

NIFFF



NEUCHÂTEL
INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

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NIFFF 2021 : This weekend, finally back together

The celebrations for the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF)'s 20th edition are starting on July 2nd. This first weekend will be filled with full-scale activities taking full advantage of the latest announcements from the Federal Council (two thirds of maximal capacity for venues). Presented in a hybrid format, the International Competition will commence within mere hours of the beginning of the festival with remote interventions from Filipino filmmaker Dodo Dayao for the international premiere of the nightmarish **MIDNIGHT IN A PERFECT WORLD** (03.07, 4:15 p.m.) and from Brazilian director Renata Pinheiro for her corrosive **KING CAR** (04.07, 10 p.m.). In the non-competitive sections, the Taiwanese filmmaking duo Muni Wei and Chen Hung-i (**AS WE LIKE IT** - 04.07, 1:30 p.m.) will attend remotely, while French director Mathieu Turi (**MEANDER** - 04.07, 7:15 p.m.) will be here physically. **SAUVAGE EXTENDED** and the spectacular series of immersive installations will open at the Neuchâtel Natural History Museum (MHNN) from 1:30 p.m. on Friday (02.07). With a Taiwanese-themed evening and the unmissable concert from WuWu (03.07, 10 p.m.) ready to fire up the crowds, as well as the NIFFF 20th EDITION day (04.07), the first weekend of the festival already promises to be one for the ages.

MOOR YOUR BOAT AT THE "ILHA FORMOSA" (03.07)

FORMOSA FANTASTICA is a major programme dedicated to the Taiwanese imagination and wastes no time in inviting viewers to discover the country's incredibly dynamic production. On Saturday, July 3rd, the event at the Open Air will immerse the audience in Taiwanese culture with a concert from WuWu that will make the city buzz with its mix of percussions and mapping (03.07, 9:30 p.m.), followed by the screening of the supernatural comedy **MY MISSING VALENTINE**. Leading figures of the industry will come together to highlight its vitality at **THE LANDSCAPE OF GENRE CINEMA IN TAIWAN** roundtable (03.07, 2 p.m.). Moderated by specialist Wafa Ghermani, this conversation will involve key players in the island's audiovisual landscape joining in remotely: director John Hsu (**DETENTION, GREAT HOAX: THE MOON LANDING**), producer Ko Yi-Sen (**GET THE HELL OUT**), programmer Therese Yang (Golden Horse Fantastic Film Festival), and critic Ryan Cheng. Organized in collaboration with the Taiwan Creative Content Agency (TAICCA), the body in charge of promoting new modes of storytelling and digital creation, these discussions will continue all week long between Taipei and Neuchâtel, and make up a big part of the NIFFF Extended label.

NIFFF 20th EDITION: CELEBRATION DAY (04.07)

Sunday, July 4th, will be devoted to celebrating the festival's 20th edition. The NIFFF will take a look back at the first two decades of existence and the cultural context in which the festival was born (**BIG TROUBLE IN LITTLE NEUCHÂTEL** - 04.07, 2 p.m.). The evolution of the fantasy genre, which has become the most prominent one in the film industry, will also be tackled with Swiss producer and programmer Annick Mahnert, sales agent Grégory Chambet (WTFilms), Norwegian director André Øvredal (**TROLL HUNTER, SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK**), and Pierre-Yves Walder, future director of the NIFFF (**HOW FANTASTIC FILMS**

CONQUERED THE WORLD – 04.07, 4 p.m.). A carte blanche was also given to the trio Olivier Müller (former NIFFF director), Anaïs Emery (former NIFFF director), and Pierre-Yves Walder (future director of the NIFFF) to screen three essential fantastic films from recent years. The screening for **IT FOLLOWS** (04.07, 10 p.m.) will come after the presentation for **NIFFF 2000 - 2020 : RÉPERTOIRE D'IMAGINAIRES**, the anniversary book sold at the Théâtre du Passage during the festival (French and German only).

SPOTLIGHT ON SWITZERLAND

Switzerland will take pride of place from the very beginning of the festival. Two immersive gems from Switzerland will have their world premiere as part of the ambitious **SAUVAGE EXTENDED** installations: **BATVISION** (Raffaëlle Grosjean & Eliane Zihlmann, 2021) and **ANOTHER SHORE** (Théo Fischer, Pablo Perez & Hector Fassa, 2021). Created as part of the NIFFF On Tour@CERN workshop, these two high profile projects are a testament to the dynamism of virtual reality in Switzerland. They can be discovered all through the festival. A major part of the programme, the Swiss short films competition will be shown with the filmmakers in attendance to introduce their work (03.07, 4 p.m.). Martin Vetterli, President of the EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne) will invite the audience to discover his relationship to imagination through three science-fiction movies he will be introducing: **HOMBRE MIRANDO AL SUDESTE** from Eliseo Subiela (02.07, 10 p.m.), **ALPHAVILLE** from Jean-Luc Godard (03.07, 7:15 p.m.), and **FAHRENHEIT 451** from François Truffaut (03.07, 10 p.m.). The spotlight on Switzerland will continue all through the festival, for instance with **TEMPS MORT** (07.07, 7 p.m.) from pioneer of French-speaking Swiss television Jean-Jacques Lagrange, who will come in person. Finally, a series of short films directed by students from the Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD) under the supervision of Basil Da Cunha will explore the boundaries between naturalistic and fantasy cinema: **AUX FRONTIÈRES DU FANTASTIQUE** (8.07, 4:15 p.m.).

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