

# NIFFF

NEUCHÂTEL INTERNATIONAL  
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

30 JUNE - 8 JULY 2023

22<sup>ND</sup>  
EDITION



PRESS KIT

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# PROGRAMMATION 2023

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

ANIMALIA - Sofia Alaoui, MA/FR/QA, 2023, 91' - Swiss Premiere
CONSECRATION - Christopher Smith, UK/ US, 2023, 90' - Swiss Premiere
IT LIVES INSIDE - Bishal Dutta, US, 2023, 99' - International Premiere
PEARL - Ti West, US, 2022, 101' - Swiss Premiere
PERPETRATOR - Jennifer Reeder, US/FR, 2023, 101' - Swiss Premiere
PIOVE - Paolo Strippoli, IT/BE, 2022, 93' - Swiss Premiere
RAGING GRACE - Paris Zarcilla, UK, 2023, 100' - European Premiere
RESTORE POINT - Robert Hloz, CZ/SK/PL/RS, 2023, 100' - Swiss Premiere
SUPERPOSITION - Karoline Lyngbye, DK, 2023, 105' - Swiss Premiere
THE CUCKOO'S CURSE - Mar Targarona, ES/DE, 2023, 98' - Swiss Premiere
TIGER STRIPES - Amanda Nell Eu, MY/TW/SG/FR/DE/NL/ID/QA, 2023, 95' - Swiss Premiere
TROPIQUE - Édouard Salier, FR, 2022, 110' - Swiss Premiere
VINCENT DOIT MOURIR - Stéphan Castang, FR/BE, 2023, 115' - Swiss Premiere
WHITE PLASTIC SKY -Tibor Bánóczki & Sarolta Szabó, HU/SK, 2023, 111' - Swiss Premiere

## ASIAN COMPETITION

BHEDIYA - Amar Kaushik, IN, 2022, 156' - Swiss Premiere
DEEP SEA - Tian Xiaopeng, CN, 2023, 112' - Swiss Premiere
FROM THE END OF THE WORLD - Kiriya Kazuaki, JP, 2023, 135' - International Premiere
IN MY MOTHER'S SKIN - Kenneth Dagatan, PH/SG/TW, 2023, 96' - Swiss Premiere
KILLING ROMANCE - Lee Won-suk, KR, 2023, 106' - Swiss Premiere
MAD FATE - Soi Cheang, HK, 2023, 108' - Swiss Premiere
MARRY MY DEAD BODY - Cheng Wei-hao, TW, 2022, 130' - Swiss Premiere
SHIN KAMEN RIDER - Anno Hideaki, JP, 2023, 121' - European Premiere

## THIRD KIND

AUGURE - Balaji , BE/NL/CD, 2023, 90' - Swiss Premiere
COBWEB - Kim Jee-woon, KR, 2023, 135' - Swiss Premiere
FRONTIÈRES - Guy Édoin, CA, 2023, 95' - International Premiere
KENNEDY - Anurag Kashyap, IN, 2023, 142' - Swiss Premiere
L'ULTIMA NOTTE DI AMORE - Andrea Di Stefano, IT, 2023, 124' - Swiss Premiere
MAMI WATA - C.J. "Fiery" Obasi, NG/FR/UK, 2023, 107' - Swiss Premiere
NORMALE - Olivier Babinet, FR, 2023, 87' - Swiss Premiere

PROPERTY - Daniel Bandeira, BR, 2022, 101' - Swiss Premiere  
 SATTAR - Abdullah Al-Arak, SA, 2022, 100' - Swiss Premiere  
 THE ABANDONED - Tseng Ying-ting, TW, 2022, 128' - Swiss Premiere  
 UFO SWEDEN - Crazy Pictures, SE, 2022, 115' - Swiss Premiere  
 WHEN IT MELTS - Veerle Baetens, BE/NL, 2023, 111' - Swiss Premiere

## ULTRA MOVIES

DOUBLE BLIND - Ian Hunt-Duffy, IE, 2023, 90' - World Premiere  
 EVIL DEAD RISE - Lee Cronin, NZ/IE/US, 2023, 92' - Romandie premiere  
 FARANG - Xavier Gens, FR, 2023, 99' - International Premiere  
 GOOD BOY - Viljar Bøe, NO, 2022, 76' - Romandie premiere  
 IRATI - Paul Urkijo Alijo, ES/FR, 2022, 111' - Swiss Premiere  
 PANDEMONIUM - Quarxx, FR, 2023, 92' - World Premiere  
 PENSIVE - Jonas Trukanas, LT, 2022, 87' - Swiss Premiere  
 RIVER - Yamaguchi Junta, JP, 2023, 86' - International Premiere  
 SATAN'S SLAVES: COMMUNION - Joko Anwar, ID, 2022, 119' - Swiss Premiere  
 THE WRATH OF BECKY - Matt Angel & Suzanne Coote, US, 2023, 83' - European Premiere

## AMAZING SWITZERLAND

BLACK OUT - Jean-Louis Roy, CH, 1970, 92' - World Premiere  
 MAD HEIDI - Johannes Hartmann & Sandro Klopstein, CH, 2022, 88'  
 SIAL IV - EPISODES 1 & 2 - Adonis Kyrou, CH, 1969, 53'  
 UNTIL BRANCHES BEND - Sophie Jarvis, CA/CH, 2022, 98' - Romandie premiere

# INTERVIEW OF PIERRE-YVES WALDER, GENERAL & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

YOU TOOK OVER AS THE NIFFF DIRECTOR IN 2021. WHAT IS YOUR APPROACH FOR YOUR SECOND YEAR AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR? CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR EDITORIAL LINE?

I think you can see what we're aiming for in 2023 by looking at our guest list. **Josiane Balas-ko**, our guest of honour and president of the International Jury, is a big fan and connoisseur of science fiction; she even wrote an anthology book of short fantasy stories. Inviting her to the NIFFF might seem surprising, since most people know her for her work in comedies. But that is precisely what we're interested in - to widen our perception of genre cinema. **John McTiernan**, who is also our guest of honour and member of the International Jury, is a less surprising figure at the NIFFF - that of a unifying and popular cinema. To see him introducing **DIE HARD** at the Open Air will be a historic moment for the NIFFF. Ishii perfectly represents the kind of creativity from Asia the festival has been highlighting. He has made some of the most fascinating Japanese films of the last few years. He will give a conference at the NIFFF. I expect it to be fascinating, especially when talking about animation for grownups, which is another topic the festival is exploring this year. Comic artist **Charles Burns**, who will also be part of the International Jury, will also give a conference about his career as part of the New Worlds of Fantasy literary forum. As always, literature holds a special place at the NIFFF - it is, after all, the source of our imagined fantasies. Last but not least, Swiss creation remains a priority for us with the Swiss shorts competition, the **AMAZING SWITZERLAND** film category, and the presence of **Simon Jaquemet** at the **Imaging The Future** symposium. The director is currently working on his upcoming film, **ELECTRIC CHILD**, which we look forward to seeing in the future.

IN 2022, THE SCREAM QUEER RETROSPECTIVE WAS THE FIRST CHAPTER OF A MORE SOCIETAL REFLECTION ON CINEMA. HOW WILL IT CONTINUE THIS YEAR WITH FEMALE TROUBLE?

For us, **FEMALE TROUBLE** is simply the logical continuation of **SCREAM QUEER**. The film industry has long contributed to forging the stereotypes of gender relations. Fantasy films were certainly no exception. The idea behind these two retrospectives is to explore the evolution of said representations throughout the decades. As far as **FEMALE TROUBLE** is concerned, female archetypes (sometimes over-the-top or exaggerated) are an interesting object of study because upon closer examination, they often challenge societal norms. Although mostly created by men (writers, directors, producers) for many, many years, these characters are starting to be reimagined by women from within the industry, who are making them their own, sometimes literally, and often through the lens of their own experiences and identity.



IN 2022, THE NIFFF PASSED THE SYMBOLIC MARK OF 50,000 FESTIVAL-GOERS. HOW DO YOU ENVISION THE FUTURE OF A FESTIVAL THAT HAS BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE?

