

PRESS DOSSIER BIFFF 2022



Exceptionally being a summer festival, this year's press dossier might be lighter than usual, but it's devilishly complete!

While everybody's getting out of quarantine, we're locking ourselves back in for 13 days. And with the greatest pleasure!

INTRODUCTION

Without further ado, let's get to the secret ingredients of this giant birthday cake:

In terms of short movies, we've selected 82 nuggets scattered across 5 sections: the Belgian competition, the European competition, Eat My Shorts, They're the Future (films by students destined for a bright genre-future), and Re-animated. 6 world premieres, movies shortlisted for the Oscars and a truly global selection that shows tremendous diversity of genres and sensibilities.

As for features, there's one path we refused to take. And that's anything pandemic-related. The last two years we've all been extras in the most boring disaster movie of all time and there's no need to remind us of that. Especially since this is our big comeback, which is no mean feat! This is a selection that is clearly fun, phenomenal, fantastic and, as time goes by, one for the history books!

The cherry on this year's birthday cake is our Belgian focus, which we have appropriately named "The Belgian Wave". Because, yes, our cinema is resolutely plural. Our talent speaks French, Dutch, English and Italian and our selection is composed of big Belgian productions, ambitious international co-productions and even independent guerrilla cinema made on a mini-budget but with the greatest of passion. No less than 15 films this year, including **MEGALOMANIAC** by Karim Ouelhaj - which just won the Grand prize at Fantasia, **RITUAL** by Hans Herbots, **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH** by Véronique Jadin, **MOLOSS** by Abel Ernest Tembo and Abdelkrim Qissi and **FREAKS OUT** by Gabriele Mainetti.

The opening of our 40th edition, which perfectly fits into our Belgian wave, is **VESPER**, distributed by The Searchers, directed by Kristina Buozyte and Bruno Samper, who already won the Seventh Orbit Award (our White Raven Competition) in 2013 with **VANISHING WAVES**. As a prelude, we've prepared an emotional surprise for you: a mash-up on piano by talented orchestrator and Guillermo del Toro regular Sylvain Morizet.

Our closing will literally make you dizzy and gasping for breath, as this is the worst nightmare for anyone who suffers from fear of heights. We're talking about **FALL** (Scott

Mann), distributed by KFD.

When it comes to special screenings, we have an ideal double bill for lovers, the Bloody Date, organized in collaboration with the Eva Luna loveshop (get ready for some really enticing and spicy goodies...): **YOU LIE YOU DIE** (Hector Claramunt) and **HAVE.HOLD.TAKE** (DJ Hamilton).

The young ones can have fun at our BIFFF Family Day on Sunday 4 September with Little Vampire, Dragon Princess, The Ghastly Brothers, Nelly Rapp: Monster Agent, and a whole bunch of extremely fun activities in collaboration with JEF!

Numerous studies have proven that young people between the ages of 18 and 25 are among those who have suffered the most from the lockdowns. This group participates in cultural events the most fervently and being cut off so brutally from these essential activities seems to have had many psychological consequences. There has been an increase in the number of depressions and the sudden precarious situation due to the pandemic and the closure of the service industry has left many students unable to finance their studies. This is why the BIFFF proposes a promotional action for young people aged 16 to 25, the famous generation Z (or all those born after the release of the first SCREAM for all you old farts out there). On Monday September 5, all screenings will be free for them, subject to the availability of seats, of course.

By the way, that very same night BeTV offers us an exclusive screening of the first two episodes of **HOUSE OF THE DRAGON**, the loooooong awaited prequel of the legendary GAME OF THRONES series. Almost makes you cry, doesn't it?

Aborted in 2020 because of you know what and successfully relaunched online in 2021, we can finally present our documentary section FANTASTIC BUT TRUE to a live audience. On the menu: **THE FOUND FOOTAGE PHENOMENON** (seems pretty self-explanatory, no?), **AMERICAN BADASS**, an incredible portrait of legendary actor Michael Madsen, **ONCE UPON A TIME IN UGANDA**, which follows the amazing journey of Isaac Nabwana, founder of Wakaliwood and member of last year's international jury, as well as **ALIEN ON STAGE** and **DE DICK MAAS METHODE**, both big hits at the online BIFFF 2021.

