


NIFFF

NEUCHÂTEL INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

23RD
EDITION 

5 - 13 JULY 2024



DESIGN: ENCOR STUDIO

DOSSIER DE PRESSE

THE SWISS EVENT FOR FANTASTIC FILM, ASIAN CINEMA & DIGITAL CREATION

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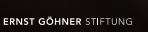


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PROGRAM 2024

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION (14)

ANIMALE - Emma Benestan, FR, 2024, 97' - International Premiere
CUCKOO - Tilman Singer, DE/US, 2024, 102' - Swiss Premiere
DES TEUFELS BAD - Veronika Franz, Severin Fiala, AT/DE, 2024, 121' - Swiss Premiere
ENNENNUM - Shalini Ushadevi, IN, 2023, 89' - Swiss Premiere
ETERNAL - Ulaa Salim, NO/IS/DK, 2023, 99' - Swiss Premiere
HANDLING THE UNDEAD - Thea Hvistendahl, NO/SE/GR, 2024, 97' - Swiss Premiere
I SAW THE TV GLOW - Jane Schoenbrun, US, 2024, 100' - Swiss Premiere
L'EMPIRE - Bruno Dumont, FR, 2024, 110' - Swiss Premiere
MAXXXINE - Ti West, US/UK, 2024, 103' - Swiss Premiere
MI BESTIA - Camila Beltrán, FR/CO, 2024, 76' - Swiss Premiere
ODDITY - Damian Mc Carthy, IE, 2024, 98' - Swiss Premiere
PENDANT CE TEMPS SUR TERRE - Jérémy Clapin, FR, 2024, 89' - Swiss Premiere
SHE LOVED BLOSSOMS MORE - Yannis Veslemes, GR/FR/NZ, 2024, 86' - European Premiere
THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT - Michael Felker, US, 2024, 102' - Swiss Premiere

ASIAN COMPETITION (10)

BREAKING AND RE-ENTERING - Leo Wang, TW, 2024, 109' - International Premiere
BURSTING POINT - Waihon Tong, Dante Lam, CN, 2023, 138' - Swiss Premiere
EXHUMA - Jang Jae-hyun, KR, 2024, 134' - Swiss Premiere
FLY ME TO THE SAITAMA: FROM BIWA LAKE WITH LOVE - Hideki Takeuchi, JP, 2023, 116' - Swiss Premiere
PIG THAT SURVIVED FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE - Hur Bum-wook, KR, 2024, 101' - Swiss Premiere
RESPATI - Sidharta Tata, IN, 2024, 112' - European Premiere
SCHIRKOA: IN LIES WE TRUST - Ishan Shukla, IN/FR/DE, 2024, 103' - Swiss Premiere
THE CURSED LAND - Panu Aree, Kong Ritthdee, TH, 2024, 128' - Swiss Premiere
TOXIC DAUGHTER - Naito Eisuke, JP, 2023, 106' - Swiss Premiere
TWILIGHT OF THE WARRIORS: WALLED IN - Soi Cheang, HK/CN, 2024, 126' - Swiss Premiere

THIRD KIND (12)

ARCADIA - Yorgos Zois, GR/BG/US, 2024, 99' - Swiss Premiere
EAT THE NIGHT - Caroline Poggi, Jonathan Vinel, FR, 2024, 106' - Swiss Premiere
GAZER - Ryan J. Sloan, US, 2024, 114' - Swiss Premiere

PROGRAM 2024

ISLA ALIEN - Cristóbal Valenzuela Berríos, CL/IT, 2023, 87' - Swiss Premiere

JAKT - Sarah Gyllenstierna, SE, 2024, 100' - Swiss Premiere

LE MANGEUR D'ÂMES - Alexandre Bustillo, Julien Maury, FR, 2024, 108' - Swiss Premiere

LES PISTOLETS EN PLASTIQUE - Jean-Christophe Meurisse, FR, 2024, 95' - International Premiere

LOS TONOS MAYORES - Ingrid Pokropek, AR/ES, 2023, 101' - Swiss Premiere

LOVE LIES BLEEDING- Rose Glass, UK/US, 2024, 104' - Romandie premiere

MISÉRICORDE - Alain Guiraudie, FR/ES/PT, 2024, 102' - Swiss Premiere

THE LAST ASHES - Loïc Tanson, LU, 2023, 125' - Swiss Premiere

YOUR MONSTER - Caroline Lindy, US, 2024, 98' - Swiss Premiere

ULTRA MOVIES (10)

AZRAEL - Evan Louis Katz, EE/US, 2024, 85' - European Premiere

BLOOD STAR - Lawrence Jacomelli, UK/US, 2024, 97' - World Premiere

CHOKER - Nagao Gen, JP, 2023, 108' - Swiss Premiere

IMMACULATE - Michael Mohan, US/IT, 2024, 89' - Swiss Premiere

IN A VIOLENT NATURE - Chris Nash, CA, 2024, 94'

KILL - Nikhil Nagesh Bhat IN/US, 2023, 115' - Swiss Premiere

KRAZY HOUSE - Steffen Haars, Flip Van der Kuil, NL, 2024, 90' - Swiss Premiere

KRYPTIC - Kourtney Roy, CA/UK, 2024, 96' - Swiss Premiere

SAÝARA - Can Evrenol, TR, 2024, 90' - International Premiere

THE PARAGON - Michael Duignan, NZ, 2023, 83' - Swiss Premiere

AMAZING SWITZERLAND

MILCHZÄHNE - Sophia Bösch, DE/CH, 2024, 97' - Swiss Premiere

SWISSMADE - Fritz E. Maeder, Fredi M. Murer, Yves Yersin, CH, 1969, 107' - World Premiere

AMAZING SCHOOLS:

UNDER THE ICE - Michel Kessler, David Oesch, CH, 2024, 23' - World Premiere

VAMPIRE DÉCADENCE - KENZA Emery, Aïda Captijn, Gaétan Carron, CH, 2024, 9' - World Premiere

DIAPASON 440 - Aurélie M. Chételat, CH, 2024, 11' - World Premiere

BEUTSET - Alicia Mendy, CH/SN, 2023, 30' - Romandie premiere

MEMENTO MORI - Victor Cateau, CH, 2024, 20' - World Premiere

A MONSTER CALLED LOVE - Sophia Lara Nimue Schweizer, CH, 2023, 13' - Romandie Premiere

SEARCHING FOR THE 5TH DIRECTION - Matthias Schüpbach, CH, 2024, 7' - Romandie Premiere

PROGRAM 2024

SHORTS PROGRAMS

SWISS SHORTS (7)

DÉJÀ NU - Rolf Hellat, SN/CI/CH/GN/MA, 2024, 15' - Swiss Premiere

FRACTI - Lavinia Petrache, CH, 2024, 6' - World Premiere

GOD'S ANUS - Jan-David Bolt, CH, 2024, 12' - World Premiere

CITRON ET MYRTILLE À LA CHASSE AU SOLEIL - Louis Rebetez, CH, 2024, 15' - World Premiere

TERRA MATER - Kantarama Gahigiri, CH/RW, 2023, 10' - Romandie premiere

ON HOLD - Delia Hess, CH, 2024, 7' - Swiss Premiere

CREVETTE - Jill Vágner, Elina Huber, Noémi Knobil, Sven Bachmann, CH, 2023, 5'

ASIAN SHORTS (6)

CREMATION (OR THE QUARANTINE HOTEL) - Qian Ning, TW, 2023, 18' - Swiss Premiere

MONSOON BLUE - Ellis Kayin Chan, Jay Hiukit Wong, HK, 2023, 14' - Swiss Premiere

PERFECT CITY: THE BRAVEST KID - Zhou Shengwei, US/CN, 2023, 6' - Swiss Premiere

PERFECT CITY: THE MOTHER - Zhou Shengwei, CN, 2022, 7' - Swiss Premiere

A SHORT STORY - Bi Gan, CN, 2022, 15'

VOID - Iwasaki Yusuke, JP, 2024, 24' - Swiss Premiere

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS (11)

LE GARÇON QUI LA NUIT - Jérémy Piette, FR, 2023, 26' - Swiss Premiere

LOS CAUTIVERIOS - Silvia Jiménez, MX, 2024, 7' - Swiss Premiere

AU PRIX DE LA CHAIR - Tomas Palombi, FR, 2023, 10' - Swiss Premiere

FACES OF DEATH - Jan Soldat, DE/AT, 2023, 7' - Swiss Premiere

MEAT PUPPET - Eros V, UK, 2024, 12' - Swiss Premiere

MI ZONA - Cristian Beteta, ES, 2023, 20' - Swiss Premiere

RÉEL - Rodrigue Huart, FR, 2024, 4' - World Premiere

SHÉ (SNAKE) - Renee Zhan, UK, 2023, 15' - European Premiere

LES GENS DANS L'ARMOIRE - Dahee Jeong, FR/CA/KR, 2024, 15' - World Premiere

TREES PAINTED IN TAR - Casper Rudolf, DK, 2024, 14' - World Premiere

THE WATCHMAN - Ali Cherri, IT/FR, 2023, 26' - Swiss Premiere

INTERVIEW OF PIERRE-YVES WALDER, GENERAL & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR THEMES OF THIS YEAR'S EDITION?