For the NIFFF to keep its unique position in the Swiss and global cultural calendar, the most important thing is to continue offering a rigorously selected programme. We must also keep on organising events all year round. Speaking of which, we are thrilled to be among the founding members of the **Tour du fantastique** (The Tower of Fantasy), a multidisciplinary project notably dedicated to the works of **John Howe**. The NIFFF will therefore bring together artists, writers, and authors for workshops on *concept art*. This is a great opportunity to cement the position of the festival and Neuchâtel as a major hub for contemporary creation, in Switzerland and elsewhere.

## PRIZE & JURIES

### INTERNATIONAL JURY

- **Josiane Balasko**, Actress, writer and director, FR
- **Veronika Franz**, Writer and director, AT
- **Charles Burns**, Illustrator and author of graphic novels, US
- **John McTiernan**, Director, US
- **Olivier Babinet**, Director, FR

### MÉLIÈS JURY

- **Monica Garcia Massagué**, SITGES Festival General Manager, ES
- **Carlota Pereda**, Director, ES
- **Max Karli**, Producer, CH

### SSA/SUISSIMAGE JURY

- **Marie-Lou Pahud**, Producer, CH
- **Astrid Silva**, Head of programming at Visions du Réel, CH
- **Dexter Maurer**, Illustrator, CH

### CRITICS JURY

- **Anaïs Bordages**, Journalist, FR (Podcast AMIES, SLATE)
- **Nicole Parker**, Journalist, DE (DEADLINE)
- **Yal Sadat**, Journalist and film critic, FR

## PRIZE & JURIES

### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

#### 10'000 CHF - H.R. GIGER "NARCISSE" AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE FILM

Awarded by the City of Neuchâtel

#### 3'000 CHF - IMAGING THE FUTURE AWARD FOR BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN

Awarded by Microcity

#### BROADCASTING - RTS AUDIENCE AWARD

Awarded by Radio Télévision Suisse

#### PROMOTION - NIFFF INTERNATIONAL CRITICS AWARD

Awarded by 3 international journalists

#### HAMILTON WATCH

Awarded by the high school Denis-de-Rougemont

### SILVER MÉLIÈS

With the Méliès International Festivals Federation (MIFF)

**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 the audience

### COMPETITION FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM

**HONORARY** - Best Short Film Award

Chosen by the audience

**HONORARY** - Prix de la Jeunesse Blaise-Cendrars

Awarded by the high school Blaise-Cendrars (La Chaux-de-Fonds).

## NIFFF IN NUMBERS

Screening attendance in 2022

**30'000**

General attendance in 2022

**55'000**

### FESTIVAL

Editions

**22**

Collaborators

**75**

Places

**8**

Number of volunteers

**350**

Open Air

**1**

### PROGRAMMATION 2023

Works

**124**

Exhibition

**1**

Artistic performance

**1**

Feature-length films

**85**

Short films

**35**

Immersive installations

**2**

World premieres

**8**

International premieres

**7**

European premieres

**4**

Swiss premieres

**46**

Number of projections

**159**

Number of countries represented

**44**

Free events

**31**

## CEREMONIES

### OPENING CEREMONY

#### THE POD GENERATION

#### SWISS PREMIERE

**Sophie Barthes**, BE/FR/UK, 2023, 109'

Cast: Emilia Clarke, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rosalie Craig

Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment Group

A tech giant introduces a new form of pregnancy that replaces humans with portable artificial uteruses. A young couple signs up for it in this sci-fi comedy.

### CLOSING CEREMONY

#### ACIDE

#### INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**Just Philippot**, FR, 2023, 99'

Cast: Guillaume Canet, Laetitia Dosch, Patience Munchenbach

Contact: Pathé Fims AG

Because of global warming, rain water has become incredibly acidic. A family tries to survive this new catastrophe as death starts to rain down from the sky. A terrifyingly relevant film.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

### ANIMALIA

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Sofia Alaoui**, MA/FR/QA, 2023, 91'

Cast: Oumaïma Barid, Mehdi Dehbi, Hiam Abbass

Contact: Totem Films

Just married and very pregnant, Itto is struggling to adjust to her new life. Her husband, Amine, is regularly away on business, and her wealthy in-laws treat her with disdain because of her Amazigh origins. The young woman spends most of her time wandering alone in their luxurious villa, isolated from the rest of the world. Until the day when strange meteorological phenomena alert the authorities, to the point that the entire region is cordoned off by the army. Itto sets off on a long journey to find Amine...

### CONSECRATION

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Christopher Smith**, UK/US, 2023, 90'

Cast: Jena Malone, Danny Huston, Thoren Ferguson

Contact: AGC Studios

Following the alleged suicide of her priest brother, Grace (Jena Malone) travels to the remote convent on the Isle of Skye where he died. Suspicious of the Church's version of events, she decides to conduct her own investigation. When she discovers that he himself was a murder suspect, sacrilege and her own disturbing truth begin to reveal themselves. A Catholic horror film blessed by the always electric presence of Jena Malone.

### IT LIVES INSIDE

### INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**Bishal Dutta**, US, 2023, 99'

Cast: Megan Suri, Neeru Bajwa, Mohana Krishnan

Contact: : Protagonist Pictures

Desperate to fit in at school, Sam rejects her Indian culture and family in the hope of becoming more like her peers. When a demonic Pishach spirit takes possession of her former best friend, she must reconnect with her cultural heritage if she hopes to defeat him. A chilling exploration of her roots, Bishal Dutta's debut feature takes the form of two love letters: one to his community, the other to horror cinema's most visceral tradition.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

## PEARL

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Ti West**, US, 2022, 101'

Cast: Mia Goth, David Corenswet, Tandi Wright

Contact: Park Circus

Trapped in her family's isolated farmhouse, Pearl spends her days caring for her gravely ill father under the stern, authoritarian watch of her devout mother. Aspiring to the glamour of life in the movies, Pearl's ambitions, temptations and repressions collide in this deliciously evil story that goes back to the origins of X's iconic antagonist. The second part of Ti West's X trilogy, once again starring the extraordinary Mia Goth.

## PERPETRATOR

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Jennifer Reeder**, US/FR, 2023, 101'

Cast: Alicia Silverstone, Melanie Liburd, Kiah McKirnan

Contact: WTFilms

Ado turbulente, Jonny Baptiste vit seule avec son père, qui peine à joindre les deux bouts. À la suite d'une énième frasque, la jeune femme est envoyée chez sa tante Hildie, chargée de la remettre dans le droit chemin. Cette femme aussi raffinée qu'inquiétante révèle alors à sa nièce le terrible secret familial à l'origine de son mal-être. Pour Jonny, c'est le début d'une métamorphose aussi douloureuse que libératrice, qui la mènera sur les traces d'un mystérieux tueur s'en prenant aux lycéennes du coin...

## PIOVE

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Paolo Strippoli**, IT/BE, 2022, 93'

Cast: Fabrizio Rongione, Cristiana Dell'Anna, Francesco Ghoghi

Contact: Rai Com

When it rains in Rome, a dense vapour emanates from the manholes, its origin and composition unknown. Meanwhile, violence in the city is on the increase. Could the two events be linked? Against this backdrop, the Morel family try to rebuild their lives and find a new balance following a preventable family tragedy. The tension in the street echoes the tension in the household, and both are on the rise!

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

## RAGING GRACE

## EUROPEAN PREMIERE

**Paris Zarcilla**, UK, 2023, 100'

Cast: Max Eigenmann, Jaeden Boadilla, David Hayman

Contact: Blue Finch Film Releasing

An undocumented Filipino immigrant finds the perfect job caring for a terminally ill old man. Intended to guarantee a better life for her and her daughter, the opportunity turns into a nightmare when she discovers sinister links between the old man's family and her native country. A subtle blend of gothic-horror and acerbic anti-colonialist critique that is chilling in more than one way...

## RESTORE POINT

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Robert Hloz**, CZ/SK/PL/RS, 2023, 100'

Cast: Andrea Mohylová, Matej Hádek, Milan Ondrik

Contact: Plaion Pictures

In the future, death is not forever. A Prague detective is investigating a murder in which the victim could not be brought back. A futuristic crime thriller that questions everlasting life.

