

PeyMey Diffusion, the City of Brussels and the Brussels Capital Region present to you the
BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL

BIFFF



41ST EDITION
11-23
APRIL
2023
PAL AIS 10



E.R.V.U. : G. Leenders - Rue Comtesse de Flandre 8 - Gravin van Vlaanderenstraat - 1020 Brussels - © BIFFF / Foerster



be welcome
be.brussels



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01.

EDITORIAL

Once in a while, between all those zombie flicks and black comedies, we enjoy a bit of Baudelaire. And we stumbled upon a passage that we particularly like, in which the great poet declares his love to Belgium, describing us as “an eternally wasted people that without reason bursts into laughter. A sign of idiocy. All Belgian, with no exception, have an empty skull.” Our kids aren’t any better: “Despicably ugly children. Hairy, dirty, vile little things. Even if they’d get a good scrubbing, they’d still be hideous.” Well, that’s why this year we decided to create a thematic section called “Vicious Brats”. Because even though they’re usually portrayed as poor little victims, our 2023 program proves they can also be ruthless tormentors. Baudelaire was onto something.

Two dozen films, including WRATH OF BECKY, KIDS VS ALIENS, THE PRANK or Belgian co-production WOLFKIN, will guide you through our 2023 toy store. Talking about toys, an even bigger tearjerker than TOY STORY 3 is part of our line-up this year, 2016’s A MONSTER CALLS, because director Juan Antonio Bayona (THE ORPHANAGE, THE IMPOSSIBLE, JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM) will honor us with his presence at the BIFFF! Which is doubly fitting, as we also organize a Spanish Focus with nine gems from the country that brought you the submarine (sí señor!), which include the newest Alex de la Iglesia (FOUR’S A CROWD) and FEROCIOUS WOLF, remake of the Israeli BIG BAD WOLVES - “Best movie of 2013”, according to Tarantino - but also a particularly impressive selection of Spanish shorts entitled “Spainkillers”.

And to go all mystical on you guys, we’ve also noticed an extraordinary phenomenon which occurs every 10 years since the very beginning of the festival. In 1983, the festival selection contained an unusually high percentage of films that later all became cult classics, such as THE LAST BATTLE, THE DARK CRYSTAL and EVIL DEAD. In 1993, the list included ARMY OF DARKNESS, BRAINDEAD and RESERVOIR DOGS. In 2003, BUBBA HO-TEP, CABIN FEVER and THE GRUDGE. In 2013, MAMA, OBLIVION and GHOST GRADUATION... As if, every decade, an exceptionally phenomenal BIFFF line-up comes along. So, what about 2023 then? Only time will tell. But whatever the case, we’re very proud to present highly anticipated heavy-hitters to you such as THE POPE’S EXORCIST, which will be part of our “Born After Armageddon”-day during which all movies will be free for youngsters between 16-25 years, EVIL DEAD RISE, exactly 30 years after the triumph of ARMY OF DARKNESS at the BIFFF, as well as INFINITY POOL, SISU and RENFIELD. The latter will introduce the very first completely, utterly and shockingly free for all Vampire Ball!!

Welcoooooome!!!!

The **BIFF** Team

02.

OFF EVENTS

2.1. MAKE-UP CONTEST

APRIL 16 AT 5PM

This year, the BIFFF make-up contest (which has been around since the festival's second edition!) returns for its 40th edition!

The contest will take place in the course of one day, a day that promises to be intense, rich in emotions, and full of creative surprises! We are asking all make-up talents to choose one of two categories: with prosthesis, or without prosthesis!

The themes remain the same: **THE FANTASTIC, THE IMAGINARY, THE AMAZING, SCIENCE-FICTION, AND HORROR!** Careful, because this time, participation spots are not unlimited!

You may register on our site, and we will select the most promising projects for inclusion in our contest. We will provide basic make-up materials, but strongly encourage you to bring along your own materials.

The jury will select three winners in each category. The prizes will be presented to the winners at the end of the day, on the Q&A stage in our BIFFF Village. So, are you ready to knock us off our feet?

Led by : **GEORGES STEVENS** (makeup@biff.net)
With the participation of **JEAN-PIERRE FINOTTO**'s makeup school.
Led by : **VÉRONIQUE LACROIX**



2.2. 7TH ART CONTEST

From **APRIL 12** to **20** | **5 PM – 10 PM**

From April 12 to 20 it's time to get bold!

Is your creative bone tickling? Is your brush dying to get out of the drawer? Is your head overflowing with ideas? Then you've come to the right place. Welcome to the 7th International Art Contest! All candidates will get only 5 hours – watch and learn, Jack Bauer – to produce a painting of fantastic art. Everything is allowed! A variety of basic paints and standard 80 x 100 cm canvases are provided.

These performances are open to the public and the finished artworks will be exhibited throughout the remaining festival days. The BIFFF jury will announce the winners during the closing ceremony on **FRIDAY APRIL 21 AT 7 PM!**



WHEN: every day, from **5** until **10 PM**

Want to participate?

Fill out our form or send an e-mail to
JONATHAN@BIFFF.NET

Award Ceremony: **21.04.2023, 7 PM**

1ST PRIZE: Exhibition of 5 artworks during the 42th BIFFF + material offered by 'Géant des Beaux-Arts'

2ND PRIZE: Exhibition at the Museum for Fantastic Art in Brussels + material offered by 'Géant des Beaux-Arts'

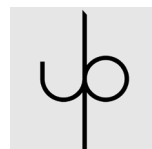
3RD PRIZE: material offered by 'Géant des Beaux-Arts'





Welcome to the Freaky Factory! Explore unique collections of local, otherworldly goods, from mystical artefacts to spellbinding potions all crafted by talented artisans and creators from our community.

But that's not all - Get inked at our tattoo stand, test your mad skills at the winning game of the **PIX'HELL** Contest, try your hand at axe throwing with our friends from **WOODCUTTER**, or challenge yourself to some pinball from the **PINBALL MUSEUM**.



PIX'HELL

Get ready to let your imagination run wild because the BIFFF and the **EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE CULTURE** (Pixel Museum & Toys Discovery Museum) are organizing the **PIX'HELL** contest for game developers!

CALL FOR PROJECTS FROM 01/03 – 31/03/2023

Public Showcase @Pixel Museum from **05-08/04**

Public Showcase @BIFFF from **11-14/04**

Jury Selection & epic film screening @BIFFF on **14/04/2023**

Winning Showcase @BIFFF's Freaky Factory Weekend **14-16/04**

CALL FOR PROJECTS: Mobile friendly games, arcade, pc, or other gaming for consoles. The only restriction is that they must be fantasy themed (fantastic, science-fiction, horror, thriller accepted).

Regulations and registration : <https://pixel-museum.brussels/pixhell-game-contest/>



ZINSECTES

Three “Zinsects”, sympathetically disquieting characters, roam around on the backs of the actors that manipulate them.

Strange, curious, and enthousiastic, they explore their urban or rural surroundings, discovering and playing with what they find. Discreet music, coming out of nowhere, envelops their movements so they can surprise their audience around a bend in the road, or somewhere on a street, inviting them to a dance.



MANUFACTOR

LE PEUPLE

They're everywhere, lurking in the shadows, spying on your every movement, on the lookout for the slightest waste you leave behind on your path, ready to compulsively collect it all. But why? Because they live on it! They adore, honor and worship your garbage. If you meet them, their eyes will question your acts of pollution and their rituals will perhaps upset your consumption habits. Because they have understood that nothing is lost and that everything is transformable. That each object has the right to several lives. That beauty can be born from dirt and that life can spring from the improbable.

AMAZONS

Amazons all dressed in grey march on towards their ritual. They dance and enter into a trance. Hecate guides and protects them, they are her servants. Behold their ancient rites in complete fascination. Hear how the Goddess speaks through them. Can you hear her calling?

CHEZ MAMAN

Chez Maman is the quintessential cabaret for drag shows in Brussels. Every weekend, Sugar Love and the girls of Maman perform on this mythical stage.

When we say "stage", we actually mean "bar". Because at Chez Maman, the stage is the bar counter of the main room. But don't they say size doesn't matter?

On this tiny piece of marble, magic takes place that hundreds of people come to experience every week.

Website : www.chezmaman.be

KAERNUNOS

Something cries out in the night... A huge skeleton approaches, followed by two clumsy necromancer apprentices... The skeleton seems uncontrollable, its acolytes lost. Can the BIFFF public help bring this creature back under control? See the **ANIMATION TEAM OF KAERNUNOS** in action on **FRIDAY APRIL 21ST** and meet this gruesome trio!

H.S HYPNOSPEAR

LUDOVIC and **SALIMA** offer you through the **HS HYPNOSPEAR** collective a surprising animation in hypnosis. Let yourself be lulled by the power of your unconscious to live an unforgettable experience.



THE KHAJIITS

“THE MINSTRELS WITH VELVETY PAWS”.

Here comes the company of the khajiits, accompanied by their great king, who in reality is none other than their clan leader who has allegedly suffered a severe blow to the head in the past and who has ever since been completely out of his mind! Traveling from village to village they play their street art to amuse by-passers, but beware! Do not be fooled by their courteous language for they are devious thieves whose velvety paws are quick and skilled at picking purses. Therefore, keep your moneybag close and pay attention to your valuables! Because the mad and deceitful king, or one of his minions, will take advantage of the fact that people’s attention is turned to the troubadour show in order to snatch the jewels of the poor.

MAGIC LAND

The BIFFF and the **MAGIC LAND THÉÂTRE** – now there’s two partners who have travelled a long way together. Sometimes, this trip has involved a rubber dinghy and a human sea! To be honest, after working together since the very beginning of the festival, the Magic Land Théâtre has pretty much become part of the BIFFF furniture. How could one forget all those zany animations that have marked the festival over the course of the years?



MACÉNIMA

ELTANIN is a cross between a demon and a dragon, but he'll be attending the BIFFF in his humanoid form in order to avoid panicking the crowds with his true appearance. He'll welcome you on

WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 2023



BONIMENTEURS

- Collège Matteo Ricci

Who are all these people who don't always feel well in their own skin and in their own head? Where do they come from? Nobody knows. But if they're in our dimension, there's no doubt that Hell is on Earth... Because Hell is everywhere. Sometimes in diabolical form, sometimes in a much more vicious and devious form: in our brains. This small and complex gray matter is fascinating, and the more it is affected, the more human we really become! ATTENTION: this time it's certain that more than a few spectators will not come out of this extraordinary experience unscathed. Because the sick souls we're talking about here are the pupils of the Matteo Ricci high school! And if that's not enough, they'll also exhibit the posters they created especially for the BIFFF. So, come and have a look!

VERNACK - CRÉATURES - ORCS & GOBELINS

The Waaagh is on the march!

Orcs and Goblins are waking up to challenge you. Are you ready to defend yourself?

The Ver'Nack is back with his old love: the Greenskins.

TROLLANDIA

The Trollandia creatures came straight out of world of Fables and somehow got lost on their way. It is by chance that they find themselves in the strange world of the Umans, a universe so different from what they're accustomed to! By nature curious and mischievous, the Trollanders are delighted to discover new details every day about these strange beasts, without hair and horns, who call themselves Umans. They resurfaced in 2019 as psychopathic troll children. This year they're back as grown-up adults... and they haven't mellowed with age!



PUCK COMPANY

Unfortunately, they're back. Crazyer than ever and still as icky as an oozing scab, the **PUCK COMPANY** is all over your speakers. And with this sentence alone, the BIFFF will have to pay 2.6 mil € in royalties (that's just the way we roll). A big shout-out to those who got the reference. Anyway, this year, the Puck Company offers you a brand new show specially designed for the BIFFF, entitled **«THE HAPPY WOOD ELVES ON THE GO - SPECIAL POLE DANCE OPTION VOL. 2»**.

We're not gonna lie. We don't know yet how all of this will go down. But their question «Is it bad if there'll be guts on the floor?» didn't exactly reassure us...

An almost intimate show, with only three artists... and a pole dance bar. But for the occasion, we only took those who had at least two arms left... We took the best of the best.

Not to be missed, a show that'll blow you (or at the very least your hairpiece) away. Wild, serious, qualitative and respecting the codes of the BIFFF!

2.5. BIFFF VIDEOMAPPING



Howling wolfs, thirsty vampires, open doors....

Our theater's main screen will turn into an insane sequence of references to the BIFFF universe. This, of course, in interaction with our audience who will undoubtedly shout their lungs out, scream and converse with these short stories that recall the highlights and legendary moments in the long history of the BIFFF: the guests, anecdotes, workshops, OFF events and above all the feverish atmosphere.

Small little stories that pay tribute to many of the spectators' interactions with the movies, which most BIFFF-ers will recognize and enjoy.

The man behind this homage? **AITOR BIEDMA**, a visual artist working in the field of live visuals/VJ-ing, mapping projection, 3D animation and immersive experiences.

2.6.

BAL DES VAMPIRES

**BIFFF
EVENT**
22
APRIL
5-10pm


Have you been good this year? Don't try to lie to us, we know you inside and out... Do you deserve to be spoilt yet another time? Of course you do. Whip out your agendas, get your (preferably blood-red) markers ready and underline **SATURDAY APRIL 22TH!** Yup, that's the day, or rather the night of our traditional VAMPIRE BALL. A little less traditional is that this year's Ball will be completely, outrageously, radically, abominably, horribly, terribly **FREE!** Before you invade the festival village again - which will be restyled by undertaker **CROQUE MADAME** -, you'll be able to enjoy a concert by **DOUMA**, who caused a sensation during the 9th season of The Voice (French-speaking Belgium) and is now going to release his first album. And that's not all! To get you all in the mood, we're opening the Ball by presenting one of the most anticipated vampire movies of the year, with a certain **NICOLAS CAGE** as Count Dracula!

THE FIRST 100 SPECTATORS WHO PRESENT THEMSELVES IN DISGUISE AT THE TICKET STAND, WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE FILM FOR FREE (YES, THAT AGAIN)!



Director : Chris McKay

RENFIELD

(2023, US)

**WORKPLACE HARASSMENT? NOT COOL.
TOXIC RELATIONS? AWFUL. BUT WHEN
YOUR BOSS IS CALLED DRACULA,
YOU THINK TWICE BEFORE GOING
ON STRIKE. A STAKE HOWEVER...**

22
APRIL
22:00
<6:00

38TH EDITION

BAL DES VAMPIRES

COSTUME - PARTY & CONTEST
MAKE UP & ACCESSORIES
STANDS AVAILABLE

FREE ENTRY

LIVE CONCERT

DOUMA
TRPL GNRTH



© BIFF DAVID P.

 FÉDÉRATION
WALLONIE-BRUXELLES

TIP!K

 INSTITUT
Jeune Tousseint

HAUTE

Jean-Pierre Foullet
École de Maquillage



be fantastic
be.brussels 

2.7. EXHIBITIONS

CAROLINE BRISSET



Through sculpture, installation art and performance, I work with metal. The status is not important when talking about the material.

I tirelessly try to modify the invisible particles of steel. It is mainly to provoke a shift in the every-day shape of objects, I seek to move the atoms to the limits of their capacities. I am looking for the contradiction of the act and the form and try to feel through my sculptures that this material is discontinuous, fragile and full of emptiness and at the same time very dense, heavy and weighty.

To find a breath of air in the inert mass.

In doing so, I often unconsciously try to make the appearance of the material contradict its constitution. Through its form, its volume, its temperature, its balance emanates a kind of poetry.

Each form is a temporary balance, it is in movement. Every change is a catastrophe and every catastrophe a resurrection.

I manipulate the metal and try to reveal its intrinsic energy. I try to take into account all its properties. I explore its limits and its physical possibilities, heat it, hammer it, twist it. I try to make it say something about itself. It can be a feeling of exacerbated heaviness, or on the contrary a fineness and an unusual fragility, or an imbalance which troubles by its posture and its form.

It is an open dialogue with the material.

Formal capacities are then revealed in a material that becomes an object imbued with a singular identity, and which sometimes comes from the organic or the living.



Lemmy Kilmister, Hellfest 2022
Acier, 12m, 4.5T



Blue wale heart
Acier et bidons total
Échelle : 2m70 x 2m x 2m

EXHIBITION TROLLS & TINY CREATURES

This year the exhibition “Trolls & Tiny Creatures” is back for a 14th edition that will exceptionally take place at the BIFFF! Come and discover the fantastic works of numerous Belgian and international artists from April 11 to 21 and delve into a unique universe inhabited by extraordinary creatures.

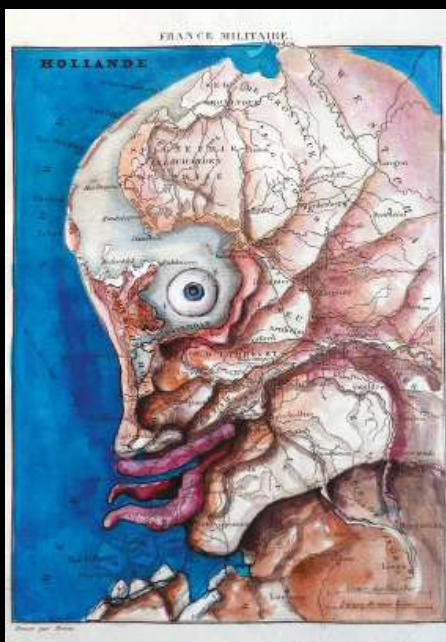
More information on www.fantastic-museum.be

FREE ENTRANCE

At the BIFFF / Palais 10 at the Heysel / from **APRIL 11 to 23, 2023**



MYTHIC - BIFFF Award 2021



MARCOLEPTIQUE - BIFFF Award 2022

**EXPOSITION COLLECTIVE
TROLLS & BESTIOLES
DU 11 AU 23 AVRIL 2023
AU BIFFF / PALAIS 10 DU HEYSEL**



ENTRÉE GRATUITE

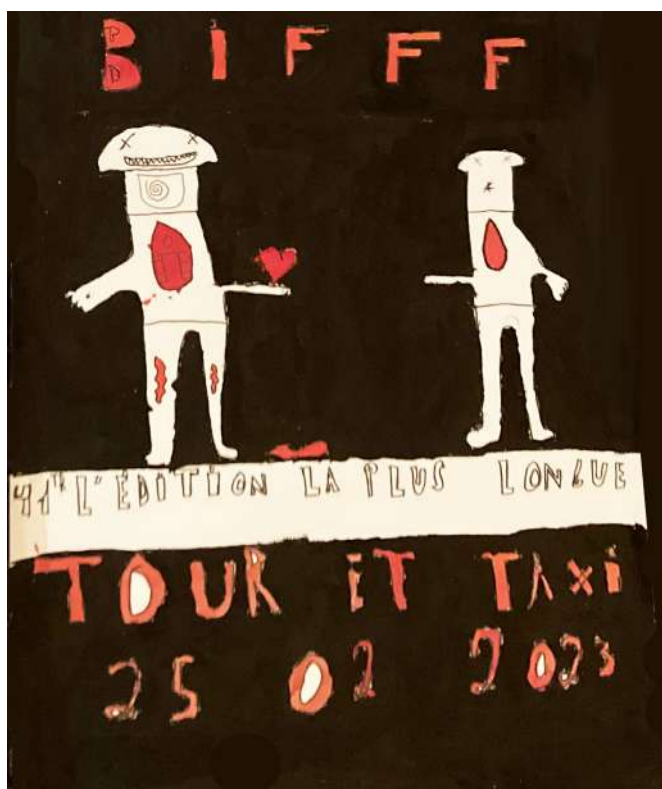
**INFOS SUR
WWW.FANTASTIC-MUSEUM.BE**

LE BIFFF À LA SAUCE RICCI

We are all pupils at the **MATTEO RICCI HIGH SCHOOL**, which opened its door in 2019. It is one of three Jesuit schools in Brussels. In our expressive arts class, we express ourselves using our pencils. We wanted to redraw the BIFFF poster in our own way. Matteo Ricci was lucky to be able to count on the most creative pupils in the school to do this. And we all got good grades, so we would love to exhibit our magnificent posters!

We hope you will have as much fun looking at them as we had drawing them!

Matteo Ricci's pupils, Expressive Arts: Maria Almeida Fagundes De Lima, David Bopwa Bopwa, Mamadou Diallo, Anaïs Lawson, Hasan Kadiroglu, Guyen Khandjav, Sammy Lumina Kamisy, Divine Maghoma Luvungu Mwangi, Tomek-Olivier Mathieu-Daudé, Sebastian Orzepowski, Benedict Matamongosi Losambo, Thomas Ravet, Jihane Hafdi Loraich, Yasmine Khadira Ben Kaddour, Ilyas Sakouane Zaghdoud, Eloïse Tshitenge Katshima.



LA BALLERINE

In an apocalyptic setting, **RAPHAËLLE SCHOTSMANS** invites us to a metamorphosis. A ballerina evolves. Sometimes seeming to bend under the weight of an imaginary hand. Sometimes rising towards the air. The artist forces us to be demanding, nothing is revealed at first glance, You have to embrace the series in its entirety to perceive its full symbolic scope. And it is there, in that suspended moment, that we realize what is played in front of our eyes and where we can perceive that what is hidden.

The ballerina summons up buried memories, childhood dreams. Both the myth of Swan Lake and the alluring figure of a music box. A character who seems to escape from a condition that keeps her in the immobility of a role, against her will. The dancer's lightness is prevented by the rubble that litters the floor. She sheds everything that taints her purity, fighting against invisible forces. Are they outside or inside her? Does the debris on the ground precede her passage or does it follow her?

This duality between destruction and serenity is revealed in the very body of the model. She struggles to leave the dread that her environment inspires, dressed only in a ballet costume. This is what's at stake: fragility is a lure. It can hide under a delicate aspect, an unsuspected power. It is a process towards the light. In the midst of chaos, we witness a rebirth, and the flight of a woman who's much stronger than we think.



WHERE IS DAMIEN?

Inspired by the imaginary worlds of horror and fantasy, Raphaëlle Schotsmans stages her fascination in this series for transgression and the mysteries of the human psyche.

Her images oscillate between fetishism and sadomasochism and question, through elaborate and extremely detailed stagings, the threshold of pain that humans can inflict on themselves for pleasure, and that sometimes even leads to death. In a way that is both aesthetic and wild, we're plunged into the depths of human suffering.

That's how her work incorporates the codes of horror, gore or fantasy cinema and photography, which can be found in films such as *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (Tobe Hooper, 1974), *Hostel* (Eli Roth, 2005), *Timber Falls* (Tony Giglio, 2007), *Martyrs* (Pascal Laugier, 2008), *Eden Lake* (James Watkins, 2008) or in the work of the Japanese photographers Izima Kaoru and Nobuyoshi Araki.



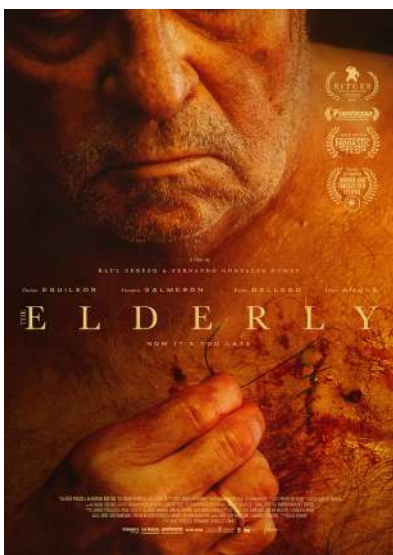
03.

