

NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

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NIFFF 2024: A PROMISING FIRST WEEKEND

The 23rd edition of the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF, 5-13 July) got off to a flying start on Friday with a sold-out Opening Ceremony - a good omen for a very thrilling first weekend. Nothing could stop festivalgoers from taking over the NIFFF theaters, neither the rain nor the Euro soccer games: more than 12,000 tickets were sold, on a par with 2023.

A WHOLE SLEW OF SOLD-OUT SCREENINGS ANNOUNCE ROBUST ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

The 23rd edition of the NIFFF opening ceremony set the tone for the festival's first few days: a sold-out screening, engaged speeches, and captivated guests and audience members. Director **Emma Benestan** and main actress **Oulaya Amamra** were in attendance for the international premiere of **ANIMALE**, which is also part of the International Competition. Members of the various juries have arrived in the lakeside city for an intense week of film-watching. They will announce the prize list during the closing ceremony on Saturday, July 13th.

While the International Competition is already in full swing with many sold-out screenings such as **DES TEUFELS BAD** (Veronika Franz, Severin Fiala), **I SAW THE TV GLOW** (Jane Schoenbrun), and **L'EMPIRE** (Bruno Dumont), the other sections are not to be outdone as **MISÉRICORDE** (Alain Guiraudie) and **LES PISTOLETS EN PLASTIQUE** (Jean-Christophe Meurisse) also played to a full house. Same goes for the Swiss premiere of **KRAZY HOUSE** (Steffen Haars, Flip Van der Kuil) which had festivalgoers laughing their head off in the presence of Dutch director **Steffen Haars**.

On Saturday, July 6th, Swiss fantastic films took center stage. Intrigued by the quality and diversity of the country's productions, people came in great numbers to the **SWISS SHORTS** competition, the new **AMAZING SCHOOLS** program, and the Swiss premiere of **MILCHZÄHNE**, with director **Sophia Bösch** in attendance.

Finally, our guest of honor **Asia Argento** came to meet the NIFFF audience for an Open Air screening of classic horror film **LES YEUX SANS VISAGE** (Georges Franju) while our showing of **VAMPYR** (Carl Theodor Dreyer), which was part of her carte blanche, sold out.

COMING UP NEXT: THE NIFFF EXTENDED CONFERENCES

On Monday and Tuesday, the **IMAGING THE FUTURE** symposium will offer a series of conferences during which world-class guests will be discussing the visual effects of the series **3 BODY PROBLEM** and **THE LAST OF US**, as well as the animation techniques used in the making of **NIMONA**. Video games (**LET'S PLAY NATURE, THAT COSY FEELING**) and Internet backrooms (**INTERNET HORROR**) will also be the subject of two conferences. **Simon Weisse**, model maker for Wes Anderson, and **Ishan Shukla**, member of the international jury and director of **SCHIRKOA: IN LIES WE TRUST**, will also be giving talks on Tuesday.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the **NEW WORLDS OF FANTASY** literary forum will start with **Julien Blondel**, versatile screenwriter known for his dark universes, and **Saul Pandelakis**, renowned for his ambitious and sensible works. The latter will also partake in a roundtable discussion about environmentalism in fantasy worlds (**EMBODYING (DIS)ENCHANTED TOMORROWS**) with artist and author **Lucia Masu**, utopia expert **Alice Carabédian**, and actress and researcher **Sophie Desbiolles**.

NIFFF EXTENDED also includes the **RTS ARCHIVES: CREATING A TV HOAX** conference, as well as the **EAT THE RICH** roundtable discussion that will focus on the rich gaze in genre cinema - a perfect opportunity to delve deeper into the portrayal of the elites.

Finally, Swiss celebrity **MOON**, to whom the NIFFF is giving a carte blanche, is arriving today! The most film-loving drag queen of all will be in Neuchâtel until Tuesday to present 3 feature films.

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