

# NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL  
INTERNATIONAL  
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

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For immediate release

## NIFFF 2023: SOLD OUT SCREENINGS AND YOUNG TALENTS REWARDED

On Saturday evening, the curtain fell on the vibrant 22nd edition of the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF). For 9 days, over 55,000 festival-goers were able to explore the many aspects of genre cinema in the presence of our 122 guests. The International Jury awarded the prestigious H.R. Giger "Narcisse" Award for best feature film (CHF 10,000, granted by the City of Neuchâtel) to **TIGER STRIPES**, the first feature film from Amanda Nell Eu. The overall prize list gives prominence to emerging filmmakers. It also awarded the Imaging The Future Award (CHF 3,000, granted by Microcity) for best production design to Ti West's **PEARL**.

*"Amanda Nell Eu managed to create a unique world that makes the audience experience the simultaneously realistic and fantastic adventures of a young girl that hits puberty in contemporary Malaysia. The maturity and the freshness of this debut feature convinced us. Granting it the award seemed like the obvious choice: we have discovered a new voice of fantastic cinema",* declared the International Jury during the Closing Ceremony about Amanda Nell Eu's first feature film.

### THE NIFFF, THE UNMISSABLE EVENT OF THE SUMMER

The 159 screenings of NIFFF 2023 - in the Théâtre du Passage, the Cinepel theatres, and the Open Air on Place des Halles - have added up to over 34,400 cinema tickets sold. This is more than the 2022 numbers (28'234), and on par with the record numbers of 2019 (34,064). We are thrilled to see that the audience's enthusiasm for genre films never wanes, and that the NIFFF remains a key event in the Swiss film landscape. The **NIFFF Extended** conferences are also showing increased attendance, **La Villa** has given prominence to two immersive installations and to contemporary art performances, while festival-goers have enjoyed the bucolic atmosphere of the **Jardin anglais** day and night.

### 2023 PRIZE LIST

The NIFFF is happy to see three debut features from the Official Competition winning awards: **TIGER STRIPES** from Amanda Nell Eu, **RAGING GRACE** from Paris Zarcilla, and **VINCENT DOIT MOURIR** from Stéphan Castang. These films create very unique and personal worlds, and are a testament to the artistic, thematic, and geographic diversity of the programme. The new generation of filmmakers is also put in the spotlight with the winning short films: **PIPES** from Kilian Feusi, Jessica Meier, and Sujanth Ravichandran, **SE DIT D'UN CERF QUI QUITTE SON BOIS** from Salomé Crickx, and **FOREIGNERS ONLY** from Nuhash Humayun.

### H. R. GIGER "NARCISSE" AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE FILM (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION)

CHF 10,000 granted by the City of Neuchâtel

**TIGER STRIPES** (Amanda Nell Eu, MY, TW, SG, FR, DE, NL, ID, QA, 2023)

Honourable mention: **SUPERPOSITION** (Karoline Lyngbye, DK, 2023)

### IMAGING THE FUTURE AWARD FOR BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION)

CHF 3'000.- granted by Microcity

**TIGER STRIPES** (Amanda Nell Eu, MY, TW, SG, FR, DE, NL, ID, QA, 2023)

Awarded by the international jury: Josiane Balasko (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)

## **INTERNATIONAL CRITICS NIFFF AWARD (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION)**

Honorary

**RAGING GRACE** (Paris Zarcilla, UK, 2023)

Awarded by the International Critics jury: Anaïs Bordages (journalist, Podcast AMIES - SLATE, FR), Nicole Parker (journalist, DEADLINE, DE), Yal Sadat (journalist and film critic, FR)

## **YOUTH AWARD (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION)**

Hamilton watch, granted by **Hamilton Watch**

**RAGING GRACE** (Paris Zarcilla, UK, 2023)

Awarded by the high schools **Lycée Denis-de-Rougemont & Blaise-Cendrars**

## **AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST ASIAN FILM (ASIAN COMPETITION)**

Honorary

**MARRY MY DEAD BODY** (Cheng Wei-hao, TW, 2022)

Awarded by the audience

## **RTS AUDIENCE AWARD (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION)**

Broadcasting rights

**RAGING GRACE** (Paris Zarcilla, UK, 2023)

Awarded by the audience

## **SILVER MÉLIÈS FOR BEST EUROPEAN FANTASTIC FEATURE FILM**

Nomination

**VINCENT DOIT MOURIR** (Stéphan Castang, FR/BE, 2023)

Awarded by the Méliès jury: Monica Garcia Massagué (SITGES Festival General Manager, ES), Carlota Pereda (director, ES), Max Karli (producer, CH)

## **H. R. GIGER "NARCISSE" AWARD FOR BEST SWISS SHORT FILM**

CHF 10'000.- granted by **SSA** and **SUISSIMAGE**

**PIPES** (Kilian Feusi, Jessica Meier, Sujanth Ravichandran, CH)

Honourable mention: **DER MOLCHKONGRESS** (Immanuel Esser, Matthias Sahli, CH, 2022)

## **SILVER MÉLIÈS FOR BEST EUROPEAN FANTASTIC SHORT FILM**

Nomination

**SE DIT D'UN CERF QUI QUITTE SON BOIS** (Salomé Crickx, BE, 2023)

Awarded by the SSA/SUISSIMAGE jury: Marie-Lou Pahud, (producer, CH), Astrid Silva (head of programming at Visions du Réel, CH), Dexter Maurer, (illustrator, CH)

## **YOUTH AWARD (SWISS SHORTS, INTERNATIONAL SHORTS, ASIAN SHORTS)**

Honorary

**FOREIGNERS ONLY** (Nuhash Humayun, BD, 2022)

Awarded by the high schools **Lycée Denis-de-Rougemont & Blaise-Cendrars**

## **AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM (SWISS SHORTS, INTERNATIONAL SHORTS, ASIAN SHORTS)**

Honorary

**FOREIGNERS ONLY** (Nuhash Humayun, BD, 2022)

Awarded by the audience

## **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