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NIFFF 2024: FOREVER YOUNG A SPECIAL FOCUS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PRO SENECTUTE

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) is thrilled to unveil **FOREVER YOUNG**, a special program of its 23rd edition (July 5-13). This program is organized in partnership with Pro Senectute Arc Jurassien. Festivalgoers are invited to explore themes of aging, personal mortality, and the societal and psychological impacts of our obsession with perpetual youth through the screening of three iconic films.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH GROWING OLD?

The **FOREVER YOUNG** program focuses on ageism - examining the depiction of old age and societal pressures against aging. The festival aims to spotlight two prevalent issues visible in both cinema and everyday life: the tendency to overlook seniors and the diminishing perceived relevance of individuals as they age. **FOREVER YOUNG** presents a chance to reaffirm the worth of all individuals, regardless of age, using a unique blend of humor and somberness that only fantastic films can deliver.

In his 1962 eerie, claustrophobic thriller, **WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE?**, **Robert Aldrich** delves into themes of exploitation and predation, along with pervasive sexist and misogynistic attitudes, through the sinister story of a feud between two once-celebrated sisters. The film presents aging as a harsh reality and is credited with unintentionally pioneering the hagsploitation genre. It showcases a riveting confrontation between **Bette Davis** and **Joan Crawford**, whose real-life rivalry mirrored their onscreen conflict. This film stands as a stark reminder of Hollywood's harsh treatment of women, reflecting a misguided belief that their value diminishes with age.

Infused with the characteristic optimism of the 1980s, **Ron Howard's COCOON** (1985) depicts a group of retirees in Florida who undergo extraordinary rejuvenation. This sci-fi comedy challenges societal perceptions of youth and old age and reevaluates the boundaries of human lifespan and mortality.

In **Fruit Chan's** horror noir **DUMPLINGS** (2004), the obsession with eternal youth drives women to extreme measures to combat aging. The director skillfully uses his characters' desperation to craft a dark and refined satire.

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE?
Robert Aldrich, US, 1962

COCOON
Ron Howard, US, 1985

DUMPLINGS
Fruit Chan, HK, 2004

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