This year, our engaged, diverse program is centered around feminist and environmentalist stories. These works range from intimate narratives to pure spectacle, cementing fantasy films as a major driver for exploring the societal and political changes we are living through. We are giving two cartes blanches: one to our guest of honor Asia Argento and one to Swiss drag queen Moon - yet another testament to our commitment and diverse programming.

On and off screen, the environmental movement now takes center stage in many fantasy narratives and will be discussed during a dedicated roundtable discussion as part of **NIFFF EXTENDED**. Saul Pandelakis, multifaceted artist and sci-fi author specialized in queer design, and member of the 23rd edition's international jury, will partake. The public will also be able to meet him during a public talk.

In addition, Swiss creation remains a major focus for us. We have our short films competition (**SWISS SHORTS**) and **AMAZING SWITZERLAND**, which includes a new section this year (**AMAZING SCHOOLS**) that is all about showcasing works from a new generation of filmmakers attending Swiss film and art schools (ECAL, HEAD, ZHdK, HSLU)! Pride of place will be given to Swiss game design during a discussion amongst Swiss and international developers in order to ensure stronger links between global and local innovation. Also, because we like indulging in a little national nostalgia, festivalgoers will be able to partake in a debate around a hoax from the 70s - that would have made Orson Welles proud - thanks to the RTS archives, which we started showcasing on a yearly basis back in 2020.

IN 2022 AND THEN 2023, THE SCREAM QUEER AND FEMALE TROUBLE RETROSPECTIVES OPENED A WINDOW ON A MORE SOCIETAL PERSPECTIVE TO FILMMAKING. HOW IS EAT THE RICH EXPANDING ON THIS QUESTION?

The **EAT THE RICH** retrospective is indeed an extension of this reflection. Just like with **FEMALE TROUBLE** and **SCREAM QUEER**, the objective is to explore how societal themes are portrayed in genre cinema and what evolutions this entails. **EAT THE RICH** offers an in-depth breakdown of the many ways - from the most literal to the most allegorical - elites can be criticized through film. In support of this cinematic journey, we are organizing a roundtable discussion called **THE RICH GAZE IN GENRE CINEMA** on Wednesday, July 10th, at 1:30 p.m. during which the audience will be able to dive deeper into themes of class struggle in genre cinema and learn more about the evolution of political messaging with several guests including film journalist Judith Beauvallet (Demoiselles d'Horreur).

DO THESE RETROSPECTIVES ATTRACT NEW AUDIENCES?

The festival set new attendance records two years in a row, reaching the 60,000 attendees threshold in 2023. I am convinced these retrospectives attract new audiences, more intrigued by the social themes than by genre cinema in and of itself. Naturally, NIFFF regulars always find things to love in the festival's flagship categories as well as its special programs. It's no secret: genre fans also love classic films!

Beyond the content of our retrospectives, we are also working on accessibility. Our **CHILLS WITHOUT SHIVERS** selection can be perused online and in our printed program. It was designed for those who are too afraid to be afraid at the cinema. General audiences may still harbor biases toward genre films, and one of the many missions of the festival is to give the uninitiated new ways of discovering genre cinema in all its wealth. This section was met with great success in 2023, so we decided to do it again this year.

PRIZE & JURIES 2024

INTERNATIONAL JURY

- **Saul Pandelakis**, Author & researcher, FR
- **Ishan Shukla**, Director, IN
- **Annick Mahnert**, Programmer & producer, CH
- **João Pedro Rodrigues**, Director, PT
- **Kourtney Roy**, Photographer & director, CA

MÉLIÈS JURY

- **Anna Bogutskaya**, Author & critic, UK
- **Vincent Paul-Boncour**, Co-founder & director, Carlotta Films, FR
- **Olga Lamontanara**, Producer, IT

CRITICS JURY

- **Ard Vijn**, Journalist, NL
- **Léon Cattan**, Journalist, FR
- **Nora Bouazzouni**, Journalist, FR

SSA/SUISSIMAGE JURY

- **Niccolò Castelli**, Festival director, CH
- **Anne Delseth**, Programmer, CH
- **Paolo Moretti**, Director of the Cinema Department (ECAL), director of the Grütli Cinemas & cinema curator at the Fondazione Prada, IT

PRIZE & JURIES 2024

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

10'000 CHF - H.R. GIGER "NARCISSE" AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE FILM

Awarded by the City of Neuchâtel

3'000 CHF - IMAGING THE FUTURE AWARD FOR BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN

Awarded by Microcity

BROADCASTING - RTS AUDIENCE AWARD

Awarded by Radio Télévision Suisse

PROMOTION - NIFFF INTERNATIONAL CRITICS AWARD

Awarded by 3 international journalists

YOUTH AWARD

A BA1110D watch - Awarded by the high school Denis-de-Rougemont & Blaise-Cendrars

SILVER MÉLIÈS

With the Méliès International Festivals Federation (MIFF)

NOMINATION - Silver Méliès for best fantastic European feature film (with MIFF)

NOMINATION - Silver Méliès for best fantastic European short film (with MIFF)

COMPETITION FOR THE BEST SWISS FANTASTIC SHORT FILM

10'000 CHF - H.R. Giger "Narcisse" Award for the best short film

Awarded by SSA and Suissimage

ASIAN COMPETITION

HONORARY - Best Asian Film Award

Chosen by audience

COMPETITION FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM

HONORARY - Best Short Film Award

Chosen by the audience

HONORARY - Youth Award

Awarded by the high school Denis-de-Rougemont & Blaise-Cendrars

NIFFF IN NUMBERS

Nombre d'entrées cinéma en 2023	38'000
General attendance in 2023	63'000

FESTIVAL

Editions	23
Collaborators	76
Number of volunteers	350
Places	8
Open Air	1

PROGRAMME 2024

Works	124
Feature-length films	84
Short films	38
World premieres	12
International premieres	3
European premieres	5
Swiss premieres	52
Number of projections	124
Number of countries represented	46
Free events	38
Conventions	13
Installations immersives	3
Performances	2
Shows	6
Exhibitions	1

CEREMONIES

OPENING CEREMONY

ANIMALE

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Emma Benestan, FR, 2024, 97'

Cast: Oulaya Amamra, Elies-Morgan Admi-Bensellam, Damien Rebattel

Contact: Film Constellation

In Camargue, France, 22-year-old Nejma hopes to win the next bullfighting contest called "course camarguaise". But the locals are troubled by strange deaths attributed to a wild animal.

CLOSING CEREMONY

LONGLEGS

SWISS PREMIERE

Oz Perkins, US/CA, 2024, 101'

Cast: Maika Monroe, Nicolas Cage, Alicia Witt, Blair Underwood

Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment GMBH, Switzerland

Tasked with arresting an elusive serial killer, a new FBI recruit's investigation takes an unexpected turn into the occult. Prepare for a nightmarish experience!

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

An overview of today's trends in fantastic cinema from around the world.

ANIMALE INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Emma Benestan, FR, 2024, 97'

Cast: Oulaya Amamra, Elies-Morgan Admi-Bensellam, Damien Rebattel

Contact: Film Constellation

In Camargue, France, 22-year-old Nejma hopes to win the next bullfighting contest called "course camarguaise". But the locals are troubled by strange deaths attributed to a wild animal.

CUCKOO SWISS PREMIERE

Tilman Singer, DE/US, 2024, 102'

Cast: Hunter Schafer, Dan Stevens, Jessica Henwick

Contact: Praesens-film Ag

Gretchen has no choice but to follow her father and his new family to an old health resort in the Bavarian Alps. There, strange screams blend with family quarrels...

