

# NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL  
INTERNATIONAL  
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

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## **NIFFF 2022: A 21<sup>ST</sup> EDITION UNDER THE AEGIS OF FANTASTIC PLURALITY**

**The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF, 1-9 July) unveiled its complete 2022 programme this morning. It is the first year the festival has Pierre-Yves Walder as its new general and artistic director.**

True to its explorative approach, the NIFFF is summoning the global imagination with a programme that includes **128 works from five continents**, thus faithfully prolonging the festival's rich history. The International Competition, the jury of which is presided by none other than American author **Joyce Carol Oates**, explores the current trends of fantastic films through a beautifully diverse overview of the ruminations of our era. The festival brings together the boldest new voices of the time (**Addison Heimann, Francisca Alegría, Simon Rieth, Charlotte Le Bon, Ludovic & Zoltan Boukherma**) and the latest works from frequently selected filmmakers (**Park Chan-wook, Dario Argento, Justin Benson & Aaron Moorhead, Kristina Buozyte & Bruno Samper**). The goal is to strengthen its role as a bridge maker between generations and between the arts (cinema, music, literature, contemporary art) in order to ensure better inclusivity. Last but not least, the NIFFF is finally back to being a physical event at full capacity, and will once again illuminate the lake shore to look to the future.

*« Now more than ever, the NIFFF remains the privileged place for observing the many variations of the fantasy genre. My primary objective is to maintain the high standards and quality of the festival's selection, all the while continuing to explore a genre that endlessly surprises me »*, concludes **Pierre-Yves Walder**, General and Artistic Director of the NIFFF.

The 21<sup>st</sup> edition will open with the international premiere of the mystic drama **THE FIVE DEVILS** from **Léa Mysius** (Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>) and will conclude with the Swiss premiere of the exhilarating animated film **I AM WHAT I AM** from **Sun Haipeng** (Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>). The programme includes **11 world premieres, 10 international premieres, 7 European premieres, and 44 Swiss premieres**. The international jury is composed of **Joyce Carol Oates** (US), **Mariana Enríquez** (AR), **Prano Bailey-Bond** (UK), **ROB** (FR), and **Martika Ramirez Escobar** (PH). They will choose which film will receive the prestigious H.R. Giger "Narcisse" award (CHF 10,000 awarded by the City of Neuchâtel) during the closing ceremony.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The **International Competition** is all about exploring diverse imaginations from around the world, be they different in terms of origin, themes, or narrative. The next generation of filmmakers is front and centre with two international premieres, namely the psychotic tale **HYPOCHONDRIAC** from American director **Addison Heimann**, who immerses the audience in the tortured mind of his protagonist, as well as **SUMMER SCARS (NOS CÉRÉMONIES)**, the first feature film from French director **Simon Rieth**, who delivers an equally radiant and gloomy movie. New voices from Latin America will also be represented, with the European premiere of the demonic **HUESERA** from Mexican filmmaker **Michelle Garza Cervera**, and the melancholic, ecological Chilean fable **THE COW WHO SANG A SONG INTO THE FUTURE** from **Francisca Alegría**. The competition also includes films from directors whose previous works have marked the festival's history: first, the highly anticipated post-apocalyptic tale **VESPER** from French-Lithuanian duo **Kristina Buozyte** and **Bruno Samper** (winners of the Méliès d'Or in 2012), but also the spectacular **FREAKS OUT** from Italian filmmaker **Gabriele Mainetti**, in which four creatures with supernatural powers must fight fascism, or the latest from iconic American duo **Justin Benson & Aaron Moorhead** who'll present **SOMETHING IN THE DIRT**, an offbeat, conspiracy-inspired sci-fi thriller.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION		
<b>ASHKAL</b> FR/QA/TU, 2022, 92' <b>Youssef Chebbi</b> International premiere	<b>BLAZE</b> AU, 2022, 101' <b>Del Kathryn Barton</b> European premiere	<b>DUAL</b> US/FI, 2022, 94' <b>Riley Stearns</b> Swiss premiere
<b>FAMILY DINNER</b> AT, 2022, 97' <b>Peter Hengl</b> European premiere	<b>FREAKS OUT</b> IT/BE, 2021, 141' <b>Gabriele Mainetti</b> Swiss premiere	<b>HUESERA</b> MX/PE, 2022, 93' <b>Michelle Garza Cervera</b> European premiere
<b>HYPOCHONDRIAC</b> US, 2022, 96' <b>Addison Heimann</b> International premiere	<b>MEN</b> UK, 2022, 100' <b>Alex Garland</b> Swiss premiere	<b>NO. 10</b> NL/BE, 2021, 100' <b>Alex van Warmerdam</b> Swiss premiere
<b>SOMETHING IN THE DIRT</b> US, 2022, 116' <b>Justin Benson &amp; Aaron Moorhead</b> International premiere	<b>SUMMER SCARS (NOS CÉRÉMONIES)</b> FR, 2022, 104' <b>Simon Rieth</b> International premiere	<b>THE COW WHO SANG A SONG INTO THE FUTURE</b> CL/FR/US/DE/CH, 2022, 98' <b>Francisca Alegría</b> Swiss premiere
<b>VESPER</b> LT/FR/BE, 2022, 113' <b>Kristina Buozyte &amp; Bruno Samper</b> Swiss premiere	<b>ZALAVA</b> IR, 2021, 93' <b>Arsalan Amiri</b> Swiss premiere	