## SUPERPOSITION

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Karoline Lyngbye**, DK, 2023, 105'

Cast: Marie Bach Hansen, Mikkel Boe Følsgaard, Mihlo Olsen

Contact: Danish Film Institute

A young Danish couple and their son Nemo flee life in Copenhagen to move to a remote forest in Sweden, hoping to rekindle the flame in their relationship. The disappearance of their son triggers a confrontation with their identical copies. The couple will have to fight for their survival. A debut film as fascinating as it is chilling, selected for the Rotterdam Festival earlier this year.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

## THE CUCKOO'S CURSE

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Mar Targarona**, ES/DE, 2023, 98'

Cast: Belén Cuesta, Marina Gatell, Jorge Suquet

Contact: Film Factory Entertainment

To spice up their holiday, Marc and Ana try their hand at home-swapping with an elderly German couple they meet online. Everything goes swimmingly, until Marc and Ana discover that the old couple are planning to swap much more than just their houses... Mar Targarona's deliciously wicked script proves that the tradition of the Spanish horrific thriller is as healthy as ever.

## TIGER STRIPES

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Amanda Nell Eu**, MY/TW/SG/FR/DE/NL/ID/QA, 2023, 95'

Cast: Zafreen Zairizal, Deena Ezral, Piqa

Contact: Trigon-film

Zaffan is a lively 12-year-old girl with little respect for authority. As she reaches the delicate stage of puberty, Zaffan begins to experience physical transformations that are, to say the least, unsettling. As she struggles to hide her strange metamorphosis from her classmates, rumours of a disturbing presence in the school toilets gradually spread. One by one, the school's teenage girls are affected by an evil that seems to be developing into mass hysteria...

## TROIQUE

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Édouard Salier**, FR, 2022, 110'

Cast: Pablo Cobo, Louis Peres, Marta Nieto

Contact: Pulsar Content

In 2041, twins Lázaro and Tristán attend an extremely demanding military school designed to train France's finest astronauts. This dream, supported by their mother's many sacrifices, is shattered when Tristán is contaminated by toxic residue that transforms him both physically and mentally. A clever blend of body-horror, poignant family drama and science fiction.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

## VINCENT DOIT MOURIR

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Stéphan Castang**, FR/BE, 2023, 115'

Cast: Karim Leklou, Vimala Pons, François Chattot

Contact: Goodfellas

Vincent, an unremarkable employee, inexplicably becomes the target of spontaneous attacks overnight. Colleagues, friends, strangers - they all see red at the slightest glance. As the phenomenon worsens, he flees the capital for the countryside. An apocalyptic and absurd chronicle. Presented as the film of Critics' Week in Cannes, the original and unpredictable Vincent Must Die crowns a banner year for French genre cinema.

## WHITE PLASTIC SKY

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Tibor Bánóczki & Sarolta Szabó**, HU/SK, 2023, 111'

Cast: Tamás Keresztes, Zsófia Szamosi, Géza D. Hegedüs

Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment Group

In 2123, the Earth's surface has become completely arid and humans live under immense protective domes. To cope with dwindling natural resources, human beings are given a limited lifespan. Once they reach the age of 50, they become the property of the state and are turned into trees. When Stefan discovers that his wife Nora has agreed to voluntarily give up her body before her time, he refuses to accept it and decides to save her. And so begins an adventure that will take them into unknown territory.



## 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.

### BHEDIYA

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Amar Kaushik**, IN, 2022, 156'

Cast: Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon, Abhishek Banerjee

Contact: Jio Studios

Bhaskar travels to a forest region in the north of India for work. After being bitten by a wolf, he starts feeling strange... Expect to shiver and to laugh ! Pure entertainment.

### DEEP SEA

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Tian Xiaopeng**, CN, 2023, 112'

Cast: Wang Tingwen, Xin Su, Teng Kuixing

Contact: Fortissimo Films

Young Shenxiu, abandoned by her mother, is swept away on a spellbinding undersea odyssey. Enter the dream-like world of the year's most heartwrenching and beautiful animated film.

### FROM THE END OF THE WORLD

### INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**Kiriya Kazuaki**, JP, 2023, 135'

Cast: Ito Aoi, Maiguma Katsuya, Asahina Aya

Contact: Free Stone Productions Co., Ltd.

Like every 10-year-old girl, Hana has wonderful dreams. But unlike everyone else, her dreams can save humanity. An exciting Japanese odyssey through time.

### IN MY MOTHER'S SKIN

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Kenneth Dagatan**, PH/SG/TW, 2023, 96'

Cast: Angeli Bayani, Jasmine Curtis-Smith, James Mavie Estrella

Contact: Amazon Studios

During World War II, a young Filipino girl summons a strange carnivorous fairy to protect her ailing mother. A bloodcurdling period horror tale.

## ASIAN COMPETITION

### KILLING ROMANCE

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Lee Won-suk**, KR, 2023, 106'

Cast: Lee Ha-nee, Lee Sun-kyun, Gong Myung

Contact: K-movie Entertainment

A retired actress whose controlling husband keeps her prisoner wants to win her freedom back. With the help of a fan, she plots an escape. Rarely have we seen such flamboyant characters!

### MAD FATE

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Soi Cheang**, HK, 2023, 108'

Cast: Gordon Lam, Lokman Yeung, Berg Ng

Contact: Golden Scene Company Limited

Convinced he can control fate, a fortune teller sets out to prevent a young man from killing. Welcome to a sordid and fevered version of Hong Kong.

### MARRY MY DEAD BODY

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Cheng Wei-hao**, TW, 2022, 130'

Cast: Greg Hsu, Austin Lin, Gingle Wang

Contact: QC Media

A homophobic cop is forced to marry the ghost of a gay man who died by accident. Connected beyond death, they must work together in this zany action comedy that will make you cry (of laughter).

### SHIN KAMEN RIDER

### EUROPEAN PREMIERE

**Anno Hideaki**, JP, 2023, 121'

Cast: Ikematsu Sosuke, Hamabe Minami, Emoto Tasuku

Contact: Toei Company, Ltd.

A cybernetic grasshopper has freshly escaped from a cult! Witness legendary motorcycle warrior Kamen Rider take his revenge and crush his enemies! A must-see Tokusatsu banger.

## THIRD KIND

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

### AUGURE

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Baloji**, BE/NL/CD, 2023, 90'

Cast: Lucie Debay, Eliane Umuhire, Marc Zinga

Contact: Outside The Box

Four characters considered to be "sorcerers" will work together to escape the prejudices dictated by superstition. A magnificent debut film, imbued with magical realism.

### COBWEB

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Kim Jee-woon**, KR, 2023, 135'

Cast: Song Kang-ho, Lim Soo-jung, Oh Jung-se

Contact: Plaion Pictures

To finish his latest film, a divisive director must contend with censorship, his stars' ego... and his own grandiloquent dreams. Exponential chaos guaranteed!

### FRONTIÈRES

### INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**Guy Édoin**, CA, 2023, 95'

Cast: Pascale Bussi res, M gane Proulx, Christine Beaulieu

Contact: Be For Films

Following a tragic accident, Diane falls prey to paranoia. She is convinced the house she lives in with her sisters and her daughter is haunted. Soon, tensions arise...

### KENNEDY

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Anurag Kashyap**, IN, 2023, 142'

Cast: Rahul Bhat, Sunny Leone, Mohit Takalkar

Contact: Good Bad Films

A former cop who cannot sleep, a femme fatale, and dead bodies: what else would you need for a gripping *neo-noir* set in the slums of Mumbai? Striking, critical, and fiendishly efficient.

## THIRD KIND

### MAMI WATA

### SWISS PREMIERE

**C.J. «Fiery» Obasi**, NG/FR/GB, 2023, 107'

Cast: Evelyne Ily Juhen, Uzoamaka Aniunoh, Emeka Amakeze

Contact: Trigon-film

When peace in her home village is threatened, will Zinwe embrace the fate local legend promises her and face a violent, merciless rebellion?

### NORMALE

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Olivier Babinet**, FR, 2023, 87'

Cast: Benoit Poelvoorde, Justine Lacroix, Sofian Khammes

Contact: Mk2Films

An overly creative teenager and her puerile ill father create an ordinary life for themselves to trick the social worker and protect their fragile stability.