A TASTE OF FILMS

3.1. SPANISH FOCUS

EL BIFFF ESTÁ MUY IBÉRICO

No need to dwell on Spanish clichés and commonplaces to praise the merits of the country. Especially when you know that Spain produces no less than 41% of the world's olive oil and that they comes in second in terms of European exporters of artichokes. No small feat! But there's more... Spain has more festivals than days in a year, they invented the submarine and statistically there's a bar for every 129 inhabitants. Impressive, no? And when they put this sort of drive and determination into the 7th Art, you get some pretty hard-hitting cinema, which shockingly only received one Palme d'Or - for Buñuel's "Viridiana" in 1961 - but of course muchísimos Golden and Silver Ravens at the BIFFF!



Directors : Raúl Cerezo
Fernando González Gómez

THE ELDERLY

(2022, Spain)

**A HEATWAVE RAVAGING THE
ELDERLY POPULATION IS
UNFORTUNATELY PRETTY COMMON.
HOWEVER, RAVAGING ELDERLY
DURING A HEATWAVE IS A
MUCH RARER FEAT!**

THE COFFEE TABLE

(2022, Spain)

NO EVIL GHOSTS, MONSTERS OR POSSESSIONS IN SIGHT HERE, JUST A LITTLE COFFEE TABLE. BUT TRUST US, THAT DAMN TABLE WILL PLUNGE YOU IN AN UNBEARABLE MENTAL HELL LIKE YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE.



Director : Caye Casas



Director : Alex de la Iglesia

FOUR'S A CROWD

(2022, Spain)

ALEX DE LA IGLESIA IS FINALLY BACK! BRACE YOURSELVES FOR A COMPLETELY DERANGED VERSION OF CARPOOLING, IN WHICH ALL OF OUR PUNY SHORTCOMINGS ARE SEVERELY, AND LOVINGLY, MOCKED.

THE CUCKOO'S CURSE

(2023, Spain, Germany)

EVER HEARD OF PEOPLE EXCHANGING THEIR HOMES FOR THEIR HOLIDAYS? APPARENTLY IT'S GREAT, BUT WE HAVE OUR DOUBTS. 'CAUSE WHAT HAPPENS IF THE OTHER BIRDS LAY THEIR EGGS IN YOUR COZY LITTLE NEST?



Director : Mar Targarona



Director : Jorge Dorado

LOST & FOUND

(2022, Spain)

LOST AND FOUND SECTION HEAD MARIO RETRIEVES A SUITCASE FISHED OUT OF A RIVER. WHEN HE OPENS IT, WE GET SWEEPED INTO A SUPREMELY DARK THRILLER.

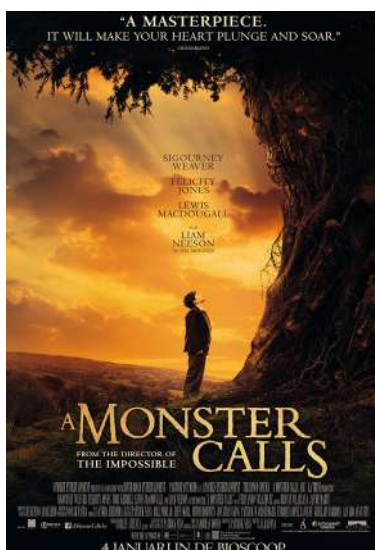
REC : TERROR WITHOUT A PAUSE

(2022, Spain)

MORE THAN 15 YEARS AFTER THE RELEASE OF ONE OF THE BIGGEST PHENOMENA OF SPANISH HORROR CINEMA, WE FINALLY A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE SCENES. BUT THE LEGEND REMAINS FULLY INTACT...



Director : Diego López-Fernández



Director : J. A. Bayona

A MONSTER CALLS

(2016, US, UK, Spain)

A COMING-OF-AGE TEARJERKER OF COLOSSAL PROPORTIONS WITH A PHENOMENAL CAST (FELICITY JONES, SIGOURNEY WEAVER, LIAM NEESON...) BY DIRECTOR J.A. BAYONA (THE ORPHANAGE)!

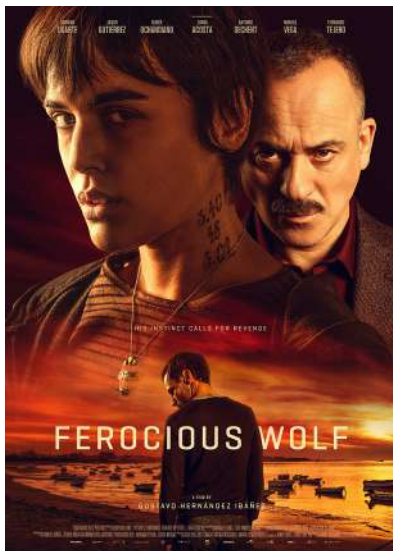
IRATI

(2022, Spain)

THE BASQUE COUNTRY NOW HAS THEIR OWN LORD OF THE RINGS, AN EPIC FULL OF MYTHICAL CREATURES, GODS, SWORDS, BLOOD AND ROCKS FALLING FROM THE SKY. ALL HAIL SIR PAUL URKIJIO ALIJO!



Director : Paul Urkijo Alijo



Director : Gustavo Hernández

FEROCIOUS WOLF

(2022, Spain, Uruguay, Argentina)

THE DIRECTOR OF VIRUS 32 (SILVER RAVEN BIFFF 2022) RETURNS TO BRUSSELS WITH A REMAKE OF BIG BAD WOLVES, WHICH TARANTINO CONSIDERS AS “THE BEST FILM OF 2013”!

BORN AFTER

ARMAGEDDON

BIFFF

EVENT

12.04
2023

© BIFFF/S.leenders

IF YOU'RE BORN AFTER THE RELEASE OF ARMAGEDDON (1998)

Wanna break out in a cold sweat long before the exam period? Easy! Just come with your ID to the BIFFF on Wednesday April 12 and, if you're between 18 and 25, all screenings are free! Gratuit, gratis tasuta, ilmaiseksi, falas, kostenlos, слободен, khulula, maimaim-poana, ücretsiz!! And just like that you learned how to say "free" in 10 different languages, no strings attached! Who said the BIFFF isn't instructive?

Program :
Screenings - **1:00 PM** till **MIDNIGHT**
LIVE KAMIKAZÉ CONCERT



Discover more Kamikazé Concerts :
18/04 : Aéronef Lille
30/04-01/05 : Festival Roots & Roses

THE POPE'S EXORCIST

(2023, US)

**RUSSELL CROWE AS A CHRISTIAN
MERCENARY CONFRONTING THE
DEVIL HIMSELF AND A WHOLE BUNCH
OF VERY UNORTHODOX SECRETS OF
THE VATICAN? HELL YEAH! THAT'S
GOING TO BE GODLIKE.**



Director : Julius Avery

THE LONELIEST BOY IN THE WORLD

(2022, UK)

IMAGINE AN EPISODE OF THE WALKING DEAD WITH AN ATMOSPHERE MORE AKIN TO HAPPY DAYS... A GENIUS MIX OF SITCOM SATIRE AND A TOUCHING COMING-OF-AGE STORY.



Director : Martin Owen



Director : Dong-hoon Choi

ALIENOID

(2022, South Korea)

ROBOTS, TIME TRAVEL, ALIENS, AND LOTS OF BIM, BAM, KABOUMS... EVERYTHING WE LOVE IN SCI-FI ALL BALLED UP IN ONE GIGANTIC INTERGALACTIC CLUSTERFUCK!

THE PRANK

(2022, US)

RITA MORENO'S DIABOLICAL HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS TEACHER MRS. WHEELER IS PERHAPS THIS YEAR'S GREATEST BIFF VILLAIN, WHO COULD TEACH EVEN THE VILEST SCUM A THING OR TWO ABOUT TORTURE...



Director : Maureen Bharoocha



Director : Yûdai Yamaguchi

ONE PERCENTER

(2022, Japan)

TWO RUTHLESS YAKUZA GANGS INTERRUPT THE SHOOTING OF AN ACTION FLICK AT AN ABANDONED FACTORY. THE ACTION STAR ISN'T TOO PLEASED. ONE HUNDRED YAKUZA AGAINST ONE? PFFF, TOO EASY!

DRIVE

(2023, South Korea)

A FAMOUS INFLUENCER IS KIDNAPPED, TRAPPED IN THE TRUNK OF A CAR AND FORCED TO GO LIVE TO BEG HER FOLLOWERS DONATIONS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE. MAYBE RYAN GOSLING WILL CHIP IN?



Director : Dong-Hee Park

STEPHANE

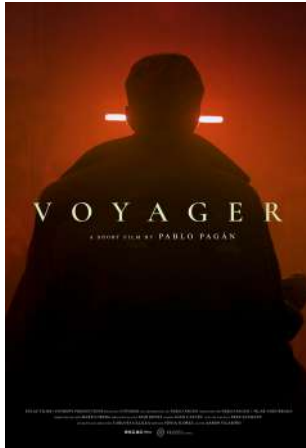
(2022, France)



Directors : Timothée Hochet
Lucas Pastor

FIRST YOU ASK YOURSELF WHETHER THIS IS GOING TO GET OUT OF HAND. THEN WHEN IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, AND FINALLY TO WHAT EXTENT THIS IS GOING TO BE THE CASE. WELL, YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!

SHORT FILMS : THEY'RE THE FUTURE



VOYAGER

(2022, Spain)

A TRUCK DRIVER DISCOVERS THE ABILITY TO LEAVE HER PHYSICAL BODY, AND TRAVEL THE WORLD IN AN IMMATERIAL WAY, IN AN ASTRAL JOURNEY.

Director : Pablo Pagán
Cast : Neil Llado
Oscar Domenech
Dani Seguí
Mateo Ibarra
Runtime : 20 minutes

WOLVES

(2022, France)

IN A FAMILY THAT COMMANDS HIM TO BE TOUGH, YOUNG ELLIOTT MUST CONFRONT HIS FEARS TO MAKE HIS FATHER PROUD. BUT ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT, THE BLURRY LINE BETWEEN HIS IMAGINATION AND REALITY PUSHES HIM TO HIS LIMIT.



Director : Lucie Cabon
Cast : Alma Rosenbeck
Sabrine Ben Njima
Victoria Granger
Juliette Charré-Damez
Runtime : 22 minutes



PHANTASMAGORIA

(2022, Germany)

TWO WOMEN LIVING ALONE ARE VISITED BY A YOUNG STRANGE MAN WHOSE IDENTITY AND INTENTIONS THEY BEGIN TO QUESTION AS THE EVENING PROGRESSES.

Director : Alejandro Mathe
Cast : Felix Mayr
Runtime : 15 minutes

MY UNBORN SON

(2022, Finland)

NORA IS FACING THE LIFE-ALTERING CHOICE OF WHETHER OR NOT TO BECOME A MOTHER. BY MEANS OF A LIFELIKE SIMULATION, SHE MEETS AN AI VERSION OF THE CHILD SHE COULD HAVE. WHAT WILL NORA SEE WHEN SHE LOOKS INTO THE EYES OF HER FUTURE CHILD?



Director : Gyöngyi Fazekas

Cast : Saga Sarkola
Juho Kuusamo
Jonna Järnfeldt
Eeva Putro

Runtime : 19 minutes



Director : John Adam Krueger

Cast : Christian Weissmann
Gabriel Storm
Bil Mendieta
Liesel Kopp

Runtime : 11 minutes

HECTOR'S HELL HOUSE

(2022, US)

IN A FAMILY THAT COMMANDS HIM TO BE TOUGH, YOUNG ELLIOTT MUST CONFRONT HIS FEARS TO MAKE HIS FATHER PROUD. BUT ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT, THE BLURRY LINE BETWEEN HIS IMAGINATION AND REALITY PUSHES HIM TO HIS LIMIT.

ALL YOUR FAULT, PD

(2022, South Korea)

AT THE BUSY FILMING SITE, THE FILMING SUDDENLY STOPS DUE TO THE APPEARANCE OF A MANAGER, AND A DISCUSSION OF THE MAIN STAFF BEGINS INSIDE CAR. WHILE EVERYONE IS SHIFTING THE BLAME FOR THE PD'S FAULT, A ZOMBIE VIRUS SPREADS OUTSIDE CAR, CAUSING HAVOC. MEANWHILE, THE D.O.P IS WORRIED ABOUT EQUIPMENT BORROWED FROM COMMERCIAL FILM TEAM, AND SOMEONE HAS TO LEAVE TO BRING EQUIPMENT THAT IS ABOUT TO FALL OFF AND A CAR KEY.



Director : Kim Sun-yeun

Cast : Ga-eun Kim
In-kwon Kang
Oliver Jung

Runtime : 16 minutes

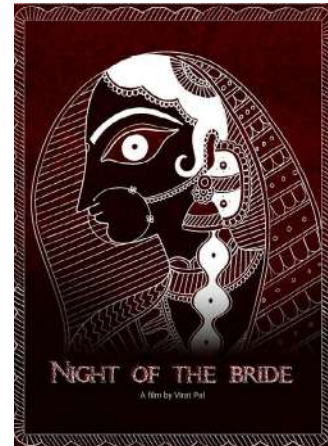
A still life arrangement of adult-themed products. In the center is a black-framed mirror reflecting a 'L' brand vibrator. To the left is a white box for a 'L' vibrator. In the foreground, there's a white egg-shaped sex toy, a red vibrator, and a small magazine featuring a woman in a bikini. The background is dark with palm fronds and a large, dark, feathered object. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the products.

Halfway Home will be preceded by the short film :

NIGHT OF THE BRIDE

(2022, India)

DESPERATE TO GET THEIR ONLY SON MARRIED, A FAMILY HOLDS A YOUNG WOMAN HOSTAGE.



Director : Virat Pal

Cast : Nehal Pal

Runtime : 7 minutes

HALFWAY HOME

(2022, Hungary)

Krisztián, a young slacker raised by his aunt who'd rather teach him how to make magic potions than how to do his own laundry, is a lucky man. He was just accepted at his first job as a night watchman in a morgue. The description of the position, sitting on your ass and doing absolutely nothing, is right up his alley! But he's quickly going to climb off his cloud when he finds out that the morgue's residents are not resting in peace at all. You see, they have a to-do list of unfinished business on Earth, and they have exactly 29 days to wrap it all up and leave to the afterlife with a light, albeit not-beating heart. If they fail, the Mortician, some sort of super-powerful Hellboy that eternally wakes up on the wrong side of the bed, comes to collect their souls. And guess who is going to

work double shifts as a middle-man? That's right, Kriszty Boy! Luckily he can count on Ági, a fantastic girl he just met, to take his mind off things. Except that apart from being extremely cute, she's also extremely dead, and smack in the middle of her 29-day probation period...

Sick and tired of the romcom clichés where they live happily ever after, "until death do them part"? Well, have we got the perfect antidote for you with this macabre fairytale by Isti Madarász (who already presented LOOP at the BIFFF 2017). HALFWAY HOME is halfway between the gothic world of Tim Burton and Jean-Pierre Jeunet's warped sense of romance. An absurd comedy with two lovebirds that fight an epic battle... while death already did them part!



Director : Isti Madarász

Writer : Attila Veres

Cast : Péter Bárnai
Vivien Rujder
Erzsébet Kútvölgyi
János Kulka
Miklós Galla

Runtime : 104 minutes

Wintertide will be preceded by the short film :

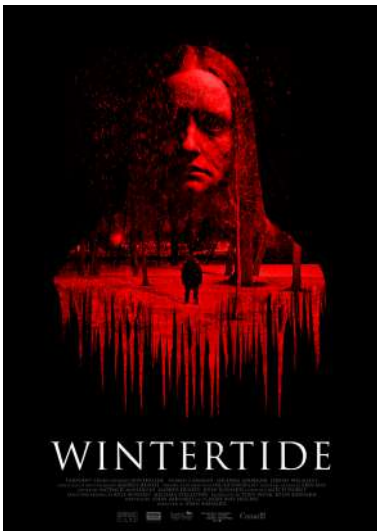


NU

(2022, Canada)

**AN ORDINARY YOUNG COUPLE FIND
AN ISOLATED PLACE TO PARK THEIR
CAR AND LOVE EACH OTHER AWAY
FROM PRYING EYES. AT LEAST
THAT'S WHAT THEY BELIEVE...**

Director : Olivier Labonté LeMoynes
Cast : Étienne Galloy
Roxane Tremblay-Marcotte
Grégoire Dunlevy
Runtime : 14 minutes



WINTERTIDE

(2023, Canada)

Beth is a volunteer on the night-watch patrol through the snowy streets of a sleepy little northern town in Canada. While never a particularly lively place, things have lately taken a turn for the worse. Something mysterious happened a couple of months ago and ever since there's no more sunlight. Everybody is forced to take meds to fight off depression. So far it sounds like your typical Belgian winter, but wait! Most people have simply vanished. Beth is the only 'remainder' for at least 15 blocks. And some others have turned into numb zombies. So basically, our COVID-19 crisis was peanuts compared to what these folks are going through. But hey, at least they don't have social distancing. And Beth is determined to enjoy to the fullest one of the few pleasures

humanity has got left by welcoming new men and women into her bed each night. It's this kinky desire that keeps her flame burning in this cold, cold winter. However, the percentage of people she shags that later turn into zombies seems to be suspiciously high...

Lord knows how many zombie flicks we've seen in our lives. But we have to say, WINTERTIDE is one of the most original spins on the formula we've encountered. Director John Barnard brings to mind Cronenberg sr., not only thematically - mingling our beloved flesh-eating figure with themes of sex, body-doubles, depression and pandemics - but also stylistically, with lingering shots and impressively immersive sound design.

Director : John Barnard
Writers : John Barnard
Carrie-May Siggins
Cast : Niamh Carolan
Solange Sookram
Jeremy Walmsley
Runtime : 97 minutes

3.4. THE UNKNOWN CALL OF THE NIGERIAN PRINCE

APRIL 22 AT 2PM

From the Spanish Prisoner technique to Frank William “Catch Me If You Can” Abagnale, scamming has been around for ages. But the digital revolution has definitely increased the amount of hoaxes and scams people fall victim to, especially the elderly who are the ideal prey for ruthless con men. Every year thousands of seniors get ripped off both by phone and online. That’s why in the context of the screening of *THE GRANDSON*, which deals with “the scamming of grandparents”, the BIFFF organizes a prevention session with cyber criminality experts who can teach you how to hang up in time.

THE GRANDSON

(2022, Hungary)

Rudi is the perfect example of a goody-goody. Always polite, on the straight path, never a disagreeable word, discrete and efficient at work. A man with manners and the pride of his grandpa, with whom he has a very strong bond. But one evening Grandpa receives a phone call from the police telling him Rudi has been involved in a pretty heavy car accident. Grandpa already fears for the worst. The police tell him that Rudi’s the one who caused the accident and that the insurance company is probably going to soak up whatever savings he’s got left. Luckily the other driver is not against an amicable settlement, but to do so Grandpa first has to gather all the cash he’s got lying around the house and hand over the sum in an envelope to the police officer that is waiting in front of

his door... Of course one phone call to his grandson is enough to realize he’s just been scammed. And Rudi has a very hard time digesting that. Such a hard time even that he decides he’s no longer going to play mister nice guy. Cause nobody lays a hand on his Grandpa... Capiche?!

Inspired by a real-life telephone swindle that spread like wildfire all over Eastern Europe, and which even reached our country (that’s right), Kristof Deak – who won an Oscar for his short *SING* – sheds light on this still little known phenomenon. His film falls in between a thriller and a black comedy, with even a hint of emotional tears thrown into the mix: his own grandfather was one of the numerous victims of the hoax. Well, now he’s got his silver-screen revenge!



Director :	Kristóf Deák
Writer :	Kristóf Deák
Cast :	Gergely Blahó Tamás Jordán Gábor Jászberényi Judit Pogány Laura Döbrösi
Runtime :	120 minutes

3.5. FANTASTIC BUT TRUE

Why documentaries at the BIFFF? That's a fair question. It would after all be rather nonsensical to dedicate a documentary to the digestion problems of werewolves or the effect the sun's reflection on the moon has on vampires (would it, though?). That's the whole thing about fantasy. We leave behind the shores of reality. So, why return to them? It's simple: fantasy feeds on reality, transforms it and stretches it in all possible directions. But its starting point will always be reality. And, during our numerous prospection trips, we have been dumbfounded by the sheer quality of these documentaries. Not only because they're insightful and because a good dose of culture and contextualization can't hurt in these troubled times. But also because a solid love for movies is very much like constructing a house. If you don't pay attention to the foundations, they can come crumbling down at any given moment! So, give it a try, give in to your curiosity and you'll see that reality can sometimes be more surprising than the biggest plot twist.

JURASSIC PUNK

(2022, US)

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far way called the 80's, special effects in movies were mostly done with puppetry and cardboard. Then comes along a guy like James Cameron who revolutionizes the industry with his creature from *THE ABYSS* and his robot for *TERMINATOR 2*. And Spielberg, taking the ball, scores a touchdown with his ultra-realistic dinosaurs in *JURASSIC PARK*, changing the face of popular cinema forever. Or so the official story goes... 'cause there's a different story to tell about a genius artist in the shadows who has brought about this digital revolution. A notorious troublemaker with a big mouth, an anarchist who doesn't give a rat's ass about anything in the world. His name is Steve "Spaz" Williams, and he's the one who pioneered CGI (for those of you that stayed stuck under a rock in Jurassic Park for the last 30 years, that's

short for computer generated imagery) to new dazzling heights. He ignored direct orders to craft the hence famous bigger-than-life dinos and literally created the blockbuster of the 21st century. All by himself. In a little corner, with his computer and his big mouth...

With this documentary, Scott Leberecht rehabilitates a man who fell into oblivion but who should be venerated as a living legend. A rebel who hit rock bottom for having pushed cinema to its peak, who had to wipe off the spit of his peers who took all of the credit. So, yeah, "Spaz" may very well have been a gigantic, arrogant pain in the ass, but he has single-handedly redefined the notion of "blockbuster" with his genius and wit. Hats off, bravo, about time he gets what he deserves!



R

RAZORREEL

Director :	Scott Leberecht
Writer :	Scott Leberecht
Cast :	Steve 'Spaz' Williams Phil Tippett Robert Patrick Jamie Hyneman
Runtime :	81 minutes



KING ON SCREEN

(2022, France, Belgium)

This documentary meticulously scrutinizes and analyzes the ascension to the throne of Charles III, one miniscule detail at a time, with the shadow of Queen Elizabeth II's recent passing looming large over the proceedings. Just kidding! We'll leave the hurly-burly of the British royal family to THE CROWN. The King we're talking about here is made of an entirely different cloth. He has published over 60 books and 200 short story bundles, which led to more than 80 screen adaptations helmed by the likes of Brian de Palma, John Carpenter, Tobe Hooper, George Romero and David Cronenberg. His legendary name was typed into Google more than half a billion times. That name, you ask? Stephen King of course! Far from the sole horror genre some gnomes want to pigeonhole him

into, director Daphné Baiwir shakes off the shackles of prejudice and dives deep into the gift that King has to come up with some of most incredible characters fiction has ever seen. Perhaps this above all else helps explain why Hollywood is so smitten with his work.

