



NIFFF - Press release, February 13th, 2020

WORLD PREMIERE OF "BÂTARDS" ON JULY 4TH, 2020, AT THE NIFFF

For its 20th edition, the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) and Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS) will present the world premiere of the web series **BÂTARDS** from Malou Briand and Raphaël Meyer on July 4th, 2020 at 8 p.m. at the Théâtre du Passage. Produced by Box Productions and RTS, this fantasy Web fiction was born out of the third FANTASTIC WEB CONTEST call to projects organised in 2019 by the NIFFF and RTS. This initiative aims at supporting young talents and Swiss creativity in terms of digital media and screenwriting. Prepare for an evening dedicated to celebrating a new generation of Swiss filmmakers and innovators, who the festival continues to support.

Since learning they won the contest during the 19th edition's closing ceremony last July, the young, talented Malou Briand and Raphaël Meyer endeavoured to make **BÂTARDS** within one year, an ambitious project that immerses viewers in the world of reality TV. As it explores a new dimension of the fantasy genre, this promising web series leverages the codes of genre cinema to cast a critical look at society and its pitfalls within a radical narrative. In addition, the series stars young actors, among them Sasha Gravat Harsch (14 years old), Maoro Maquart (11 years old) and Mila Jubelin de Meyer (14 years old). The cast will be honoured by the presence of Swiss comedian Vincent Veillon.

I am delighted that the NIFFF has become a platform allowing for experimentation and research within the Swiss audiovisual industry. The web format is a sign for the advent of new ways of telling stories, which we hope are progressive and innovative." - Anaïs Emery, General Director, NIFFF

"Malou Briand and Raphaël Meyer are what the French-speaking audiovisual sector need in this era of renewal: talent, hard work and a distinct taste for writing. We are very happy that this project is finally entering production with the support of RTS", says Patrick Suhner, Editorial Production, RTS Fiction Department.

"Since its inception in 2004, Box Productions has always put discovering new talents front and centre in French-speaking Switzerland. We are delighted to be continuing our journey with this web series" - Elena Tatti, Producer, Box Productions

Principal photography on **BÂTARDS** will take place from February 15th to March 8th in the cantons of Geneva, Vaud et Valais. The six 7-minute episodes will be shown on the various RTS platforms the day after their world premiere on Sunday, July 5th, 2020.



BÂTARDS, CH, 2020
Six 7-minute episodes

Directors:

Malou Briand and Raphaël Meyer

Production:

Box Productions

Coproduction:

RTS and NIFFF

Main cast:

Sasha Gravat Harsch
Mila Jubelin de Meyer
Maïmouna Kone
Maoro Maquart
Esteban Sicilia
Vincent Veillon

Synopsis: We call them the Bastards. They're children who have been abandoned, left to fend for themselves. Every year, a reality TV show picks some of them and promises the winner they will be adopted by a rich celebrity couple. As only four contestants remain, things go haywire when the identity of the future parents is revealed...

Directors' biography:

MALOU BRIAND

Born in 1992, Malou Briand has a degree in French Literature from the Sorbonne University. She has worked as a production assistant for a photographers' agency before shifting to journalism. In 2015, she joined the Vice team and works on video and editorial content. She started her Master's in Scriptwriting at ECAL/HEAD in September 2018.

RAPHAËL MEYER

Born in 1991, Raphaël Meyer studied the history and aesthetics of cinema, as well as American literature at the University of Lausanne. He completed his Master's degree in 2015 and started work as a production/distribution assistant, and assistant director. In addition to this deep dive in the industry side of things, he wrote and directed several short films. In 2018, he enrolled for the ECAL-HEAD Scriptwriting Master's degree.

**CONTACTS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
AND SET VISIT REQUESTS:**

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