### PROPERTY

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Daniel Bandeira**, BR, 2022, 101'

Cast: Malu Galli, Zuleika Ferreira, Tavinho Teixeira

Contact: Loco Films

To escape a workers' revolt, a cloistered architect isolates herself in her armoured car. Kept apart by an unbreakable window, the two worlds will inevitably collide.

### L'ULTIMA NOTTE DI AMORE

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Andrea Di Stefano**, IT, 2023, 124'

Cast: Pierfrancesco Favino, Linda Caridi, Antonio Gerardi

Contact: Vision Distribution

On the eve of his retirement, Lt. Amore is called to the scene of a shooting in which his colleague and friend has been killed during a diamond robbery. A nocturnal, melancholy thriller set in a seedy Milan.

## THIRD KIND

### SATTAR

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Abdullah Al-Arak**, SA, 2022, 100'

Cast: Shahd Algefari, Badr Almalki, Ibraheem Alkhairallah

Contact: Telfaz11

Through thick and thin, Saad dreams of becoming a famous wrestler. But the accountant goes from one failure to the next... until he crosses path with an eccentric coach. Exuberant!

### THE ABANDONED

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Tseng Ying-ting**, TW, 2022, 128'

Cast: Ethan Juan, Chen Wei-min, Janine Chang

Contact: Renaissance Films Limited

Screams echo in the New Year's Eve night. A dead body is discovered. The detective cannot follow through with her planned suicide. A splendid and sprawling crime film on the dark side of Taiwan.

### UFO SWEDEN

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Crazy Pictures**, SE, 2022, 115'

Cast: Inez Dahl Torhaug, Jesper Barkselius, Eva Melander

Contact: Telepool Gmbh

Suspecting that her father was abducted by aliens, Denise goes hunting for UFOs with the help of a group of enthusiasts. An endlessly charming adventure

### WHEN IT MELTS

### SWISS PREMIERE

**Veerle Baetens**, BE/NL, 2023, 111' '

Cast: Rosa Marchant, Charlotte De Bruyne, Amber Metdepenningen

Contact: The Party Film Sales

The summer is scorching hot and the children's games are getting progressively more violent. Even the blazing sun cannot light up one of the darkest Flemish dramas ever filmed.

## ULTRA MOVIES

Nocturnal screenings that unveil the strangest aspects of genre cinema.

### DOUBLE BLIND

### WORLD PREMIERE

**Ian Hunt-Duffy**, IE, 2023, 90'

Cast: Millie Brady, Pollyanna McIntosh, Kate Ashfield

Contact: Epic Pictures Group

When an experimental drug trial goes awry, the surviving subjects must fight sleep and each other to stay alive. Narcoleptics beware!

### EVIL DEAD RISE

### ROMANDIE PREMIERE

**Lee Cronin**, NZ/IE/US, 2023, 92'

Cast: Lily Sullivan, Alyssa Sutherland, Morgan Davies

Contact: Park Circus

Set free by an old record, demonic forces wreak bloody havoc in a tenement. A sensational and deliciously gory addition to the legendary Evil Dead saga. You won't come out unscathed!

### FARANG

### INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**Xavier Gens**, FR, 2023, 99'

Cast: Nassim Lyes, Vithaya Pansringarm, Olivier Gourmet

Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment Group

While trying to live a quiet life in Thailand, an ex-con must once again resort to violence after drug traffickers attack his family. An intense revenger that becomes progressively more brutal.

### GOOD BOY

### ROMANDIE PREMIERE

**Viljar Bøe**, NO, 2022, 76'

Cast: Gard Løkke, Katrine Lovise Øpstad Fredriksen, Amalie Willoch Njaastad

Contact: Blue Finch Film Releasing

Christian, a wealthy heir, meets Sigrid on a dating app. The only downside to this near-perfect match is that there's something wrong with Christian's dog. A deeply dark comedy.

## ULTRA MOVIES

## IRATI

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Paul Urkijo Alijo**, ES/FR, 2022, 111'

Cast: Edurne Azkarate, Eneko Sagardoy, Elena Uriz

Contact: Filmax

A Pyrenean warrior summons the power of ancient deities to claim victory over the formidable armies of the war-hungry Frankish emperor. Spectacular!

## PANDEMONIUM

## WORLD PREMIERE

**Quarxx**, FR, 2023, 92'

Cast: Ophélie Kolb, Hugo Dillon, Arben Bajraktaraj

Contact: Film Seekers

Three supernatural stories about the gruesome exploration of lost souls and the tragedy of everyday life. Judgement day is coming!

## PENSIVE

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Jonas Trukanas**, LT, 2022, 87'

Cast: Inez Dahl Torhaug, Jesper Barkselius, Eva Melander

Contact: Reason8 Films

A rundown cabin becomes the unlikely location for a students' party. Amidst the euphoric atmosphere, truth is revealed... and blood is spilled. A brutal slasher set in the Lithuanian countryside.

## RIVER

## INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**Yamaguchi Junta**, JP, 2023, 86'

Cast: Saori, Fujitani Riko, Tosa Kazunari

Contact: Third Window Films

On a calm winter's day, a mountain inn becomes trapped in a time loop. Join us for an exhilarating temporal mystery from the director of Beyond The Infinite Two Minutes!

## ULTRA MOVIES

## SATAN'S SLAVES: COMMUNION

## SWISS PREMIERE

**Joko Anwar**, ID, 2022, 119'

Cast: Tara Basro, Endy Erfian, Bront Palarae

Contact: XYZ Films

The devil is back for Rini's family, who has moved to a rundown building. The latest gem from the unquestioned master of Indonesian horror.

## THE WRATH OF BECKY

## EUROPEAN PREMIERE

**Matt Angel & Suzanne Coote**, US, 2023, 83'

Cast: Lulu Wilson, Sean William Scott, Jordan Yale Levine

Contact: Filmbankmedia

Young Becky is forced to bring out the big guns when a neo Nazi cult takes someone she loves away from her. Not for the faint of heart!



SWISS SHORTS

<b>À LA DÉRIVE</b> Marion Reymond, CH, 2023, 13'	<b>KILL YOUR DARLINGS</b> Thirza Ingold, CH, 2023, 6' WORLD PREMIERE
<b>CAMERA OBSCURA</b> Côme Chatelain, CH, 2022, 15'	<b>PIPES</b> Kilian Feusi, Jessica Meier & Sujanth Ravi- chandran, CH, 2022, 4'
<b>DER MOLCHKONGRESS</b> Matthias Sahli & Immanuel Esser CH, 2022, 16'	<b>THIRD WHEEL</b> Kevin Haefelin, CH, 2023, 5' WORLD PREMIERE
<b>ÉPIDERMIQUE</b> Océane Wannaz, CH, 2022, 25'	<b>BODDYSSEY</b> TJonas Bienz, CH, 2022, 4'

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

<b>A CALLING. FROM THE DESERT. TO THE SEA.</b> Murad Abu Eisheh, JO/DE, 2022, 17' SWISS PREMIERE	<b>SE DIT D'UN CERF QUI QUITTE SON BOIS</b> Salomé Crickx, BE, 2023, 19'
<b>CARRION</b> Yvonne Zhang, US, 2022, 22' SWISS PREMIERE	<b>THE BLUE HOUR</b> Jeremías Segovia, UR, 2022, 13'
<b>LA MACHINE D'ALEX</b> Mael Le Mée, FR, 2022, 25' SWISS PREMIERE	<b>LA PURSÉ</b> Gabriel Nobrgega, BR, 2022, 9'

ASIAN SHORTS

<b>A NIGHT WITH MOOSINA</b> Tsai Shiu-cheng, TW, 2022, 26' SWISS PREMIERE	<b>MEET AGAIN</b> Kang Ap-sol & Lee Yoorim, KR, 2023, 5' SWISS PREMIERE
<b>FOREIGNERS ONLY</b> Nuhash Humayun, BD, 2022, 15' EUROPEAN PREMIERE	<b>THE NEW TALE OF RAT WIFE</b> Kim Yoonsun, KR, 2023, 19'' WORLD PREMIERE
<b>HITO</b> Stephen Lopez, PH, 2023, 22' SWISS PREMIERE	
<b>I SAW A GHOST, AND IT WAS BEAUTIFUL</b> Bobby Fernando, ID, 2022, 9' SWISS PREMIERE	

## FEMALE TROUBLE

Often a poor model when it comes to the representation of female characters, genre films have regularly fuelled paradoxes by offering stories in which the protagonists, sometimes caricatures, challenge the norms dictated by society. The NIFFF presents twenty feature-length films and a chronological and geographical trail to give a better grasp of the evolution of this multifaceted and complex theme. Some screenings will leave plenty of room for insolence, with one of the 4 short films featuring “nasty women” from the early 20th century preceding the showing.

