

NIFFF - Press release, May 27, 2025 For immediate release

NIFFF 2025 - NEW 'SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT' FOCUS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNINE

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) is pleased to unveil SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT, a new special program organized in collaboration with the University of Neuchâtel (UniNE) that will be introduced at this year's 24th edition (4-12 July). It will immerse the audience in rather... terrifying campuses through three iconic feature films.

FANCY ATTENDING FRIGHT SCHOOL?

"With the lights out, it's less dangerous Here we are now, entertain us I feel stupid and contagious Here we are now, entertain us"

SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT, the cult song from Nirvana, is also how the NIFFF chose to call the three-film series that will be shown as part of our collaboration with **UniNE**. Through countless fantastic films, including a few that are now classics, campus horror has become fertile ground for unbound imagination and a genre onto itself. With this collaboration, the NIFFF and UniNe are hoping to rekindle the nostalgia of our audience members, who will be able to (re)discover these cult movies on the big screen. Now, there's something that should make Monsieur Robert happy!

What better film than **CARRIE** (1976) to get started? An American teenager who is being bullied by her classmates, her professors, and her mother sees an opportunity for revenge when she discovers she has supernatural abilities... This bloody coming of age was a resounding commercial and critical success. By adapting Stephen King's first novel, **Brian de Palma** explores and goes beyond very modern themes, such as the pangs of adolescence, bullying at school, and toxic family relations. The film made a star out of main actress Sissy Spacek, who impresses with a performance that combines vulnerability and liberating fury, while also introducing a young charismatic actor called John Travolta, here in ones of his first roles.

Josh Hartnett, Elijah Wood, Salma Hayek, Laura Harris, Jordana Brewster, Usher... **Robert Rodriguez** gets the hottest Hollywood stars of the 90s together in **THE FACULTY** (1998), which has become a cult sci-fi flick for an entire generation. When aliens take control of the teachers at the (fictional) Herrington High, surviving suddenly becomes a bigger priority than nailing the exams...

Perhaps a little less well-known, **WHISPERING CORRIDORS** (Park Ki-hyeong, 1998) is a true hidden gem. In a girls-only Korean school, the spirit of a pupil who had committed suicide nine years prior starts haunting the place... One of the first movies of a new era in the industry after the end of dictatorship and censorship, the film provides a biting critique of South Korea's education system. Five sequels would eventually follow.

TITLES

CARRIE

Brian De Palma, US, 1976

THE FACULTY

Robert Rodriguez, US/MX, 1998

WHISPERING CORRIDORS

Park Ki-hyeong, KR, 1998

NIFFF ON TOUR: JUNE APPETIZERS

In collaboration with various partners, the NIFFF continues to promote fantastic films all year round. This June, you can immerse yourself in the world of video games with **EAT THE NIGHT** (in partnership with **les Culturateurs**) or tread the dangerous waters of **JAWS** (in partnership with the **Cinémathèque suisse**).

AFFFTERS - THE CHERRY ON TOP

As part of **NIFFF INVASION**, you can enjoy a free music program at the **Jardin anglais' OFFF** area every evening of the festival. For bigger party animals, the NIFFF is teaming up with **DTK** and **Théâtre de la Maison du Concert** for fantastic **AFFFTERS** (more details TBA).