Daphné Baiwir forges a fascinating portrait of one of the greatest fiction writers of our time, stitching together exclusive interviews with illustrious collaborators such as Mike Flanagan, Mick Garris and Frank Darabont (though, ironically, King himself will not be seen on screen), juicy anecdotes about some of his classics and cleverly scattered Easter eggs which only die-hard King fans – Kingophites? – will be able to uncover.

Director :	Daphné Baiwir
Writer :	Daphné Baiwir
Cast :	Frank Darabont Mick Garris Tom Holland Greg Nicotero Josh Boone Taylor Hackford
Runtime :	104 minutes

REC : TERROR WITHOUT A PAUSE

(2022, Spain)

As is often the case, it all started out as a fun idea without any grand pretensions by two talented directors called Jaume Balagueró and Paco Plaza. A blitz shooting in Barcelona, no famous actors and a pure guerilla-style approach on all levels. But little by little the duo start to wonder whether this little project of theirs hasn't got a much larger potential. And well, we all know what happened next. When REC was released in 2007, it caused quite a stir; no, let's just call it an earthquake, grossing 30 million dollars worldwide and receiving tons of praise by critics and audiences alike. In particular for its 22-minute tracking shot

that swiftly entered the pantheon of horror film achievements.

Like all successful 'foreign' horror flicks, this masterpiece got the American remake treatment and had several sequels. But this documentary does not focus on those at all. Here it's all about the groundbreaking original, with behind-the-scenes secrets and crazy anecdotes told with gusto by Jaume Balagueró, Paco Plaza, Javier Botet and the like. More than 15 years after the release of one of the biggest phenomena of Spanish horror cinema, we finally get a glimpse behind the curtains. But the legend remains fully intact...



Director :	Diego López-Fernández
Writer :	Diego López-Fernández
Cast :	Jaume Balagueró Paco Plaza Julio Fernandez Carlos Fernandez Teresa Gefaell Oriol Maymo
Runtime :	105 minutes

3.6. THE FANTASTIC NIGHT

APRIL 15 FROM 11:30 PM, WITH FREE BREAKFAST THE NEXT MORNING

The Wrath of Becky will be preceded by the short film :

WE FORGOT ABOUT THE ZOMBIES

(2022, US)

TWO DUDES THINK THEY FOUND
THE CURE FOR ZOMBIE BITES.



Director : Chris McInroy

Cast : Carlos LaRotta
Kyle Irion

Runtime : 4 minutes



THE WRATH OF BECKY

(2023, US)

Two years after surviving an incredibly violent attack on her family, young Becky is trying to rebuild her life with Elena, a retiree with a temper as strong as her own. And everything could have gone well if some macho assholes hadn't burst into their home to scare them, send Elena six feet under and steal Diego, Becky's beloved dog. Obviously, these macho assholes don't care about the post-traumatic stress they inflict on the poor young girl. And that's just fine, because Becky doesn't care either. Because Becky, like any self-respecting sociopath, has no feelings. All she wants is to get her sweet mutt back and have a little fun with these macho assholes using

anything she can get her hands on. That is to say, guns, knives, cutters, grenades, homemade booby-traps... In short, a whole bunch of really definitive arguments that will bring her opponents closer to God.

THE WRATH OF BECKY is an incredibly muscular sequel to an underrated masterpiece and an improbable mix between HOME ALONE and JOHN WICK. So, whatcha waiting for? Whip out your Ricola - zhe Krautbonbons! - tablets, because this screening is going to be an epic, unflinchingly gory punk journey, with Sean William Scott (AMERICAN PIE) wonderfully used against type.

Directors : Matt Angel
Suzanne Coote

Writers : Matt Angel
Suzanne Coote
Matt Angel

Cast : Lulu Wilson
Seann William Scott
Denise Burse
Jill Larson
Courtney Gains
Michael Sirow
Aaron Dalla Villa
Matt Angel
Kate Siegel

Runtime : 83 minutes

Kill Her Goats will be preceded by the short film :

GNOMES

(2022, Netherlands)

UNKNOWINGLY, A GIRL ENTERS THE HABITAT OF A TRIBE OF KILLER GNOMES DURING HER DAILY RUN. LURED BY MYSTERIOUS GLOWING MUSHROOMS, SHE'LL SOON WISH SHE'D STAYED ON HER USUAL TRACKS.



Director : Ruwan Heggelman
Cast : Moise Trustfull
Duncan Meijering
Runtime : 6 minutes



Director : Steve Wolsh
Writer : Steve Wolsh
Cast : Arielle Raycene
Ellie Gonsalves
Kane Hodder
Monica Sims
Dani Mathers
Amberleigh West
Runtime : 99 minutes

KILL HER GOATS

(2023, US)

Audra is super-doooper happy! To congratulate her on graduating from college, her daddy bought her a nice little house in her hometown of West Craven. So, on the agenda there's a housewarming party with her BFFs Missy and Reese, twenty-minute showers with some great exfoliating soap enriched with apricot oil and sweet ylang-ylang smells, a little glass of wine and lots of gossip. Aaaaah, what a joy to be rich, blonde, white, and drop-dead gorgeous... While waiting for her girlfriends, who are probably running on the beach in slo-mo, Audra decides to take a twenty-minute shower with some great exfoliating soap enrich... well, you get the gist, she takes a shower. But, as life is always full of surprises, some rather unexpected other guests are about to arrive at the party. And they don't care

about a shower. They're more into bloodbaths and slicing playmates into sashimi. But why? Well, why not? Just don't ask too many questions, or we'll tell you all about the goats, the fish with teeth and the perfect sharpness of the riveted metal meshes of the chainsaw of the aptly-named Goatface. Capiche?

A riveting homage to 70's and 80's exploitation flicks, KILL HER GOATS may be as subtle as a tweet by Andrew Tate but that doesn't stop it from being incredibly fun. On the contrary: old skool FX, a Kane Hodder (FRIDAY THE 13TH, HATCHET) in Olympic form, three playmates with an allergy to clothes, countless references and extremely generous gore galore. Trigger warning: only for those with very, very bad taste.

V/H/S 99 will be preceded by the short film :

VENUS

(2022, France)

**SHE FINDS HERSELF ALONE, NAKED,
IN HER BATHROOM, FACING THE
TRAUMA THAT HAUNTS HER.**



Director : Mickaël Dusa

Cast : Naya Piquemal

Runtime : 11 minutes



V/H/S 99

(2022, US)

Shredding: A bunch of annoying teens break into a closed-down venue where a band was burnt alive years earlier. They find out it's supremely uncool to mess with badass undead rockers. **Ozzy's Dungeon** is a sadistic TV-show with a host pushing the candidates through a humiliating obstacle course to open said dungeon. And when a participant gets mutilated for life, her family takes revenge on the host, 'Ozzy'-style. **The Gawkers:** a bunch of horny teens install a spycam in the apartment of the hot blonde across the street and are in for the fright of their lives. **Suicide Bid:** A college girl desperately wants to join the hottest sorority on campus. For that she has to spend a night buried alive in a coffin at a graveyard. But there's something on the outside trying to get into her coffin. **To Hell and Back:** A documentary crew is filming a

satanic ritual and gets transported to a hellish landscape full of deadly traps, torture and demons. They only have minutes to escape.

The V/H/S franchise has launched a whole bunch of careers and has always been a playground to experiment with fun and terror. This fifth entry into the series has plenty of laughs and shocks to satiate the fans. Tied together by a string of stop-motion comedy action clips, V/H/S/99 runs the gamut from "why the hell would anyone do this?" to 'I wish I had put on a diaper.' Your hosts are Maggie Levin (THE BLACK PHONE), Flying Lotus (KUSO), Tyler MacIntyre (TRAGEDY GIRLS, BIFFF 2018), Johannes Roberts (47 METERS DOWN) and Joseph & Vanessa Winter (DEADSTREAM, BIFFF 2022).

Directors : Maggie Levin
Johannes Roberts
Tyler Macintyre
Flying Lotus
Joseph Winter
Vanessa Winter

Writers : Maggie Levin
Johannes Roberts
Zoe Cooper
Flying Lotus
Tyler Macintyre
Chris Lee Hill
Vanessa Winter
Joseph Winter

Cast : Steven Ogg
Ally Ioannides
Keanush Tafreshi
Emily Sweet
Archelaus Crisanto

Runtime : 109 minutes

Love Will Tear Us will be preceded by the short film :

NIAN

(2022, US)

A CHINESE AMERICAN GIRL STANDS UP TO HER RACIST BULLY WITH THE HELP OF THE NIAN, A CHINESE MYTHOLOGICAL FIGURE THAT COMES ON THE EVE OF LUNAR NEW YEAR SAID TO EAT BAD CHILDREN.



Director : Michelle Krusiec

Cast : Lauren Mei
Dawn Saito
Ava Devoe

Runtime : 6 minutes



Director : Kenichi Ugana

Writers : Kenichi Ugana
Hirobumi Watanabe

Cast : Saya Kubota
Yuzu Aoki
Riko
Mitsuru Fukikoshi

Runtime : 87 minutes

LOVE WILL TEAR US APART

(2023, Japan)

Wakaba is many things: one of the most kawaii grade-schoolers ever, the #1 fan of pop musician Kohei Shirasaki and someone with a particularly strong sense of righteousness. So when she witnesses her dorky classmate Koki being pushed around by two grade-A bullies, she can't help but stand up for him. Not used to having someone, least of all a girl defend him, Koki is instantly smitten. Naturally, that's why when his tormentors start picking on her, he goes berserk and catapults them out of the class window, falling to their deaths meters below... Seven years later, Wakaba is still very kawaii but now a groupie cruising around in the van of Kohei's new band, which turns out to be filled with douchebags, her idol included. In search of a little fun before their next gig, they decide to have a barbecue with some teriyaki, beers and hopefully later on a bit of

sweet lovin'. Wakaba really isn't up for that and luckily for her, bodies still tend to show up abundantly wherever she goes. Violently mutilated bodies...

What starts off as a saccharine kids melodrama quickly, unexpectedly and gloriously flies off the rails with lots of heads flying off once love enters into the picture. Director Kenichi Ugana - whose WILD VIRGINS we already wanted to screen at the BIFFF in 2020, but y'all know what happened that year - reinterprets Joy Division's gloomy post-punk classic "Love Will Tear Us Apart" quite literally, as in shredding folks into pieces in the name of love. And it's not simply a fantastic midnight movie. It also contains possibly the two greatest scenes involving sushi and belly tattoos in film history. We're not kidding...

3.7. DECENTRALISATION IN MONS

FRIDAY APRIL 14 AT 12:30PM

MIDIS DU COURT SPÉCIAL BIFFF

A selection of Belgian fantastic short films in the presence of guests.
Screening followed by a signing session with **PHILIPPE FOERSTER**.

DERNIÈRE PORTE AU SUD

(2015, Belgium)

Director : Sacha Feiner, adapted from a story of Philippe Foerster
Runtime : 15 minutes

SANGUE NERO

(2021, Belgium)

Director : Ophélie Nève
Runtime : 19 minutes

SYLVIE L'A FAIT

(2022, Belgium)

Director : Adrien Orville
Runtime : 24 minutes

Website : <https://plaza-mons.be/>

SATURDAY 22 APRIL FROM 10PM

BIFFF NIGHT

A Fantastic Night full of laughter and horror, starring a female serial killer, a dash of scifi, demons, zombies...and lots of surprises!

**ZOMBIE ANIMATION BY THE PUCK COMPANY.
SURVIVORS BREAKFAST INCLUDED.**

VESPER CHRONICLES - The Searchers

(2022, Lithuania, France, Belgium)

Directors : Kristina Buozyte et Bruno Samper

BIFFF GOLDEN RAVEN 2022

- VOSTFR -

Runtime : 114 minutes

BONNE CONDUITE - Paradiso Films

(2023, France)

Director : Jonathan Barré

- VO FR -

Runtime : 95 minutes

EVIL DEAD RISE - Warner Bros

(2023, US)

Director : Lee Cronin

- VOSTFR -

Runtime : 97 minutes

THE LONELIEST BOY IN THE WORLD - The Searchers

(2022, UK)

Director : Martin Owen

- VOSTFR -

Runtime : 90 minutes

04.

THE MAIN COURSE

4.1. OPENING/CLOSING



aniMA
THE BRUSSELS ANIMATION
FILM FESTIVAL

Director :	Makoto Shinkai
Writer :	Makoto Shinkai
Cast :	Nanoka Hara Hokuto Matsumura Eri Fukatsu Kôshirô Matsumoto
Runtime :	112 minutes

SUZUME

OPENING

(2022, Japan)

What better way to open the 41st BIFFF than with a teenage girl jumping from one dimension to the next, trying to save the world from impending doom alongside a magical cat and a talking three-legged chair? That teenager is Suzume, a seemingly ordinary high-schooler who on her way to class meets a strange fellow, Souta, who is looking for a door in some close-by ruins. She decides to follow him and she actually manages to stumble upon the door first. It's a mysterious stand-alone door in the middle of nowhere. Tempted to open it, she unleashes unspeakable evil upon the world in the form of a radioactive cloud-like cosmic creature called the Worm that sprinkles disaster and misery wherever it goes. Cause you see, that door wasn't just an ordinary door but a portal to other worlds. Luckily, Suzume isn't an ordinary

teenager either. She's the Chosen One, destined to protect nature and humanity against all sorts of evil entities - the Worm has a couple of buddies - by jumping from one portal to the next. And like we said, alongside a magical cat and a chair skilled in demon ass-kicking. After his break-through YOUR NAME and WEATHERING WITH YOU, Makoto Shinkai was quickly labeled as Hayao Miyazaki's heir. And sure, they both share a sense of childlike wonder, but Shinkai is a bit more unhinged. Proof: this new sci-fi supernatural disaster movie that succeeds in marrying cosmic dimension-jumping demon-slaying with an emotional coming-of-age story. The film grossed 107 million in its native Japan, then competed in Berlin's official selection and now it opens the BIFFF in a parallel universe close to you.

UNWELCOME

CLOSING

(2022, UK)

After a traumatic experience in the Brexit capital, Jamie and his pregnant wife Maya would like nothing more than to get the hell out this country that is going down the drain. By chance, Jamie inherits an old cottage in the Irish countryside and our two little lovebirds immediately fly off. The City, it ain't. No Tube where everyone has a long face, no traffic jams where you want to demolish everyone's faces and no bastards with a craving for inflicting trauma's on others. Here, it's all about the bogs, vast forests and idyllic lakes... Heaven! Sure, the shack could use a lick of paint and the only handymen around work for the dastardly Whelan family, but that's a detail. Same goes for the amusing request of an

old friend of Jamie's family, who begs the young couple to leave a plate of meat in the garden every night. For whom? Goblins and leprechauns? Ah, these country folk and their lavish imagination. Nevertheless, they comply and deposit a nightly meat offering. Just in case. You never know. A wise decision, very wise indeed...

Discovered at the BIFFF 2013 with GRABBERS, John Wright's back with a title that ostensibly disrespects our festival's token greeting. Like Spielberg and his JAWS, which played coy before showing its teeth, Wright first lets us gently settle in his tale before unleashing an epic bloodbath! At the crossroads between GREMLINS and STRAW DOGS.



Director : Jon Wright

Writers : Jon Wright
Mark Stay

Cast : Hannah John-Kamen
Douglas Booth
Jamie Lee O'Donnell
Chris Walley
Kristian Naim
Colm Meaney

Runtime : 104 minutes

4.2. EUROPEAN COMPETITION

- MÉLIÈS

EUROPEAN JURY



SYLVESTRE SBILLE

Sylvestre Sbille is a Belgian writer, screenwriter and director from Namur. After studying art history and archeology at the “Université libre de Bruxelles”, he followed a formation as editor at the INSAS. He then worked in various positions on feature films. Today, he divides his time between documentary and fiction. Sylvestre made two documentaries and several shorts and feature films. He draws inspiration from great mythological stories to create small Walloon fables about unlikely people living on the margins of society. If you want to get a better picture of our guest, here are some details about him: his guilty pleasure is ONE NIGHT AT MCCOOL’S, he laughs his ass off with GALAXY QUEST and he is terrified of BATMAN RETURNS (because of the penguin).

HANS HERBOTS

In 2001, Hans Herbots directed his first feature film, FALLING, based on the book “Vallen” by Anne Provoost, with Alice Krige and Jill Clayburgh in the main roles. In 2010, he directed HET GODDELIJKE MONSTER, a ten-part drama series for Flemish public television Eén, based on the trilogy of the same name by Tom Lanoye. The feature film THE TREATMENT, from 2013, was based on Mo Hayder’s bestseller. In early 2021, he co-directed 4 episodes of the series THE SERPENT for the BBC and Netflix. It was one of the most watched series on Netflix in the world that year. The series was shot in Bangkok and London, with Tahar Rahim, Jenna Coleman and Stacy Martin as lead parts.



MARTHA CANGA ANTONIO

Martha Canga Antonio, also known as Martha Da’ro, is a Flemish actress and singer with roots in Angola. As inexperienced actor she got selected in to play one of the main character in the movie ‘Black’ (2015). She received the award for best actress at the 2015 Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival for her work in ‘Black’. Martha Canga Antonio is known for her roles in ‘Black’, ‘Adoration’ (2019), ‘Baptiste’ (2019) en ‘A Girl from Mogadishu’ (2019). In 2013 she joined the band \$oul’Art as a singer and in 2018 her own first single called ‘Summer Blues’ was launched. She also starred in Roomies, a show by Kato De Boeck and Flo Van Deuren for Eén and VRT Max

HALFWAY HOME

(2022, Hungary)

Krisztián, a young slacker raised by his aunt who'd rather teach him how to make magic potions than how to do his own laundry, is a lucky man. He was just accepted at his first job as a night watchman in a morgue. The description of the position, sitting on your ass and doing absolutely nothing, is right up his alley! But he's quickly going to climb off his cloud when he finds out that the morgue's residents are not resting in peace at all. You see, they have a to-do list of unfinished business on Earth, and they have exactly 29 days to wrap it all up and leave to the afterlife with a light, albeit not-beating heart. If they fail, the Mortician, some sort of super-powerful Hellboy that eternally wakes up on the wrong side of the bed, comes to collect their souls. And guess who is going to

work double shifts as a middle-man? That's right, Kriszty Boy! Luckily he can count on Ági, a fantastic girl he just met, to take his mind off things. Except that apart from being extremely cute, she's also extremely dead, and smack in the middle of her 29-day probation period...

Sick and tired of the romcom clichés where they live happily ever after, "until death do them part"? Well, have we got the perfect antidote for you with this macabre fairytale by Isti Madarász (who already presented LOOP at the BIFFF 2017). HALFWAY HOME is halfway between the gothic world of Tim Burton and Jean-Pierre Jeunet's warped sense of romance. An absurd comedy with two lovebirds that fight an epic battle... while death already did them part!



Director :	Isti Madarász
Writer :	Attila Veres
Cast :	Péter Bárnai Vivien Rujder Erzsébet Káttvölgyi János Kulka Miklós Galla
Runtime :	104 minutes



Director :	Xawery Zulański
Writers :	Krzysztof Bernas Maciej Kazula Xawery Zulański
Cast :	Mikołaj Kubacki Waleria Gorobets Monika Mikołajczak Mariusz Urbaniec
Runtime :	120 minutes

IT CAME FROM THE WATER

(2022, Poland)

Kamil is so done with the whole COVID-19 lockdown shtick of following classes through Zoom and hanging around his gigantic mansion stuck with his dad's new, yoga-instructing girlfriend while the old man himself only occasionally flies in by helicopter in between Dubai business meetings. Fuck all that! He's going to throw one hell of a party for all of his friends in his dad's secondary residence, a palace at the Polish seaside, safety restrictions be damned! Together with his esoteric eco-warrior secret crush Aga, her bone-headed boyfriend Max, book-smart Luiza, goth chick Tola and what seems like thousands of other classmates he sets out to the party destination, alongside a couple of surprise guests like Mr. Blitz, some kind of autarkic Khal Drogo who lives in the woods fully prepared for the Apocalypse, and... *creepy voice* something that came from the waaaater!! Well, no

need to get all mysterious about it: it's Kamil's dad who dumped his company's chemical waste into the bay next to the teenagers' party location, causing an acute local problem of swimmers turning into blood-thirsty zombies!!

So yeah, it came from the water alright, but we prefer the original Polish title: "Apokawixa", or Apocalypse Party, which is exactly what director Xawery Zulański delivers here. A party of epic, PROJECT X-like proportions that is almost as delirious as the movies of his daddy, the late Andrzej Zulański, with lots of sex, drugs, Polish rap and raging and outrageously funny zombies. Seriously, it's incredibly well-written and has some of the most brilliant ideas in all zombie-hood! Like, what do you get when a vegan is bitten by a zombie? A vegan zombie! Just think about that for a second...



WOLFKIN

(2022, Luxemburg, Belgium)

Ah, if only she had said no to that wild exchange of bodily fluids in the idyllic countryside with that aristocratic rebel Patrick... Ten years later, Elaine's a mother on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Desperately single and as broke as Woody at the end of TOY STORY 4, every day is a struggle for her and her boy Martin. But when the latter starts clawing and gnawing at his classmates, she breaks down. On an impulse she travels with her son to the luxuriant forests of Luxembourg, where the parents of Patrick live. Elaine doesn't even know why she's going. To finally present Martin to Grandma and Grandpa? Because of their seemingly infinite amounts of money? Because she's utterly lost? Whatever's the case, not only are the grandparents overjoyed to

finally meet their heir, they seem to know all about the boy's uncontrollable urge to chew on his peers. Yup, lil' Martin is definitely the spitting image of his dad...

We never stop repeating it, the fantastic genre is the ideal filter to treat all contemporary topics. Jacques Molitor completely got that with WOLFKIN, in which he uses the genre prism to question family ties, the reactionary hypocrisy inherent in the aristocracy and the loss of identity through the figure of a monster that is almost akin to Rousseau's philosophy of the "noble savage". An incredibly rich gothic tale, as elegant as it is disturbing, and yet further proof that Belgian co-production of genre films is in excellent shape!

Director :	Jacques Molitor
Writer :	Jacques Molitor
Cast :	Louise Manteau Victor Dieu Marja-Leena Junker Jules Werner Myriam Muller
Runtime :	89 minutes

THE POD GENERATION

(2023, UK)

In a near future where all ideologies have been crushed under the weight of total ultra-liberalism, Rachel and Aly live in perfect loving harmony thanks to the benefits of domestic artificial intelligence. All their needs are met thanks to this cybernetic housekeeper: what to eat, what to wear, what to do, when to work, how to work, how to raise the toilet seat, how to avoid thinking left, how to turn right... Everything is managed by technology. When Rachel - who has always dreamed of having a child - receives a well-deserved promotion, her boss offers to pay for part of an artificial pregnancy at the «Womb Center». Basically, she buys herself a portable artificial uterus, or «pod,» and

gets rid of stretch marks, foot swelling and uncontrollable cravings in the process. All the while confirming to the image of the successful American woman on top of her professional productivity. The only thing holding her back is Aly, her botanist husband. He's a little bit old school and prefers the miracle of human biology to one of those expensive Tamagotchi's...

