

NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

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NIFFF 2023: TOMORROW, FANTASTIC FILMS FIRE UP NEUCHÂTEL

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) is about to open the doors of its 22nd edition. Tomorrow, our audience members can start enjoying cinematic classics and discovering new gems from our programme which includes 124 works from 44 countries, including 8 world premieres, 7 international premieres, and 46 Swiss premieres! The opening ceremony will mark the start of the festivities on Friday, June 30th, at 7 p.m. at Théâtre du Passage, with the screening of **THE POD GENERATION**, a sci-fi comedy from Sophie Barthes, starring Emilia Clarke (the Mother of Dragons herself) and Chiwetel Ejiofor.

GENRE ICONS AND NEWFOUND GEMS

From the Théâtre du Passage to the majestic Open Air and the Place des Halles, and to the Jardin Anglais and its OFFF area, the City of Neuchâtel is getting into full swing. The NIFFF starts tomorrow! Our guests of honour **Josiane Balasko** and **John McTiernan** will stand alongside other major figures of genre fiction like comic book auteur **Charles Burns** and cult filmmaker **Katsuhito Ishii**. **A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MCTIERNAN** is the first public event of the festival, set for Sunday, July 2nd, at 2 p.m. at the Théâtre du Passage, and will no doubt captivate fans of the genre. We are absolutely delighted to be able to celebrate these great people's work in their presence, and also to champion a new generation of artists. This year, the International Competition includes many feature film debuts, while our three short film programmes give a strong overview of what the future holds for fantasy films. As part of **Tour du Fantastique**, La Villa will also host a group of concept artists who will each create a new original project right here in Neuchâtel.

FEMALE TROUBLE - KICKING THINGS OFF WITH NASTY WOMEN

The **FEMALE TROUBLE** retrospective will make its entrance right at the Opening Ceremony through a striking and hilarious format: the nasty women short films, little gems from the early years of cinema that told stories of flamboyant heroines. One of these short films will get the ball rolling before the opening film. The retrospective will continue all through the festival with twenty features, from John Waters (**SERIAL MOM**, 05.07, 9:45 p.m., Studio) to Marina de Van (**DANS MA PEAU**, 04.07, 5:15 p.m., Rex), as well as a roundtable (05.07, 3 p.m., Passage 2). Our **FEMALE TROUBLE** films - whether they be reinterpretations or complete revolutions or the female archetypes in genre cinema - have aspects in common with some movies in our competition: **PERPETRATOR** from Jennifer Reeder (01.07, 4:45 p.m., Passage 1), **PEARL** from Ti West (30.06, 7:15 p.m., Arcades) and many more prove that the always current fantasy genre reflects societal truths.

A MULTIFACETED FESTIVAL

For the NIFFF, fantasy rimes with freedom. We always endeavour to showcase the diversity of the genre, and this year we have chosen to shine a light on animation for grownups with masterworks such as **WHITE PLASTIC SKY** from Tibor Bánóczki & Sarolta Szabó (02.07, 7:15 p.m., Passage 1) in the International Competition, **DEEP SEA** from Tian Xiaopeng (02.07, 2 p.m., Arcades) in the Asian competition, and of course some films from the retrospective dedicated to master filmmaker Katsuhito Ishii. The puppets of Guillermo del Toro's **PINOCCHIO** will also be in Neuchâtel for a conference as part of **NIFFF EXTENDED** (03.07, 3:45 p.m., Passage 2), where puppet maker Richard Pickersgill will tackle the vast topic of animation. Just like last year, La Villa will be the place to be for multidisciplinary explorations, with various performances and interactive installations. Join us to celebrate all things fantasy!

CONTACT

Marie Wanert | Head of Press
marie.wanert@niff.ch | +41 78 257 45 21

Léa Eigenmann | Press coordinator
lea.eigenmann@niff.ch | +41 79 787 53 40