### ALIENS

**James Cameron**, US/UK, 1986, 154'

Years after the Nostromo incident, Ripley goes to a terraforming colony that humankind has lost contact with... How to do a 180 with a sequel to deliver a ginormous war film!

### ALL THE BOYS LOVE MANDY LANE

**Jonathan Levine**, US, 2006, 90'

Mandy doesn't like to party too much, but someone convinces her to go to a bender. Fun turns deadly when teenagers start getting murdered... A bloody brilliant modernisation of the tropes.

### CAT PEOPLE

**Jacques Tourneur**, US, 1942, 73'

The mysterious Irina becomes uncontrollably jealous when her husband falls for his assistant Alice, who is herself hunted by a wild animal... A very biting thriller.

### DAISIES

**Vera Chytilová**, CS, 1966, 74'

In conservative Communist Czechoslovakia, two young women forego the rules and start raising hell. A must-see feminist road movie from the Czech New Wave.

### DANS MA PEAU

**Marina de Van**, FR, 2002, 93''

Esther is thriving in her personal as well as her professional life. But she has an itch. Soon, she needs to cut and bite herself bloody. “French Extremity” at its most troubling.

### FEMALE PRISONER #701: SCORPION

**Ito Shun'ya**, JP, 1972, 87'

Betrayed by a sleazy detective she had fallen in love with, Matsuhima is thirsty for revenge. The deadly Meiko Kaji takes down the patriarchy in a whirlwind of pop violence.

### FILIBUS

**Mario Roncoroni**, IT, 1915, 76'

A mysterious sky pirate goes from one heist to another thanks to her flying ship. That is, until a detective sets off in pursuit. A adventure film that was ahead of its time.

### LADY WITH A SWORD

**Kao Pao-shu**, HK, 1971, 75'

An exceptional swordswoman vows to avenge her older sister, murdered by a group of thugs. A little-known, virtuoso sword play film from one of the few Shaw Brothers female directors.

## FEMALE TROUBLE

### LET'S SCARE JESSICA TO DEATH

**John D. Hancock**, US, 1971, 89'

After her release from the psychiatric ward, Jessica settles back into a normal country life. But the presence of an eerie woman resurrects her worst fears and makes her question her sanity.

### MOTHER JOAN OF THE ANGELS

**Jerzy Kawalerowicz**, PL, 1961, 110'

A devout priest travels to a convent in order to save his Mother Superior, rumoured to be possessed by 8 demons. Horror and damnation in divine black & white.

### MS. 45

**Abel Ferrara**, US, 1981, 80'

A mute seamstress who no longer wants to be a victim unleashes unexpected brutality upon the lustful men unfortunate enough to cross her path. Caustic.

### NAGINA

**Harmesh Malhotra**, IN, 1986, 137'

When the wealthy Rajiv marries the beautiful Vijaya, he has no idea his bride is actually a snake-woman. But monsters aren't always who we think they are in this Indian classic.

### PIGGY

**Carlota Pereda**, ES/FR, 2022, 99'

A teenager who is mocked because of her weight must make a moral choice when she becomes a witness to the kidnapping of one of her bullies.

### POSSESSION

**Andrzej Żuławski**, FR/DE, 1981, 124'

A man who suspects his wife is a cheater starts following her, only to bear witness to increasingly strange behaviours. The ultimate psychodrama, with a beautifully unhinged Isabelle Adjani.

### REBECCA

**Alfred Hitchcock**, US, 1940, 130'

Recently married to a widowed aristocrat, a young woman must deal with the legacy of the deceased wife and with a fixated and jealous maid. A feminine gothic fable.

### SERIAL MOM

**John Waters**, US, 1994, 95'

Everyone is happy in Beverly Sutphin's family. She's the ideal wife and the perfect mom. Trust us, you don't want to be the one disturbing this peace. A biting and exhilarating dark comedy.

## FEMALE TROUBLE

### THE ANCHOR

**Jung Ji-yeon**, KR, 2022, 111'

Just before going on air, a TV host receives the call of a woman who tells her she is about to get killed, and who asks her to investigate her death.

### THE NIGHTINGALE

**Jennifer Kent**, AU/CA, 2018, 136'

In 1825, a young Irish woman hires an Aboriginal tracker to hunt down a British soldier through the Tasmanian forest and quench her thirst for vengeance. Brutal.

### THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS

**Jonathan Demme**, US, 1991, 119'

While investigating a serial killer, a brilliant young student from the FBI Academy must work with a jailed cannibalistic psychologist. An intense duel of the minds begins...

### YES, MADAM

**Corey Yuen**, HK, 1985, 93'

Two female cops must hunt down lowlife thugs who are implicated with people that are far more dangerous than them. A young Michelle Yeoh brings the house down in this pioneering entry in the genre.

## FOCUS JOHN MCTIERNAN

One of the most influential figures in American action cinema, and one of the fathers of the genre's muscular and bloody turn in the twilight of the 1980s, John McTiernan presents a triptych of his most explosive films.

### PREDATOR

**John McTiernan**, US/MX, 1987, 107'

Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Carl Weathers, Elpidia Carrillo

Contact: Park Circus

A group of beefy American paramilitaries on a mission in the Guatemalan jungle become the prey of a ruthless alien. Can they survive and save the hostages ?

### DIE HARD

**John McTiernan**, US, 1988, 131'

Cast: Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia

Contact: Park Circus

A New York cop travels to LA to rekindle his relationship with his wife. Things take a turn for the worse when terrorists crash her company's Christmas party...

### LAST ACTION HERO

**John McTiernan**, US, 1993, 131'

Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, F. Murray Abraham, Art Carney

Contact: Park Circus

A boy goes through the screen and enters the fictional world of his favourite cop action movie franchise, and ends up teaming up with his hero to catch various colourful villains.

## FOCUS KATSUHITO ISHII

The NIFFF celebrates the kaleidoscopic work of Katsuhito Ishii. A comedian of the absurd and a poet with a pop aesthetic who also works in animation, this versatile artist brings to life characters and worlds that are as diverse as they are touching. A colourful and singular filmography that festival-goers will have the chance to (re)discover in exclusive restorations, as well as during a talk with the Japanese director on Monday 3 July at 5.30pm.

### SHARK SKIN MAN AND PEACH HIP GIRL

### WORLD PREMIERE

**Ishii Katsuhito**, JP, 1998, 108'

Cast: Asano Tadanobu, Kishibe Ittoku, Kohinata Sie

Contact: Spectrum Films

A thug and a receptionist on the run join forces to fend off a group of loony gangsters. Fasten your seatbelts, this gem of a pop caustic comedy has no brakes!

### PARTY 7

### WORLD PREMIERE

**Ishii Katsuhito**, JP, 2001, 104'

Cast: Asano Tadanobu, Nagase Masatoshi, Horibe Keisuke

Contact: Spectrum Films

In a hotel, two people are spying on their neighbours through a hole. Prepare for an avalanche of gags and eccentric characters in this gleefully absurd romp.

### THE TASTE OF TEA

**Ishii Katsuhito**, JP, 2004, 143'

Cast: Banno Maya, Satô Takahiro, Asano Tadanobu

Contact: Spectrum Films

Members of an unordinary countryside family must deal with various problems. Humour, poetry, and surrealism come together in this disarmingly tender gem.