Thirteen years after saying hello to us at the BIFFF with COLD SOULS, Sophie Barthes is back in Brussels with a chilling dystopian satire. With Emilia Clarke (GAME OF THRONES) and Chiwetel Ejiofor (12 YEARS A SLAVE) brilliantly showcasing the artificial side of our modern intelligence.



Director :	Sophie Barthes
Wrtier :	Sophie Barthes
Cast :	Emilia Clarke Chiwetel Ejiofor Rosalie Craig Vinette Robinson Jean-Marc Barr
Runtime :	101 minutes

THE LONELIEST BOY IN THE WORLD

(2022, UK)

Overprotected by his mother, socially autistic Oliver spends his time watching episodes of Alf in his candy-colored house. But when his mother accidentally ends up impaled on a garden gnome, his little world falls apart. He now feels completely and utterly alone, with no family or friends. Just Alf and an overzealous social worker who gives him one week to create a social link with the outside world. Or else she'll put him in an asylum. One week to turn from a sheltered hermit to a globally loved darling? Madness! No, Olivier goes for a more pragmatic, not to say radical option: digging up four corpses that are still warm and reuniting with

them just in time for a lovely little picture to immortalize their bond. But in the morning he's shocked to find these deadlier than dead folks alive and well at the breakfast table...

A script that seems to point in the direction of a delirious dissection of the origins of a serial killer. But Martin Owen opts for the complete opposite direction with this satire of sitcoms complete with pastel colors. Imagine an episode of THE WALKING DEAD with an atmosphere more akin to HAPPY DAYS and you get this atypical fairytale about mourning and coming of age!



Director :	Martin Owen
Writers :	Piers Ashworth Brad Wyman Emilio Estevez
Cast:	Max Harwood Hero Fiennes Tiffin Susan Wokoma Evan Ross Tallulah Haddon Hammed Animashaun Jacob Sartorius
Runtime :	91 minutes



Director :	Crazy Pictures
Writers :	Jimmy Nivérén Olsson Victor Danell
Cast :	Inez Dahl Torhaug Jesper Barkselius Eva Melander Oscar Töringe Joakim Sällquist
Runtime :	115 minutes

UFO SWEDEN

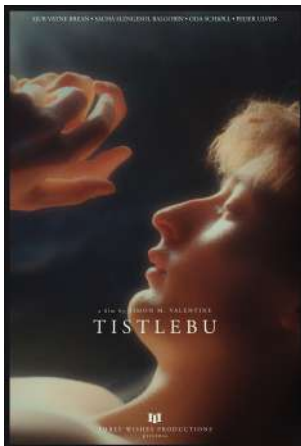
(2022, Sweden)

1996, in the Swedish city of Norrköping. An association of antisocial nerds who have watched a little too much of the X-Files, collect and verify all the testimonies of UFO's flying over Sweden. For 99% of the calls they find a perfect scientific explanation, but it is that 1% of mystery that drives and motivates them. One day the rebellious teenager Denise storms in their offices. She's not only a familiar face to all the police agents in town, but also to our Ufonauts. Her father was one of the founders of the group until he was «abducted by aliens» in the eighties. Their disbelief and skepticism makes way for a never-before-felt enthusiasm, as Denise has brought back some secret archives that shed a whole new light on her

father's disappearance. And of course there are many forces at work who have every interest in ensuring that this information does not leak out.

European sci-fi movies are unfortunately a rare things, but once in a while something comes along like UFO SWEDEN, which is brought to you by the Swedish Crazy Pictures Collective (THE UNTINKABLE, BIFFF 2019). It's a resolutely mainstream movie with a great script, a very human story at its heart, impressive SFX and a rollercoaster story of thrills and discoveries in a perfectly recreated nineties setting. It's as if THE X-FILES and STRANGER THINGS had a lovechild and they called it UFO SWEDEN!

Nightmare will be preceded by the short film :



Director : Simon M. Valentine
Cast : Sjur Vatne Brean
Sacha Slegensoi Balgobin
Oda Scholl
Runtime : 18 minutes

TISTLEBU

(2022, Norway)

**AS A YOUNG URBAN COUPLE
ON A WORKING HOLIDAY HOPES
TO CONNECT WITH NATURE AT
TISTLEBU FARM, A PRIMORDIAL
POWER COMES INTO PLAY,
CHANGING THEM BOTH FOREVER.**

NIGHTMARE

(2022, Norway)

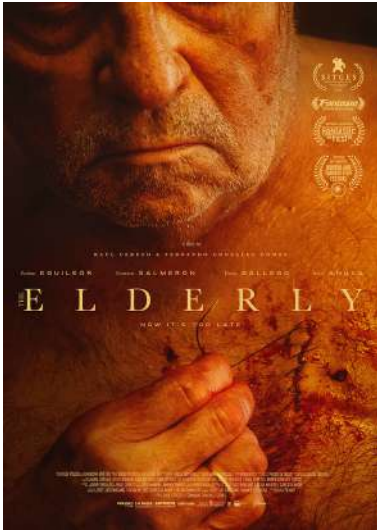
Barely 23 and already happy owners of their own little cocoon. Congratz Mona and Robbie! OK sure, that cocoon hasn't quite burst into a beautiful butterfly yet. In fact in its current state it's much closer to a frizzled and faded moth on the brink of dying. The floor's crooked, the 70's wallpaper's peeling off and rain pours through the ceiling. Robbie, always the youthful optimist, thinks they'll be able to fix up the place together. Except he's also a jolly yuppie in a tech start-up, working days and nights and weekends. So basically, Mona is on her own. Robbie also wants a child, Mona is less sure. And the older couple with the constantly screaming baby across the hall is not a very glamorous commercial for motherhood. Even less so after she

sees the mother jump off the balcony a couple of days later. And then come the nightmares, frightfully real and recurring nightmares that feature Robbie. At first, he just seems a little bit more wild than usual, but he's quickly getting darker and more threatening... with real-life consequences like stress, sleepwalking, hallucinations, self-mutilation... and a baby?

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET and especially ROSEMARY'S BABY come to mind, but Kjersti Helen Rasmussen's debut feature is very much her own child. Carried by a powerful performance by Eili Harboe (THELMA), the film digs deep into the darkest crevices of the human mind, where personal demons weave the most sinister nightmares into reality...



Directors : Kjersti Helen Rasmussen
Writers : Kjersti Helen Rasmussen
Cast : Eili Harboe
Herman Tømmeraas
Dennis Storhøi
Preben Hodneland
Gine Therese Grønner
Siri Black Ndiaye
Peter Førde
Runtime : 100 minutes



THE ELDERLY

(2022, Spain)

Directors :	Raúl Cerezo Fernando González Gómez
Writers :	Javier Trigales Raúl Cerezo Rubén Sánchez Trigos
Cast :	Zorion Eguileor Gustavo Salmeron Paula Gallego Irene Anula
Runtime :	96 minutes

When summer comes to Madrid, the old folk tremble before the heatwave that will wipe out many of their peers. If most of them go into hiding in front of their fan, Mario's mother opts for a definitive breath of fresh air by jumping out of a window for no apparent reason. The shock for Mario's dad is so great that he immediately sinks into a form of dementia, while the temperature in the city keeps on climbing. Mario decides to move back in, but daddy's strange behavior becomes ever more alarming. And he's not the only one. All the seniors in the neighborhood seem to suffer from a collective sunstroke. While the Minister of Pensions is already rejoicing with temperatures that exceed 50 °C, the atmosphere at Mario's place is way less funky. Especially when, in the middle of dinner, his dad announces, as

casually as someone might ask for the salt, that he's going to kill all of them tomorrow evening. Oh, and have we already mentioned the temperature?

They just presented THE PASSENGER at the BIFFF 2022 and now Raúl Cerezo and Fernando González Gómez are already back with their follow-up, a horror flick in which the temperatures rise as quickly as the tension! With this openly provocative title, the duo questions the way we look at the elderly, considered by the most cynical among us as little more than dead weight dragging our society down. But they're actually imagining their (bloody) revenge. Without forgetting the extraordinary performance by Zorion Eguileor (THE PLATFORM, LOST AND FOUND)!

4.2. WHITE RAVEN

WHITE RAVEN JURY



OPHÉLIE NÈVE

Ophélie Neve (Tournai, 1995°) has a degree in film directing from the INSAS. In her movies, she deals with social and feminist issues through the prism of horror and fantasy. Her graduation film *SANGUE NERO* was awarded with the Grand Prize of the Jury at the BIFFF 2022. Since then, she has been working on her next short film and documentary projects, including the documentary *QUAND L'EAU DEVIENDRA NOIRE*, which she is co-directing with Liora Berliner. She also works as an assistant director on several shorts, music videos and series.

JÉRÔME VANDEWATTYNE

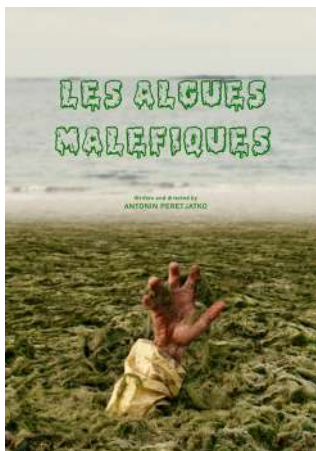
At the age of 25, after shooting two shorts for the BIFFF (*SHE'S A SLUT*, 2011 & *SLUTTERBALL*, 2012), Jérôme Vandewattyne embarks on his first feature film. For two years he follows The Experimental Tropic Blues Band. The result of all that footage is the blissful mindfuck *SPIT'N'SPLIT*, which premieres at the BIFFF in 2017. He is currently putting the finishing touches to his second feature, *THE BELGIAN WAVE*, a psychedelic movie about the wave of UFO sightings that swept Belgium between 1989 and 1993 (release scheduled for 2023). Strongly influenced by Midnight Movies and the genre cinema of the 1970s, Jérôme examines humanity through the prism of its strangest aspects. His camera succeeds in authentically portraying freaks, outsiders and ambiguous characters. In addition to his own films, he founded the music group *VHS From Space* and directed a large number of music videos and commercials.



BENJAMIN VNDREDI

His thing is production; the beats that turn an a-cappella song into a punchy rap. *DEE EYE* has produced sounds for Caballero, JeanJass, PLK, Venlo and Romeo Elvis, to name just a few. He is part of the golden generation of Belgian rap and he intends to stay on top. Because behind every single, every hit, every banger is a talented beatmaker. He started playing the piano from an early age. He was introduced to classical music and jazz, but he is also a fan of rock. He likes to play and innovate with different sounds. Finally, he switched roles and released his first solo album last September under the artist name «Benjmain Vndredi.» This year he performs at the BIFFF as a member of our WHITE RAVEN jury.

Stephane will be preceded by the short film :



Director : Antonin Peretjatko
Cast : Alma Jodorowsky
Pauline Chalamet
Estéban
Runtime : 24 minutes

EVIL SEAWEED

(2022, France)

**BRITTANY. SEAWEED.
WALKERS DISAPPEAR...**

STEPHANE

(2022, France)

Timothée, a filmmaker with the ego of Spielberg and the talent of Tommy Wiseau, is currently shooting his update of MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE on a budget of three bags of Lays chips. But before wrapping up yet another great scene, a man walks into the image and spoils the whole shot. That man is Stéphane, a magnificent schmuck with a big mouth, who proclaims himself the best stuntman of French cinema with an impressive list of French stars that came wining and dining at his place. Wouldn't Timothée, as a young upcoming talent, like to come to his place as well? After all, he offers to get Timothée's ambitious war picture made with a couple of his friends at his huge villa that is only accessible by boat. He clearly seems to be a nutcase

that is talking out of his ass, but he looks pretty harmless. Besides, he might just be the ideal subject for a documentary. Unfortunately, what Timothée doesn't know is that nutcases at the BIFFF rarely turn out to be harmless...

You never know quad is coming next (no no, that's no typo) in this insane little game of pushing one's limits of what is tolerable just a little further each time... until you've reached the point of no return. French cult comic Monsieur Poulpe took directors Pastor and Hochet under his wings: his signature humor, of the absurd and biting kind, is all over this crossing between a found footage and a mockumentary.



Directors : Timothée Hochet
Lucas Pastor
Writers : Timothée Hochet
Lucas Pastor
Cast : Lucas Pastor
Bastien Garcia
Eva Gregorieff
Runtime : 79 minutes

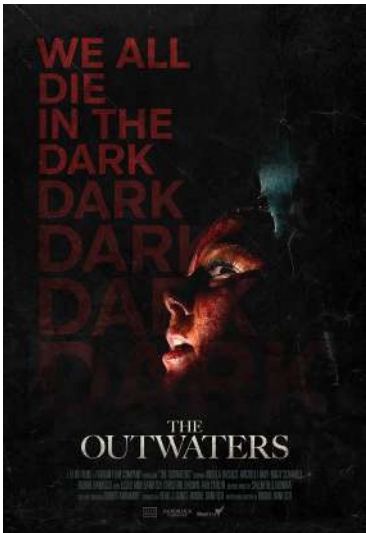
THE OUTWATERS

(2022, US)

Four friends head off to the Mojave Desert to shoot a video clip. Each one has his neat little tent to pitch, a water bottle and sun-cream. When night falls they go to sleep. That is, if the desert lets them... Everything that happens afterwards will have to stay between us because even just trying to put into words what happens risks to twist our poor little stomachs. So, let's continue with a more neutral content to keep your heart rate down before the screening. The famous Mojave desert is a 40.000 km² area with a lot of rocks. It can be very hot, like in Death Valley, because it is located in the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada. Not much in the way of flowers, apart from a couple o' yuccas. In terms of animals, there's red-tailed hawks, roadrunners and bighorn sheep, also called the ovis

canadensis. That other Canadian ovis, Céline Dion, also shot two video clips there. But she's had way more luck than the four clowns we have here...

With THE OUTWATERS, you will start off by hating up deeply and bitterly. Then you'll wonder what the hell it is you're watching. And finally you're going to regret underestimating your limit of horror tolerance. Director Robbie Banfitch transcends the found footage framework and lets the whole thing spiral off into a visceral experience of cosmic guts and gore. The critics, for once, are all on the same page: barbaric, ruthless, insane, sick and damn hard to forget. Please don't mess up our seats in case you start feeling unwell.



Director :	Robbie Banfitch
Writer :	Robbie Banfitch
Cast :	Robbie Banfitch Angela Basolis Scott Schamell Michelle May Leslie Ann Banfitch
Runtime :	110 minutes



Director :	Reiki Tsuno
Writer :	Reiki Tsuno
Cast :	Sho Mineo Yuya Matsuura Ayane Michael Aaron Stone So Yamanaka
Runtime :	88 minutes

MAD CATS

(2023, Japan)

Laaadies and gentlemen, in the left corner we have the 'Kids', more precisely Gary and his teenage sis Samantha. Frequently abandoned by their parents, they kill the time shooting their own horror flicks with their buds, or by being pushed around by school bully Billy, who gets them to agree on organizing a Halloween party at their place. Needless to say, said party quickly gets out of hand, Gommorra-style, with graffiti contests on their living room walls, puke bombs dropped in their kitchen drawers and other, more intimate exchanges of bodily fluids in the bedroom upstairs. But it's not the cops that are going to break up the festivities buut... in the right corner, ladies and gentlemen, here they come: the 'Aliens'! They're

ugly, they're mean, they're hungry and they urgently need a stock of human cadavers to get their spaceship running again... So, let the fight begin!!

A frenetic whirlwind, full of grindhouse gore and vintage fun, that blasts by at a fiery 75 minutes. There's lots of swearing and cussing from our kids (parental advisory: explicit content!), there's big and brash colors, there's deliciously gory deaths.... Everything to please our inner child! It's like a badly educated SUPER 8 that hung around too often with wrong friends like TURBO KIDS. Yup, this new flick from Jason Eisener (HOBOWITH A SHOTGUN) is all that and so much more, perfectly summed up by its badass heroin: "Fuck space"!!



THE COFFEE TABLE

(2022, Spain)

Jesús and Maria love each other, endlessly, magnificently, even though they sometimes just don't notice. But hey, now that their little lump of love is born, everything's going to work out. Sure, Maria still has a bit of a North-Korean streak in handling the household, calling all the shots when it comes to the color of their apartment walls, the name of the baby, the food they eat, the TV shows they watch, the thickness of the toilet paper and their holiday destination. Jesús, to prove to her and himself he ain't some spineless trilobite but that he has a will of his own, gets to pick the coffee table. Halleluiah! A hard-won victory that he's cherishing by picking out the most aggressively ugly little thing imaginable, the furniture equivalent of Liberace getting

lost in Ikea. An unbreakable wonder, says the salesman. Overpriced, says Maria. It will bring boundless happiness to their lives, says the salesman. Their worst nightmare, says us...

Cayé Cases is a black belt in humor of that very same color, his previous feature *KILLING GOD* already convinced us of that. Now he's pushing the limits of unbearableness even further and he doesn't need evil ghosts or monsters or possessions to do so, just a little insignificant coffee table. But mark our words, that damn table will drive you through a mental hell, stuck in a limbo between nervous laughter, disgust and an urge to cleanse your eyes of the images they've just been exposed to. The question is, can you handle that?

Director :	Cayé Casas
Writers :	Cayé Casas Cristina Borobia
Cast :	Estefanía de los Santos David Pareja Josep Riera Claudia Riera Eduardo Antuña
Runtime :	90 minutes

THE OTHER SHAPE

(2022, Colombia, Brazil)

In the near future, humanity has built an artificial square paradise on the surface of the Moon. You can only reach it if you have the appearance and the way of thinking of a square. To achieve this goal, people use "square-ism machines": presses, corrective devices and cosmetic surgeries that mold their bodies like cubes and close their minds to questioning. Peter Press, probably the most obsessed citizen to fit in this society, has been living with a press on his head for 20 years and has just completed his "square-ism" process. About to get the passage to the Moon, an incident forces him to take the press off and observe a different form. This new shape shakes the foundations of everything he beliefs in and jeopardizes his entrance to the precious Eden. Not

even the Geometric Imperfection Disorder support group are able to help him out. If Peter can't connect to his inner square, he'll be lost.

Just imagine, a society that forces you to change your body into square shapes instead of our round and curvy shapes. And all that to fit into one giant big tower as if you're a Tetris piece. Diego Guzmán's *THE OTHER SHAPE* is one powerful metaphor of how humans are willing to do everything just to (literally here) "fit in". Our desire to conform, our fear not to be marginalized or just not to be made fun off, all combined in a beautiful and visually delicious animation movie without dialogues and superb music. That's the power of animation, folks!



Director :	Diego Felipe Guzmán
Writer :	Diego Felipe Guzmán
Cast :	Jeka Garcés Fabián Blanco Sergio Barbosa
Runtime :	92 minutes



ABERRANCE

(2022, Mongolia)

City dwellers Erkhme and Selenge temporarily trade in Ulaanbaatar for a cabin in the pristine Mongolian woods. You see, Selenge is the sensitive, artistic type and the city's hustle and bustle can quickly overwhelm her finely tuned senses. That's why her loving husband Erkhme decided that the peace and quiet of the countryside might do her some good. He's definitely the caring type, but he does have a bit of an authoritarian streak. For example, he serves her homemade soup but forces her to swallow pills - supposedly tranquilizers to calm her nerves - along with it. She's also got some suspicious bruises on her body and at night she has some of the most vivid, THE SHINING-ish nightmares about her significant other. And now she's all alone with him in a cabin in the wilderness? Well, not quite alone. There's one neighbor and luckily, he's the friendly,

nosy type that likes to sit on his porch observing the new residents next door. And he does not like what he sees...

Before opting for the director's chair, Bataar Batsukh was a cinematographer on several Mongolian action flicks and it's clear he carried all of his experience - as well as his love for Daren Aronofsky, to whom he dedicates this film - over to his first feature. ABERRANCE is kinetic, visually striking and above all original and daring. Its extremely diverse stylistic pallet (painterly strokes of lightning, breath-taking night scenes, color filters, unusual camera angles and compositions, Steadicam mounted onto characters as they fall, crash or fight, etc.) and numerous twists quickly overwhelmed all of our senses. But we know better now than to go calm our nerves in a cabin in the Mongolian woods...

Director : Baatar Batsukh
Writers : Baatar Batsukh
Byambasuren Ganbat
Cast : Erkhembayar Ganbat
Selenge Chadraabal
Yalalt Namsrai
Oyundary Jamsranjav
Sukhee Ariunbyamba
Bayarsanaa Batchuluun
Badamtsetseg Batmunkh
Runtime : 75 minutes

MONOLITH

(2022, Australia)

After getting the sack at a prestigious newspaper, an ambitious journalist is in shambles. Gutted and with the Pulitzer Prize further off than ever, she retreats to her parents' isolated, state-of-the-art mansion when they're away on holidays. But she doesn't plan on staying down for long. Her new podcast, "Beyond Believable", in which she investigates unsolved mysteries to unearth hidden truths, will get her back on top once it catches on. The problem is, she can't seem to find a sufficiently captivating subject... Until she receives an anonymous e-mail about a mysterious black brick that supposedly ruined a housekeeper's life. After digging a little deeper, she finds out many other people have these very same kinds of brick at home. They're not some fancy art object. They seem to be alive and "talk" to them. They're scribbled with signs with no connection to any known human language that only

seems to make sense to its owner. Could these things be alien artefacts? One man tells of his grandfather, who had such a brick but destroyed it and afterwards seemed changed, unrecognizable even, like an empty shell. The popularity of her podcast pushes her deeper and deeper into the rabbit hole, into ever stranger and darker territory. Until it all hits dangerously close to home for her...

In Mat Vesely's own words, MONOLITH is "big, high-concept sci-fi flick on a budget", and we'd like to add: it can stand without blushing next to ARRIVAL or UNDER THE SKIN, which share that same feeling of unfathomable dread. All thanks to the wonderful Lily Sullivan (EVIL DEAD RISE), a gripping plot that sent chills down our spines and incredibly eerie sound design. 'Cause, to quote Jacques Tourneur, the greatest terror is the one we imagine in our mind.