COMPETITIONS

Let's start by this brand new competition, the **EMERGING RAVEN**. It's not easy batting your wings for the first time in a field that is full of vultures. That is why we've always supported debuting directors, whether it's their first or second feature. So it's about time to turn it into an official competition, which is exactly what we did!

-FOLLOW HER (USA - Sylvia Caminer)

-KAPPEI (Japan - Takashi Hirano)

-MIDNIGHT (South-Korea - Oh-seung Kwon)

-LE VISITEUR DU FUTUR (France - François Descraques)

-SALOUM (Senegal/France - Jean-Luc Herbulot)

-L'EMPLOYEE DU MOIS (Belgium - Véronique Jadin)

-ZALAVA (Iran - Arsalan Amiri)

- DEADSTREAM (USA - Joseph & Vanessa Winter)
- YOU LIE YOU DIE (Spain - Héctor Claramunt)
- MAD HEIDI (Switzerland - Johannes Hartmann & Sandro Klopstein)

CRITICS AWARD

- REDEMPTION OF A ROGUE (Ireland - Philip Doherty)
- SWALLOWED (USA - Carter Smith)
- THE LAST CLIENT (Denmark - Anders Rønnow Klarlund)
- LIMBO (Hong Kong / China - Soi Cheang)
- LA PIETA (Argentina / Spain - Eduardo Casanova)
- PIGGY (Spain / France - Carlota Perda)
- HUESERA (Mexico / Peru - Michelle Garza Cervera)
- SUMMER SCARS (France - Simon Rieth)
- FOLLOW HER (USA - Sylvia Caminer)
- SALOUM (Senegal / France - Jean-Luc Herbulot)

WHITE RAVEN COMPETITION (our former 7th Orbit competition)

- AJAGAJANTHARAM (India - Tinu Pappachan)
- LIFE OF MARIKO IN KABUCHIKO (Japan - Eiji Uchida & Shinzo Katayama)
- INU-OH (Japan - Masaaki Yuasa)
- SWALLOWED (USA - Carter Smith)
- RIVER (Belgium - Lorenzo Vergeynst)
- REDEMPTION OF A ROGUE (Ireland - Philip Doherty)
- THE BLACK SQUARE (Germany - Peter Meister)
- DUAL (USA / Finland - Riley Stearns)

BLACK RAVEN COMPETITION (our former Thriller competition)

- THE BLACK MINUTES (Mexico - Mario Muñoz Espinosa)
- THE REPLACEMENT (Spain / Belgium - Óscar Aibar)
- BLAST (France - Vanya Peirani-Vignes)
- NIGHTRIDE (UK / France / USA - Stephen Fingleton)
- THE LAST CLIENT (Denmark - Anders Rønnow Klarlund)

-TOMB OF THE RIVER (South-Korea - Young-bin Yoon)

-SPECIAL DELIVERY (South-Korea - Dae-min Park)

-LIMBO (Hong Kong / China - Soi Cheang)

-DIABOLIK (Italy - Marco & Antonio Manetti)

EUROPEAN COMPETITION (MELIES)

-HINTERLAND (Austria / Luxembourg - Stefan Rutowitzky)

-MEGALOMANIAC (Belgium - Karim Ouelhaj)

-RUBIKON (Austria - Magdalena Lauritsch)

-THE FIVE DEVILS (France - Léa Mysius)

-LA PIETA (Argentina / Spain - Eduardo Casanova)

-PIGGY (Spain / France - Carlota Perda)

-MOLOCH (Netherlands - Nico van den Brink)

-COP SECRET (Iceland - Hannes Þór Halldórsson)

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

-HUESERA (Mexico / Peru - Michelle Garza Cervera)

-TINY CINEMA (USA - Tyler Cornack)

-SUMMER SCARS (France - Simon Rieth)

-VIRUS 32 (Argentina / Uruguay - Gustavo Hernandez)

-VESPER (Lithuania / France / Belgium - Kristina Buožytė & Bruno Samper)

-AMERICAN CARNAGE (USA - Diego Hallivis)

-THE WITCH PART 2: THE OTHER ONE (South-Korea - Hoon-Jung Park)

-STUDIO 666 (USA - BJ McDonnell)