DES TEUFELS BAD SWISS PREMIERE

Veronika Franz, Severin Fiala, AT/DE, 2024, 121'

Cast: Anja Plaschg, David Scheid, Maria Hofstätter

Contact: Playtime

In this incredibly dark psychological thriller set in a small, isolated village, solitude weakens the faith of pious Agnes... until one day, she commits an irredeemable act.

ENNENNUM SWISS PREMIERE

Shalini Ushadevi, IN, 2023, 89'

Cast: Santhy Balachandran, Gibin Gopinath, Sudip Joshy

Contact: Shalini Ushadevi

Rejecting the idea of death, a couple volunteer to test out a revolutionary technology that could back up the human consciousness. They should be careful what they wish for...

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

ETERNAL SWISS PREMIERE

Ulaa Salim, NO/IS/DK, 2023, 99'

Cast: Bashar Al-Saoudi, Ari Alexander, Nanna Øland Fabricius

Contact: Plaion Pictures

On a mission, a scientist discovers what his life could have been like had he made different choices. An astonishing mix of eco sci-fi and hopeless romance.

HANDLING THE UNDEAD SWISS PREMIERE

Thea Hvistendahl, NO/SE/GR, 2024, 97'

Cast: Renate Reinsve, Anders Danielsen Lie, Bahar Pars

Contact: Filmcoopi Zurich AG

Summertime in Oslo. When the dead start coming back and three families are reunited with their recently deceased loved ones, one question arises: Can they still mourn them?

I SAW THE TV GLOW SWISS PREMIERE

Jane Schoenbrun, US, 2024, 100'

Cast: Brigette Lundy-Paine, Justice Smith, Ian Foreman

Contact: Filmbankmedia

Obsessed with a mysterious nighttime TV show, two high schoolers experience strange, reality-altering events. A queer horror teen movie steeped in 90s nostalgia.

L'EMPIRE SWISS PREMIERE

Bruno Dumont, FR, 2024, 110'

Cast: Lyna Khoudri, Anamaria Vartolomei, Camille Cottin, Fabrice Luchini

Contact: Sisters Distribution

Who could have imagined that a small village in Northern France would become the scene of a conflict between alien forces that could decide the fate of the galaxy? Boondock Star Wars!

Accessible with audio description and subtitles for the hearing impaired on the Greta app.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

MAXXXINE

SWISS PREMIERE

Ti West, US/UK, 2024, 103'

Cast: Mia Goth, Moses Sumney, Elizabeth Debicki, Bobby Cannavale

Contact: Universal Pictures

It's 1985 and Maxine is a rising Hollywood star. But a serial killer on the loose is targeting actresses. The final chapter in Ti West's trilogy (X, Pearl) starring Mia Goth!

MI BESTIA

SWISS PREMIERE

Camila Beltrán, FR/CO, 2024, 76'

Cast: Stella Martinez, Mallerly Murillo, Marcela Mar

Contact: Pulsar Content

Bogota, 1996. People are scared; they think the devil will manifest himself at the next lunar eclipse. 13 y.o. Mila wonders if any of it has to do with the changes she is going through.

ODDITY

SWISS PREMIERE

Damian Mc Carthy, IE, 2024, 98'

Cast: Gwilym Lee, Carolyn Bracken, Tadhg Murphy

Contact: Blue Finch Film Releasing

After her twin dies in mysterious circumstances, a young, supposedly psychic blind woman sets forth on a supernatural investigation with a strange wooden dummy...

PENDANT CE TEMPS SUR TERRE

SWISS PREMIERE

Jérémy Clapin, FR, 2024, 88'

Cast: Megan Northam, Dimitri Doré, Sébastien Pouderoux

Contact: Charades

Elsa grew up in the shadow of her brother Franck, a young, revered astronaut who vanished three years ago. She must now grapple with reality itself and events of cosmic ramifications.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

SHE LOVED BLOSSOMS MORE

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Yannis Veslemes, GR/FR/NZ, 2024, 86'

Cast: Dominique Pinon, Julio Katsis, Sandra Abuelghanam

Contact: Yellow Veil Pictures

Three brothers manage to bring their mother back to life with the help of a strange time machine. A visually daring comedy horror that explores the issue of grief.

THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT

SWISS PREMIERE

Michael Felker, US, 2024, 102'

Cast: Adam David Thompson, Riley Dandy, Chloe Skoczen

Contact: Michael Felker

Two siblings who just committed a robbery take shelter in an isolated farm. Soon, they find a way to move through time to evade the police, but it might turn out to be a mixed blessing.

ASIAN COMPETITION

A showcase for the quality and diversity of popular Asian cinema.

BREAKING AND RE-ENTERING

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Leo Wang, TW, 2024, 109'

Cast: Chen Bolin, Cecilia Choi, Frederick Lee

Contact: Mandarinvision

A group of goofy thieves attempts to pull off a "reverse heist" by putting the money they've stolen back into the bank vault. A wacky, rollicking caper!

BURSTING POINT

SWISS PREMIERE

Waihon Tong, Dante Lam, CN, 2023, 138'

Cast: William Chan, Chrissie Chau, Nick Cheung

Contact: Emperor Motion Pictures

An anti-narcotics chief inspector is closer than ever to bringing down dangerous drug traffickers. Buckle up for one of the most desperately violent, brooding actioners you've ever seen.

EXHUMA

SWISS PREMIERE

Jang Jae-hyun, KR, 2024, 134'

Cast: Lee Do-hyun, Choi Min-sik, Kim Go-eun

Contact: Splendid Film Gmbh

Two shamans and an undertaker try to identify the source of a Korean American family's afflictions by exhuming their ancestors' grave. A bone-chilling exploration of Korean history.

FLY ME TO THE SAITAMA:FROM BIWA LAKE WITH LOVE SWISS PREMIERE

Hideki Takeuchi, JP, 2023, 116'

Cast: Ainosuke Kataoka, Fumi Nikaido, Gackt, Anne Watanabe

Contact: Pony Canyon Inc

The madcap, flamboyant rivalry between the people of Tokyo and Saitama gets out of hand, spilling over to the rest of Japan. The 2nd chapter in the zany adaptation of the eponymous manga.

ASIAN COMPETITION

PIG THAT SURVIVED FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SWISS PREMIERE

Hur Bum-wook, KR, 2024, 101'

Cast: Kim Dohee, Min Seungwoo, Nam Doh-hyeong

Contact: Hur Bum-wook

The tale of two intertwining fates: that of a pig who survived an epidemic and wants to become human, and that of a weary young man who dreams of becoming an animal.

RESPATI

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Sidharta Tata, IN, 2024, 112'

Cast: Keisya Levronka, Devano Danendra, Mikha Hernan

Contact: Barunson E&a

A teenager who sees people dying in his dreams realizes it might be connected to actual deaths... He and two of his friends take on a powerful entity in an attempt to end this ordeal.

SCHIRKOA: IN LIES WE TRUST

SWISS PREMIERE

Ishan Shukla, IN/FR/DE, 2024, 103'

Cast: Asia Argento, Golshifteh Farahani, Gaspar Noé

Contact: New Europe Film Sales

In a strictly regulated society yearning for freedom, a young bureaucrat unwillingly triggers a revolution. A 2D/3D dystopian sci-fi animated film with an all-star cast.

THE CURSED LAND

SWISS PREMIERE

Panu Aree, Kong Rithdee, TH, 2024, 128'

Cast: Jennis Oprasert, Ananda Everingham, Bront Palarae

Contact: Wme Independent

Mit is a young widower who just moved in a manor in the Bangkok suburbs. One day, he gets rid of the talismans that used to protect the place, awakening an evil djinn...

ASIAN COMPETITION

TOXIC DAUGHTER

SWISS PREMIERE

Naito Eisuke, JP, 2023, 106'

Cast: Satsukawa Aimi, Uehara Sera, Irei Himena

Contact: The Klockworx Co. Ltd

As Hagino and her husband are settling in, a strange young woman starts visiting their home. Her mysterious and troubling past seems to have a dangerous hold on Hagino's stepdaughter.

TWILIGHT OF THE WARRIORS: WALLED IN

SWISS PREMIERE

Soi Cheang, HK/CN, 2024, 126'

Cast: Hung Sammo Kam-bo, Jen Richie, Koo Louis

Contact: Plaion Pictures

1980s Hong Kong. A young immigrant who has angered the triads takes refuge in the Kowloon Walled City. An adaptation of the City of Darkness manhua jam-packed with supercharged action.