Director : Matt Vesely
Writer : Lucy Campbell
Cast : Lily Sullivan
Runtime : 94 minutes



THE NATURE MAN

(2022, South Korea)

Director :	Young-seok Noh
Writer :	Young-seok Noh
Cast :	Jae-sin Byun Yong-hoon Jung Un-seop Shin
Runtime :	132 minutes

Even the most sheltered incel on Earth now realizes that South-Korea has grown into one of the most modern countries in the world. It is now easier to spot influencers in the streets of Seoul than to score a bowl of cheap noodles. Against this hip background, two vloggers try to give a much-needed boost to their less-than-flashy online careers. Together they head to the mountains of inland Korea to a remote spot where (allegedly) a man lives in complete harmony with nature. This so-called 'Nature Man' begrudgingly – he's more the solitary type – welcomes them in their home, a home that is as primitive as they had hoped for. However, their man isn't quite the fountain of age-old wisdom they had imagined and

he's an awful cook to boot. It slowly begins to dawn on our heroic duo that they have put their lives in the hands of a pretty unpredictable dude who is surprisingly skilled at wielding razor-sharp farming tools... And what to think of all the wrappers of delicious home-delivered noodles they stumble upon in the trash?

We already figured director Young-seok Noh isn't much of a fan of healthy mountain air when he presented INTRUDERS at the BIFFF in 2014. Now he's back with a film that is even harder to categorize: weird, frightening and taking the piss out of our hyper-connected consumerist society's obsession with "returning to nature".

4.3. BLACK RAVEN

BLACK RAVEN JURY



ANNE GRUWEZ

Fans of the cult TV show STRIP-TEASE will undoubtedly recognize her. Anne Gruwez is the investigating judge from the documentary NI JUGE NI SOUMISE. Her totem with the Scouts was «Squirrel in Wonderland.» Known for both her humanity and her boldness, she made her mark on the small screen with heartfelt punchlines to her sometimes irreverent «clients.» Her «performance» impressed audiences so much that she received an award for Best Actress at the San Sebastian Film Festival. In fact, the jury had mistaken NI JUGE NI SOUMISE for a fiction film and thus Anne Gruwez for an actress. Her award was eventually changed into an honorable mention. Ironically, she is now a member of our Black Raven.

CHRISTOPHER YATES

Christopher Yates is a director, writer and editor. He made his first documentary in 2009 with NOT HERE, a road movie about the rock band Girls in Hawaii. He then co-directed REVEKA, a documentary about the Potosí mines in Bolivia. Christopher's also co-creator and co-screenwriter of 26 episodes of the Belgian hit series ENNEMI PUBLIC. In 2019, he directs the short action film DETOURS. During the pandemic, he collaborated on the collective film LE SOUFLE COURT, about healthcare workers trying to stay afloat in the covid-storm. He is currently writing the script for his feature film debut.



STÉPHANE BISSOT

As a child of a soccer-playing father and an illustrator as a mother, to whom we owe the Milka bunny, Stéphanie Bissot decided to become an actress after dancing to Swan Lake in her living room. Today she is a familiar face in Belgian cinema, with more than thirty films, fifteen television series and ten plays to her credit. She is «belgianness» personified in MELTING POT CAFE, the popular series of the RTBF, and she showcased her talent in films with Joachim Lafosse, Gérard Depardieu, the Dardenne brothers, Valérie Lemercier and Sophie Marceau.



LOST & FOUND

(2022, Spain)

Director : Jorge Dorado
 Writer : Natxo López
 Cast : Álvaro Morte
 China Suárez
 Verónica Echegui
 Daniel Aroaz
 Runtime : 120 minutes

Mario is the boss of a huge warehouse dedicated to lost objects. He spends his time fixing what is brought to him and playing detective in his spare time. He loves it, finding the owners to give them these little lost pieces of their lives. One day, Helena, his police friend who regularly throws him a bone of what she has found on patrol, arrives with a suitcase found at the bottom of a river. Nothing very exceptional, except for the brand of the suitcase, which is top-scale. Who knows, maybe the inside's a jackpot as well? But once opened, the suitcase turns out to be an improvised coffin with human remains wrapped in baby clothes. If the police quickly classify the case as a miscarriage dealt with in a particularly hardcore fashion, Mario doesn't give up so easily. He's got a hunch this is

about something completely different, a hunch that's going to lead him to Sara, a luxury escort against her will, linked to a network of human trafficking. A particularly ugly and fearsome organization that treats its 'livestock' like objects. And that hates to lose one...

After working as an assistant director for Pedro Almodóvar and Guillermo del Toro, Jorge Dorado's first feature was already mighty impressive (MINDSCAPE at the BIFFF 2014). He went on to make a name for himself on series like EL MINISTERIO DEL TIEMPO. And when the man joins forces with Alvaro Morte (the famous professor of MONEY HEIST) for a thriller that is pure black without added sugar, we sink into our seats, turn off the lights and enjoy the adrenaline rush...

THE GRANDSON

(2022, Hungary)

Rudi is the perfect example of a goody-goody. Always polite, on the straight path, never a disagreeable word, discrete and efficient at work. A man with manners and the pride of his grandpa, with whom he has a very strong bond. But one evening Grandpa receives a phone call from the police telling him Rudi has been involved in a pretty heavy car accident. Grandpa already fears for the worst. The police tell him that Rudi's the one who caused the accident and that the insurance company is probably going to soak up whatever savings he's got left. Luckily the other driver is not against an amicable settlement, but to do so Grandpa first has to gather all the cash he's got lying around the house and hand over the sum in an envelope to the police officer that is waiting in front of

his door... Of course one phone call to his grandson is enough to realize he's just been scammed. And Rudi has a very hard time digesting that. Such a hard time even that he decides he's no longer going to play mister nice guy. Cause nobody lays a hand on his Grandpa... Capiche?!

Inspired by a real-life telephone swindle that spread like wildfire all over Eastern Europe, and which even reached our country (that's right), Kristóf Deák – who won an Oscar for his short SING – sheds light on this still little known phenomenon. His film falls in between a thriller and a black comedy, with even a hint of emotional tears thrown into the mix: his own grandfather was one of the numerous victims of the hoax. Well, now he's got his silver-screen revenge!



Director : Kristóf Deák
 Writer : Kristóf Deák
 Cast: Gergely Blahó
 Tamás Jordán
 Gábor Jászberényi
 Judit Pogány
 Laura Döbrösi
 Runtime : 120 minutes

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

(2022, South Korea)

Always frustrating to see your colleagues enjoying life to the fullest while you're stuck at work. Like agent In-ho, who has to stay in watching countless terrorist threat videos online and decide whether to put the country in Defcon 2 or fine the parents of a 14-year-old troll. All the while the misses is off to Honolulu collecting vitamin D next to a Piña Colada. Unfair. Except this time the threat seems serious, with the suspect bragging about a home-made deadly virus that he's dying to share with the world. And what better location to spread the love than in the confined space of a full flight to Honolulu? After a first corpse, panic soars to such frenzied heights that would make many a techno temple jealous. The cockpit doesn't fare any better. The Pacific Oceans leaves little in the way

of an emergency landing and the rare islands that do offer that possibility, tell them to fuck off. An unknown virus that makes you puke black blood after just a few hours of incubation? Not a very attractive prospect to expose your own population to...

Aah, a nice little story about a virus! You've missed that, right? Don't worry, EMERGENCY DECLARATION was already all wrapped up before the first Chinese dude started feeling a little under the weather. The virus is mostly an excuse to shoot spectacular scenes of collective hysteria and turmoil at 6000 feet high, with the two big Korean stars of the moment: Song Kang-ho (PARASITE) and Lee Byun-hun (SQUID GAME, I SAW THE DEVIL).



Director :	Jae-rim Han
Writer :	Jae-rim Han
Cast :	Kang-ho Song Byung-hun Lee Do-yeon Jeon Nam-gil Kim Si-wan Yim So-jin Hae-joon Park
Runtime :	140 minutes



CYBER HEIST

(2023, Hong Kong)

When we think about cyber-attacks, we can't help picturing epic STAR WARS-y battles between the forces of good and evil fighting it off with lightsabers, miniscule TIE fighters crashing into the motherboard and whatnot... even though we're well aware that it's just a dude typing behind a computer screen. It helps when that dude is Aaron Kwok (THE STORM RIDERS, CITY UNDER SIEGE), one bespectacled badass on the keyboard. His character, Cheuk Ka-Chun, is a brilliant tech-wiz working for a cybersecurity company Sky Magic Pro that provides online protection for Hong Kong banks. One day he has to deal with a cyber-attack which gets past his firewall and succeeds in hacking several big accounts. The man behind the attack? His own slithering sleazeball boss, played by Ka-Tung Lam (INFERNAL AFFAIRS), who wire-

transferred some of the stolen money onto Cheuk's bank account to make him stand out as the prime suspect. Now he has to flee both the Cyber Crime Police Unit, who want to lock him up, and the organized cybercrime group, who want to whack him and who have kidnapped his daughter. Luckily, Cheuk is not your typical keyboard brainiac. He's also a skilled martial arts fighter!

In the same vein – or should we say, fiber as the great Hong Kong techno-thrillers of the 90's and early 00's, CYBER HEIST sucks you right into the (computer) screen, into a threatening, spider-like virtual world that descends all the way down to the Dark Web, where dark-hooded Sith-like villains await you. So, we were right: cybercrime is a bit like STAR WARS!

Director :	Hing Fan Wong
Writers :	Koon Nam Lui Ming Ho Ip Kwan Sin Shum
Cast :	Aaron Kwok Simon Yam Ka-Tung Lam Patrick Tam
Runtime :	110 minutes

DETECTIVE VS SLEUTHS

(2022, Hong Kong, China)

Hong Kong suffers from a wave of murders that are equally brutal and unexplainable. Determined to put an end to the bloodshed, the police assemble a special team that discover several things. One, that all the murders seem connected to one another, since every victim was a suspect in an unsolved case. Two, that the vigilantes that solve these “cold cases” in barbaric ways call themselves the Chosen Ones. Three, that their special investigation is going nowhere and that only one man can help them. But that’s not going to be easy, because their Messiah is a former

police inspector. And he’s now a schizophrenic homeless dude who has a tendency to talk with the afterlife...

When Wai Ka Fai, loyal collaborator of Johnnie To, gets back in the director’s chair after a 12-year hiatus, with Sean Lau in front of the camera, you’d expect a sequel to MAD DETECTIVE, right? Well, yes but no. Lau does take on a similar character, but DETECTIVE VS SLEUTHS is a free electron, a mad dog in total overdrive, the cinematographic equivalent of “hold my beer”, with bursts of action and (very big) gunfights!



Director :	Ka Fai Wai
Writers :	Ka Fai Wai Chan Ryker Tin Shu Mak
Cast :	Sean Lau Charlene Choi Raymond Lam Kai Tan Carlos Chan Kathy Yuen Jeana Ho
Runtime :	101 minutes

SATURN BOWLING

(2022, France, Belgium)

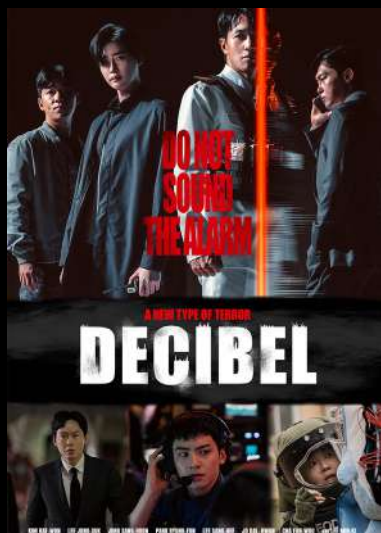


Director :	Patricia Mazuy
Writers :	Patricia Mazuy Yves Thomas
Cast :	Arieh Worthalter Achille Reggiani Y-Lan Lucas Leïla Muse
Runtime :	114 minutes

The red light of the club ‘Le Cargo’ pierces through a cold, drizzling autumn night. Armand, the bouncer, escorts a group of girls back to their car, holding an umbrella over their heads like a true gentleman. The girls never lay eyes on him, but his own eyes constantly drift to their miniskirts. After they take off, he jerks off on the parking lot. Yes, Armand is bit of a loser but his luck is about to turn. His half-brother Guillaume inherits their dad’s bowling alley, while Armand has never been more to him than an unfortunate slip. Now Guillaume wants Armand to run it. He’s free to do whatever he wants with it, on one condition: that daddy’s old buddies from the hunting club can keep on holding their annual traditional dinner there. Finally a way for him to prove to Mr. Big Shot Cop and daddy’s favorite Guillaume that he too can be successful.

But Guillaume has other things to worry about, like a serial killer leaving behind a trail of mutilated female bodies...

Trust us; you’re not prepared for the harrowing, all-encompassing darkness this will suck you into. We’ve long lost count on the endless stream of movies at the BIFFF with a homicidal maniac gleefully chopping up women, but rarely have we see a scene that made us feel as sick and queasy as one here. Leave it to Patricia Mazuy, always a director off the beaten path, to subvert the tropes of the Neo-Noir genre she’s working in. Instead of skimming the surface like so many other filmmakers, she plunges right into the heart of darkness, to uproot the origin of evil. And the heredity of evil, passed on from man to man like a hunting trophy.



Director : In-ho Hwang

Writers : In-ho Hwang
Jin-hoon Lee

Cast : Rae-won Kim
Eun-woo Cha
Dal-hwan Jo
Jong-suk Lee

Runtime : 110 minutes

DECIBEL

(2022, South Korea)

One year after he saved half of his crew after a torpedo humped their submarine, ex-commander Kang Do-young is still venerated as a war hero and loved by the media, the population and the army. Yet, he's brutally going to find out that not everyone shares the same sentiment. An anonymous caller announces that he's about to experience the worst day of his life. Three bombs have been installed in a sold-out football stadium, at a busy water park and at a children's playground. The bombs react to sound and every time a noise crosses the 100 decibel bar, the countdown is divided by two. And he can't warn anyone, because otherwise BOOM!

And if our war hero doesn't want to play along, no problem: his wife and daughter are listening to music next to the bomber. But not too loud, please...

Yes, adrenaline flows abundantly in this thriller that does exactly what it promises: crossing a sound version of SPEED with the devious cat-and-mouse game of our friend McTiernan's DIE HARD WITH A VENGEANCE. One piece of advice: don't get a manicure right before the screening, because we're betting you're going to need your nails to bite off into bloody stumps in this bloodcurdling – which helps stop the bleeding of your stumps – race against the clock.

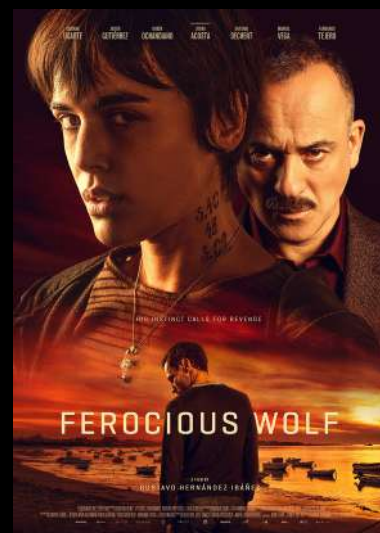
FEROCIOUS WOLF

(2022, Spain, Uruguay, Argentina)

Inspector Alonso is perhaps getting too old for all this shit. As a law enforcer he has seen his fair share of atrocities that usually leave him cold. But child murder, that's a different thing... He's got a suspect. A former religious studies teacher who looks maddeningly normal. Not the kind of face you'd associate with this line of business. But he hasn't gotten a confession out of him and he lacks the means to do so. After a disastrous last attempt at cross-examining the suspect, he's released on the ground of a 'technical error' and Alonso earns himself the ire of his superiors. But if the law prevents him from doing his job thoroughly, no problemo! He leaves his badge in his locker and teams up with an unlikely ally

in the person of one of the victims' mothers. Together they're going to organize a little get-together with the suspect. In the basement of an isolated house, with no cameras and none of those stupid rules and procedures.

He barely had time to put his Silver Raven on his mantelpiece for VIRUS 32 (BIFFF 2022). Now Gustavo Hernández is already back in Brussels! And he brings along nothing less than the remake of BIG BAD WOLVES, a real Israeli gem that Quentin Tarantino did not hesitate to call «best film of 2013»! A high-voltage thriller with a razor-sharp script and a harrowing final shot that is still giving us chills four days later...



Director : Gustavo Hernández

Writer : Juma Rodde

Cast : Adriana Ugarte
Javier Gutiérrez
Rubén Ochandiano
Antonio Dechent
Fernando Tejero
Juana Acosta

Runtime : 105 minutes

4.4. EMERGING RAVEN

Discovering new talents has always been in the festival's DNA, with young bucks like Luc Besson and David Cronenberg taking their first steps at the BIFFE. But in 2022 we decided it was time to give this support to "emerging" directors the shape of a new prize: the EMERGING RAVEN AWARD.

EMERGING RAVEN JURY



SALOMÉ DEWAELS

Young Belgian actress Salomé Dewaels is only just squeaking in, but her career already had a great start. When she saw her sisters perform at theater workshops at the age of 8, she also got infected by the acting virus. She's best known for her roles in Xavier Giannoli's *ILLUSIONS PERDUES* and in the mini TV-series *L'ABSENTE*.

Grégory Beghin is a Belgian director, screenwriter and actor. He became known for creating the award-winning web series *BURKLAND*. In 2020, he presented his first feature film *LOSERS REVOLUTION*, which he co-directed with Belgian director/actor Thomas Ancora. This was followed last year by *DEEP FEAR*, a horror film about students in 1980s Paris who are pursued in the catacombs by a cannibalistic Nazi.

GRÉGORY BEGHIN



JUDITH BEAUVALLET

Judith Beauvallet graduated from the Ecole de la Cité in 2016, where she studied directing. Since then, she has been making short films with the goal of one day making horror films. In January 2020, she launched the YouTube channel *DEMOISELLES D'HORREUR*, with analyses of female characters in horror films and interviews with actresses and female directors of genre films. She is currently working on fiction and documentary projects. In January 2023, she also began working as a film reporter for *Ecran Large*.



APACHES : GANG OF PARIS

(2023, France)

Paris, 1900. The glorious “Belle Epoque”, with its boundless enthusiasm for change, the arrival of the metro and the radical reconfiguration of the city by baron Haussman. But it’s not sunshine, lollipops and rainbows everywhere: the working class is pushed back to the peripheries, where poverty prospers in slums that give birth to a new race of ultra-violent thugs: the Apaches. This ruthless gang eats squeaky bourgeoisie for breakfast. As modern Robin Hoods of nihilism they steal from the rich to give to the poor (that is to say, themselves) and anyone that dares to stand in the way of their knives pays with their life. Like young Billie’s brother who fell victim to Jesus and his gang of tattooed rebels. While the

latter giddily continues their trail of corpses, Billie patiently sharpens her lust for vengeance in their shadows. Until she reaches adulthood, and her carefully nurtured lust will explode in an arcade of joyful vengeance...

Romain Quirot, an outsider in French cinema, already showed great originality with *THE LAST VOYAGE* (2020). With *APACHES* he ups the ante with a Parisian western with a punk attitude, shades of Takeshi Kitano, Guy Ritchie, Walter Hill and Quentin Tarantino all balled up in one anarchic sledgehammer that gleefully distorts, nay – annihilates historic reality to tell a tale of vengeance punctuated by Iggy Pop. Rrrraw power, baby!

Director : Romain Quirot

Writers : Antoine Jaunin
Fannie Pailloux
Romain Quirot

Cast : Alice Isaaz
Niels Schneider
Rod Paradot
Artus

Runtime : 95 minutes

SLASH/BACK

(2022, Canada)

Do you know Pangnirtung, or literally “the place of the bull caribou”, in the province of Nunavut by the Arctic Circle? Nope? That’s normal. Nothing ever happens there. In summer it’s even worse, with 24 hours of daylight and non-stop boredom. Of course, to kill time, teenagers hang around the neighboring tundra to hunt little snow foxes or have a picnic. But one day (or night, go figure), Maika and her girl gang are attacked by an infuriated (bi)polar bear. A couple of bullets later, the beast is ready to be turned into a fashionable living room rug, but its strange behavior nevertheless troubles the girls. And they’re right to be suspicious. An extra-terrestrial entity just arrived at the Arctic Circle,

with the adamant intention to possess all the bodies that it encounters. The problem is, all the adults are at the Solstice party getting wasted, leaving the rebel teens to deal with this alien invasion all by themselves. And they’re not exactly the commando type...

The completely Inuit cast and setting is novel, but *SLASH/BACK* treads on the familiar territory of *STRANGER THINGS*, *THE THING* and *ATTACK THE BLOCK*. But director Nyla Innuksuk injects incredible know-how, a perfect dosage of special effects – prepare to get shivers! – and socially critical winks and nudges in what is impressively only her first feature!



Director : Nyla Innuksuk

Writers : Ryan Cavan
Nyla Innuksuk

Cast : Tasiana Shirley
Alexis Wolfe
Nalajoss Ellsworth
Chelsea Prusky
Frankie Vincent-Wolfe
Jackie Maniapik
Rory Anawak

Runtime : 87 minutes

THE PRANK

(2022, US)

To say Ben Palmer is a well-organized, hard-working high school student is an understatement. He keeps three copies of all his assignments (just in case!) and getting A's without +s will bring him to tears. His road to obtaining a scholarship for college lays wide open... There's just one obstacle: Mrs. Wheeler, his demanding, tough-as-nails physics teacher. And that's an understatement! She takes immense pleasure in tormenting not only students but also her fellow teachers and she just announced to Ben's class that she's failing everyone because there was an exam cheater. And she's not budging until the cheater comes forth. Ben cries out on the shoulder of his slacker bestie, Tanner, who happens to be a digital whizz kid. She proposes to fight fire with fire, by creating and posting deepfake videos on social media

that insinuate Wayne, a high-schooler who went missing some months ago, was in fact murdered by Mrs. Wheeler. They want to put an end to her reign of terror. And their prank works! Mrs. Wheeler is wheeled off in handcuffs, her career and life stopped in its tracks. But the joke's going to be on them...

We could talk about the directorial chops of Maureen Bharoocha, about a script that cleverly mixes social media critique and high school gen Z satire or about Kate Flannery's (Meredith in THE OFFICE) turn as a deadpan lunch lady, but this movie belongs to Rita Moreno (who starred in both versions of WEST SIDE STORY). She's a hoot as the downright diabolical Mrs. Wheeler, perhaps this year's greatest BIFFF villain, who could teach even the vilest scum a thing or two about torture...



Director :	Maureen Bharoocha
Writers :	Rebecca Flinn-White Zak White
Cast :	Connor Kalopsis Ramona Young Rita Moreno Keith David Kate Flannery Meredith Salenger Jonathan Kimmel Nathan Janak Betsy Sodaro Romel De Silva
Runtime :	90 minutes



Director :	Beth de Araújo
Writer :	Beth de Araújo
Cast :	Stefanie Estes Olivia Luccardi Eleanore Pienta Dana Millican Melissa Paulo Jon Beavers Cissy Ly
Runtime :	91 minutes

SOFT & QUIET

(2022, US)

She's young, she's a kindergarten teacher, her name is Emily and she's giving her all for her community. Tonight she's going to her weekly discussion group for women, accompanied with a nice specimen of home-made pie. Once the customary greetings over with, she brings out her freshly baked delight, with right at its center a proudly displayed swastika. A nice little touch that immediately breaks the ice. It's a disgrace how positive discrimination prevents them from getting promotions in their own f***ing country, how a bunch of welfare bloodsuckers is not only robbing them of work but are also denigrating the sacred American Way of Life. Can we talk about White Lives Matter too, please? Whatever happened to free speech in this godforsaken country? How on Earth

is it suddenly un-American to defend your country and its values? F***ing immigrants. My my, you certainly get thirsty when you're on a roll and so our group of neo-fascist fanatics go out to grab some wine. But what they're about to witness in the store is going to be a golden opportunity for the ladies to put their supremacist verbal vomit into action...