## FOCUS KATSUHITO ISHII

### FUNKY FOREST: THE FIRST CONTACT

**Ishimine Hajime, Miki Shunichirô, Ishii Katsuhito**, JP, 2005, 150'

Cast: Andrew Alfieri, Anno Hideaki, Asano Tadanobue

Contact: Spectrum Films

In this unclassifiable, cult, and hilarious anthology movie, crazy characters and situations just keep coming one after the other. Visually striking, creative genius at its peak.

### REDLINE

**Koike Takeshi**, JP, 2010, 102'

Cast: Kimura Takuya, Aoi Yû, Asano Tadanobu

Contact: Spectrum Films

With their weaponized cars, participants in the world's most dangerous race are ready to face off. Pure animated visual orgasm. RIP your eyes.

### PROMISE OF AUGUST + NORIOKA WORKSHOP INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**Ishii Katsuhito**, JP, 1995, 50''

Cast: Dankan , Ueki Sanae, Suzuki Ranran

Contact: Spectrum Films

Two offbeat and never shown before comedies make up this double feature picture show where a girl gang goes in search of weed and aspiring actresses take care of a mansplainer.



## MIDNIGHT MOVIE

### THE RETURN OF THE LIVING DEAD

**Dan O'Bannon**, US, 1985, 91'

Cast: Clu Gulager, James Karen, Don Calfa

Contact: Park Circus

After an easily avoidable accident, people start rising from the dead... Hungry for brains, these mad, merrymaking zombies are sure to make you laugh out loud! An absolute classic.

### THE SENTINEL

**Michael Winner**, US, 1977, 92'

Cast: Christina Raines, Ava Gardner, Christopher Walken

Contact: Park Circus

A top model moves into a building where strange events occur. The only other tenant is a blind priest who keeps staring out his window...

## AMAZING SWITZERLAND

### BLACK OUT

### WORLD PREMIERE

**Jean-Louis Roy**, CH, 1970, 92'

Cast: Lucie Avenay, Marcel Merminod, Marcel Imhoff

Contact: Cinémathèque suisse

### IN COLLABORATION WITH LA CINÉMATHEQUE SUISSE

A couple terrified of the idea of war seclude themselves at home with tons of provisions. A darkly humorous exploration of the fears of Cold War-era Switzerland.

### MAD HEIDI

**Johannes Hartmann & Sandro Klopstein**, CH, 2022, 88'

Cast: Alice Lucy, Casper Van Dien, David Schofield

Contact: A Film Company Gmbh

Switzerland is a dystopia ruled by cheese fascists. The young Heidi rises against her tyrannical government. About 50% blood, 50% gore.

### SIAL IV - EPISODES 1 & 2

**Adonis Kyrou**, CH, 1969, 53'

Cast: Lise Lachenal, François Chodat, Claude Cerval

In collaboration with RTS - Radio Television Suisse (RTS)

After being trapped in time, an engineer from the 1970s wakes up in the year 2100 in the underground city of Sial IV. Groundbreaking sci-fi TV series from Switzerland.

### UNTIL BRANCHES BEND

### ROMANDIE PREMIERE

**Sophie Jarvis**, CA/CH, 2022, 98'

Cast: Grace Glowicki, Alexandra Roberts, Quelemia Sparrow

Contact: Cinédokké Sagl

After alerting the authorities about an invasive insect she discovered during the last harvest, a production line worker finds out there may be unexpected consequences to her actions. Captivating.

# CARTE BLANCHE TO A SWISS PERSONALITY: DEXTER MAURER

Music, gaming, advertising, festivals... Everyone wants a piece of Dexter Maurer, the jewel in the crown of contemporary Swiss illustration. The NIFFF is giving the the Jura-born illustrator on a journey between technology, nature and concept art.

## HER

**Spike Jonze**, US, 2013, 126'

Cast: Joaquin Phoenix, Scarlett Johansson, Amy Adams

Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment Group

After buying an AI companion, a lonely writer falls in love with the machine. A romantic take on our relationship with technology.

## JODOROWSKY'S DUNE

**Frank Pavich**, FR/US, 2013, 90'

Cast: Alejandro Jodorowsky, Chris Foss, H.R. Giger

Contact: Frank Pavich

This documentary on the legendary unfinished adaptation of Dune by iconoclast Alejandro Jodorowsky plunges the viewer in an excessively ambitious project and its preproduction stories.

## NAUSICAÄ OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND

**Miyazaki Hayao**, JP, 1984, 117'

Contact: Frenetic Films

Princess Nausicaä lives in a world where nature is trying to heal despite the power struggles between various kingdoms. Early Hayao Miyazaki at his darkest.

# 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.

## TALK WITH JOHN MCTIERNAN

**02.07, PASSAGE 1, 14:00 - 15:15**

Rambo got the ball rolling, but John McTiernan (Predator, Die Hard) took the American action genre to new bloody and spectacular heights in the late 80s. Spy thrillers, heist films, and adventure epics are the icing... or grenades... on the Hollywood cake..

- **John McTiernan**, filmmaker, US
- **Rafael Wolf**, journalist at RTS, CH

## FEMALE TROUBLE

**05.07, PASSAGE 2, 15:00 - 16:15**

It's not always been a role model in terms of showing women on screen, but the fantasy genre has often trodden a fine line by offering stories in which the female protagonist (commonly a caricature) questions the norms established by society. This panel will involve remarkable speakers on the subject.

- **Carlota Pereda**, director of Piggy, ES
- **Mónica García Massagué**, Sitges Festival General Manager, ES
- **Anna Bogustkaya**, author, critic and host of The Final Girls, UK
- **Maral Mohsenin**, Dr in cinema, IR

## DESIGN ET FICTION : IMAGINER LE FUTUR, C'EST LE CONCEVOIR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MUDAC

**05.07, PASSAGE 2, 13:30 - 14:30**

By imagining the future, science fiction gives a shape and a function to objects that do not exist. To do that, we must predict and take a stance on the future. This conference will be all about understanding what it means to look beyond the horizon and how predictions influence designs and vice versa.

- **Scott Longellow**, curator at mudac, CH

## 3 JULY: IMAGING THE FUTURE

### ANIMATION FOR GROWNUPS

03.07, PASSAGE 2, 11:30 - 12:30

While animation is still perceived as a medium for younger viewers, what should we make of the recent wave of animated films “for grownups” that have invaded the screens? How important are these movies for their creators, what is at stake, and how bright is their future?

- **Tibor Bánóczy**, co-director of *White Plastic Sky*, HU
- **Sarolta Szabó**, co-director of *White Plastic Sky*, HU
- **Anja Kofmel**, director and producer, CH
- **Chloé Hofmann**, scholar, CH

### ELECTRIC. FILM : A NEW KIND OF STUDIO

03.07, PASSAGE 2, 14:00 - 15:00

Swiss filmmaker Simon Jaquemet (*Chrieg*, *Der Unschuldige*, *Electric Child*) will be introducing *electric.film*, a film studio concept that is decentralized and participatory, and that can harness the power of Web 3.0 technologies to offer innovative approaches to development, financing, distribution, and audience engagement for a newer, more transparent vision of the film industry.

- **Simon Jaquemet**, filmmaker and co-founder of *electric.film*, CH

### PINOCCHIO'S PUPPETS

03.07, PASSAGE 2, 15:45 - 16:45

Expert puppet makers Mackinnon & Saunders (*Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *Corpse Bride*, *Mars Attacks...*) have once again proved why they're among the best with Guillermo del Toro's *Pinocchio*, winner of the Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film. One of the toy makers behind *Geppetto* will take us behind the scenes.

- **Richard Pickersgill**, lead puppet maker, Mackinnon & Saunders, UK

## 4 JULY: IMAGING THE FUTURE

### TALK WITH KATSUHITO ISHII

03.07, PASSAGE 2, 17:30 - 18:45

In addition to the retrospective dedicated to his diverse filmography, Ishii Katsuhito will open up about his colourful worlds. From cartoony manga adaptations to poetic madness, and from speeding animation to collaborating with Tarantino on *KILL BILL*, the cult auteur will give a rare public talk at the festival.

