



*NIFFF - Press release, July 12, 2025
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NIFFF 2025 - THE YEAR OF DIVERSITY, AUDACITY, AND SUCCESS

The 24th edition of the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) just finished with a bang! 9 days of non-stop film screenings, impassioned talks, hypnotic performances, and imagination-expanding exhibitions. This 2025 edition offered an extensive cinematic overview including 127 works out of 42 countries from all around the world. Through this international selection, the NIFFF provided a better understanding of how genre cinema continually redefines the breadth of its diversity and commitment.

Director Lucile Hadžihalilovic won the H.R. Giger "Narcisse" award for best feature film (CHF 10,000 given by the City of Neuchâtel) with her movie **THE ICE TOWER**, a modern tale about control and desire starring the stunning Clara Pacini and Marion Cotillard.

The Silver Méliès was awarded to Emilie Blichfeldt for **THE UGLY STEPSISTER**, a queer, feminist take on the Cinderella tale.

According to our initial estimates, attendance numbers went up year-to-year with 66'000 festivalgoers including 43'000 tickets sold. Of special importance this year was the grand opening of the festival's new open air called **LES HALLES OBSCURA**. The brand-new layout was a resounding success, with multiple sold out screenings.

2025 PRIZE LIST

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

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

THE ICE TOWER, Lucile Hadžihalilovic

Awarded by the City of Neuchâtel

Honorable mention: **HER WILL BE DONE**, Julia Kowalski

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

THE ICE TOWER, Lucile Hadžihalilovic

BROADCASTING - RTS AUDIENCE AWARD

U ARE THE UNIVERSE, Pavlo Ostrikov

Awarded by Radio Télévision Suisse

PROMOTION - NIFFF INTERNATIONAL CRITICS AWARD

HONEY BUNCH, Madeleine Sims-Fewer, Dusty Mancinelli

Awarded by 3 international journalists

YOUTH AWARD

U ARE THE UNIVERSE, Pavlo Ostrikov

A BA111OD watch - Awarded by the Denis-de-Rougemont & Blaise-Cendrars high schools

2025 PRIZE LIST

ASIAN COMPETITION

HONORARY - Best Asian Film Award

REWRITE, Daigo Matsui

Chosen by the audience

MELIES COMPETITION

SILVER MÉLIÈS - With the Méliès International Festivals Federation (MIFF)

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

THE UGLY STEPSISTER, Emilie Blichfeldt

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

STOMACH BUG, Matty Crawford

SHORTS COMPETITION

HONORARY - Best Short Film Award

PLAYING GOD, Matteo Burani

Chosen by the audience

HONORARY - Youth Award

THE EGGREGORES' THEORY, Andrea Gatopoulos

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

COMING SOON TO THE CINEMA

Several films from the festival's selection will soon be released in cinemas.

DALLOWAY - Yann Gozlan, FR/BE, 2025 (Pathé Films): 09.17.2025

MOTHER'S BABY - Johanna Moder, AT/DE/CH, 2025 (Filmcoopi Zurich AG): 09.18.2025

ALPHA - Julia Ducournau, FR/BE, 2025 (Filmcoopi Zurich AG): 08.20.2025

EXIT 8 - Genki Kawamura, JP, 2025 (Praesens-Films AG): 09.03.2025

DANGEROUS ANIMALS - Sean Byrne, AU/US/CA, 2025 (Pathé Films): 07.23.2025

SIRÂT - Oliver Laxe, FR/ES, 2025 (Filmcoopi Zurich AG): 09.10.2025

EDDINGTON - Ari Aster, US/FL, 2025 (Ascot Elite): 11.20.2025

CLOWN IN A CORNFIELD - Eli Craig, US, 2025 (Praesens-Film AG): 08.20.2025

NIFFF 2026

The NIFFF's 25th edition will take place from July 3rd to July 11th, 2026.

CONTACT

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