"The worst panic attack I've ever had during a screening", "You're definitely going to need a shower to wash off all the muck. I'm giving it the highest rating"... Director Beth de Araújo – and her near all-female cast and crew – give a relentless uppercut to America and its post-Trump banalization of everyday racism. Excruciatingly hard to sit through, but oh so necessary.



Director : Jake Van Wagoner

Writer : Austin Everett

Cast : Emma Tremblay
Jacob Buster
Kenneth Cummins
Will Forte
Elizabeth Mitchell

Runtime : 87 minutes

ALIENS ABDUCTED MY PARENTS AND NOW I FEEL KINDA LEFT OUT

(2023, US)

Pebble Falls, a shithole just south of no man's land. That's where the parents of Itsy and her little brother decided to bury themselves in order to renovate an old shack. Far from the city, from her friends and from a bright future. Only fields and rednecks as far as the eye can see. It's not better in high school. From the very first day, she's forced to team up with a certain Calvin Kipler, the school's outcast. He's a professional eccentric and, above all, an astronomy enthusiast ever since his parents were supposedly abducted by aliens ten years ago. But while most kids just see Calvin as a big fat liar, Itsy considers him as a golden opportunity to obtain a scholarship and return to civilization, that is: New York University! So she gets chummy

with the specimen, spends days and evenings dissecting his ramblings with the cold rigor of a budding investigator. Yet, the more she gets to know her subject, the more she begins to doubt, wondering about Calvin's grandma that no one has seen. Wondering if Pebble Falls, that shithole just south of no man's land, might instead be the epicenter of cosmic chaos...

This Sundance nugget is sci-fi feel-good vibes to the max! It makes us want to perceive our gray adult world through the eyes of a child again. Even if that means ending up with wet little eyes and a burning desire for a handkerchief to blow our noses. Starring Emma Tremblay (SUPERGIRL) and Jacob Buster (LET THE RIGHT ONE IN).

FARADOR

(2023, Canada, Belgium)

Québec, Canada. Fifteen-year-olds Charles, Louis, Paul and Guillaume are incredibly dorky and therefore, incredibly unpopular at school. But hey, at least they have each other and their heroic quest to Farador, a Dungeons & Dragons-style board game. Ain't no mountain high enough, ain't no river wide enough, ain't no butt-ugly goblin fierce enough to shatter the bond of their fellow-... ergh, friendship. They didn't count on one thing though: girlfriends! Eighteen years later, Paul trades in his armor and amulets for a ravishing blonde called Marie-Eve and leaves his companions in the middle of their still unfinished crusade to Farador. And even more trouble is on the horizon: Charles' little sister Kim is back after a five-year stay in Brussels and breaking up with her Belgian boyfriend Tom. The reason? Well, she might be a little

more into the ladies. But if you think a little something like his ex being lesbian would dissuade Tom from coming over to Canada to make things worse, then you clearly don't know the guy. And much like Pierce Hawthorne in COMMUNITY, he's going to utterly and spectacularly ruin their game forever...

In 2006, Edouard Tremblay's short LA BATAILLE DE FARADOR went viral on YouTube and became a phenomenon among videogame, cosplay and board-game playing geeks. Seventeen years later and with a little co-production help from Belgium, he's back with the feature-length version, which amps up the fun and the comedy, with good-looking digital effects and even an incredible homage to legendary stop-motion maestro Ray Harryhausen!



Director : Edouard Alberne Tremblay

Writers : Daniel Boulanger
Eric K. Boulianne
Marc-Antoine Rioux Edouard Alberne Tremblay

Cast : Eric K. Boulianne
Lucien Ratio
Benoit Drouin-Germain
Catherine Brunet
Marc-Antoine Marceau
Florent Losson
Métushalème Dary

Runtime : 107 minutes

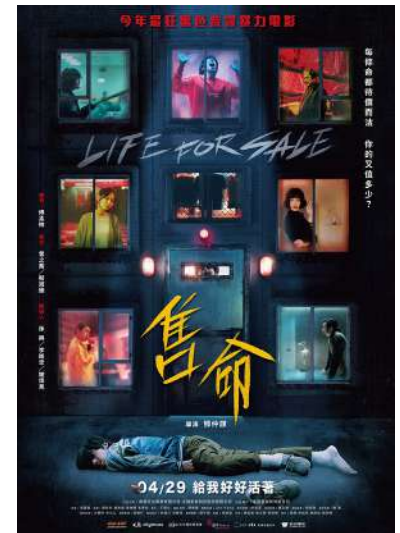
LIFE FOR SALE

(2022, Taiwan)

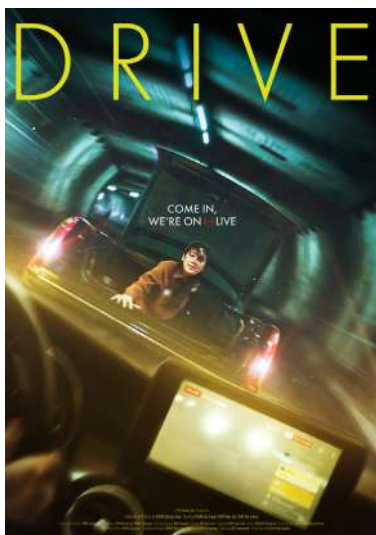
Liang is sure he wants to end his life. Less sure is how exactly he wants to do it. According to the Internet, eating 40 spoons of cinnamon, 400 pieces of chewing gum or 215 carrots at once will do the trick, but it's hardly practical. But then he comes across a copy of Yukio Mishima's 1968 novel 'Life for Sale' – a "Japanese pulpy classic", according to The Guardian – whose suicidal protagonist sells his life to the highest bidder. Great idea! He puts his life for sale... and there are many takers! First, there's Mr. Wang, a ruthless crime lord whose dog was abducted by a rival gang. He could use a guy who's not afraid to die to get his beloved pup back. Then, a mysterious femme fatale wants to enroll him in a dubious suicidal experiment at a super-secret lab in exchange for being his girlfriend until his unti-

mely death. Lastly, there's his lovelorn neighbor Yu-jen, the single mum of a teenage boy with a failing heart and whaddayaknow the same blood type as Liang! His heart goes out to option C, but unfortunately options A and B don't take no for an answer. And all he wanted was to kill himself in peace...

At the heart of LIFE FOR SALE's improbable, absurdly comical shenanigans lies a series of pretty serious questions about the meaning or meaninglessness of one's life in a world where everything is a commodity that can be bought. But philosophizing can be a great deal of fun when wrapped in an absurdist gory romantic gangster action romp that can switch from OLD BOY-ish hyper-stylized violence to quirky romance à la Tsai Ming-liang in a heartbeat!



Director :	Tom Teng
Writer :	Tom Teng
Cast :	Mengpo Fu Joanne Tseng Janel Tsai
Runtime :	106 minutes



Director :	Dong-hee Park
Writer :	Dong-hee Park
Cast :	Ju-hyun Park Yeo-jin Kim Do-yoon Kim
Runtime :	93 minutes

DRIVE

(2023, South Korea)

Yuna is a female influencer with morals as flexible as yoga positions, ready to throw her principles under a truck for a quick buck. By giving her followers exactly what they (think they) want, she's built an empire based on likes, donations and juicy contracts for different brands. But being successful and filthy rich can get tiring sometimes. So tonight at yet another launch for a cosmetics brand, she knocks back a couple of vodka shots and heads home early. But when she wakes up, her bed is a little bit harder than usual and the ceiling's really low. And it's dark. And it reeks of gasoline. A bit like a trunk of a car, actually. And when the car starts moving, her phone rings. On the other end of the line, a charming stranger unravels the

program of the night: Yuna has until midnight to launch a live-stream from the trunk of the car and raise a million in cash on her channel. If she fails to do so, she'll end up on the wrong side of an industrial grinder. Unfortunately, her followers seem to take the whole thing for a bad taste publicity stunt...

DRIVE has nothing to do with the eponymous Refn-Gosling pic, apart from the spectacular stunts at break-neck speed that is! For his first feature, Park Dong-hee wanted to make, in his own words, "a thriller at 200 km/h that never stops" and that's exactly what you get, coming to a screeching halt after an exhilarating ride with a couple of devilish twists along the way!

4.5. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

INTERNATIONAL JURY



ISAAC EZBAN

Ah, Mexico! Between its legendary macabre folklore and its drug cartels that hang corpses by their feet from the top of highway bridges... Which is unsurprisingly a fertile ground for some genius creators of genre films. Isaac Ezban is one of them. A genius scriptwriter who wrote the stories of more than half of his films himself. He's been bathing in sci-fi and horror movies ever since he grew a stache (which, according to legend, appeared when he was around the age of 7 years and a half). He is such a fanatic that he owns his own drive-in movie theater in Mexico City, something even Tarantino can't claim.

His films *THE INCIDENT* and *PARALLEL*, which Christopher Nolan would certainly not disapprove of, moved the crowds at BIFFF in 2015 and 2018. So it's safe to say Señor Isaac Ezban is a household director at the BIFFF!

ROXANE MESQUIDA

Roxane Mesquida started acting at the age of 13 and has since then led a thousand lives. She was Karl Lagerfeld's muse and Quentin Dupieux's favorite actress. She was a DJ in Hollywood and lived in Charlie Chaplin's old house. She stood on the cover of *Vogue* ... and *Playboy*! She played in *GOSSIP GIRL* (well okay, not really a hit at the BIFFF) and she made the silver screen tremble with her bewitching look in *SHEITAN* opposite Vincent Cassel (and that's a nr 1 hit at the BIFFF). And she also played Severine in Gregg Araki's outstanding series *NOW APOCALYPSE*.



KARIM OUELHAJ

His feature debut, *PARABOLA*, was filmed in the streets of Liège in 2005, without permits, with a budget of 750 Euros and a crew of only three people. Not really an impressive production, you might say. But thanks to this Mac Gyver of cinema, it became a triumph. *PARABOLA* was praised in Venice for its avant-garde feminist discourse and went on to win a series of prestigious awards around the world. It was the first part of a triptych of committed films about women facing violence in our modern society. Part two, *LE REPAS DU SINGE*, was released in 2013, followed two years later by the closing piece, *UNE REALITE PAR SECONDE*. Since then, there's been no stopping Karim Ouelhaj, who has won so many awards that we cannot list them all. Let's just note that his latest film *MEGALOMANIAC* (2022), inspired by the case of the Butcher of Mons, blew us away at BIFFF last year, soon followed by the rest of the world.

TALK TO ME

(2022, Australia)

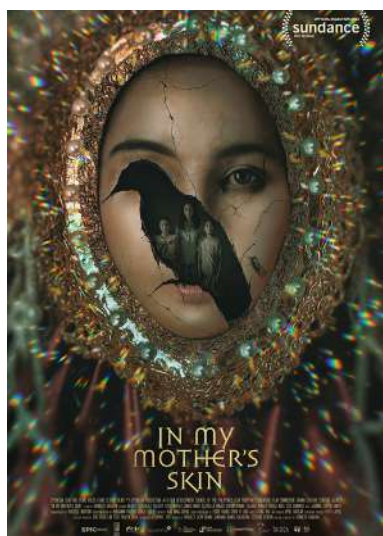
Two years ago, to the day, Mia's mother passed away. A horrible date for the teenager, who desperately needs to clear her head. For example, by doing something crazy. And hey, whaddayaknow, there's an epic party coming up featuring not only enough booze to sedate a herd of buffaloes, but also a rather extraordinary object in the form of an embalmed ceramic hand... A new inclusive and collective sex toy? Guess again! It seems the hand is question is possessed and with just one simple instruction to liven up your evenings with friends. All you have to do is hold the hand and say "talk to me" and a spirit will appear before you, which will then take possession of your body. If that

isn't the stuff that makes for rad videos to go viral, we don't know what is. But, be careful not to exceed 90 seconds of possession, otherwise the evening may take a turn for the worse. And of course, it will take a turn for the worse!

As soon as the prologue turns your hair white, you'll understand that TALK TO ME is not here to stand timidly in a corner of our 2023 program. The first feature of the Philippou brothers, aka RackaRacka (7 million followers on YouTube), quickly became the gore sensation at the Sundance festival this year; considered as the TikTok version of THE EXORCIST and praised by all cinephile cardiologists!



Directors :	Danny Philippou Michael Philippou
Writers :	Bill Hinzman Daley Pearson Danny Philippou
Cast :	Sophie Wilde Joe Bird Alexandra Jensen Otis Dhanji
Runtime :	94 minutes



IN MY MOTHER'S SKIN

(2023, The Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan)

In his newest masterful melodrama, En la piel de mi mamá, Pedro Almodóvar continues in his signature colorful style to search for the raw emotional roots of his relationship with his mother. Just kidding! Love ya, Almo but here we get; or rather something quite literally gets in the skin of Lingaya, the mother of Tala and Bayani. We're in the Japanese occupied Philippines at the end of World War II. Daddy, a wealthy merchant, leaves them all by themselves in their mansion in the jungle. Sure, he does this in order to try to get the Americans to protect his family against the Japanese invaders, but that doesn't change the fact that they have to fend for themselves. Even worse: Lingaya is dangerously ill and bedridden. Determined to save her mommy, Tala heads off into the jungle looking for a solution... which she will find at the end of a trail

of corpses crawling with crickets... A broadly smiling fairy offers her a box. She has to slide its contents into her mother's throat at night to cure her. And miraculously, it works! In the morning she's in perfect health. But she's no longer their mother...

One thing is certain. When we're back sunbathing and enjoying a glass of pastis in the South of France this summer, chills will run down our spines whenever we hear crickets chirping nearby. Thanks for that, Kenneth Dagatan! He has managed to intoxicate us with this macabre fairytale in the sweltering Filipino jungle. IN MY MOTHER'S SKIN is like the little sister of PAN'S LABYRINTH. But that little sister is called Wednesday, and her mind is far more twisted than that of her big sister...

Director :	Kenneth Dagatan
Writer :	Kenneth Dagatan
Cast :	Beauty Gonzalez Felicity Kyle Napuli James Mavie Estrella Jasmine Curtis-Smith Angeli Bayani Arnold Reyes Ronnie lazaro
Runtime :	97 minutes



SISU

(2022, Finland)

1944, on the desolate plains of the Lapland tundra. As World War II slowly draws to a close, a gold digger stumbles upon a 24-karat bonanza that will change his life. As he makes his way back to civilization, a convoy of defeated sons of the Third Reich cross his path in the opposite direction. Rather than polite greetings, the fleeing Nazis get a glimpse of the loot, which they instantly decide to steal before killing him off. They'd wish. Because our gold digger here is no retired pen pusher on the way out. What our greedy Nazi's don't realize is that they are up against the most dreaded Finnish mercenary the world has ever seen. Legend has it that he single-handedly wiped out half the Russian army. With his eyes closed. With his bare hands. Tied behind his back. So, when you

interrupt the career path of a man with a mission that even Death himself fears, his bloody retaliation will be directly proportional to his degree of anger...

Do we still need to introduce the man behind RARE EXPORTS: A CHRISTMAS TALE and BIG GAME? Jalmari Helander is finally back with a pure exploitation movie, as if Mad Max devoured a rabid moose and decided to wage an epic, single-person war against the Nazi's on land, under water and in the air with pick-axes, tires, guns, hands and anti-personnel mines. Don't go digging for underlying themes. There's no time. There are Nazi's to kill! And it's so good that it won the Grand Prix at Sitges! Even Chuck Norris, who was at the screening, watched in complete awe....

Director :	Jalmari Helander
Writer :	Jalmari Helander
Cast :	Jorma Tommila Aksel Hennie Jack Doolan Mimosa Willamo
Runtime :	91 minutes

INFINITY POOL

(2023, Canada, Hungary, France)

Welcome to the luxurious all-in resort on Tolqa Island! A safe haven with pearl-white beaches for the world's wealthiest tourists who just want to take their minds off things. That's what James and Em Foster were planning to do, chilling at the pool. Then they meet a couple that proposes a different method of relaxing: leave their gated community for a couple of hours for a fun little road trip on the dangerous totalitarian island where murderous savages roam. But on the way back from their boozed up human safari, James runs over a native. Dead on impact. According to local laws, the sentence is irrevocable: the death penalty! Fortunately for James and all the other ultra-rich of the world who just want to relax, the local forensics department can, in exchange for a hefty sum, create a perfect clone of the culprit who gets the chair

instead. Ideal for a risk-free execution and for indulging one's worst impulses while leaving your responsibility at the hotel suite. To relax. Without a worry. And then to start all over again...

Brandon Cronenberg already whetted our appetite in 2021, when we presented POSSESSOR at the online BIFFF, talking to us about his next project, INFINITY POOL. And now the pool is all filled up, ready for you to dip your toe in it. Sure, certain similarities with TRIANGLE OF SADNESS or WHITE LOTUS bubble up, but Cronenberg Jr.'s third strike is above all a nightmarish dive into the moral immunity of the filthy rich who can wash off even the vilest crimes. Because everything is a commodity that can be bought, even your conscience. And no, nothing will go the way you think it will...



Director :	Brandon Cronenberg
Writer :	Brandon Cronenberg
Cast :	Alexander Skarsgård Mia Goth Cleopatra Coleman Jalil Lespert
Runtime :	117 minutes

IRATI

(2022, Spain, France)

In the 8th century, Christianity swept over the hills and valleys of the Basque Country, replacing age-old pagan beliefs. The newly christened Lord Eneko rules over the land, but when an army of fiery Franks stands at his gates, he does not turn to the Christian God – who tends not to answer – but invokes the pagan forest Goddess Mari, who agrees to smash the invading foreign forces in exchange for his life. He accepts. Thus it was done. The Franks were defeated, smashed by rocks falling from the sky, and Eneko died on the battlefield. Fifteen years later. His son Eneko Jr. returns to his birthplace after being raised in the Roman-Catholic faith. In order to reclaim the throne from the usurpers that are now in charge, Eneko will have to retrieve his father's body from Mari, who buried him in her cave. The only one who can show him

the way is one of Mari's last disciples, a young woman called Irati. Eneko may be Lord of the Vale, but Irati is the Vale. Its ancient mystic powers flow through her veins. And she's going to introduce him to a world full of magical and deadly creatures that his faith tries to write off as make-believe...

Paul Urkijo Alijo already *veni, vidi, vici* at the BIFFF in 2018 with *ERREMENTARI*, but his second feature is of a different scope altogether. He takes the Basque myths of his childhood and spins them into an epic full of otherworldly adventure and breath-taking visuals. Tolkien comes to mind of course, but the spectacular sequence in Mari's cave, filmed in surreal blood-red tones, also reminded us of Mario Bava's *HERCULES IN THE HAUNTED WORLD*. These images will haunt us forever, indeed!



Director : Paul Urkijo Alijo

Writer : Paul Urkijo Alijo

Cast :
Edurne Azkarate
Eneko Sagardoy
Elena Uriz
Kepa Errasti
Nagore Aranburu
Itziar Ituño

Runtime : 111 minutes



Director : Hongsun Kim

Writer : Hongsun Kim

Cast :
In-guk Seo
Dong-yoon Jang
Guyhwa Choi
Sung Dong-il
So-min Jung

Runtime : 121 minutes

PROJECT WOLF HUNTING

(2022, South Korea)

No more Piña Colada's and #ThugLife selfies on pearly white Filipino beaches for the cream of the Korean criminal crop that escaped their country. Seoul just reached a deal of extradition with Manila and now calls all of 'em back to the motherland. And they do so in style: 47 of the vilest villains, amongst whom rapists, serial killers, psychopaths, gangsters and even some serial psycho gangster rapist murderers, are to be led across the sea in a cargo ship guarded by 10 hard-boiled detectives armed to the teeth. How could that possibly go wrong? Yes, of course the prisoners will get the upper hand. Yes, it's going to be an extraordinary bloodbath between law enforcers and chaos-mongers. And yes, it's going to splatter

in the ship's corridors. But all of that is just song and dance compared to when the Thing, the "project" of the title, wakes up from its slumber in the ship's bowels and appears on deck snapping spines like matchsticks...

The equivalent of an Olympic pool of blood flows gaily in this *CON AIR* at sea, which got stitched up *Frankenstein*-style with bits of *RESIDENT EVIL*, *WOLFENSTEIN* and *PREDATOR*. A pure exploitation flick that reeks of madness, with no less than three layers of twists that get more hardcore each time and royal amounts of slicin' and dicin'. It simply doesn't get any more savage than this roaring beast right here!



anIMA
THE BRUSSELS ANIMATION
FILM FESTIVAL

Director : Makoto Shinkai
Writer : Makoto Shinkai
Cast : Nanoka Hara
Hokuto Matsumura
Eri Fukatsu
Kôshirô Matsumoto
Runtime : 112 minutes

SUZUME

(2022, Japan)

What better way to open the 41st BIFFF than with a teenage girl jumping from one dimension to the next, trying to save the world from impending doom alongside a magical cat and a talking three-legged chair? That teenager is Suzume, a seemingly ordinary high-schooler who on her way to class meets a strange fellow, Souta, who is looking for a door in some close-by ruins. She decides to follow him and she actually manages to stumble upon the door first. It's a mysterious stand-alone door in the middle of nowhere. Tempted to open it, she unleashes unspeakable evil upon the world in the form of a radioactive cloud-like cosmic creature called the Worm that sprinkles disaster and misery wherever it goes. Cause you see, that door wasn't just an ordinary door but a portal to other worlds. Luckily, Suzume isn't an ordinary teenager

either. She's the Chosen One, destined to protect nature and humanity against all sorts of evil entities - the Worm has a couple of buddies - by jumping from one portal to the next. And like we said, alongside a magical cat and a chair skilled in demon ass-kicking.

After his break-through YOUR NAME and WEATHERING WITH YOU, Makoto Shinkai was quickly labeled as Hayao Miyazaki's heir. And sure, they both share a sense of childlike wonder, but Shinkai is a bit more unhinged. Proof: this new sci-fi supernatural disaster movie that succeeds in marrying cosmic dimension-jumping demon-slaying with an emotional coming-of-age story. The film grossed 107 million in its native Japan, then competed in Berlin's official selection and now it opens the BIFFF in a parallel universe close to you.

THE WRATH OF BECKY

(2023, US)

Two years after surviving an incredibly violent attack on her family, young Becky is trying to rebuild her life with Elena, a retiree with a temper as strong as her own. And everything could have gone well if some macho assholes hadn't burst into their home to scare them, send Elena six feet under and steal Diego, Becky's beloved dog. Obviously, these macho assholes don't care about the post-traumatic stress they inflict on the poor young girl. And that's just fine, because Becky doesn't care either. Because Becky, like any self-respecting sociopath, has no feelings. All she wants is to get her sweet mutt back and have a little fun with these macho assholes

using anything she can get her hands on. That is to say, guns, knives, cutters, grenades, homemade booby-traps... In short, a whole bunch of really definitive arguments that will bring her opponents closer to God.