THIRD KIND

A selection of films exploring the links between fantasy and related genres.

ARCADIA

SWISS PREMIERE

Yorgos Zois, GR/BG/US, 2024, 99'

Cast: Angeliki Papoulia, Vangelis Mourikis, Daphné Patakia

Contact: Beta Cinema

Katerina accompanies Yannis to identify the victim of a car accident at a seaside resort. A deeply melancholic film about love and what remains of the past.

EAT THE NIGHT

SWISS PREMIERE

Caroline Poggi, Jonathan Vinel, FR, 2024, 106'

Cast: Théo Cholbi, Mathieu Perotto, Lila Gueneau

Contact: Sister Distribution

Pablo and his sister have grown up and bonded over Darknoon, an online video game that will shut down soon. When Pablo meets and falls for Night, he drifts away from his sister.

GAZER

SWISS PREMIERE

Ryan J. Sloan, US, 2024, 114'

Cast: Ariella Mastroianni, Marcia Debonis, Renee Gagner

Contact: Memento Films International (MFI)

Suffering from inaccurate time perception, Frankie must scrape by with odd jobs, away from her daughter. One day, she takes a better-paying but risky job. Could salvation be at hand?

ISLA ALIEN

SWISS PREMIERE

Cristóbal Valenzuela Berríos, CL/IT, 2023, 87'

Cast: Jaime McManus, Ernesto De La Fuente, Octavio Ortíz

Contact: Glaciar Films

What if aliens were living on an island off the Chilean coast? A fascinating, sci-fi imbued documentary which investigates this urban legend that emerged in the 80s.

THIRD KIND

JAKT

SWISS PREMIERE

Sarah Gyllenstierna, SE, 2024, 100'
Cast: Ardalan Esmaili, Magnus Krepper, Jens Hultén
Contact: LevelK

Three men on a hunting trip must contend with a disturbing mystery: where has the game gone? Journey back into the wild with this oppressive psychological thriller.

LE MANGEUR D'ÂMES

SWISS PREMIERE

Alexandre Bustillo, Julien Maury, FR, 2024, 108'
Cast: Virginie Ledoyen, Paul Hamy, Sandrine Bonnaire
Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment GMBH, Switzerland

An duo investigates multiple disappearance and brutal murder cases in the Vosges despite the unwelcoming locals... A traumatizing thriller set in the heart of the French wilderness.

LES PISTOLETS EN PLASTIQUE

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Jean-Christophe Meurisse, FR, 2024, 95'
Cast: Charlotte Laemmel, Delphine Baril, Laurent Stocker
Contact: Xenix filmdistribution GmbH

A French man who allegedly murdered his family before vanishing is arrested in Denmark. A morbid comedy full of zany characters, inspired by a well-known news story from Nantes.

LOS TONOS MAYORES

SWISS PREMIERE

Ingrid Pokropek, AR/ES, 2023, 101'
Cast: Sofía Clausen, Mercedes Halfon, Santiago Ferreira
Contact: Bendita Film Sales

After an accident, a metal plate is inserted into 14-year-old Ana's arm, who notices it sends out peculiar messages in Morse code. Could these have a deeper meaning?

THIRD KIND

LOVE LIES BLEEDING

ROMANDIE PREMIERE

Rose Glass, UK/US, 2024, 104'
Cast: Kristen Stewart, Katy O'Brian, Ed Harris
Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment GmbH, Switzerland

The bloody, passionate love story between two women - a gym owner and an ambitious bodybuilder - who will leave more than one dead body in their wake. A brawny romantic thriller!

MISÉRICORDE

SWISS PREMIERE

Alain Guiraudie, FR/ES/PT, 2024, 102'
Cast: Catherine Frot, Félix Kysyl, Jean-Baptiste Durand
Contact: Praesens-film Ag

Jérémie's visit to his home village in the country is disturbed by a mysterious disappearance and the strange behaviors some locals have towards him.

THE LAST ASHES

SWISS PREMIERE

Loïc Tanson, LU, 2023, 125'
Cast: Sophie Mousel, Timo Wagner, Jules Werner
Contact: One Eyed Films

Luxembourg, 1854. Hélène returns to her home village, determined to take revenge on those who killed her parents 15 years ago. A harsh, brutal, empowering western.

YOUR MONSTER

SWISS PREMIERE

Caroline Lindy, US, 2024, 98'
Cast: Melissa Barrera, Edmund Donovan, Meghann Fahy
Contact: Bankside Films Ltd

Laura is a cancer-ridden actress whose boyfriend just cheated on. Soon, she finds her childhood monster hiding in her closet. A charming, horror-tinged romcom.

ULTRA MOVIES

Night-time screenings revealing the strangest and most radical side of genre cinema.

AZRAEL

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Evan Louis Katz, EE/US, 2024, 85'

Cast: Nathan Stewart-Jarrett, Samara Weaving, Vic Carmen Sonne

Contact: Plaion Pictures

In the postapocalyptic future, bloodthirsty humanoid creatures roam the Earth and speech has been banned. Azrael is being hunted by a religious cult that wants to sacrifice her.

BLOOD STAR

WORLD PREMIERE

Lawrence Jacomelli, UK/US, 2024, 97'

Cast: Travis Lincoln Cox, Britni Camacho, Sydney Brumfield

Contact: Raven Banner Entertainment

In the American desert, Bobbi has the misfortune of crossing paths with a threatening sheriff who initiates a sadistic hunting game. She must escape by whatever means necessary...

CHOKER

SWISS PREMIERE

Nagao Gen, JP, 2023, 108'

Cast: Wada Misa, Nishina Takashi, Hiba Daiki

Contact: Free Stone Productions Co., Ltd.

In a future where humans have all forgotten how to speak, a survivalist starts getting strangely attached to the man she has captured. An astounding and radical post-apocalyptic film!

IMMACULATE

SWISS PREMIERE

Michael Mohan, US/IT, 2024, 89'

Cast: Sydney Sweeney, Álvaro Morte, Simona Tabasco

Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment GMBH, Switzerland

Cécilia is a young American nun invited to join a convent in Italy. Her stay takes a turn for the worse when an unexplained miracle and horrific events occur. Say your prayers!

ULTRA MOVIES

IN A VIOLENT NATURE

Chris Nash, CA, 2024, 94'

Cast: Cameron Love, Andrea Pavlovic, Ry Barrett

Contact: Capelight Pictures

Picture this: An unstoppable killer wreaking havoc in a setting reminiscent of camp Crystal Lake, Arawak, or Blackfoot, and the violence of an 80s slasher - with a stylistic edge.

KILL

SWISS PREMIERE

Nikhil Nagesh Bhat, IN/US, 2023, 115'

Cast: Tanya Maniktala, Raghav Juyal, Laksh Lalwani

Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment GMBH, Switzerland

Unwilling to let his beloved's parents marry her off, Amrit boards a train soon taken over by a group of brutal bandits. Blood, close-quarters combat, dizzying action design! Get ready!

KRAZY HOUSE

SWISS PREMIERE

Steffen Haars, Flip Van der Kuil, NL, 2024, 90'

Cast: Nick Frost, Alicia Silverstone, Kevin Connolly

Contact: WTFilms

Three criminals on a mission pretend to be workmen to take apart the house of the Christian family piece by piece. How long will they turn the other cheek? A bonkers, subversive comedy!

KRYPTIC

SWISS PREMIERE

Kourtney Roy, CA/UK, 2024, 96'

Cast: Jeff Gladstone, Chloe Pirrie, Jason Deline

Contact: Wild Bunch Germany

Suffering from amnesia, Kay goes looking for missing cryptozoologist Barb Valentine, a woman who eerily resembles her. Embark for the unknown with this disturbing psycho-thriller!

ULTRA MOVIES

SAÝARA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Can Evrenol, TR, 2024, 90'

Cast: Duygu Kocabiyik, Zakirjan Bazarov, Emre Kizilirmak, Furkan Riza Demirel

Contact: Inter Medya

Saýara is a young cleaning lady trained in martial arts by her father, a former special forces soldier. She's also hellbent on avenging her sister. A relentless, riotous revenge film!

THE PARAGON

SWISS PREMIERE

Michael Duignan, NZ, 2023, 83'

Cast: Benedict Wall, Florence Noble, Jessica Grace Smith

Contact: Patra Spanou Film

Réanimé à la suite d'un accident avec délit de fuite, un ancien coach de tennis désormais boiteux s'adjoint les services d'une experte en paranormal pour retrouver le coupable.