## ASIAN COMPETITION

The air is electric in the **Asian Competition**. It is composed of several big premieres that put the spotlight on the best indie auteurs and blockbusters which created the buzz throughout the continent. The selection boasts two world premieres: **LEIO**, an outright monster movie from Thailand directed by **Chalit Krileadmongkon & Chitpol Ruanggun**, as well as the Japanese action thriller **BAD CITY** from **Sonomura Kensuke**, starring cult actor **Ozawa Hitoshi**. As far as big productions are concerned, **Higuchi Shinji's SHIN ULTRAMAN** - a destined-for-success retro kaiju eiga centred on the famous alien superhero - will have its international premiere. So will **DEMIGOD: THE LEGEND BEGINS**, the unmissable wuxia from Taiwanese studio **PiLi International**, renowned for their epic puppetry films (*budaixi*) that combine hand puppets with breathtaking visual effects.

<b>ASIAN COMPETITION</b>		
<b>BAD CITY</b> JP, 2022, 118' <b>Sonomura Kensuke</b> World premiere	<b>DEMIGOD: THE LEGEND BEGINS</b> TW, 2022, 103' <b>Chris Huang Wen-chang</b> International premiere	<b>LEIO</b> TH, 2022, 109' <b>Chalit Krileadmongkon &amp; Chitpol Ruanggun</b> World premiere
<b>LEONOR WILL NEVER DIE</b> PH, 2022, 99' <b>Martika Ramirez Escobar</b> Swiss premiere	<b>MAIKA</b> VN, 2022, 105' <b>Ham Tran</b> Swiss premiere	<b>SHIN ULTRAMAN</b> JP, 2022, 112' <b>Higuchi Shinji</b> International premiere
<b>THE ASSISTANT</b> MY, 2022, 124' <b>Adrian Teh</b> Swiss premiere	<b>THE ROUNDUP</b> KR, 2022, 106' <b>Lee Sang-yong</b> European premiere	

### THIRD KIND

Non-competitive section **THIRD KIND** focuses on genres related to fantasy, and includes the Swiss premieres of several films that caused a stir in Cannes: The highly anticipated **HOLY SPIDER** from **Ali Abbasi**, a dark thriller set in an Iranian society that grapples with its demons; Romantic film noir **DECISION TO LEAVE** from **Park Chan-wook**; and also the spellbinding teen movie **FALCON LAKE**, the first feature from Quebecois director **Charlotte Le Bon**. Comedies will not be outdone thanks to the world premiere of **YEAR OF THE SHARK (L'ANNÉE DU REQUIN)**, the second feature from **Ludovic & Zoltan Boukherma**. The film will be accompanied by two of the best in the shark movie genre as part of a **SHARK NIGHT** that is sure to awaken the audience's dormant thalassophobia. More laughter with **BABYSITTER**, an ultra-stylised satire from **Monia Chokri** that takes down sexism, as well as the irresistible Japanese comedy **WEDDING HIGH** from **Ohku Akiko**.