THE WRATH OF BECKY is an incredibly muscular sequel to an underrated masterpiece and an improbable mix between HOME ALONE and JOHN WICK. So, whatcha waiting for? Whip out your Ricola - zhe Krautbonbons! - tablets, because this screening is going to be an epic, unflinchingly gory punk journey, with Sean William Scott (AMERICAN PIE) wonderfully used against type.



Director : Matt Angel
Suzanne Coote
Writers : Matt Angel
Suzanne Coote
Nick Moris
Lane Skye
Ruckus Skye
Cast : Seann William Scott
Courtney Gains
Lulu Wilson
Gabriella Piazza
Runtime : 83 minutes

4.6. CRITICS AWARD

CRITICS JURY



VANESSA MORGAN



Among film fans, Vanessa Morgan is best known for her horror movie reference books (*Evil Seeds: The Ultimate Movie Guide to Villainous Children*, *Strange Blood: 71 Essays on Offbeat and Underrated Vampire Movies* and *When Animals Attack: The 70 Best Horror Movies with Killer Animals*), as well as for her introductions and lectures at numerous film festivals. She is also the author of *Avalon* (a book about her cat who starred in horror movies) and several supernatural thrillers. Since 2017, she participates in the organization and programming of the Offscreen Film Festival in Brussels.



ANDRÉ CEUTERICK

André Ceuterick was trained as a literature teacher and quickly turned to a «multifunctional» professional career, devoted to culture and especially to cinema. In 1981, he joined the Cultural Services of the Belgian Province of Hainaut, where he created the film department with numerous initiatives and innovations. He was also the founder and general delegate of the “Festival Internationale du Film Francophone de Namur” and of the “Festival du Film d’Amour de Mons” which he led for more than 30 years. At the same time, he was active as a journalist and film critic with numerous collaborations: the magazine *Première*, the daily newspapers *Le Peuple*, *Nord-Eclair* and *la Province*, the RTBF Mons, the Regional Television Mons-Borinage (of which he was one of the pioneers) or the private radio *Sud Radio* (Belgium). He participated in the creation of several film festivals and events abroad, in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.



PIERRE BEAUDOT



Pierre Beaudot is a pop culture fanatic for as long as he can remember. This man from Anderlecht is passionate about music (very alternative), cinema (very “genre”) and sports (very football). His very own landmarks: *STAR WARS: EPISODE IV*, *THE PRISONER*, *TOXIC AVENGER*, *DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE* from 1941, *GALAXY QUEST* ... After his studies in Journalism and Communication at the ULB, he started working for some radio stations and newspapers after finally becoming editor in chief of teen magazine *7Extra* in 2000. Since 2006 he’s been working for the regional TV-channel BX1. He’s head of the musical shows *OCTAVE* and *FSTVL* and also edits and presents the *BIFFF Special* since the 30th edition of the festival. He’s a member of the Belgian Cinematographic Press Union (UPCB).

STEPHANE

(2022, France)

Timothée, a filmmaker with the ego of Spielberg and the talent of Tommy Wiseau, is currently shooting his update of MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE on a budget of three bags of Lays chips. But before wrapping up yet another great scene, a man walks into the image and spoils the whole shot. That man is Stéphane, a magnificent schmuck with a big mouth, who proclaims himself the best stuntman of French cinema with an impressive list of French stars that came wining and dining at his place. Wouldn't Timothée, as a young upcoming talent, like to come to his place as well? After all, he offers to get Timothée's ambitious war picture made with a couple of his friends at his huge villa that is only accessible by

boat. He clearly seems to be a nutcase that is talking out of his ass, but he looks pretty harmless. Besides, he might just be the ideal subject for a documentary. Unfortunately, what Timothée doesn't know is that nutcases at the BIFFF rarely turn out to be harmless...

You never know quad is coming next (no no, that's no typo) in this insane little game of pushing one's limits of what is tolerable just a little further each time... until you've reached the point of no return. French cult comic Monsieur Poulpe took directors Pastor and Hochet under his wings: his signature humor, of the absurd and biting kind, is all over this crossing between a found footage and a mockumentary.



Directors :	Timothée Hochet Lucas Pastor
Writers :	Timothée Hochet Lucas Pastor
Cast :	Lucas Pastor Bastien Garcia Eva Gregorieff
Runtime :	79 minutes



Director :	Patricia Mazuy
Writers :	Patricia Mazuy Yves Thomas
Cast :	Arieh Worthalter Achille Reggiani Y-Lan Lucas Leïla Muse
Runtime :	114 minutes

SATURN BOWLING

(2022, France, Belgium)

The red light of the club 'Le Cargo' pierces through a cold, drizzling autumn night. Armand, the bouncer, escorts a group of girls back to their car, holding an umbrella over their heads like a true gentleman. The girls never lay eyes on him, but his own eyes constantly drift to their miniskirts. After they take off, he jerks off on the parking lot. Yes, Armand is bit of a loser but his luck is about to turn. His half-brother Guillaume inherits their dad's bowling alley, while Armand has never been more to him than an unfortunate slip. Now Guillaume wants Armand to run it. He's free to do whatever he wants with it, on one condition: that daddy's old buddies from the hunting club can keep on holding their annual traditional dinner there. Finally a way for him to prove to Mr. Big Shot Cop and daddy's favorite Guillaume that he too can be successful.

But Guillaume has other things to worry about, like a serial killer leaving behind a trail of mutilated female bodies...

Trust us; you're not prepared for the harrowing, all-encompassing darkness this will suck you into. We've long lost count on the endless stream of movies at the BIFFF with a homicidal maniac gleefully chopping up women, but rarely have we see a scene that made us feel as sick and queasy as one here. Leave it to Patricia Mazuy, always a director off the beaten path, to subvert the tropes of the Neo-Noir genre she's working in. Instead of skimming the surface like so many other filmmakers, she plunges right into the heart of darkness, to uproot the origin of evil. And the heredity of evil, passed on from man to man like a hunting trophy.

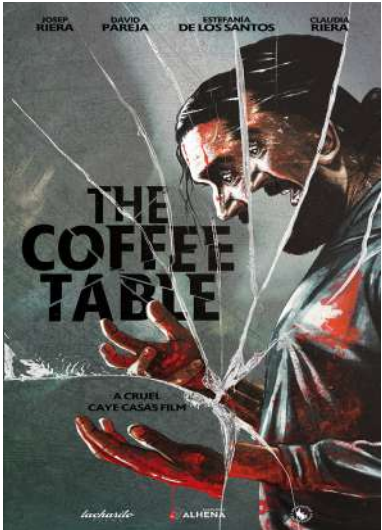
THE COFFEE TABLE

(2022, Spain)

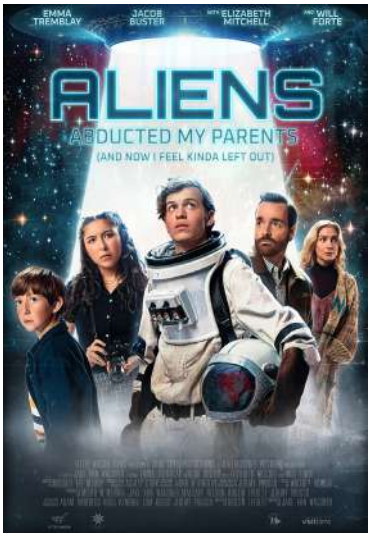
Jesús and Maria love each other, endlessly, magnificently, even though they sometimes just don't notice. But hey, now that their little lump of love is born, everything's going to work out. Sure, Maria still has a bit of a North-Korean streak in handling the household, calling all the shots when it comes to the color of their apartment walls, the name of the baby, the food they eat, the TV shows they watch, the thickness of the toilet paper and their holiday destination. Jesús, to prove to her and himself he ain't some spineless trilobite but that he has a will of his own, gets to pick the coffee table. Halleluiah! A hard-won victory that he's cherishing by picking out the most aggressively ugly little thing imaginable, the furniture equivalent of Liberace getting

lost in Ikea. An unbreakable wonder, says the salesman. Overpriced, says Maria. It will bring boundless happiness to their lives, says the salesman. Their worst nightmare, says us...

Cayé Cases is a black belt in humor of that very same color, his previous feature *KILLING GOD* already convinced us of that. Now he's pushing the limits of unbearableness even further and he doesn't need evil ghosts or monsters or possessions to do so, just a little insignificant coffee table. But mark our words, that damn table will drive you through a mental hell, stuck in a limbo between nervous laughter, disgust and an urge to cleanse your eyes of the images they've just been exposed to. The question is, can you handle that?



Director :	Cayé Casas
Writers :	Cayé Casas Cristina Borobia
Cast :	Estefanía de los Santos David Pareja Josep Riera Claudia Riera Eduardo Antuña
Runtime :	90 minutes



Director :	Jake Van Wagoner
Writer :	Austin Everett
Cast :	Emma Tremblay Jacob Buster Kenneth Cummins Will Forte Elizabeth Mitchell
Runtime :	87 minutes

ALIENS ABDUCTED MY PARENTS AND NOW I FEEL KINDA LEFT OUT

(2023, US)

Pebble Falls, a shithole just south of no man's land. That's where the parents of Itsy and her little brother decided to bury themselves in order to renovate an old shack. Far from the city, from her friends and from a bright future. Only fields and rednecks as far as the eye can see. It's not better in high school. From the very first day, she's forced to team up with a certain Calvin Kipler, the school's outcast. He's a professional eccentric and, above all, an astronomy enthusiast ever since his parents were supposedly abducted by aliens ten years ago. But while most kids just see Calvin as a big fat liar, Itsy considers him as a golden opportunity to obtain a scholarship and return to civilization, that is: New York University! So she gets chummy

with the specimen, spends days and evenings dissecting his ramblings with the cold rigor of a budding investigator. Yet, the more she gets to know her subject, the more she begins to doubt, wondering about Calvin's grandma that no one has seen. Wondering if Pebble Falls, that shithole just south of no man's land, might instead be the epicenter of cosmic chaos...

This Sundance nugget is sci-fi feel-good vibes to the max! It makes us want to perceive our gray adult world through the eyes of a child again. Even if that means ending up with wet little eyes and a burning desire for a handkerchief to blow our noses. Starring Emma Tremblay (*SUPERGIRL*) and Jacob Buster (*LET THE RIGHT ONE IN*).



SOFT & QUIET

(2022, US)

She's young, she's a kindergarten teacher, her name is Emily and she's giving her all for her community. Tonight she's going to her weekly discussion group for women, accompanied with a nice specimen of home-made pie. Once the customary greetings over with, she brings out her freshly baked delight, with right at its center a proudly displayed swastika. A nice little touch that immediately breaks the ice. It's a disgrace how positive discrimination prevents them from getting promotions in their own f***ing country, how a bunch of welfare bloodsuckers is not only robbing them of work but are also denigrating the sacred American Way of Life. Can we talk about White Lives Matter too, please? Whatever happened to free speech in this godforsaken country? How on

Earth is it suddenly un-American to defend your country and its values? F***ing immigrants. My my, you certainly get thirsty when you're on a roll and so our group of neo-fascist fanatics go out to grab some wine. But what they're about to witness in the store is going to be a golden opportunity for the ladies to put their supremacist verbal vomit into action...

"The worst panic attack I've ever had during a screening", "You're definitely going to need a shower to wash off all the muck. I'm giving it the highest rating"... Director Beth de Araújo – and her near all-female cast and crew – give a relentless uppercut to America and its post-Trump banalization of everyday racism. Excruciatingly hard to sit through, but oh so necessary.

Director : Beth de Araújo

Writer : Beth de Araújo

Cast : Stefanie Estes
Olivia Luccardi
Eleanore Pienta
Dana Millican
Melissa Paulo
Jon Beavers
Cissy Ly

Runtime : 91 minutes

FEROCIOUS WOLF

(2022, Spain, Uruguay, Argentina)

Inspector Alonso is perhaps getting too old for all this shit. As a law enforcer he has seen his fair share of atrocities that usually leave him cold. But child murder, that's a different thing... He's got a suspect. A former religious studies teacher who looks maddeningly normal. Not the kind of face you'd associate with this line of business. But he hasn't gotten a confession out of him and he lacks the means to do so. After a disastrous last attempt at cross-examining the suspect, he's released on the ground of a 'technical error' and Alonso earns himself the ire of his superiors. But if the law prevents him from doing his job thoroughly, no problemo! He leaves his badge in his locker and teams up with an unlikely ally

in the person of one of the victims' mothers. Together they're going to organize a little get-together with the suspect. In the basement of an isolated house, with no cameras and none of those stupid rules and procedures.

He barely had time to put his Silver Raven on his mantelpiece for VIRUS 32 (BIFFF 2022). Now Gustavo Hernández is already back in Brussels! And he brings along nothing less than the remake of BIG BAD WOLVES, a real Israeli gem that Quentin Tarantino did not hesitate to call «best film of 2013»! A high-voltage thriller with a razor-sharp script and a harrowing final shot that is still giving us chills four days later...



Director : Gustavo Hernández

Writer : Juma Rodde

Cast : Adriana Ugarte
Javier Gutiérrez
Rubén Ochandiano
Antonio Dechent
Fernando Tejero
Juana Acosta

Runtime : 105 minutes



SISU

(2022, Finland)

The red light of the club 'Le Cargo' pierces through a cold, drizzling autumn night. Armand, the bouncer, escorts a group of girls back to their car, holding an umbrella over their heads like a true gentleman. The girls never lay eyes on him, but his own eyes constantly drift to their miniskirts. After they take off, he jerks off on the parking lot. Yes, Armand is bit of a loser but his luck is about to turn. His half-brother Guillaume inherits their dad's bowling alley, while Armand has never been more to him than an unfortunate slip. Now Guillaume wants Armand to run it. He's free to do whatever he wants with it, on one condition: that daddy's old buddies from the hunting club can keep on holding their annual traditional dinner there. Finally a way for him to prove to Mr. Big Shot Cop and daddy's favorite Guillaume that he too can be successful.

But Guillaume has other things to worry about, like a serial killer leaving behind a trail of mutilated female bodies...

Trust us; you're not prepared for the harrowing, all-encompassing darkness this will suck you into. We've long lost count on the endless stream of movies at the BIFFF with a homicidal maniac gleefully chopping up women, but rarely have we see a scene that made us feel as sick and queasy as one here. Leave it to Patricia Mazuy, always a director off the beaten path, to subvert the tropes of the Neo-Noir genre she's working in. Instead of skimming the surface like so many other filmmakers, she plunges right into the heart of darkness, to uproot the origin of evil. And the heredity of evil, passed on from man to man like a hunting trophy.

Director : Jalmari Helander
 Writer : Jalmari Helander
 Cast : Jorma Tommila
 Aksel Hennie
 Jack Doolan
 Mimosa Willamo
 Runtime : 91 minutes

INFINITY POOL

(2023, Canada, Hungary, France)

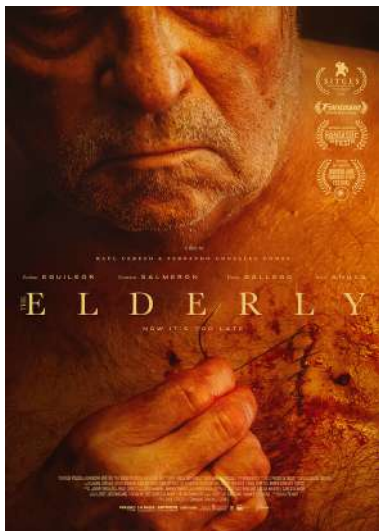
Welcome to the luxurious all-in resort on Tolqa Island! A safe haven with pearl-white beaches for the world's wealthiest tourists who just want to take their minds off things. That's what James and Em Foster were planning to do, chilling at the pool. Then they meet a couple that proposes a different method of relaxing: leave their gated community for a couple of hours for a fun little road trip on the dangerous totalitarian island where murderous savages roam. But on the way back from their boozed up human safari, James runs over a native. Dead on impact. According to local laws, the sentence is irrevocable: the death penalty! Fortunately for James and all the other ultra-rich of the world who just want to relax, the local forensics department can, in exchange for a hefty sum, create a perfect clone of the culprit who gets the chair

instead. Ideal for a risk-free execution and for indulging one's worst impulses while leaving your responsibility at the hotel suite. To relax. Without a worry. And then to start all over again...

Brandon Cronenberg already whetted our appetite in 2021, when we presented POSSESSOR at the online BIFFF, talking to us about his next project, INFINITY POOL. And now the pool is all filled up, ready for you to dip your toe in it. Sure, certain similarities with TRIANGLE OF SADNESS or WHITE LOTUS bubble up, but Cronenberg Jr.'s third strike is above all a nightmarish dive into the moral immunity of the filthy rich who can wash off even the vilest crimes. Because everything is a commodity that can be bought, even your conscience. And no, nothing will go the way you think it will...



Director : Brandon Cronenberg
 Writer : Brandon Cronenberg
 Cast : Alexander Skarsgård
 Mia Goth
 Cleopatra Coleman
 Jalil Lespert
 Runtime : 117 minutes



THE ELDERLY

(2022, Spain)

When summer comes to Madrid, the old folk tremble before the heatwave that will wipe out many of their peers. If most of them go into hiding in front of their fan, Mario's mother opts for a definitive breath of fresh air by jumping out of a window for no apparent reason. The shock for Mario's dad is so great that he immediately sinks into a form of dementia, while the temperature in the city keeps on climbing. Mario decides to move back in, but daddy's strange behavior becomes ever more alarming. And he's not the only one. All the seniors in the neighborhood seem to suffer from a collective sunstroke. While the Minister of Pensions is already rejoicing with temperatures that exceed 50 °C, the atmosphere at Mario's place is way less funky. Especially when, in the middle of dinner, his dad announces, as

casually as someone might ask for the salt, that he's going to kill all of them tomorrow evening. Oh, and have we already mentioned the temperature?

They just presented THE PASSENGER at the BIFFF 2022 and now Raúl Cerezo and Fernando González Gómez are already back with their follow-up, a horror flick in which the temperatures rise as quickly as the tension! With this openly provocative title, the duo questions the way we look at the elderly, considered by the most cynical among us as little more than dead weight dragging our society down. But they're actually imagining their (bloody) revenge. Without forgetting the extraordinary performance by Zorion Eguileor (THE PLATFORM, LOST AND FOUND)!

Directors :	Raúl Cerezo Fernando González Gómez
Writers :	Javier Trigales Raúl Cerezo Rubén Sánchez Trigos
Cast :	Zorion Eguileor Gustavo Salmeron Paula Gallego Irene Anula
Runtime :	96 minutes

UFO SWEDEN

(2022, Sweden)

1996, in the Swedish city of Norrköping. An association of antisocial nerds who have watched a little too much of the X-Files, collect and verify all the testimonies of UFO's flying over Sweden. For 99% of the calls they find a perfect scientific explanation, but it is that 1% of mystery that drives and motivates them. One day the rebellious teenager Denise storms in their offices. She's not only a familiar face to all the police agents in town, but also to our Ufonauts. Her father was one of the founders of the group until he was «abducted by aliens» in the eighties. Their disbelief and skepticism makes way for a never-before-felt enthusiasm, as Denise has brought back some secret archives that shed a whole new light on her

father's disappearance. And of course there are many forces at work who have every interest in ensuring that this information does not leak out.

European sci-fi movies are unfortunately a rare things, but once in a while something comes along like UFO SWEDEN, which is brought to you by the Swedish Crazy Pictures Collective (THE UNTINKABLE, BIFFF 2019). It's a resolutely mainstream movie with a great script, a very human story at its heart, impressive SFX and a rollercoaster story of thrills and discoveries in a perfectly recreated nineties setting. It's as if THE X-FILES and STRANGER THINGS had a lovechild and they called it UFO SWEDEN!



Director :	Crazy Pictures
Writers :	Jimmy Nivren Olsson Victor Danell
Cast :	Inez Dahl Torhaug Jesper Barkselius Eva Melander Oscar Töringe Joakim Sällquist
Runtime :	115 minutes

4.7. OUT OF COMPETITION

Kids Vs Aliens will be preceded by the short film :

DEAD ENDERS

(2023, US)

DISAFFECTED, YOUNG GAS-STATION CLERK MAYA DOESN'T CARE ABOUT MUCH BESIDES MESSING WITH HER MANAGER AND GETTING HER BEER DISCOUNT AT THE END OF THE MIDNIGHT SHIFT. BUT AFTER A SINISTER RACE OF MIND CONTROLLING PARASITES ARE SET LOOSE BY IRRESPONSIBLE OIL DRILLERS, MAYA REALIZES THAT THERE MIGHT BE MORE TO LIFE THAN SPENDING ALL YOUR WAKING HOURS STACKING SHELVES FOR A CORPORATE OVERLORD.



Directors : Fidel Ruiz-Healy
Tyler Walker

Cast : Skarlett Redd
Jeff Murdoch
Lilliana Winkworth
Joseph Renee

Runtime : 13 minutes



KIDS VS ALIENS

(2023, US)

Laaadies and gentlemen, in the left corner we have the 'Kids', more precisely Gary and his teenage sis Samantha. Frequently abandoned by their parents, they kill the time shooting their own horror flicks with their buds, or by being pushed around by school bully Billy, who gets them to agree on organizing a Halloween party at their place. Needless to say, said party quickly gets out of hand, Gomorra-style, with graffiti contests on their living room walls, puke bombs dropped in their kitchen drawers and other, more intimate exchanges of bodily fluids in the bedroom upstairs. But it's not the cops that are going to break up the festivities buut... in the right corner, ladies and gentlemen, here they come: the 'Aliens'! They're

ugly, they're mean, they're hungry and they urgently need a stock of human cadavers to get their spaceship running again... So, let the fight begin!!

A frenetic whirlwind, full of grindhouse gore and vintage fun, that blasts by at a fiery 75 minutes. There's lots of swearing and cussing from our kids (parental advisory: explicit content!), there's big and brash colors, there's deliciously gory deaths.... Everything to please our inner child! It's like a badly educated SUPER 8 that hung around too often with wrong friends like TURBO KIDS. Yup, this new flick from Jason Eisener (HOBO WITH A SHOTGUN) is all that and so much more, perfectly summed up by its badass heroin: "Fuck space"!!

Director : Jason Eisener

Writers : John Davies
Jason Eisener

Cast : Dominic Mariche
Phoebe Rex
Calem MacDonald

Runtime : 75 minutes



SATANIC HISPANICS

(2022, US, Mexico Argentina)

During a raid to catch some Latino illegals in a shack in El Paso, the police make a macabre discovery. Nearly thirty bodies brutally shot to pieces with a nasty piece o' gun, and a single handcuffed survivor who is desperately trying to amputate his hand with an axe... After he's brought back to the station to clarify what the bloody hell happened over there, the man seems intent on making his case worse. Like, when asked for his name, he answers «The Traveler». Okaaay... He says he's incapable of dying, but seems very nervous and particularly in a hurry to leave because someone is out to kill him. Dude's clearly a looney... However, throughout the interrogation he gets more and more convincing, describing in detail all the occult phenomena he's been exposed to

in his loooong life: mythical creatures, demons, the undead and other Latin American folklore. He basically gives them a gory version of COCO, though rushed because the clock is ticking and Death is about to arrive at the station just in time for another bloodbath...

