



NIFFF 2020: THE SPECIAL EVENT TAKES OFF

The Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) unveils its online special event set to take place between July 3rd and 11th. This year, the festival is exploring new digital territories while continuing to promote cultural and audiovisual diversity, in a summer that resembles no other. Our eclectic programme of Swiss and International premieres will be streamed with the help of the Swiss VOD platform Cinefile. The 2020 selection includes about twenty films that explore the current state of the cinema of the imagination in spite of the big hit the industry has suffered as a result of the health crisis.

Plunge into the depths of fear with **SEA FEVER** from Irish filmmaker Neasa Hardiman, witness the return of American director Joe Begos and his visceral exploitation flick **VFW**, submit to the waking nightmare of **SCHLAF** from German storyteller Michael Venus (with a terrifying Sandra Hüller and Swiss actor Max Hubacher), and embrace the quirkiness of romance in **POISSONSEXE** (in which Gustave Kervern and India Hair put on their best stoic faces). This diverse cinematographic overview will invite itself straight in the audience's living room.

On top of these offbeat gems, the programme also includes the season's major genre releases such as **AV: THE HUNT**, an anti-patriarchy survival from Turkish filmmaker Emre Akay (world premiere), **CHASING DREAM**, the latest gem from Hong Kong genius Johnnie To, or **DINNER IN AMERICA**, an anarcho-nihilistic romance (European premiere). Not to be outdone, Japanese cinema will be represented by the musical **DANCE WITH ME** from director Yaguchi Shinobu (**ROBO-G, SURVIVAL FAMILY**) - prepare to tap your feet! Designed as a springboard for the NIFFF's 20th edition, this special event will also include three films from the Fantastique 20 20 20 retrospective, major works from important contemporary filmmakers.

The 2020 programme is not an attempt at summarising the usual NIFFF selection, but still works as a testament to the dynamism of the imaginary and the reckless desire of the team to promote it. In response to the health crisis and driven by the core values of the NIFFF, the festival's organisers felt the need to experiment and innovate with the tools at their disposal. The longevity of the industry was one of the lines of thinking adopted by the artistic director. The selected films will thus be in Pay-per-view solely in Switzerland and limited to 1,000 views per title. All will be shown in original version, with French and German subtitles.

AV THE HUNT
Emre Akay, TR, 2020, 90'
WORLD PREMIERE

BLOOD MACHINES
Seth Ickerman, FR, 2019, 50'
SWISS PREMIERE

BREAKING SURFACE
Joachim Hedén, NO/SW/BE, 2020, 82'
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

CHASING DREAM
Johnnie To, HK/CN, 2019, 118'
SWISS PREMIERE

COMRADE DRACULICH
Márk Bodzsár, HU, 2019, 95'
SWISS PREMIERE

DANCE WITH ME
Yaguchi Shinobu, JP, 2019, 103'
SWISS PREMIERE

DETENTION
John Hsu, TW, 2019, 103'
SWISS PREMIERE

DINNER IN AMERICA
Adam Rehmeier, US, 2020, 106'
EUROPEAN PREMIERE

GUNDALA

Joko Anwar, ID, 2019, 120'
SWISS PREMIERE

HITMAN: AGENT JUN

Choi Won-sub, KR, 2020, 110'
EUROPEAN PREMIERE

JUMBO

Zoé Wittcock, FR/BE/LU, 2020, 93'
SWISS PREMIERE

KHUN PHAEN BEGINS

Kongkiat Komesiri, TH, 2019, 138'
EUROPEAN PREMIERE

POISSONSEXE

Olivier Babinet, FR/BE, 2019, 98'
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

SEA FEVER

Neasa Hardiman, IE/UK/BE, 2019, 91'
SWISS PREMIERE

SCHLAF

Michael Venus, DE, 2020, 102'
SWISS PREMIERE

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Matthew Rankin, CA, 2019, 90'
SWISS PREMIERE

VFW

Joe Begos, US, 2019, 92'
SWISS PREMIERE

VHYES

Jack Henry Robbins, US, 2019, 72'
SWISS PREMIERE

Press screeners are available before the event.

NIFFF TV

Every day of the event at 9 p.m., the **NIFFF TV** show will encourage discussions around this special programme, talk about what is going on in the audiovisual industry worldwide, and discuss the Fantastique 20 20 20 retrospective. Filmed in a temporary studio set up at the Théâtre du Passage, this show will work as a platform for highlighting the current trends with debates, interviews, and daily topics.

NIFFF TV will be hosted by the energetic and versatile actress Audrey Cavelius, the **NIFFF** team, several amazing contributors - Philippe Congiusti (RTS), Nicolas Dufour (Le Temps), French director Benoît Forgeard (**YVES**) - and guests who will be in attendance in the studio. This dream team will interact with the best of the best of the current fantastic film industry.

NIFFF TV will also be the opportunity for the audience to see extensive interviews with major figures of genre cinema: Nicolas Winding Refn (**DRIVE, ONLY GOD FORGIVES**), Luca Guadagnino (**SUSPIRIA, A BIGGER SPLASH, CALL ME BY YOUR NAME**), Eli Roth (**HOSTEL, CABIN FEVER**), Gareth Evans (**THE RAID**), Álex de la Iglesia (**LAS BRUJAS DE ZUGARRAMURDI, EL BAR**). Along with these renowned guests, incredible writers like Jean-Marc Ligny (**ALLIANCES**), ZEP (**TITEUF**), Antoinette Rychner (**APRÈS LE MONDE**) and Pierre Bordage (**LES GUERRIERS DU SILENCE**), as well as technicians and visual effects specialists, will also take part.

The provisional guest list is already available. It will be completed with a few nice surprises as the July 3rd starting date nears.

MUSIC@NIFFF

True to our interdisciplinary vision, our diverse offering will include digital experimentations and explosive DJ sets. The music programme will involve livestream sessions, in-depth podcasts, as well as an immersive project. See the press kit for more info!

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