

NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL



NIFFF - Press release, 10.06.21
For immediate release

NIFFF 2021: NIFFF INVASION MAKES THE MILLENNIAL CITY'S HEART BEAT

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) and the City of Neuchâtel unveil the content of NIFFF Invasion (2-10 July), the multidisciplinary label for all ages. This programme invites all festival-goers to experience the festival to the fullest and to take in its fantastic imagination. There will be a new addition at the majestic Open Air in the heart of the city (Place des Halles): daytime shows designed by the Swiss Federation for Street Art (CCHAR). They will complement the night-time programme made up of the traditional **CLASSICS RELOADED**. Both programmes are co-produced by the City. The festival will also invest the Neuchâtel Natural History Museum (MHNN) where a series of immersive installations, enriched by the collaboration with the Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF), will allow the public to experience the latest in digital creations.

CLASSICS RELOADED: FIVE RESTORED GEMS TO WATCH UNDER THE STARS

CLASSICS RELOADED will be an opportunity to (re)discover cult films for free on the majestic screen of the Open Air! From the pioneering Swiss pandemic movie **GRAUZONE** (Fred M. Murer, 1979) restored by the Swiss Film Archive, to the legendary **THE NEVERENDING STORY** (Wolfgang Petersen, 1984) and **THE BIRDS** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1963), the selection will let everyone experience great moments of cinema with major landmarks of fantastic films. The program will also be celebrating the 20th anniversary of **EL ESPINAZO DEL DIABLO** (2001) and let festivalgoers face the ghosts of Spain in this splendid film from Mexican Oscar-winner Guillermo del Toro.

STREET ART AT THE NIFFF: DAYTIME EVENTS AT THE OPEN AIR

For the first time since moving to the centre, the Open Air will be open day and night thanks to a daytime programme including street art shows and performances designed by the Swiss Federation for Street Art (CCHAR).



From July 3rd to July 10th, at 11 a.m., these free events will take people of all ages to the furthest regions of the imagination, for example with the *Batteurs de Pavés* and their plays and reimagined fables. You can also go on a journey with the story of the *Odyssey*, adapted into a musical comedy by Cie Alsand.

AN AVALANCHE OF PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG VIEWERS

Whether they're early fantasy fans or very imaginative young viewers, the NIFFF will offer many activities created with children in mind. In addition to the daytime shows, multiple programmes will be accessible for free to younger festivalgoers, such as the Taiwanese short films, or this year's collaboration with *La Lanterne Magique*: **THE UGLY DUCKLING** (2010), a beautiful adaptation of Andersen's tale by the master of Russian animation Garri Bardine. The festival will also screen **INTO THE ANIMATED WOODS**, a colourful programme presented in collaboration with the Fantoche International Animation Film Festival, Baden. Just like Bardine's film, this selection will echo the **SAUVAGE** theme of the MHNN museum, where the NIFFF will be present from July 2nd to July 10th.

SAUVAGE EXTENDED: HIGH CALIBRE INSTALLATIONS AT THE MHNN

A result of the collaboration with the MHNN, these immersive installations will explore the relationships between humans, animals, and nature. As part of this technological and never-seen-before selection in Switzerland, the **Geneva International Film Festival** (GIFF) will offer two richly layered works that are sure to leave a mark: **ANIMALIA SUM** (Bianca Kennedy & The Swan Collective, 2019), a zany speculative mockumentary that supposes insects will eventually become our primary food; and **HOMINIDAE** (Brian Andrews, 2020), set in a world of X-rays where an arachnoid hominid fights for survival.



Two major installations will highlight Swiss creation and innovation. **BATVISION** (Raffaele Grosjean, Eliane Zihlmann & Oliver Sahli, 2020) will invite festival-goers to become bats, while the immersive sound installation **ANOTHER SHORE** (Théo Fischer, Pablo Perez & Hector Fassa, 2021) will propel them into the future. Both projects won the **NIFFF ON TOUR @CERN: Future Storyworlds** workshop, in 2019 and 2018, respectively. The **SAUVAGE EXTENDED** programme will be complemented by breathtaking works from Taiwan as part of **FORMOSA FANTASTICA**.

ANOTHER SHORE CH · 2021 · 15' Théo Fischer, Pablo Perez & Hector Fassa World premiere	BATVISION CH · 2020 · 3' Raffaele Grosjean, Eliane Zihlmann & Oliver Sahli World premiere	ANIMALIA SUM DE/BR/IS · 2019 · 9' Bianca Kennedy & The Swan Collective Swiss premiere
HOMINIDAE US · 2020 · 6' Brian Andrews Swiss premiere	GREAT HOAX: THE MOON LANDING TW/AR · 2020 · 17' John Hsu & Marco Lococo Swiss premiere	SAMSARA EP. 1 TW · 2021 · 17' Huang Hsin-chien European premiere
AN ODE TO MOSS TW · 2020 · 6' SU Swiss premiere	A SONG WITHIN US TW/FR · 2019 · 15' Fangas Nayaw Swiss premiere	

CONTACT NIFFF

Bastien Bento
Head of Press
bastien.bento@niff.ch
T : +41 32 731 07 76
M : +41 79 934 34 63

Jennifer Siegrist
Press coordinator
jennifer.siegrist@niff.ch
T : +41 32 731 07 76
M : +41 79 519 64 89

CONTACT CITY OF NEUCHÂTEL

Thomas Facchinetti
Town Councillor, Director of Culture and Integration
T : +41 32 717 75 01