR THOMAS is an original interactive fiction project, flirting between horror and fantasy. Before the film's shooting in the winter of 2022-2023, the production team will be holding a live audition for the character of Sir Thomas exclusively for NIFFF. Thanks to a unique concept, the audience will be able to participate in the direction of the actors through a screen and choose the actor who will interpret this mysterious character.

In partnership with **Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS)**

TECHNOLOGIES VISUALISED

Three young Swiss and French concept artists will have the day to visualize in a futuristic universe technological innovations presented to them by four experts in the field of scientific research in Switzerland. Come and discover the results of this creative workshop presented by the artists themselves!

- **Jean Gueissaz**, Concept artist, FR
- **Arthur Haefeli**, Concept artist, CH
- **Janos Rais**, Concept artist, CH

JULY 7: NEW WORLDS OF FANTASY

A CONVERSATION WITH ROMAIN LUCAZEAU

Fans of demanding science fiction will have a chance to listen to one of the most fascinating contemporary French authors, namely **Romain Lucazeau**, the creator of space opera **LATIUM** and more recently of **LA NUIT DU FAUNE**. As a disciple of philosophy, the writer imbues his futuristic worlds with rich concepts that offer the reader an intellectually stimulating experience. Exciting discussion on the horizon!

- **Romain Lucazeau**, Author, FR
- **Boris Brückler**, Consultant New Worlds of Fantasy, CH

A CONVERSATION WITH MARIANA ENRÍQUEZ

For nearly 20 years, **Mariana Enríquez** has been examining Argentinian society through the lens of the macabre and a richly gothic style. Equally chilling in the epic horror genre (**NUESTRA PARTE DE NOCHE**) and the short stories compilation format (the furious **THINGS WE LOST IN THE FIRE**), the reporter and author has established herself as a (dark) shooting star of contemporary literature.

- **Mariana Enríquez**, Author, AR
- **Dolores Phillips-Lopez**, Professor in hispanic and american literature (Lausanne & Geneva University)

A CONVERSATION WITH JOYCE CAROL OATES

Multiple-time finalist of the Pulitzer Prize throughout a more than 60-year long career, **Joyce Carol Oates** has made a name for herself with her many incursions in the fantasy genre, more specifically the gothic and the horror genres, which earned her several Bram Stoker awards. The audience will have the opportunity to meet one of the greatest authors of American literature, who will be discussing her relationship with the imaginary.

- **Joyce Carol Oates**, Author, US
- **Anne Laure Gannac**, Journalist (RTS), CH

NIFFF INVASION

This diverse programme, aimed at the general public and coproduced and financed by the City of Neuchâtel, will spread the worlds of the fantasy genre throughout the city. NIFFF Invasion will celebrate the festival's roots in the ancient city at its maximum capacity in redesigned Open Air and Festival OFFF areas, as well as in La Villa, a new festival space. A rich and dynamic programme that gives prominence to digital exploration and to the (re)discovery of genre classics, and that will keep Neuchâtel awake all night long.

LA VILLA

A brand new location rounds up the festival's presence: **La Villa**, an iconic Neuchâtel mansion, will host a variety of interactive and digital offers. It will temporarily become a vector for recent independent Swiss creations through video games 100% made in Switzerland.

BACKFIREWALL_
Naraven Games, CH, 2022

FAR: CHANGING TIDES
Okomotive, CH, 2022

SWORDSHIP
Digital Kingdom, CH, 2022

NIFFF FOR SPEED
Transverse, CH, 2022

IVF-X POSTHUMAN PARENTING IN HYBRID REALITY
Victorine van Alphen, NL, 2022

In the future, what will it mean to breed or reproduce if it is not so much a biological matter but an offspring of choice and technology? Speculating on the future of human reproduction, philosopher and artist Victorine van Alphen developed a hybrid reality in which you can breed & meet your own 'personalized' cyborg baby: a creature existing on the verge of humanity and technology, digitally grown for you, based on your choices.

PREVISUALISATION WITH CINEDESK

The cineDESK is a versatile previsualization tool that provides real-time simulations using Unreal Engine for the development of film scenes. Directors, cinematographers, production designers and editors can interactively explore as a team how space, acting and camera angles can be translated into an edited cinematic sequence. The cineDESK was developed at the Zurich University of the Arts and used in education.

FLIPP3R
Mandrill, Christopher Lanza, Bruno Costa, Diogo Lopes da Silva

The result of a collaboration between Neuchâtel artists Mandrill and Christopher Lanza as well as two HE-Arc Engineering graduates, Bruno Costa and Diogo Lopes da Silva, the interactive installation **FLIPP3R** offers a playful and offbeat experience in **AUGMENTED DRAWING**, where three players compete simultaneously!