<b>THIRD KIND</b>		
<b>BABYSITTER</b> CA/FR, 2022, 87' <b>Monia Chokri</b> Swiss premiere	<b>BEAUTIFUL BEINGS</b> IS/DK/SE/NL/CZ, 2022, 123' <b>Guðmundur Arnar Guðmundsson</b> Regional premiere	<b>BROADWAY</b> GR/FR/RO, 2022, 97' <b>Christos Massalas</b> Swiss premiere
<b>DECISION TO LEAVE</b> KR, 2022, 138' <b>Park Chan-wook</b> Swiss premiere	<b>DIABOLIK</b> IT, 2021, 133' <b>Manetti Bros.</b> Swiss premiere	<b>FALCON LAKE</b> FR/CA, 2022, 100' <b>Charlotte Le Bon</b> Swiss premiere
<b>FOGARÉU</b> BR/FR, 2022, 100' <b>Flávia Neves</b> Swiss premiere	<b>HOLY SPIDER</b> DK/DE/FR/SE, 2022, 116' <b>Ali Abbasi</b> Swiss premiere	<b>YEAR OF THE SHARK (L'ANNÉE DU REQUIN)</b> FR, 2022, 84' <b>Ludovic Boukherma &amp; Zoran Boukherma</b> World premiere
<b>MIRACLE: LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT</b> KR, 2021, 117' <b>Jang-Hoon Lee</b> Swiss premiere	<b>THE NIGHT OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> (LA NUIT DU 12)</b> FR/BE, 2022, 115' <b>Dominik Moll</b> International premiere	<b>WEDDING HIGH</b> JP, 2022, 117' <b>Akiko Ohku</b> European premiere

## ULTRA MOVIES

With its more radical and extreme cinematic propositions, **ULTRA MOVIES** is the best section for thrill seekers, and this year marks the return of the master of the giallo **Dario Argento** with **DARK GLASSES (OCCHIALI NERI)**, ten years after his previous film. Another giant of genre cinema, Spanish filmmaker **Álex de la Iglesia** is ready to take the audience on a horrific (but not so touristic) excursion through Venetia with **VENECIAFRENIA**. The programme will also take the public to Senegal (**SALOUM**, **Jean Luc Herbulot**), Argentina (**PUSSYCAKE**, **Pablo Parés**), and Australia (**SISSY**, **Hannah Barlow & Kane Senes**). For those looking for an oddity, **THE TIMEKEEPERS OF ETERNITY**, from Greek filmmaker **Aristotelis Maragkos**, is a retelling of the **LANGOLIERS** miniseries (adapted from Stephen King) in the form of a hypnotic collage.

ULTRA MOVIES		
<b>HOLY SHIT! (ACH DU SCHEISSE!)</b> DE, 2022, 90' <b>Lukas Rinker</b> Swiss premiere	<b>DAY ZERO</b> PH, 2022, 82' <b>Joey De Guzman</b> World Premiere	<b>DEADSTREAM</b> US, 2022, 87' <b>Joseph Winter &amp; Vanessa Winter</b> International premiere
<b>DARK GLASSES (OCCHIALI NERI)</b> IT/FR, 2022, 90' <b>Dario Argento</b> Swiss premiere	<b>EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE</b> US, 2022, 139' <b>Dan Kwan &amp; Daniel Scheinert</b>	<b>INCANTATION</b> TW, 2022, 110' <b>Kevin Ko</b> Swiss premiere
<b>PUSSYCAKE</b> AR, 2022, 82' <b>Pablo Parés</b> Swiss premiere	<b>SALOUM</b> SN, 2021, 84' <b>Jean Luc Herbulot</b> Swiss premiere	<b>SISSY</b> AU, 2022, 102' <b>Hannah Barlow &amp; Kane Senes</b> European premiere
<b>THE DEVIL'S DECEPTION</b> MY, 2022, 98' <b>Kabir Bhatia</b> Swiss premiere	<b>THE TIMEKEEPERS OF ETERNITY</b> GR/UK, 2021, 64' <b>Aristotelis Maragkos</b> Swiss premiere	<b>VENECIAFRENIA</b> ES, 2021, 80' <b>Álex de la Iglesia</b> Swiss premiere

## SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

Alongside the official selection, the NIFFF also offers the **SCREAM QUEER** retrospective - about 20 films centred on the representation of LGBTIQ+ communities in fantastic films. The singer from British band The xx, **Oliver Sim**, will notably have carte blanche. The **SHADOWS OF LATIN AMERICA** category explores the dark side of Latin American films with three gems that have never been shown in Switzerland. Finally, **AMAZING SWITZERLAND** promotes Swiss productions with a retrospective and prospective overview. Free labels **NIFFF Extended** - dedicated to the new technologies - and **NIFFF Invasion** - multidisciplinary and for all ages - complement the festival's rich odyssey.

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