

# NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL  
INTERNATIONAL  
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

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## **NIFFF 2023: JOSIANE BALASKO, GUEST OF HONOUR AND PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL JURY**

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) is happy to announce that the guest of honour and President of the International Jury for our 22nd edition (30 June - 8 July) will be none other than **Josiane Balasko**. Actor, director, screenwriter, but also author, she will partake in the **New Worlds of Fantasy** literary forum in collaboration with **Vertigo**, the cultural journal from **RTS La Première**. A rare opportunity for the audience to discover another facet of this leading figure of French cinema.

### **A FASCINATION FOR SCIENCE FICTION**

**Josiane Balasko** has enjoyed a lengthy career. Many of her works have attained cult status within many genres, from dramas to comedies, on stage as well as on film, as both an actor and a director. In the 70s and 80s, while part of the legendary **Splendid** troupe, she most notably co-wrote and starred in **LES BRONZÉS FONT DU SKI** (1979) and **LE PÈRE NOËL EST UNE ORDURE** (1982). As a writer and director, she would make eight movies from 1985 on, among which **MA VIE EST UN ENFER** (1991), a searing supernatural comedy that laid bare her love of the genre, and **GAZON MAUDIT** (1995), for which she earned the César award for best script.

In 2019, following the publication of the novels **CLIENTE** (2004) and **PARANO EXPRESS** (2006), **Josiane Balasko** paid a full-blown homage to fantasy with the release of **JAMAIPLU**, a collection of eight short stories inspired by the masters of the genre she discovered as a teenager, from **Edgar Allan Poe** to **Fredric Brown** and **Ray Bradbury**. From telepathic communication with animals, to children's attraction to happy ghosts and gentle, loving zombies, **Josiane Balasko** gently and playfully builds a world so often considered frightening.

As our guest of honour and President of the International Jury, she will give a conference about her literary oeuvre and her love for genre stories as part of the **New Worlds of Fantasy** forum. This event will be moderated by **Anne Laure Gannac** from **RTS Vertigo**, and will take place on Thursday, July 6th. A book signing session will follow.

Bookings for the conference will open on June 15th on [NIFFF.CH](http://NIFFF.CH).

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