SHORTS PROGRAMS

The best of fantastic cinema in short form - national, international, Asian.

SWISS SHORTS

DÉJÀ NU

Rolf Hellat, SN/CI/CH/GN/MA, 2024, 15'

SWISS PREMIERE

GOD'S ANUS

Jan-David Bolt, CH, 2024, 12'

WORLD PREMIERE

TERRA MATER

Kantarama Gahigiri, CH/RW, 2023, 10'

ROMANDIE PREMIERE

CREVETTE

Jill Vágner, Elina Huber, Noémi Knobil, Sven Bachmann

CH, 2023, 5'

Fantastic Swiss Award at Fantoche 2023

FRACTI

Lavinia Petrache, CH, 2024, 6'

WORLD PREMIERE

CITRON ET MYRTILLE À LA CHASSE AU SOLEIL

Louis Rebetez, CH, 2024, 15'

WORLD PREMIERE

ON HOLD

Delia Hess, CH, 2024, 7'

SWISS PREMIERE

ASIAN SHORTS

CREMATION (OR THE QUARANTINE HOTEL)

Qian Ning, TW, 2023, 18'

SWISS PREMIERE

PERFECT CITY: THE BRAVEST KID

Zhou Shengwei, US/CN, 2023, 6'

SWISS PREMIERE

A SHORT STORY

Bi Gan, CN, 2022, 15'

MONSOON BLUE

Ellis Kayin Chan, Jay Hiukit Wong, HK, 2023, 14'

SWISS PREMIERE

PERFECT CITY: THE MOTHER

Zhou Shengwei, CN, 2022, 7'

SWISS PREMIERE

VOID

Iwasaki Yusuke, JP, 2024, 24'

SWISS PREMIERE

SHORTS PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

SHIVERS AND SHIMMERS

FACES OF DEATH

Jan Soldat, DE/AT, 2023, 7'

SWISS PREMIERE

MI ZONA

Cristian Beteta, ES, 2023, 20'

SWISS PREMIERE

SHÉ (SNAKE)

Renee Zhan, UK, 2023, 15'

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

AROUND THE GENRE

AU PRIX DE LA CHAIR

Tomas Palombi, FR, 2023, 10'

SWISS PREMIERE

LES GENS DANS L'ARMOIRE

Dahee Jeong, FR/CA/KR, 2024, 15'

WORLD PREMIERE

THE WATCHMAN

Ali Cherri, IT/FR, 2023, 26'

SWISS PREMIERE

MEAT PUPPET

Eros V, UK, 2024, 12'

SWISS PREMIERE

RÉEL

Rodrigue Huart, FR, 2024, 4'

WORLD PREMIERE

TREES PAINTED IN TAR

Casper Rudolf, DK, 2024, 14'

WORLD PREMIERE

LE GARÇON QUI LA NUIT

Jérémy Piette, FR, 2023, 26'

SWISS PREMIERE

LOS CAUTIVERIOS

Silvia Jiménez, MX, 2024, 7'

SWISS PREMIERE

AMAZING SWITZERLAND

A panorama of the best in fantasy and related genres, designed to promote Swiss cinema.

MILCHZÄHNE

SWISS PREMIERE

Sophia Bösch, DE/CH, 2024, 97'

Cast: Mathilde Bundschuh, Ulrich Matthes, Susanne Wolff

Contact: Dschoint Ventschr Filmproduktion AG

Skalde takes in a little girl who was lost in the woods. Soon, the village starts to be wary of the stranger. What if she were a wolf? A captivating tale about the desire to belong.

SWISSMADE

WORLD PREMIERE

Fritz E. Maeder, Fredi M. Murer, Yves Yersin, CH, 1969, 107'

Cast: Elsa Skorecka, Erika Dentzler, Franck Jotterand, Herbert Herrmann, Jocko Kanitzer, Esther Altdorfer, Hannes Bosshard, Carmen Corti

Contact: Cinémathèque Suisse / Swiss Film Archive

Many were stunned back then by these three visionary dystopian short films - financed by the Banque Populaire Suisse - that presented a cold and procedural version of Switzerland.

In partnership with La Cinémathèque suisse

AMAZING SCHOOLS

A selection of films from Swiss art and film schools (ECAL, HEAD, ZHdK, HSLU) made by new talents in Swiss cinema!

A MONSTER CALLED LOVE

Sophia Lara Nimue Schweizer

CH, 2023, 13'

BEUTSET

Alicia Mendy

H/SN, 2023, 30'

DIAPASON 440

Aurélie M. Chételat

CH, 2024, 11'

MEMENTO MORI

Victor Cateau

CH, 2024, 20'

SEARCHING FOR THE 5TH DIRECTION

Matthias Schüpbach

CH, 2024, 7'

UNDER THE ICE

Michel Kessler, David Oesch

CH, 2024, 23'

VAMPIRE DÉCADENCE

Kenza Emery, Aèida Captijn, Gaëtan Carron

CH, 2024, 9'

CARTE BLANCHE À UNE PERSONNALITÉ SUISSE : MOON

The Swissest queen from Drag Race France season 2 is also the biggest film fan. A bespoke Carte blanche for a fabulous creature.

SPECIES

Roger Donaldson, US, 1995, 108'

Cast: Ben Kingsley, Michael Madsen, Alfred Molina

Contact: Park Circus

Sil is a lab-born human/alien hybrid creature who one day eludes the vigilance of Dr. Fitch. Now roaming free in Los Angeles, she wants to breed to destroy mankind.

SPLASH

Ron Howard, US, 1984, 111'

Cast: Tom Hanks, Eugene Levy, Daryl Hannah

Contact: Park Circus

When he was a child, Allen was saved from drowning by a mermaid. Years later, another one rescues him again. The fantasy romcom that made Tom Hanks a star!

YOU WON'T BE ALONE

Goran Stolevski, AU/UK/RS, 2022, 108'

Cast: Noomi Rapace, Alice Englert, Anamaria Marinca

Contact: Park Circus

After she's turned into a witch, a young girl can shapeshift into any living being. She tries out different bodies in order to understand the complexity of human nature.

CARTE BLANCHE À ASIA ARGENTO

The NIFFF 2024 guest of honor, Asia Argento, will present a selection of iconic genre films that have inspired her and shaped her as an artist.

LES YEUX SANS VISAGE

Georges Franju, FR/IT, 1960, 90'

Cast: Pierre Brasseur, Alida Valli, Juliette Mayniel

Contact: Gaumont

After an accident, a surgeon desperately tries to reconstruct his daughter's face, leaving all moral concerns behind. Franju finds the sublime in this hopeless, deathly quest.

PEEPING TOM

Michael Powell, UK, 1960, 101'

Cast: Karlheinz Böhm, Moira Shearer, Anna Massey

Contact: Tamasa Distribution

A young projectionist kills women and films their death to capture the fear in their eyes. A disturbing psychological thriller about voyeurism and human perversity.

TETSUO

Tsukamoto Shin'ya, JP, 1989, 67'

Cast: Fujiwara Kei, Taguchi Tomorô, Kanaoka Nobu

Contact: Carlotta Films

After a car accident, a businessman slowly turns into a metal monster. A classic Japanese horror film that defined cyberpunk aesthetics. You won't escape unscathed!

VAMPYR

Carl Theodor Dreyer, DE/FR, 1932, 75'

Cast: Maurice Schutz, Julian West, Rena Mandel

Contact: Danish Film Institute

A young man travels to a village where he must contend with a series of disturbing events. A visual marvel that immerses the audience in a dream-like, anxiety-inducing atmosphere.

FOREVER YOUNG

The FOREVER YOUNG focus tackles the issue of ageism by showing both the various representations of old age and the injunctions to conceal it.

COCOON

Ron Howard, US, 1985, 117'

Cast: Don Ameche, Hume Cronyn, Wilford Brimley

Contact: Park Circus

Wealthy, puckish Floridian retirees frequently trespass into the abandoned pool next door. Unbeknownst to them, mysterious cocoons in the water make them feel younger with every swim...

DUMPLINGS

Fruit Chan, HK, 2004, 91'

Cast: Miriam Yeung, Bai Ling, Tony Ka-Fai Leung

Contact: WE Distribution

With the help of a friend, the youth-obsessed Madam Li discovers special dumplings that restore her youth with every bite. What is the true price of such a terrifying miracle?

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE?

