

NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

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NIFFF 2024: TOMORROW, FANTASTIC FILMS ARE CASTING A SPELL ON NEUCHÂTEL

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) is about to start! From tomorrow, its 23rd edition (July 5-13) is welcoming you for nine days of thrills and cinematic exploration with 124 films from all 5 continents and 46 countries! The international premiere of **ANIMALE** will kick things off during the opening ceremony at Théâtre du Passage, in the presence of the film's director Emma Benestan and lead actress Oulaya Amamra. This Camargue-set thriller will also be the first film shown at the Open Air on Place des Halles.

GENRE ICONS AND NEW TALENTS

From the Théâtre du Passage to the majestic Open Air on Place des Halles, the OFFF area at Jardin anglais, and La Villa, the City of Neuchâtel is getting ready for the event of the summer: the NIFFF is starting tomorrow! During the first weekend, festivalgoers will be able to meet our guest of honor **Asia Argento** for the screening of **EYES WITHOUT A FACE** at the Open Air (07.06, 9:45 p.m.), a Georges Franju classic handpicked by the Italian icon as part of her carte blanche. Filmmaker **Ulaa Salim**, who made a splash here in 2019 with **SONS OF DENMARK**, is back in Neuchâtel with **ETERNAL** (07.05, 7 p.m., Arcades). Also returning is the duo **Alexandre Bustillo** and **Julien Maury**, this time with the very dark **THE SOUL EATER** (07.07, 4:45 p.m., Arcades). The Swiss premiere of **Ti West's** trilogy capper **MAXXINE** will take place at the Arcades cinema on Saturday evening - and it promises to be quite the triumph.

It is important to note that many filmmakers are choosing to come back to the NIFFF with their newest work, among them **Veronika Franz** (**DES TEUFELS BAD**, 07.05, 7:30 p.m., Studio), who was part of last year's international jury, **Steffen Haars** (**KRAZY HOUSE**, 07.06, 10 p.m., Studio) of legendary **NEW KIDS** fame, or **Shalini Ushadevi** (**ENNENNUM**, 07.06, 2:30 p.m., Arcades) who had made a strong impression back in 2012 with her debut feature.

EAT THE RICH - THE FEAST STARTS EARLY

The retrospective will start with great flourish on Friday with Brian Yuzna's **SOCIETY** (07.05, 12 a.m., Passage 1) and continue throughout the festival with a total of 22 feature films. **AELITA** (07.05, 11 a.m., Arcades), **THE CONSPIRACY** (07.06, 5 p.m., Rex), **THEY LIVE** (07.06, 7:30 p.m., Studio), **SNOWPIERCER** (07.07, 4:30 p.m., Rex), **AMERICAN PSYCHO** (07.07, 7:15 p.m., Rex), and **LAND OF THE DEAD** (07.07, 10 p.m., Rex) are all on the menu for this first weekend. That makes for a perfect appetizer before a detailed analysis of how elites are portrayed in genre cinema with the "rich gaze" roundtable discussion that will take place on Wednesday, July 10th (1:30 p.m., Passage 2). Moderator and journalist **Judith Beauvallet**, a.k.a. *Demoiselles d'horreur*, will discuss the subject with researcher **Sophie Serrano** and journalist **Nora Bouazzouni**.

SWITZERLAND IS NOT TO BE OUTDONE

Judging from the country's next generation of talents, Switzerland is a fertile ground for fantastic films. On Saturday, the NIFFF will present **AMAZING SCHOOLS** (07.06, 11 a.m., Studio), a new short film program organized in collaboration with Swiss film schools and designed as a forum for future filmmakers to meet and exchange. The **SWISS SHORTS** competition (07.06, 2:30 p.m., Studio) will already be in full swing on day 2. The directors will be in attendance to support their works, competing for the H.R. Giger "Narcisse" award for best short film (CHF 10,000 given by **SSA/Suissimage**). Finally, Swiss director **Sophia Bösch** will be presenting the national premiere of her debut feature **MILCHZÄHNE** (07.06, 7:30 p.m., Rex), a striking tale about the desire to belong.

OPENING OF LA VILLA AT LA PETITE ROCHETTE

Those of a curious disposition are invited to check out La Villa from 1 to 7 p.m., every day from Saturday and until the end of the festival. **THE ALLUVIALS** is the centerpiece from American artist **Alice Bucknell**, who explores the political stakes of drought in the Los Angeles region from the point of view of human and non-human actors. Visitors will also be able to play various games for all ages from Neuchâtel-based store **L'Ornithorynque**, and discover the creations related to the **Epic Game Jam**, which celebrates its 10th anniversary.

Mélanie Courtinat and **Yatoni Roy Cantu** invited several people to partake in an artists-in-residence program at L'Abri in Geneva. The theme: Online fear. The result: About 20 works ranging from video games to short films brought together under the name **RÉSIDENCE EVIL**. Some of these terrifying creations will be exhibited at La Villa from Saturday. The **INTERNET HORROR** roundtable discussion (07.09, 10:45 a.m., Passage 2) will go deeper with YouTuber **Obscuria** and the cofounders of **RÉSIDENCE EVIL**.

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