- **Katsuhito Ishii**, filmmaker, JP
- **Bastian Meiresonne**, journalist and programmer, DE

### AHEAD OF THE GAME

04.07, PASSAGE 2, 10:45 - 12:15

What sets video game animation apart from other animated works? Legibility concerns, graphical constraints, artistic consistency... video game creators must comply with many requirements. The remarkable *Tinykin* and *Nocturnal* development teams will discuss their techniques and their tools.

- **Marie Marquet**, co-founder and creative director of *Splashteam*, FR
- **Gabriel Sonderegger**, co-founder of *Sunnyside Games*, CH

### RISE OF THE ROBOT ARTISTS

04.07, PASSAGE 2, 13:45 - 14:45

Everybody is talking about it: Artificial Intelligence will impact nearly all aspects of society, including artistic creation. The work of concept artists has changed since the rise of a legion of image generators. Will AI replace artists, or will we be able to tame it in time?

- **Dr. Johan Rochel**, co-director at *Ethix* and researcher at UNIL, CH
- **Nathalie Dietschy**, assistant professor at UNIL, CH

**MAD HEIDI : VFX MADE IN SWITZERLAND****04.07, PASSAGE 2, 15:30 - 16:15**

Gallons of blood and fondue cheese on the menu! Mad Heidi is the first Swissploitation film in the world. A Zurich-based man named Chris Blaser was in charge of the VFX. He will present his work on this one-of-a-kind Swiss film, which contains close to 185 distinct visual effects!

- **Chris Blaser**, VFX supervisor on Mad Heidi, CH

**VFX BREAKDOWN: GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL.3****04.07, PASSAGE 2, 17:00 - 18:30**

This Spring, Marvel's favourite makeshift space crew embarked on its last journey. Framestore and RISE, two VFX giants that worked on the project, will present their respective work on the film, which received acclaim for its charm and darker direction.

- **Stuart Bullen**, VFX supervisor at Rise, UK
- **Nathan McConnel**, Animation supervisor at Framestore, UK

## 6 JULY: NEW WORLDS OF FANTASY

**MARTIN PANCHAUD : A GRAPHIC WORLD LIKE NO OTHER****06.07, PASSAGE 2, 13:30 - 14:30****IN COLLABORATION WITH PRO HELVETIA**

In 2023, Swiss comic book creator Martin Panchaud won the Fauve d'or in Angoulême with his first book "La couleur des choses". Thanks to his original and surprising visual grammar, Martin Panchaud immerses us in a truly unique kind of storytelling. And if the Force be with you, he will thrill you with his remarkable adaptation of STAR WARS IV: A NEW HOPE. Don't miss out!.

- **Martin Panchaud**, comic strip writer and illustrator, CH
- **Boris Brückler**, consultant New Worlds of Fantasy, CH

**COLLECTION RVB : LA BD SUISSE SE FAIT NUMÉRIQUE  
IN COLLABORATION WITH PRO HELVETIA****06.07, PASSAGE 2, 15:00 - 16:15**

La maison d'édition suisse Collection RVB édite depuis 2018 des bandes dessinées numériques détonantes. Aude Barrio, Yannis La Macchia et Pierre Schilling nous présentent leur travail et évoquent les opportunités de cette nouvelle façon d'aborder le neuvième art. Entre innovation technologique, narrative et éditoriale, qui a dit que la BD suisse n'était pas à la pointe ?

- **Aude Barrio**, comic strip artist, CH
- **Yannis la Macchia**, comic strip artist, CH
- **Pierre Schilling**, comic strip artist, CH
- **Boris Brückler**, consultant New Worlds of Fantasy, CH.

**TALK WITH CHARLES BURNS****05.07, PASSAGE 2, 17:00 - 18:00**

From *Dédales* to *Black Hole*, illustrator and graphic novel author Charles Burns stands out with his body of work that cleverly mixes humour and horror. His unique style paints a troubling portrait of America from the 50s to the 70s through gripping and unsettling stories. A rare opportunity to meet a real master of the uncanny.

- **Charles Burns**, author and illustrator, US

**TALK WITH JOSIANE BALASKO****06.07, PASSAGE 1, 17:00 - 18:15****THE DISCUSSION WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A BOOK SIGNING AT PASSAGE 2.**

As a figurehead of French pop culture, Josiane Balasko first came to fame in the theatre with the Splendid troupe. She then made many successful films, with a strong focus on popular comedies and dramas. In 2019, the actress once again stepped back in favour of the writer, and she published a collection of fantasy short stories called *Jamaïplu*, in which she professes her unexpected love for fantasy.

- **Josiane Balasko**, writer, actress and director, FR
- **Anne-Laure Gannac**, rts journalist, 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.

## OPEN AIR

### 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.

### BLACK OUT

**Jean-Louis Roy**, CH, 1970, 92'

Cast: Lucie Avenay, Marcel Merminod, Marcel Imhoff

### IN COLLABORATION WITH LA CINÉMATHÈQUE SUISSE

A couple terrified of the idea of war seclude themselves at home with tons of provisions. A darkly humorous exploration of the fears of Cold War-era Switzerland.

### DIE HARD

**John McTiernan**, US, 1988, 131'

Cast: Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia

A New York cop travels to LA to rekindle his relationship with his wife. Things take a turn for the worse when terrorists crash her company's Christmas party....

### IKARIE XB 1

**Jindrich Polák**, Cz, 1963, 88''

Cast: Zdenek Štěpánek, František Smolík, Dana Medrická

After setting forth on a perilous journey to the White Planet, the crew of a ship must contend with a dangerous dark star and their own insanity. A major work of science fiction cinema.

## THE TASTE OF TEA

**Ishii Katsuhito**, JP, 2004, 143'

Cast: Banno Maya, Satô Takahiro, Asano Tadanobu

Members of an unordinary countryside family must deal with various problems. Humour, poetry, and surrealism come together in this disarmingly tender gem.

## REBECCA

**Alfred Hitchcock**, US, 1940, 130'

Cast: Laurence Olivier, Joan Fontaine, George Sanders

Recently married to a widowed aristocrat, a young woman must deal with the legacy of the deceased wife and with a fixated and jealous maid. A feminine gothic fable.

## 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.

### PERFORMANCE: MAKING OF IN COLLABORATION WITH LE CAN

An interactive performance by Philippe Wicht that immerses the audience in the making of a film. Come scream in horror in the hallways and the gardens of La Villa!

### ATELIER DE WORLD BUILDING PART OF LA TOUR DU FANTASTIQUE

For five days, La Villa will be home to five concept artists from France and Switzerland. They will be tasked with creating a visual interpretation of the sci-fi short story "Comme un colibri-foudre", winner of the 2022 Prix de l'Ailleurs. If you're lucky, you can see them at work.

### ATMOSONICA IN COLLABORATION WITH HE-ARC

Immerse yourself in clouds of light and play a spellbinding music instrument! An installation from Christopher Lanza in collaboration with Sarah Mayer, student at Haute École Arc Ingénierie.

**POSSIBLE WORLDS****IN COLLABORATION WITH ZHDK**

An augmented reality work exploring mediaeval philosopher Giordano Bruno's proposition that the universe is infinite, animate and populated by innumerable worlds. Mixing the physical and computational worlds, the installation tackles the human fascination for creating meaning out of patterns like constellations of stars and planets.

**EXPOSITION FEMALE TROUBLE****LES INFRÉQUENTABLES****IN COLLABORATION WITH MAISON D'AILLEURS**

Just like cinema, comics have influenced many female figures who have left their mark on pop culture. To what extent are these works subversive or, conversely, predictable?

**AFFFTERS**

Bars, foodtrucks and DJ sets in the heart of the Jardin anglais, for a refreshing break between sessions, food and dance.

**NIFFF X CASE À CHOCS****FEMALE TROUBLE**

The NIFFF and Case à Chocs once again join forces to give musical life to the FEMALE TROUBLE retrospective. With the impetuous attitude and supercharged music, AUTHENTICALLY PLASTIC, ASNA, and MISS SHEITANA are the perfect avatars of this year's theme. Let their DJ sets bring out the heroines in you!