MASTERCLASS

3 thematic masterclasses on the program this year:

-**Witches: Back in the Picture!** (in French) From the very beginning, cinema has taken hold of the figure of the witch, starting with HÄXAN in 1922 and has never let her go since. That went as far as terrifying our childhoods with Disney's SNOW WHITE or Nicolas Roeg's THE WITCHES. Of course, she has also featured heavily in our BIFFF selection since our first edition in 1983 to this day. But what is the relationship between these representations of the witch (and their evolution through time) and the real historical figure? We will travel to the

heart of witchcraft, from the historical persecutions of witches to the modern feminist figure, all the while focusing on her many appearances in movies and series.

-Apocalypse My Dear 2: Don't Look Up. (in French) For this second edition, we're going to cut right through the rhetoric. We'll be taking a hard look at our modern privileges and we'll be asking the real question: can our economic system really be durable and sustainable? To paraphrase Tony Blair: "The truth about climate change policies is that no country is going to want to sacrifice its economy to meet this challenge." This masterclass will be moderated by Cedric Chevalier and Eric Van Poelvoorde.

-Censor Culture. (in English) What about censorship today? What is the impact of television funding, of new identity claims, of social networks? Is there a contemporary form of self-censorship prior to creation? Since we don't know ourselves, we asked Jake West, director of Doghouse and Video Nasties specialist, Srdjan Spasojevic, director of the mega-controversial "A Serbian Film", Xavier Gens, who can tell us a lot of anecdotes about the shooting of "Frontier(s)", and media and cinema expert Kamal Messaoudi, to cut to the chase on this hot and extremely divisive subject...

Two other highly awaited master classes will also be part of this jubilee edition:

-Barry Sonnenfeld on Thursday 8 September at 8.30pm, which will be followed on Saturday 10 with the screening of **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** in his presence.

-And John McTiernan's masterclass on 1 September at 8.30pm, which will be followed by the exceptional screening of **PREDATOR** on Friday 2 in his presence.

BONUS

Oh yeah, we almost forgot. There are also some other guests who wanted to join our 40th birthday party. It will be a pleasure to welcome back the first one to the BIFFF, where he won the Silver Raven for **ARAGAMI** in 2003! He then moved to Hollywood, where he directed, among others, **THE MIDNIGHT MEAT TRAIN** and **NO ONE LIVES**. **RYUHEI KITAMURA**, a genius of bloody, kinetic exploitation cinema, will be our 4th Knight in the Order of the Raven!

We were talking about an edition that had to be festive and fun. That rumor apparently found its way to Hollywood. So now we have a guest of honor who absolutely wanted to have a drink with us. The man is ideal for our 40th anniversary. Not only did he, together with Judd Apatow, create the series Freaks and Geeks, which launched big names like James Franco and Seth Rogen. He also directed blockbusters such as **BRIDEMAIDS**, **SPY** with Jason Statham and **THE HEAT** with Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy. He reinvented **GHOSTBUSTERS** and ventured into a deliciously vicious thriller with **A SIMPLE FAVOR**. With the above titles alone, **PAUL FEIG** - for it's him we're talking about here - is worth more than a billion dollars at the American box office. And if he amply meets our fun requirement for this edition, he's also pretty awesome when it comes to fantasy. Because he's going to show us, in most probably exclusive world premiere, footage from his new NETFLIX film: **THE SCHOOL OF GOOD AND EVIL**, starring Michelle Yeoh, Charlize Theron, Cate Blanchett and Ben Kingsley!

KNIGHTS IN THE ORDER OF THE RAVEN 2022

- Barry SONNENFELD (Men in Black, The Addams Family...)**
- John MCTIERNAN (Predator, Die Hard, Last Action Hero...)**
- Dick MAAS (The Lift, Amsterdamned, Sint...)**
- Ryhei KITAMURA (Versus, The Midnight Meat Train, No One Lives...)**
- Michael MADSEN (Reservoir Dogs, Thelma & Louise, Kill Bill...)**

You'll also find a whole bunch of information on our animations, our revised Vampire Ball, our exhibitions which will mix retro with brilliant megalomania, and all of our free events at the BIFFF on www.biff.net !

For all information regarding the program and accreditations, do not hesitate to get in touch with our press service:

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