CLASSICS RELOADED

Five genre gems in gloriously restored versions will be screened free of charge on the iconic Place des Halles, in the heart of the historical part of Neuchâtel.

BRIDE WITH WHITE HAIR
Ronny Yu, HK, 1993

Lian, a feared witch raised by wolves, falls in love with a young warrior from the enemy clan. Her wish for a peaceful life with her loved one will prove an arduous feat.

WHO CAN KILL A CHILD?
Narciso Ibáñez Serrador, ES, 1976

An English couple on holiday arrive on an island inhabited solely by strange-behaving children. With no adult in sight, violence breaks out... A cult and cruel movie.

E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL
Steven Spielberg, US, 1982

Elliott, a lonely little boy, befriends an alien stranded on Earth who yearns to return home. Spielberg magic under the stars.

THE INNOCENTS
Jack Clayton, UK/US, 1961

A spine-chilling mansion becomes the setting for a chilling ghost story when a housekeeper goes into a tailspin at the thought of it being haunted. An elegant masterclass in terror.

PSYCHO
Alfred Hitchcock, US, 1960, 109'

Norman Bates' motel reopens exceptionally for a queer reading of the most famous serial killer of all time. Cutting-edge filmmaking from Hitchcock.

QUEER-SF EXHIBITION

A long-time partner of NIFFF, the **Maison d'Ailleurs** presents a new exhibition on the theme of queerness and explore how it resonates with the world of science fiction.

INNER RESISTANCE

INNER RESISTANCE is an intervention by the artist **Gabriele Garavaglia** on the invitation of the **Centre d'art Neuchâtel (CAN)**. He wanders through the audience in the form of a zombie, parasitizing our perception of reality by injecting a little fantasy.

KIDS@NIFFF

KID'O'NIFFF

In partnership with AnimaFilms RPN
Short films programme, CH, 2022, 75'

About twenty short animated films made by students from Neuchâtel.

LANTERNE MAGIQUE

ICARE
Carlo Vogele, LX/BE/FR, 2022, 72'

In Crete, young Icarus befriends creature half human and half bull. When the king asks Icarus' father to work on a secret project, Icarus understands that his new friend is in danger.

FANTOCHE

TOUTES LES COULEURS
Short films programme, BE/UK/CH/ES/FR/HU, 2013-2021, 60'

When we embrace all its different facets, the world becomes more colourful. We celebrate earthly beings in all their shapes and colours as they transform into their own unique personality.

LE LABO

DANS TES RÊVES
Short film, CH, 2021, 15'

Short film produced during the Le Labo workshops at NIFFF 2021 by young people aged 13 to 18.

ARTS DE RUE

In the enchanting setting of our new Open Air, daytime street art performances will once again be held to the delight of young and old alike free of charge every morning from 4 to 9 July. Developed by the Centre de Création Helvétique des Arts de la Rue (CCHAR).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

PRESS OFFICE

BEFORE THE FESTIVAL

All accreditation forms can be submitted online until June 28th.

When applicable, the accreditation fee is CHF 70. The accreditation gives access to NIFFF EXTENDED upon reservation.

Our Press Team is at your disposal for interview requests (both online or on site guests), additional information and questions regarding the programme.

The press screenings timetable will be available on the press corner on NIFFF.ch and at the press office during the festival.

DURING THE FESTIVAL

The press office is open to journalists and professionals on the 1st floor of the Théâtre du Passage, Maximilien-de-Meuron 4, 2000 Neuchâtel.

OPENING HOURS

Friday July 1st: 14h - 19h

Saturday 2nd - Tuesday 5th: 10h - 18h

Wednesday 6th - Saturday 9th: 14h - 18h

CONTACT

Press Office
press@niff.ch
T: +41 32 731 07 76

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

Léa Eigenmann
Press Coordinator
lea.eigenmann@niff.ch
M: +41 79 787 53 40

PARTNERS

PRESENTING PARTNER



MAIN SPONSOR



MAIN MEDIA PARTNERS



SUPPORTS



OFFICIAL SPONSORS



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS



OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNERS



OFFICIAL SERVICE & SUPPLY PARTNERS



VENUE PARTNERS



CULTURAL PARTNERS



CARRIER & TRAVEL PARTNERS



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

THE SWISS EVENT FOR FANTASTIC FILM, ASIAN CINEMA & DIGITAL CREATION