Robert Aldrich, US, 1962, 134'

Cast: Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Victor Buono

Contact: Park Circus

Child star Baby Jane's career takes a dramatic turn, overshadowed by her sister Blanche's rising popularity. An in-depth look at cruelty and sadism between two legendary actresses.

EAT THE RICH

Dedicated to the way elites are portrayed in genre cinema, this program aims to trace the complex, intersectional evolution of this theme through a century of fantastic films from many countries and time periods.

AELITA

Yakov Protazanov, RU/UK/AU, 1924, 110'

Cast: Yuliya Solntseva, Nikolai Tseretely

Contact: Les films sans frontières

Let down by his wife and the Russian bourgeoisie, an engineer meets Queen Aelita on Mars and dreams of totalitarianism. The end of Soviet idealism embodied by postrevolutionary cinema.

AMERICAN PSYCHO

Mary Harron, US/CA, 2000, 102'

Cast: Christian Bale, Willem Dafoe, Chloë Sevigny

Contact: Filmbankmedia

Patrick Bateman leads two lives, and one of them is all about luxury, decadence, and ultra-violent fantasies. A bone-chilling thriller set among the financial elite.

EL ÁNGEL EXTERMINADOR

Luis Buñuel, MX, 1962, 95'

Cast: Silvia Pinal, Jacqueline Andere, José Baviera

Contact: Mercury Films

Pris au piège dans un salon, notables et domestiques révèlent leurs côtés sombres dans un suspense psychologique intense et subversif.

FROGS

George McCowan, US, 1972, 91'

Cast: Joan Van Ark, Sam Elliott, Ray Milland

Contact: Park Circus

4th of July celebrations turn sour on a swampy island suddenly taken over by its reptilian population. An eco-horror exploitation film that explores a decaying America.

EAT THE RICH

GATTACA

Andrew Niccol, US, 1997, 106'

Cast: Uma Thurman, Ethan Hawk, Gore Vidal

Contact: Park Circus

Vincent, born naturally in a eugenist society, wants to go to space. He steals the identity of a perfect man to challenge his fate. A dystopia brought to life by the hottest cast ever.

GHOST IN THE SHELL

Oshii Mamoru, Nishikubo Mizuho, JP, 1995, 83'

Cast: Tanaka Atsuko, Ôtsuka Akio, Yamadera Kôichi

Contact: Filmbankmedia

In the future, humans and machines are one. A cyborg challenges the order of the tech elites in search of her identity.

GOOD MADAM

Jenna Cato Bass, ZA, 2021, 92'

Cast: Nosipho Mtebe, Chumisa Cosa, Kamvalethu Jonas Raziya

Contact: Causeway Films

Tsidi and her daughter move into a Cape Town house that holds dark secrets. Shocking horrors and revelations about the South African elite ensue.

LAND OF THE DEAD - DIRECTOR'S CUT

George A. Romero, US/CA/FR, 2005, 97'

Cast: Asia Argento, John Leguizamo, Dennis Hopper

Some years after the zombie apocalypse, the rich live in high-security sanctuaries that keep them safe. But the living dead are hungrier than ever in the 4th instalment of the cult saga.

EAT THE RICH

MERMAID LEGEND

Ikeda Toshiharu, JP, 1984, 110'

Cast: Shirato Mari, Shimizu Kentarô

Contact: Carlotta Films

A woman decides to take revenge on those who killed her husband, a fisherman who opposed the construction of a nuclear power plant. A striking political tale about men's greed.

MIDSOMMAR

Ari Aster, US/SE, 2019, 148'

Cast: Jack Reynor, Vilhelm Blomgren, Florence Pugh

Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment Group

A group of American tourists bring their bereaved friend to an isolated place in Sweden where a neopagan festival is taking place. Their idyllic retreat soon turns into an ordeal...

NUEVO ORDEN

Michel Franco, MX/FR, 2020, 86'

Cast: Monica Del Carmen, Naian González Norvind, Eligio Meléndez

Contact: Ascot Elite Entertainment Group

A raging mob disturbs a wedding among Mexican elites. Violence and oppression shine a light on inequalities and the brutality of power in a film that turns the social order on its head.

PORCILE

Pier Paolo Pasolini, IT/FR, 1969, 99'

Cast: Alberto Lionello, Pierre Clémenti, Jean-Pierre Léaud

The tales of a young bourgeois who copulates with pigs and of a man who gets into cannibalism in a volcanic desert. A polemical, bold, and disturbing film.

ROPE

Alfred Hitchcock, US, 1948, 80'

Cast: James Stewart, John Dall, Farley Granger

Contact: Park Circus

Two students strangle a classmate to test out the Nietzschean theory of their professor before inviting him and the dead man's friends and family to dinner at the scene of the crime.

EAT THE RICH

SNOWPIERCER

Bong Joon-ho, KR/CZ, 2013, 126'

Cast: Song Kang-ho, Chris Evans, Ed Harris, Tilda Swinton

Contact: MFA+ FilmDistribution e.K.

On a never stopping train that travels the post-apocalyptic landscape, survivors of the climate catastrophe rise up against a merciless class system.

SOCIETY

Brian Yuzna, US/JP, 1989, 99'

Cast: Billy Warlock, Concetta D'Agnese, Ben Slack

Contact: Eagle Rock Pictures

In the upper-class neighbourhoods of Beverly Hills, Bill discovers the horrific secrets of his adoptive family - a nightmarish world of manipulations, crimes, and orgies.

THE CONSPIRACY

Christopher MacBride, CA, 2012, 84'

Cast: James Gilbert, Ian Anderson, Aaron Poole

Contact: Tamasa Distribution

When a conspiracy theorist vanishes, two documentarians start investigating a secret society. A smart examination of power and secrecy midway between Moore and Romero.

THE CREMATOR

Juraj Herz, CS, 1969, 95'

Cast: Vlasta Chramostová, Jana Stehnová, Rudolf Hrusínský

Contact: Národní filmový archiv

Manipulated by Nazi ideology, a crematory employee becomes insane. A murky story which explores the moral corruption and psychological horror that come with totalitarianism.

EAT THE RICH

THE HOUSEMAID

Im Sang-soo, KR, 2010, 107'

Cast: Jeon Do-yeon, Lee Jung-jae, Youn Yuh-jung

Eun-Yi is hired as a servant by an extremely wealthy family. She becomes the object of the host's desires, creating chaos and jealousy.

THE SQUARE

Ruben Östlund, SE/DE/FR/DK, 2017, 151'

Cast: Elisabeth Moss, Claes Bang, Dominic West

Contact: Xenix filmdistribution GmbH

Museum curator Christian sees his life turned upside down by a burglary and a controversial publicity campaign. A cutting, caustic observation of the artistic elites and their excesses.

THEY LIVE

John Carpenter, US, 1988, 94'

Cast: Roddy Piper, Keith David, Meg Foster

Contact: Tamasa Distribution

An ordinary man finds special glasses that let him see that the world is ruled by decadent aliens. He embarks on an explosive and visionary quest for the truth!

THOROUGHBREDS

Cory Finley, US, 2017, 92'

Cast: Anya Taylor-Joy, Olivia Cooke, Anton Yelchin

Contact: Park Circus

Two wealthy, marginalized teenagers plan bloody revenge. A darkly humorous psychological thriller that explores the morality and devious ennui of the super-rich.

TURKEY SHOOT

Brian Trenchard-Smith, AU/UK, 1982, 93'

Cast: Michael Craig, Olivia Hussey, Steve Railsback

Contact: Golden Media Group, Inc.

In a merciless re-education camp, political dissidents are hunted down for the entertainment of the privileged few. An action-filled, socially subversive, gory cult classic!

NIFFF INVASION

With the support of the City of Neuchâtel, NIFFF INVASION will take over the city with a series of free activities for all ages during the 9 days of the festival.

CLASSICS RELOADED

Five gems of genre cinema, presented in beautifully restored versions.

GODZILLA

Honda Ishirô, JP, 1954, 96'

Cast: Kôchi Momoko, Takarada Akira, Hirata Akihiko

Contact: Toho Global Inc.

In this seminal masterpiece, Godzilla stands for nuclear terror in a traumatized post-war Japan. The film's striking night scenes have influenced other key figures in the giant monsters genre. This year the film celebrates its 70th anniversary and has been restored in 4K for the occasion.