- ASNA (CI)
- AUTHENTICALLY PLASTIC (UG)
- MISS SHEITANA (CH)

**CLOSING PARTY**

The grand finale in Case à Chocs - 3 rooms, 3 vibes! Be raring to go techno in La Grande Salle with flamboyant local DJs and the lighting installation from Encor Studio, specifically designed for the occasion. In L'Interlope, feel the groove with R'n'B and trap DJ sets, and finally, experience the legendary karaoke at the Queen Kong Club!

- • HERMYNOSTÈR (CH)
- • PHO3 (CH)
- • CADENCE (CH)
- • HOELLYPOP (CH)
- • NOGGZ (CH)
- • ENCOR STUDIO (CH)

**ARTS DE RUE**

Open Air hosts free street art shows and performances for young people, presented by the Centre de Création Helvétique des Arts de la Rue (CCHAR).

**Practical information : 3 - 8 july, 11:00, free**

**KIDS****PRINCESSE DRAGON**

Jean-Jacques Denis, Anthony Roux, FR, 2021, 74'

**IN COLLABORATION WITH LA LANTERNE MAGIQUE**

A young girl raised by a dragon is forced to flee her cave and go live amongst humans. She will have to learn how to live with these creatures whose only similarity to her is their appearance.

**À GRANDS PAS**

HU/MX/FI/ES/FR/NL/DE/KA/CH, 2012-2023, 64'

**IN COLLABORATION WITH FANTOCHE**

Fantoché presents this year's curated program for NIFFF, focusing on storylines depicting girlhood in its adventurous varieties. Breaking away from clichés, it offers refreshing and promising perspectives.

**KID-O-NIFFF****IN COLLABORATION WITH SERVICE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT OBLIGATOIRE (SEO)**

Twenty short animated films made by students from Neuchâtel from ages 6 to 15.

30.06, 17:00, ARCADES

**LE LABO****AU BOUT DU ROULEAU**

Atelier Le Labo, CH, 2022, 15'

A short film produced as part of the Atelier Le Labo during NIFFF 2022 by 13 to 18 year olds.

03.07, 13:00, REX

# ORGANISATION

## BOARD

President : Nathalie Randin  
Vice-president & Founder : Pierre-Yves Jeanneret  
Secretary : Michel Vust  
Committee Members : Christelle Michel, Damien Schaller, Guillaume Jéquier

## DIRECTION

CEO & Artistic Director : Pierre-Yves Walder  
Administrative & Operational Director : Laura Lambert  
Communication Director : Roxane Fleury

## PROGRAMMING

Artistic Director: Pierre-Yves Walder  
Program Coordinators: James Berclaz-Lewis, Alice Moroni, Loïc Valceschini  
Selection Committee (features): Lucas Arpin, Arnaud Aubelle, Frederike Dellert, Christelle Michel, Marina Richter, Valeria Richter, Rocío Rocha  
Selection Committee (shorts): Léa Eigenmann, Sébastien Gerber, Christelle Michel, Sonia Pfeuti, Raphaëlle Pralong, Alex Rallo, Julia Schubiger, Blaise Strautmann  
Consultants: Joanne Giger, Adam Torel  
NIFFF Extended Coordinator: James Berclaz-Lewis  
NIFFF Extended Assistant: Eric Salberg  
NIFFF Extended Consultants: Boris Bruckler, Ian Failes, Vincent Frei  
NIFFF Invasion Coordinators: Marie Klay, Yannick Schader  
Intern: Blaise Strautmann

## ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

Administrative & Operational Director: Laura Lambert  
Administrative & Operational Coordinator: Désirée Domig  
Intern: Lily Galofaro

## COMMUNICATION & SPONSORING

Communication Director: Roxane Fleury  
Sponsoring & Event Coordinator: Clara Callejo  
Digital Communication Coordinator: Eugénie Constantin  
Trainee: Néo Poullain  
Intern: Mathieu Baume  
Shop & promotion Coordinator: Yamina Pilli

## PRESS

Head of Press: Marie Wanert  
Press Coordinator: Léa Eigenmann  
PR Deutschschweiz : Prosa Film

## HOSPITALITY

Hospitality Coordinator: Yael Golan  
Guest Coordinator: Matthieu Béguelin  
Accreditation Coordinator: Nathalie Mauron  
Car Fleet Coordinator: Frédéric Ravier

## TICKETING

Ticketing Coordinator: Nabil Namri - Ticketack  
Ticketing Coordinator Assistants: Dario Béguelin, Alexandra Bossy, Morgan Hoxha, Barbara Neto, Estelle Sapin

## VOLUNTEERS MANAGEMENT

Volunteers Coordinator: Estelle Binggeli  
Volunteers Coordinator Assistant: Luana Cruciato  
Volunteers Hospitality: Ashleigh Bell, Aurélie Gauchat, Laetitia Gauchat

## SCREENINGS & CONFERENCES

Technical Supervisor: Mike Pfenninger  
DCP Master: Marie Geiser  
CTO, Audiovisual Engineer: Clément Borel  
Movie Technician: Lionel Bize  
Audiovisual Technician, Live Editor: Nicolas Wilhem  
Set Manager: Adrien Boulanger  
Set Assistant: Carole Monbaron  
Camerawomen: Laura Bucher, Line de Kaenel

Conference Audiovisual Technician: Samet Sulejmanoski  
Audio Technician: Damian Rognon  
Projectionists: Laure Donzé, Issam Chouadhi  
Print Traffic Coordinator: Gaëlle Genet  
Digital Subtitling: Manlio Lapi, Dialoghi di Luce

## TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS

Translator & Interpreter: Sophie Müller  
Translator: Alexandre Rallo  
Translator & Interpreter: Georges Wyrsh

## CATALOGUE

Coordinator: James Berclaz-Lewis  
Redactors: James Berclaz-Lewis, Thibaud Ducret, Roxane Fleury, Thomas Gerber, Chloé Hofmann, Blaise Strautmann, Loïc Valceschini, Pierre-Yves Walder

## VENUES

Venues Supervisor: Matthieu Vouga  
Venues Coordinators: Elie Baumann, Jérôme Mayor, Yanic Michel, Nora Munk, Luca Pirelli, Damien Schumpbach, Iva Stratoberdha

## INFRASTRUCTURES & EVENTS

Infrastructures Coordinators: Jonas Tavel, Simon Tavel - TavelEvenements  
Open Air Infrastructure: Laurent Finck - Lumens8  
OFFF & VIP Coordinators: Emma Biloni, Gaia Boeri, Marc Ci Balokok  
Food & Beverage Coordinator: Matthieu Caillet  
Stock management Coordinator: Jérémie Kuster  
Bars Staff's Supervisors: Jonathan Ben Blal, Maël Cattin, Faye Chételat, Jihad Al Sid Cheikh, Alba Zehr  
IT Manager: Stéphane Collet  
Stewardship coordinators: Nitch Rausa, Dominique Zuber

## POSTERS & NIFFF VISUALS

Encor Studio

## WEBSITE

Development: Matthieu Hinderer, Florian Beaupoil, VNV SA  
Design: Mehmed Kurtic, Thomas Oswald, Oye Studio

## PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Photographers: Miguel Bueno, Claire Zombas  
Videographers: Laura Bucher, Marion Delavelle, Line De Kaenel, Sullivan Thimotée, Mika Ventura

## TROPHY

Design : H.R. Giger  
Realization : Yves Cernuschi


## AANIFFF (NIFFF FRIENDS ASSOCIATION) COMMITTEE

Annick Challet-Jeanneret, Joëlle Berthoud Schaer, Yvan de Marco, Nathalie Grenon, Caroline Junier, Marie-José Lopez, Stéphane Paris, Alain Rebert, Pierre Walder, Yayou Walder


And finally, warmest regards to all the wonderful staff and volunteers, to the members of the AANIFFF and people without whom the NIFFF would not exist...

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CARRIER & TRAVEL PARTNERS









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 acces 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.

PROFESSIONAL RECEPTION

Théâtre du Passage, 1st floor

30.06 - 02.07 : 13:00 - 20:00  
03.07 - 04.07 : 10:00 - 19:00  
05.07 - 08.07 : 14:00 - 18:00

CONTACT

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**NEUCHÂTEL INTERNATIONAL  
FANTASTIC FILM  
FESTIVAL**



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