

NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

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NIFFF 2021 : A new generation crowned

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) is excited to unveil the winners of its 20th edition, which concludes with a bang this Saturday, July 10th, on the occasion of its closing ceremony. Organised in a context rife with uncertainty in terms of health measures, this hybrid edition ends with remarkable attendance numbers: 29,000 audience members, including 2,000 views on the online platform. General attendance reached 34,000 people, counting the Festival OFF area. This never-seen-before format was an opportunity for the NIFFF to be reunited with festival-goers as they filled the cinemas (limited to two thirds of their max. capacity) all the while strengthening the innovative online offer that was quickly adopted by the audience. The winners of the competitions are now known: **LAPSI**, a cutting social satire from American filmmaker Noah Hutton that opened the festival, wins the prestigious H.R. Giger 'Narcisse' award (CHF 10,000 from the City of Neuchâtel). Not to be outdone, the dynamism of Swiss fantasy industry was also rewarded, as Tim Fehlbaum's ambitious film **TIDES** wins two major prizes: the award for Best Production Design (CHF 5,000 from the CSEM) and the RTS Audience Award (broadcasting rights purchased by the RTS). The ceremony concluded with the festival's new General Director Pierre-Yves Walder taking up his new post effective immediately.

EMOTIONAL REUNION

This highly anticipated 20th edition made an impression and stirred up some very obvious emotions. The reunion with the audience was exciting and culminated with several sold-out screenings. The participation of the guests, whether in person or remotely, was a resounding success thanks to the unique set-up. In Neuchâtel, Swiss director Tim Fehlbaum (the event sci-fi film **TIDES**), and Hungarian filmmaker Péter Bergendy (the bone-chilling **POST MORTEM**) answered questions from the audience after the premiere of their films. Additionally, the side streets of Neuchâtel became the unexpected scene where Mathieu Turi and the audience had a lively discussion following the screening of **MEANDER**. Many remote interventions also took place, notably from Ben Wheatley (**IN THE EARTH**), Prano Bailey-Bond (**CENSOR**), and Dash Shaw (**CRYPTOZOO**). The Open Air located at Place des Halles attracted many people in spite of the wind and rain; a testament to the love of festival-goers for this venue which has become a major draw in only a few editions. It is there that the complete epic **THE NEVERENDING STORY** was shown. A screening that will remain etched in people's memories.

NIFFF EXTENDED: ALWAYS MORE HYBRIDITY

The NIFFF Extended label offered an innovative format through which we multiplied the connections between domains like digital creation, new technologies, storytelling, and literature. The hybrid set-up allowed for experts and artists to meet in Neuchâtel as well as from anywhere in the world. Highlights included fascinating discussions about the Taiwanese imagination as part of the **FORMOSA FANTASTICA** programme, and the roundtable about Québec artists **MONTREAL, A LEADING INCUBATOR FOR DIGITAL CREATIVITY**. All discussions and conferences can be found in full on the NIFFF website.

PIERRE-YVES WALDER, THE NEW GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE NIFFF

The NIFFF is happy to welcome its new General Director Pierre-Yves Walder, formerly part of its programming team. For six years, he partook in the development and the evolution of the event and has continued to be involved as part of the selection committee. He now becomes the new General and Artistic Director of the NIFFF effective immediately and can start looking forward to the festival's next edition, which will take place from July 1st to July 9th, 2022.

"I am ecstatic to be taking the reins of the NIFFF after this anniversary edition that marked the reunion between the festival and its audience. The fantasy genre is moving with the times more than ever before, and I look forward to continuing to explore its many iterations"

– **Pierre-Yves Walder**, General Director of the NIFFF

AWARDS

Prix H. R. Giger «Narcisse» award for best feature film (International Competition)

CHF 10,000 given by the City of Neuchâtel

LAPSIS - Noah Hutton, United States

World sales: Hyde Park International (US)

Mention : **CRYPTOZOO** - Dash Shaw, United States

World sales : The Match Factory (DE)

Awarded by the International Jury :

Sylvie Lainé (author, FR), Mona Chollet (author and essayist, CH), Fabien Mauro (author and essayist, FR), Mathieu Turi (filmmaker, FR), Daria Woszek, (filmmaker, PL)

Silver Méliès for best European fantastic feature film

Nomination

BOYS FROM COUNTY HELL - Chris Baugh, Ireland, United Kingdom

Festival contact: Six Mile Hill Productions (NIR), Blinder Films (IRL)

Awarded by the International Jury

NIFFF's International Critics award (International Competition)

Promotion

THE FEAST - Lee Haven Jones, United Kingdom

Distributor : Praesens-film Ag (CH)

Awarded by the NIFFF International Critics Jury :

Leonhard Elias Lemke (Journalist Deadline, DE), Ard Vijn (Journalist Screen Anarchy, NL), Raúl Gil (Journalist ScifiWorld, ES), Andrea Monili (Journalist Nocturno, IT), Laurent Duroche (Journalist Mad Movies, FR)

Imaging The Future award for best production design (International Competition)

CHF 5,000 offered by the Swiss Center for Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM)

Julian R. Wagner for **TIDES** by Tim Fehlbaum, Switzerland/Germany

Distributor : Vega Distribution (CH)

Awarded by the International Jury

Denis-De-Rougemont youth award (International Competition)

Hamilton watch

CENSOR - Prano Bailey-Bond, United Kingdom

World sales : Protagonist Pictures (UK)

Awarded by the Denis-de-Rougemont High School Jury

Audience Award for Best Asian feature film (New Cinema from Asia)

Honorary

OK! MADAM - Lee Cheol-ha, South Korea

World sales : M-line Distribution (KR)

Awarded by the audience

RTS Audience award (International Competition)

Broadcast

TIDES - Tim Fehlbaum, Switzerland, Germany

Distributor : Vega Distribution (CH)

Awarded by the audience

H.R. Giger "Narcisse" award for best Swiss short film

CHF 10,000 offered by the SSA and SUISSIMAGE

LITTLE MISS FATE - Joder von Rotz, Switzerland

Production: YK Animation Studio GmbH, SRF Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen

Mention : **LE VIGNERON ET LA MORT**, de Victor Jaquier, Switzerland

Production : Imaginastudio (CH)

Awarded by the SSA/SUISSIMAGE Jury :

Kantarama Gahigiri (Director, CH/RW), Marie-Eve Hildbrand (Director, CH), Ivana Kvesic (Director, Schweizer Jugendfilmtage, CH)

Silver Méliès for best fantastic European short film

Nomination

LITTLE MISS FATE - Joder von Rotz, Switzerland

Production: YK Animation Studio GmbH, SRF Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen

Awarded by the SSA/SUISSIMAGE Jury

Taurus Studio award for innovation (Swiss Shorts Competition)

CHF 2,000 worth of sound post production services

PHLEGM - Jan-David Bolt, Switzerland

Production: Zürcher Hochschule der Künste ZHdK Departement Darstellende Künste und Film

Awarded by the Taurus Studio Jury :

Marie Hery (Co-director, Centre de culture ABC, FR), Claude Lander (Taurus Studio Founder, CH), Stéphane Morey (General secretary, Cinéforum, CH)

Audience award for best short film (Swiss Shorts, International Shorts, New Shorts from Asia)

Honorary

SPRÖTCH - Xavier Seron, Belgique

Production : Angie Productions, Hélicotronc

Awarded by the audience

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