LES YEUX SANS VISAGE

Georges Franju, FR/IT, 1960, 90'

Cast: Pierre Brasseur, Alida Valli, Juliette Mayniel

Contact: Gaumont

In the aftermath of a serious accident, a surgeon desperately tries to reconstruct his daughter's face, leaving all moral and ethical concerns behind. Franju finds the sublime in this hopeless and deathly quest.

ROPE

Alfred Hitchcock, US, 1948, 80'

Cast: James Stewart, John Dall, Farley Granger

Contact: Park Circus

In this bone-chilling, single-setting, virtuoso (fake) oneer, two students who are eager to test out the repugnant Nietzschean theory of their professor strangle one of their classmates before inviting the academic and the dead man's friends and family to dinner at the scene of the crime.

SWISSMADE

Fritz E. Maeder, Fredi M. Murer, Yves Yersin, CH, 1969, 107'

Cast: Elsa Skorecka, Erika Dentzler, Franck Jotterand, Herbert Herrmann, Jocko Kanitzer, Esther Altdorfer, Hannes Bosshard, Carmen Corti

Contact: Cinémathèque Suisse / Swiss Film Archive

Many were stunned back then by these three visionary dystopian short films - financed by the Banque Populaire Suisse - that presented a cold and procedural version of Switzerland.

THE MATRIX

Lilly Wachowski, Lana Wachowski, US/AU, 1999, 136'

Cast: Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishburne

Contact: Park Circus

It's been 25 years since Neo took the red pill, and the world has yet to recover. Having aged like fine wine, the Wachowski sisters' revolutionary film still presents a very believable take on "reality".

KIDS

ÊTRE DIFFÉRENT·E, ÊTRE ENSEMBLE

ES/FR/BE/CH/CZ/SK/PL
2020-2023, 61'
no dialogue, 5a

The Fantoche short films program (from the Baden International Animation Film Festival) will tackle the issue of difference.

In collaboration with Fantoche

VERS L'INFINI ET AU-DELÀ

Using teleported movie scenes, the renowned Professor Nimbus tells the incredible story of science fiction cinema... A cine-conference from La Lanterne Magique for explorers of all ages.

In collaboration with La Lanterne Magique

KID-O-NIFFF

CH, 2024, 70'

Twenty animated short films created by students from Neuchâtel, aged 6 to 15, combining original stories with a variety of techniques.

In collaboration with the Compulsory Education Service (SEO).

FANTASTIC SHORTS

CH, 2024, 75'

About fifteen short films made by 15- to 19-year-olds, putting forth their imagination, skills, and outlooks.

In collaboration with the Filmetic association, the Jean-Piaget High School (Neuchâtel), the Blaise-Cendrars High School (La-Chaux-de-fonds) and the Bienne Visual Arts School

ARTS DE RUE

Open Air hosts free street art shows and performances for young people, presented by the Centre de Création Helvétique des Arts de la Rue (CCHAR).

BOYS BAND BAROQUE

Cie Companimi
CONCERTO POUR TROIS ACROBATES

LES CONTES SPONTANÉS

Cie Sevenact
IMPROVISATION THÉÂTRALE

CLASSE VERTE

Cie Robert et Moi
THÉÂTRE & CHANSON

LITTLE GARDEN

Cie Little Garden
JONGLERIE & ZOOMORPHIE

POURQU'OOOOAA

Cie La Fabrique Infinie
THÉÂTRE POP & SAUTILLANT

O COMME... CACAHUÈTE

Cie Circolabile
CLOWN

OTHER ACTIVITIES

ATELIER CINÉMA #CINE

CAMILLE DE PIETRO ET SOPHIE GAGNEBIN

Here's a challenge for young people: Make a short film in just 5 days! The ingredients? Script adaptation, acting directions, technical know-how, lots of creativity, and a hefty dose of imagination.

In collaboration with #Cine

AU-DELÀ DU RÉÉEL !

MAGALI BOSSI, ATRICE

Hosted by Magali Bossi, author, literary researcher and cofounder of digital and cultural media La Pépinière (workshop partner), this workshop invites you to draw inspiration from the 2024 NIFFF retrospective EAT THE RICH to create your own story. Horror, sci-fi, dystopia, thriller... anything goes!

In collaboration with La Pépinière

LA VILLA

Free entry

THE ALLUVIALS

ALICE BUCKNELL

A projet NIFFF x MUDAC - WORLD PREMIERE

THE ALLUVIALS is a world building project (created in 3D) consisting of a film and a video game from American artist and author Alice Bucknell. She takes inspiration from deep ecology, speculative fiction, and post-human video games to imagine what the future of the Los Angeles River might be like.

The project is a production from MUDAC (Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts), located in the Plateforme 10 quarter of Lausanne in Switzerland. It also received financial contribution and production assistance from transmediale and Arts Council England.

HYBRIS

JONATHAN DROZ & SIMON PLUMEY

En collaboration avec HE-Arc

An interactive installation that questions the new modes of social interaction where interest depends on the image we choose to share with others. From Jonathan Droz, in collaboration with Simon Plumey, graduate of HE-Arc Ingénierie.

In collaboration with HE-Arc Ingénierie

WORLDBUILDING

As part of the "Tour du fantastique" project, the NIFFF is renewing its artists-in-residence program dedicated to world building, aimed at developing a narrative universe adaptable to a variety of media.

In collaboration with la Tour du fantastique

ANNIVERSAIRE DE L'EPIC GAME JAM - EP. 1

OTHER

The Epic Game Jam celebrates its 10th anniversary, which is a perfect opportunity to showcase some of the masterworks that have come out of this now legendary event in the gaming industry.

In collaboration with the Epic Game Jam

JOUER LES QUESTIONS AUTREMENT !

This year, NIFFF INVASION invites you to delve deeper into its film program through a selection of games for all ages.

In collaboration with L'Ornithorynque

RÉSIDENCE EVIL

OTHER

In November 2023 and February 2024, Mélanie Courtinat and Yatoni Roy Cantu gave the opportunity to about fifteen artists to explore and question the contemporary issue of online fear during two week-long artists-in-residence programs at L'Abri in Geneva.

This resulted in about twenty pieces of art bringing unique worlds to life in various forms. Video games, short films, ARG, blogging... the NIFFF makes it possible to discover some of these terrifying creations.

EXHIBITION EAT THE RICH

HUNGER

An exhibition from Maison d'Ailleurs

The NIFFF continues its work with Maison d'Ailleurs through an exhibition that expands on the EAT THE RICH retrospective. Pictures and texts on display at Théâtre du Passage will sketch imaginary societies burdened with hunger or starvation. Could decadence be pushing us to feast on our fear of ending things?

LABORATOIRE PHOTOGRAPHIQUE IMMERSIF

HYDE

Olivier Beguin, CH, 10'

In collaboration with Chaoticlock Films

Doctor Jekyll is ready to see you in his lab. Let him reveal the Hyde within you. An experience put together by Olivier Beguin.

NIFFF X CAN X GOSWELL ROAD

For this year's edition, the CAN Centre d'art Neuchâtel (NIFFF x CAN) extends a carte blanche invitation to the Paris-based Artist-run space Goswell Road, who propose two interventions: one overt, and one covert.

DAVID HOYLE

Goswell Road's overt intervention sees the iconic performance and visual artist David Hoyle (b.1962, United Kingdom) taking to the streets to interrogate the cinema-going public. Their work for the last 30+ years has referenced gender, politics, identity, mental health issues, and the ongoing fight for equality.

SUBSTRATE

SUBSTRATE, plus discret, se trouvera dans les bars, les restaurants, les lieux de rencontre et les halls de cinémas du festival ; dix artistes contemporains ont été invités à créer une édition limitée de sous-bock qui accompagnent les boissons, à la fois utilisables en tant que tels et comme œuvres d'art à collectionner.

AFFFTERS

Bars, food trucks, and DJ sets in the heart of the English Garden, offering a refreshing break between screenings, a place to eat, and dance.

DOWNTOWNK

On top of the free music program every evening at the OFFF (Jardin anglais), late-night partygoers can count on the NIFFF and DTK to deliver fantastic AFFFTERS! Come dance the night away to the beat of local artists on Fridays 5th and 12th, Saturdays 6th and 13th, and Thursday 11th.

TIA
INDIE DANCE

RESET & NINA PAQARI
SOULFUL HOUSE, DEEP TECH & BREAKS

CUT 3000
ÉLECTRONIC

LADY GOBELET
INDIE DANCE, PROGRESSIVE HOUSE

MYLKYWAY
TECHNO

NIFFF EXTENDED

A series of conferences and meetings that address the future of cinema and audiovisuals, storytelling, and speculative fiction.

RTS ARCHIVES: CREATING A TV HOAX

Has Swiss television ever been interested in science fiction? While going through their archives, the RTS stumbled upon a surprising prank from June 22nd, 1971. On that day, at 8:30 p.m., the station interrupted its normal programs to broadcast the live arrival of a UFO near Geneva... The show's producer will revisit what went into setting up this Orson Welles-level hoax.

- **Marlène Belilos**, Television producer, CH
- **Didier Bufflier**, Head of ArchiveLab-RTS, CH
- **Sophie Meyer**, Head of Publishing and Partnerships at RTS Data and Archives Department, CH

EAT THE RICH - THE RICH GAZE IN GENRE CINEMA

This roundtable discussion is dedicated to how the political allegories of genre cinema work as a mirror for class struggle. This discussion, moderated by journalist Judith Beauvallet, aka Demoiselle d'horreur, and involving researcher Sophie Serrano among others, complements our Eat The Rich retrospective. A fascinating dialogue about the evolution of political commitment in cinema.

IMAGING THE FUTURE

AHEAD OF THE GAME

LET'S PLAY NATURE

In video games, nature is often seen as a threat or as a resource. This two-person conference questions the ability of the medium to subvert this anthropocentric outlook by exploring two unique games: Stray (a dark, feline-lead adventure), as well as the icy KONA II: BRUME.

- **Guillaume Guenat**, GameLab collaborator Gand graduate assistant at UNIL, CH
- **Loïse Bilat**, GameLab member and teacher at HEP Fribourg, CH

THAT COSY FEELING

Wholesome games are products that offer a nice, chill, pleasant gaming experience through varied, playful mechanics. How does one approach the specifics of such a (relatively new) genre? Stardust and neoludic tackle the subject while roaming through a magic forest (GRI-MOIRE GROVES) and a utopian bookshop (TINY BOOKSHOP).

- **Tabea Iseli**, CEO & Game Director at Stardust Studio, CH
- **David Wildemann**, CO-CEO & Creative Director at neoludic games, DE
- **David Javet**, Consultant AotG, C

VFX BREAKDOWN

THE LAST OF US

No other zombie story had ever made people cry so much. Storm Studios will present its work on The Last Of Us, among the most well-regarded video game adaptations of recent years. The studio has mainly worked on the infected and the cordyceps, focusing its creativity on prosthetics and production stills.

- **Espen Nordahl**, Head of VFX at Storm Studios, NO

3 BODY PROBLEM

Adapting Liu Cixin's novel – full to the brim with bold scientific concepts that are hard to visualize – to the screen was no easy task. Pixomondo will revisit this ambitious project, which required a wide array of VFX services.

- **Michael Schlesinger**, Lead Compositor at Pixomondo, DE

INTERNET HORROR

Creepypastas, backrooms, digital urbex – Internet has become the cradle for the creation and circulation of a new kind of horror storytelling. Thousands of netizens get together online to come up with spooky stories. What sets these dark creations apart? What opportunities come with the digital age?

- **Mélanie Courtinat**, Artist and co-founder of Résidence Evil, FR
- **Yatoni Roy Cantu**, Artist and co-founder of Résidence Evil, CH
- **Obscuria**, Videographer and Youtuber, FR
- **Boris Bruckler**, Consultant NWoF, CH

ANIMATION FOR GROWNUPS

NIMONA

NIMONA, an exhilarating story brought to life through flamboyant animation, received wide acclaim from the audience. DNEG Animation will present the work accomplished on this very “metal” adaptation of N.D. Stevenson’s graphic novel. From animation techniques to the importance of authentic storytelling, discover how the studio gave life to this Oscar-nominated film.

- **Toby Seale**, Lead animator at DNEG Animation, UK

SCHIRKOA: IN LIES WE TRUST

Schirkoa, which is part of our Asian Competition, makes a strong impression thanks to its unique aesthetics, bringing a striking dystopian world to life. The director will talk about the creative and technical aspects that come with using the Unreal Engine as part of the animation process.

- **Ishan Shukla**, Director, IN

PRACTICAL VFX: SIMON WEISSE

In a world where digital effects reign supreme, Simon Weisse remains one of the few experts of 3D modeling worldwide. He is the architect of Wes Anderson’s singular visions, and has also worked with the Wachowskis and Steven Spielberg. He will revisit his most recent collaboration with Anderson, and discuss the synergy between his work and CGI technology.

- **Simon Weisse**, Prop & model maker, DE

NEW WORLD OF FANTASY

EMBODYING (DIS)ENCHANTED TOMORROWS

Many artists today tackle issues related to environmentalism. These modern works not only articulate what’s at stake, but also bring these problems to life. Now is the time to make art about the green movement, not just in relation to it. How can these new voices express themselves? What more will they be able to say tomorrow?

- **Saul Pandelakis**, Author and researcher at Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès, FR
- **Lucia Masu**, Artist and author, CH
- **Alice Carabédian**, Specialist in science fiction utopias, FR
- **Sophie Desbiolles**, Researcher and comedian, CH
- **Colin Pahlisch**, Coordinator at ORIA, UNIL, CH

JULIEN BLONDEL: MASTER OF DARK FANTASY

Multifaceted writer Julien Blondel (comics, films, video games, role playing games) is launching the second cycle of his flagship series Elric, as well as a new manga set in the Dark Souls universe. For his one and only visit to Switzerland, he will discuss his appetite for dark tales, a genre he has been working in for many years.

- **Julien Blondel**, Comics writer and screenwriter, FR
- **Boris Bruckler**, Consultant NWoF, CH

RENCONTRE AVEC SAUL PANDELAKIS

From the trans bots of La Séquence Aardtman to the sunduz language created in Les Hygialogues de Ty Petersen, Saul Pandelakis never stops thinking about the ways we can come together and interact with our (more or less) fellow humans. He will discuss the place given to language in his empathetic and ambitious stories with Tammara Leites.

- **Saul Pandelakis**, Author and researcher at Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès, FR
- **Tammara Leites**, Artist, developer and interaction designer at Transmii, CH

TEAM

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Programmer: Kate Reidy
Shorts Programmer: Charlotte Serrand
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Selection Committee (shorts): James Berclaz-Lewis (CH), Léa Eigenmann (CH), Sonia Pfeuti (CH), Raphaëlle Pralong (CH), Alexandre Rallo (FR/DE), Kate Reidy (CH), Charlotte Serrand (FR)
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Volunteers Hospitality: Aurélie Gauchat, Laetitia Gauchat, Gaëlle Félix

SCREENINGS & LIVESTREAM

Technical Supervisor: Mike Pfenninger
DCP Master: Lionel Bize
Movie Technician: Marie Geiser
CTO, Audiovisual Engineer: Clément Borel
Audiovisual Technician, Live Editor: Nicolas Wilhem
Set Manager: Gaël Rovero
Set Assistant: Carole Monbaron

Conference Audiovisual Technician: Samet Sulejmanoski
Audio Technician: Damian Rognon
Projectionists: Lionel Bize, Issam Chouadhi, Laure Donzé
Print Traffic Coordinator: Samet Sulejmanoski
Digital Subtitling: Nadège Moulineau - SUB7

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Interpreters: James Berclaz-Lewis, Yasmine Briacca, Blaise Strautmann

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Realization : Yves Cernuschi

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Annick Challet-Jeanneret, Joëlle Berthoud Schaer, Yvan de Marco, Nathalie Grenon, Caroline Junier, Stéphane Paris, Alain Rebert, Pierre Walder, Yyou Walder

And finally, warmest regards to all the wonderful staff and volunteers, to the members of the AANIFFF and people without whom the NIFFF would not exist...

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BEFORE THE FESTIVAL

All accreditation forms can be submitted online until THE 2nd of July 2024.

When applicable, the accreditation fee is CHF 80.

The accreditation gives access to NIFFF EXTENDED upon reservation.

Our Press Team is at your disposal for interview requests (both online or on site guests), additional information and questions regarding the program.

The press screenings timetable will be available on the press corner on NIFFF.ch and at the press office during the festival.

DURING THE FESTIVAL

The press office is open to journalists and professionals on the 1st floor of the Théâtre du Passage, Maximilien-de-Meuron 4, 2000 Neuchâtel.

PROFESSIONAL RECEPTION

Théâtre du Passage, 1st floor

05.07 - 13.07 11:00 - 18:00

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