Feliz Navidad comes early this year for you guys! A Latino anthology served up hot and spicy by some of the genre's greats: Mike Mendez (DON'T KILL IT), Alejandro Brugués (JUAN OF THE DEAD), Eduardo Sanchez (THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT), Gigi Saul Guerrero (BINGO HELL) and Demian Rugna (TERRIFIED). More than just a talented quintet, it's a quality label for an exceptionally explosive piñata of fun and gore!

Directors : Alejandro Brugués
Mike Mendez
Demian Rugna
Gigi Saul Guerrero
Eduardo Sánchez

Writers : Alejandro Mendez
Demian Rugna
Pete Barnstrom
Shadan Saul
Raynor Shima
Lino K. Villa

Cast : Efen Ramirez
Greg Grunberg
Jonah Ray Rodrigues
Jacob Vargas

Runtime : 112 minutes

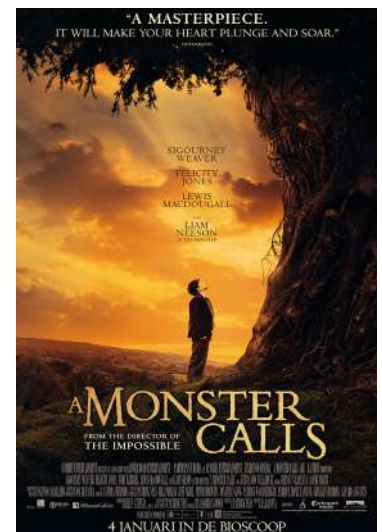
A MONSTER CALLS

(2016, US, UK, Spain)

Twelve-year-old Conor has a lot on his plate. Sickly and dreamy, he's the school's favorite whipping boy. And he can't find a sympathetic ear in his family. His father? Gone to live a new life in the United States. His mother? His mum... Conor loves her deeply, but he doesn't want to add to her troubles. You see, a particularly aggressive cancer is eating away at her from the inside and all attempts to cure her are wearing her down day after day. Her grandmother? As loving as a prison door. Conor is desperately lonely in this cruel world... His only refuge is his imagination, which is slowly beginning to overtake reality. And every night, a few minutes after midnight, a giant monster comes to see him. Not to reassure him or

protect him, but to tell him three extraordinary stories that will teach him true courage...

Quite simply a masterpiece that isn't afraid to go for Big Emotions and that was able to touch even the harshest of critics at its release in 2016. Yes, A MONSTER CALLS is a cult movie, a coming-of-age tearjerker of colossal proportions with a phenomenal cast that includes Felicity Jones, Sigourney Weaver and Liam Neeson. And who knows, during the screening, you could even ask a handkerchief from director J.A. Bayona (THE ORPHANAGE, THE IMPOSSIBLE, JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM), who is our guest of honor this year!



Director : J. A. Bayona

Writer : Patrick Ness

Cast : Lewis MacDougall
Sigourney Weaver
Felicity Jones
Toby Kebbell
Liam Neeson

Runtime : 108 minutes



THE THREE SISTERS OF TENMASOU INN

(2022, Japan)

There's this quaint out-of-time place called the Tenmasou Inn. It's pretty exclusive though, in a world parallel to ours and strictly for people heading for the light at the end of the tunnel, also known as folks hanging between life and death. Don't try looking for Trip Advisor comments either, just trust us it's a decent spot in terms of comfort and services offered. One day, the young Tamae arrives in the establishment after being rubbed the wrong way by an eighteen-wheeler and is welcomed by Nozomi and Kanae. They're not just the hotel owners, they're also her half-sisters who've been hiding her entire life from her. Now they'll have their whole afterlife to catch up? Not quite. The place is only a transit terminal and the young girl will have to choose

between the world of the living, with its daily doses of trouble, or the other side of the Styx, which seems to be inhabited by the ghosts of her life past.

If underneath all that black veneer you've got a little cotton heart, THREE SISTERS OF TENMASOU may just take you by surprise. Adapted from a manga series by Tsutomu Takahashi, this fantastic tale about our inescapable destiny is helmed by our newest Knight of the Order of the Raven, Ryûhei Kitamura. We usually associate him with gritty exploitation fare such as MIDNIGHT MEAT TRAIN and NO ONE LIVES, but here he shows off a more poetic side of himself. And that's pretty heart-warming in this cruel, cruel world!

Director : Ryûhei Kitamura
 Writer : Ureha Shimada
 Cast : Mugi Kadowaki
 Yuko Oshima
 Kengo Kora
 Kasumi Yamaya
 Riku Hagiwara
 Yoshiko Mita,
 Hiroyuki Hirayama
 Runtime : 151 minutes

GENTLEMAN

(2022, South Korea)

Ji Hyun-soo is the head of a successful private detective agency and the epitome of cool, never leaving the house without a tailor-fit tuxedo. While he usually investigates shady business partners or cheating husbands, he's not above just going after a client's dog that was taken from her by an ex. Especially if said client is very attractive. He just has to go pick her up in his fancy jeep, drive to the ex's cottage and threaten the guy to give her dog back. Easy peasy. But upon arrival, he's whacked with a baseball bat. When Hyun-soo wakes up, he's got a knife in his hand and he's under arrest for kidnapping his client... On their way to the police station though, by divine intervention or pure luck, the car flips over in a freak accident. While he gets off with just a couple of bruises, his captor - prosecutor Kang -

isn't quite so lucky, with several severe fractures and hemorrhages that put him in a coma that'll last a week. But in the accident both of their ID's got burnt. Because of the suit, everyone just assumes Hyen-soo is prosecutor Kang. Which means he has exactly one week to use his newly obtained powers as a prosecutor to find the real culprits and prove that he's innocent...

That's quite a couple of twists and that's only the first 15 minutes of GENTLEMAN, which has many more surprises in store for you. In his first feature, Kyoung-Won Kim expertly mixes action-thriller and comedy - because Korean thrillers don't always need to be black-hearted gut-punches - with a seriously suave Ji-Hoon Ju (THE SPY GONE NORTH, ALONG WITH THE GODS 1 & 2) in the lead role.



Director : Kyoung-won Kim
 Writer : Kyoung-won Kim
 Cast : Ji-hoon Ju
 Sung-woong Park
 Sung-eun Choi
 Runtime : 123 minutes

THE POPE'S EXORCIST

(2023, US)

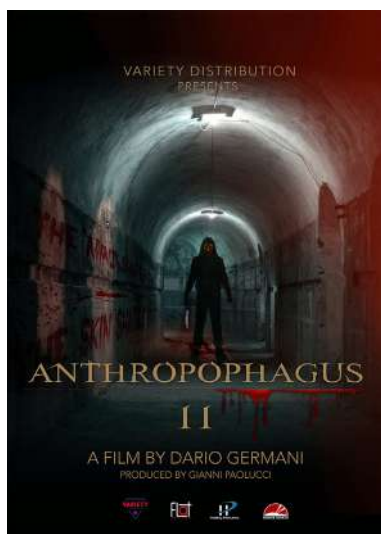
It's 1987 Anno Domini and the Vatican is in the midst of a crisis. On the one hand, young bling-bling prelates - more Madonna than Francis of Assisi - are trying to dust off the crumbling image of the Church by downgrading positions such as the one of Father Gabriele Amorth, the official exorcist of the Vatican. Not glamorous enough, they say... On the other hand, there's the Pope, aware in his infinite wisdom that Good cannot exist without Evil. He decides to send his toga-clad badass to Spain, to study the strange case of a child who is supposedly suffering from an evil a little more hardcore than a simple flu. Once arrived, Father Amorth discovers an old abbey ready to be converted into a hotel and a particularly rude kid. Nothing Amorth hasn't seen before though. Three Latin insults and an upside-down crucifix don't impress him.

But he's quickly going to understand that his opponent is far from being a second-rate demon. Especially when he discovers a pretty unorthodox secret that the Vatican has been trying to sweep under the carpet since the Inquisition. So, not glamorous enough, they said?

The perfect example of an ideal BIFFF screening? A script inspired by the works of infamous Father Gabriele Amorth - more than 50.000 exorcisms to his name and the subject of a 2017 documentary directed by William Friedkin -, Julius Avery (OVERLORD) in the director's chair, Franco Nero (DJANGO UNCHAINED) as the Pope, and Russell Crowe, absolutely phenomenal in the lead role! An old skool thrill ride with a dose of THE DA VINCI CODE, a true blessing for all BIFFF disciples.



Director :	Julius Avery
Writers :	Michael Petroni Evan Spiliotopoulos
Cast :	Russell Crowe Daniel Zovatto Alex Essoe Franco Nero
Runtime :	105 minutes



Director :	Dario Germani
Writer :	Lorenzo De Luca
Cast :	Jessica Pizzi Monica Carpanese Diletta Maria D'Ascanio Giuditta Niccoli Chiara De Cristofaro Valentina Capuano Alessandra Pellegrino Shaen Barletta Alberto Buccolini
Runtime :	82 minutes

ANTHROPOPHAGUS II

(2022, Italy)

So, in short, a teacher brings her all-girl group of thesis students along on a weekend to a nuclear bunker that has been sealed off to the public since the end of the Cold War. But, lucky for them, she got in contact with a shady dude that has a key and can let them in. Their guide casually mentions that the few that have entered the place in recent years have never returned, which doesn't provoke more than a couple of girly giggles, and then leaves them there, locking the door behind him. Now the group will have plenty of time to wander around scarcely dressed in the bunker's maze of dark chilly tunnels and do... research? For their thesis? On what exactly we'll never know because you see, there's one thing they didn't know was part of the package. That a degenerate butcher that feasts on human flesh - oh c'mon, it's right there in the title, folks! - roams these very

same tunnels and, lucky for them, he's also into research. Of the human body.

The cannibalistic madman isn't the only thing this 2022 sequel has in common with Joe D'Amato's infamous 1980 original, which you were able to savor at this year's Offscreen Festival. It ticks off all the boxes of Italian Z-grade trash cinema: an outrageously idiotic script, paper-thin and brain-dead female characters who are more likely to break out into a pillow fight than to engage in a scientific discussion on their thesis (we do hope the filmmakers have met actual women in real life), bad acting made worse by hilarious dubbing and such outlandish amounts of blood, guts, intestines, brain mush, baby removals and other such niceties that put HOSTEL to shame. In short: pure, unfiltered bad taste. You guys are going to eat it up!

HUNT

(2022, South Korea)

Is your knowledge about South-Korean history sketchy at best? Don't worry, ours too! Despite our love for Korean movies going strong for at least 20 years now, we simply don't know all that much about the country apart from "Gangnam Style" – we still whip that one out at office parties – and that their northern neighbor is kinda evil. And hey look, HUNT plunges us right into the grim 80's setting of North vs. South tensions, with two rival secret agents, Park and Kim, having to protect the president of South-Korea (at the time still a military dictatorship, we've learned watching this) against threats from the North (which has always been evil, that we already knew). The problem is, they've been informed there's a North-Korean mole in their company leaking sensitive information to the enemy. And

as Park and Kim hate each other's guts, they're gonna try everything in their might to prove their rival is the rotten apple to eliminate. Let the hunt begin!

This is exactly our favorite kind of history lesson: one spiced up with lots of visceral, uber-violent action scenes! Don't expect some JOHN WICK-type extravaganza here, this one gets your adrenaline pumping with terrifyingly realistic, messy and disorienting outbursts of violence. SQUID GAME sensation Lee Jung-jae directs and stars alongside Jung Woo-sung (THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE WEIRD) in this gritty spy flick whose double- and triple-crossing agents which will keep you second-guessing until your head is spinning. You can get an aspirin at the bar afterwards.



Director :	Jung-Jae Lee
Writers :	Jung-Jae Lee Seung-hee Jo
Cast :	Jung-Jae Lee Woo-Sung Jung Hye-Jin Jeon Sung-Tae Heo Youn-Jung Go Jong-Soo Kim Man-Sik Jung
Runtime :	131 minutes



EVIL DEAD RISE

(2023, New Zealand, US, Ireland)

A twisted tale of two estranged sisters whose reunion is cut short by the rise of flesh-possessing demons, thrusting them into a primal battle for survival as they face the most nightmarish version of family imaginable...

(© Warner Bros)

Exactly 30 years after ARMY OF DARKNESS triumphed at the BIFFE, Sam Raimi's mythical franchise has just found a new pair of hands at the wheel with Lee Cronin (HOLE IN THE GROUND, BIFFF 2019): 6,500 liters of fake blood, a true festival of gore that doesn't shy away from any excesses, a spirit that is incredibly faithful to the universe of the Deadites, incredibly well-crafted tributes and a world premiere at SXSW that simply blew away the international press. And, to answer THE question that everyone is asking: yes, the chainsaw is back!

Director :	Lee Cronin
Writer :	Lee Cronin
Cast :	Alyssa Sutherland Lily Sullivan Morgan Davies Gabrielle Echols Nell Fisher
Runtime :	97 minutes



BLAZE

(2022, Australia)

Unlike her classmates who are giggling while drawing dicks on bus stops, twelve-year-old Blaze is not quite ready yet to leave behind the innocent joys of childhood. Like playing with figurines, eating ice-cream and hanging out with her huge, imaginary dragon. But one event is going to jolt her into the ugliest reality of adulthood. On her way to school, she witnesses a woman getting brutally raped and murdered by her co-worker while Blaze's body and mind are in a state of shock, unable to intervene... Not only does this profoundly traumatize her, as the sole witness of the crime, she's also thrown into the frightening worlds of courtrooms, police stations, doctors and therapists. Nobody, not even her dad, who is dying to help her but at a loss of

how to do so, can get through to her. Nobody, except maybe her dragon...

Let's talk about the dragon in the room! A wonderful creature made not of fire and brimstone, but of feathers and diamonds, like a crossbreeding between a shōjo manga and Puff, the Magic (or downright Psychedelic) Dragon. A magnificent beast that is completely in line with the maximalist aesthetic of Kathryn Del Barton, who has already made a name for herself in the fine arts and now applies the same lesson (more is, simply, more) to her debut feature film, cramming it with different styles of animation (puppetry, digital fx, stop-motion...), lots of music (Cocteau Twins! Nick Cave!) and above all, an unbridled amount of imagination.

Director :	Del Kathryn Barton
Writers :	Huna Amweero Del Kathryn Barton
Cast :	Julia Savaga Simon Baker Yeal Stone Josh Lawson
Runtime :	101 minutes

RENFIELD

(2023, US)

For two centuries, Renfield has been playing minion to his boss, Count Dracula. Okay sure, he did give him eternal life and supernatural powers that, even with a 48° fever and a stomach flu, would still make him triumph at the Hunger Games. But his future? Zero chances for promotion, permanent night shifts and an endless search for victims that his master can get high on while he has to make do with a few insect leftovers. No more! It's the 21th century, dammit! There are collective labor agreements, measures against workplace harassment, paid holidays... Makes a man think, especially after centuries of being pushed around. And then his eyes meet Rebecca, a charming traffic officer who causes an instant rush of blood to poor Rennie's head. With

the flame of undying love burning bright in his chest, he's finally going to find the courage and the strength to confront that other staple of the undying, his Transsylvanian Overlord!

Get ready for what is definitely going to be a legendary screening! On one side, we've got Robert "I created THE WALKING DEAD, what did you do with your life?" Kirkman injecting his typical punk spirit into Bram Stoker's classic. On the other, Chris McKay (LEGO BATMAN: THE MOVIE) whose irreverence is a perfect match for this delirious mayhem. And in the center? A double dose of Nick (Cage and Houlton) to put an end for once and for all to the most violent, horrific and toxic relationship that literature has ever created!



Director :	Chris McKay
Writers :	Ryan Ridley
	Based on an original idea of Robert Kirkman
Cast :	Nicholas Hoult Nicolas Cage Awkwafina Ben Schwartz Adrian Martinez Shohreh Aghdashloo
Runtime :	97 minutes



NIGHTSIREN

(2022, Slovakia)

Growing up in the Slovak mountains with an equally rugged mom makes for a rocky childhood. Just ask Šarlota, who has had to put up with her mother's insults and punches for as long as she can remember. But now, in the midst of yet another fight, she storms out of the door and sets for the horizon, determined to say zbohom (for those of you less versed in the Slovak language, 'goodbye') to her old life of misery. But her little sis Tamara follows her out and, in her pursuit, trips and falls from a cliff. Her lifeless body below in the canyon is the last burning image Šarlota has of the place. Until, twenty years later and after her mother's death, she decides to go back and dig up her past. But as you know, digging is tough in mountainous soil and answers hard to get when everyone in the village is as silent as a stone. Everyone except Mira, an offbeat herbalist prone to moonbathing ("It's good for your period!") with whom she

strikes up an instant friendship. There are few things the superstitious villagers like less though than two women bonding and stirring up trouble...

Welcome to a world of witchcraft, not the evil, baby-munching kind – though the villagers might tell you otherwise – but one of a greater connection to nature, the animals, elements and spirits that surround us. A mysterious world filled with white snakes glimmering in the moonlight and pagan parties with naked bodies dancin' in front of the flame (and probably tripping on magic mushrooms). But also, a world that is very vulnerable against the violence of man-made society... Tereza Nvotová's second feature mixes various influences (ancient Slavic myths, VALERIE AND HER WEEK OF WONDERS, del Toro's branch of dark and violent fairytales) into a highly singular, magical potion. Will you fall under its spell?



Director : Tereza Nvotová
Writers : Barbora Namerová
Tereza Nvotová
Cast : Natália Germán
Eva Mores
Juliana Brutovská
Iva Bittová
Jana Olhová
Marek Geišberg
Zuzana Konečná
Runtime : 109 minutes

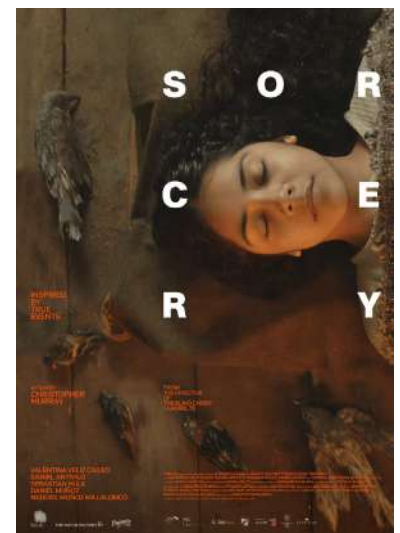
SORCERY

(2023, Mexico, Germany, Chile)

Chile, the 19th century. Chiloé is a remote island where Chileans and German settlers lord it over the indigenous locals. Young Huilliche girl Rosa is the deeply devout housemaid of a German farmer family. When pater familias Stefan discovers that all his sheep have mysteriously died, he suspects the Huilliche and sets his dogs loose on Rosa's dad. The beast tear him to pieces. She's overcome with grief and desperately seeks help to set right this terrible injustice. But the local mayor does not want to help her. Animals can't be arrested, right? And who does she think she is? Rosa is taken in by Mateo, a grumpy old man who also happened to be the head of a secret organization of native sorcerers. Rosa quickly ditches her catholic faith

as she rediscovers the hidden powers of her people. If she can't find justice, she will get revenge with magical means...

Revenge is a dish b served with ancient magic in this Chilean-Mexican-German coproduction by writer-director Christopher Murray. SORCERY combines the vengeance quest of a young indigenous girl with insights in colonialism, mysticism, and indigenous traditions. It's a well-crafted coming-of-age story in a unique setting, anchored by the solid performance of Valentina Véliz Caileo as Rosa. You'll see witchcraft and anti-colonial resistance go hand in hand in this compelling magic realistic folk horror tale that made quite a splash at the recent Sundance film festival.



Director : Christopher Murray
Writers : Christopher Murray
Pablo Paredes
Cast : Valentina Véliz Caileo
Daniel Antivilo
Sebastian Hülk
Daniel Muñoz
Neddiel Muñoz Millalanco
Runtime : 101 minutes

NEW NORMAL

(2022, South Korea)

Don't feel like watching all those big film classics now that your mission is to exhaust the entire Netflix catalogue? Then NEW NORMAL has the solution, by squeezing in its 2-hour running course no less than 6 interconnected shorts that are each inspired by a different cult film! 'M': A single woman is being creeped out by a slimy handyman late at night, while the news keeps reporting about a serial killer that targets single women. 'Do The Right Thing': A boy sees an old lady struggling in a wheelchair and makes the fatal decision to help her. 'Dressed to Kill': There's a new dating app on the market that connects you with your ideal partner... or two, three. Perfect for serial daters and killers! 'Be With You': A man finds a letter in a vending machine that leads to another letter. A trail that will lead him to the love, or

rather the mistake of his life. 'Peeping Tom': a voyeuristic man is obsessed with his sexy neighbor and sneaks into her flat only to discover that she's got some skeletons in her closet. 'My Life as a Dog': At a night shift at a convenience store a young woman has to deal with rude, drunk and downright crazy clients. Luckily, she can take her mind off things by gaming and giving advice on a forum how to get rid of dead bodies.

Director Bum-shik Jung (EPITAPH, BIFFF 2008) knows how to string stories together, he already proved that in the HORROR STORIES anthologies. Creepy stories with a great cast of K-culture favorites, among whom Ji-woo Choi (NOWHERE TO HIDE), Yoo-mi LEE (SQUID GAME), rapper P.O. and pop star Minho.



Director :	Bum-shik Jung
Writer :	Bum-shik Jung
Cast :	Ji-woo Choi Minho Choi Ji-hoon Pyo Yoo-mi Lee
Runtime :	112 minutes



Director :	Joko Anwar
Writer :	Joko Anwar
Cast :	Tara Basro Endy Arfian Nasar Annuz Bront Palarae
Runtime :	119 minutes

SATAN'S SLAVES : COMMUNION

(2022, Indonesia)

It has already been three years since the Suwono family moved into a huge tower block in Jakarta. The Suwonos have always been very discreet about the reasons for their move. And rightly so. Telling everyone that a satanic cult sent your mother-in-law down a pit, that your deceased wife haunts you in your dreams and that the Devil himself had his eye on your youngest child, are not exactly conversation starters. So, the Suwonos keep a low profile, avoid listening to records backwards and go to bed at 9 after a cup of tea. Is that enough to pass under the radar of the Evil One? Of course not... He first prefers to manifest himself in classic ways: the discovery of unknown graves in a vacant lot next door, a defective elevator that

plays potato smasher with a dozen of the residents and a massive flood followed by a general power blackout. What follows next, you ask? Well, a loooong night, with an army of corpses waiting for their funeral rites and a herd of demons excited about the idea of playing cat-and-mouse with the Suwonos...

SATAN'S SLAVES was Joko Anwar's biggest international hit, the first Indonesian film to be screened in IMAX and the country's third biggest hit of all time. This sequel has only one goal: to make you sleep with the lights on again. Mission accomplished. We already have a colleague who can't fall asleep without maniacally sucking his thumb....

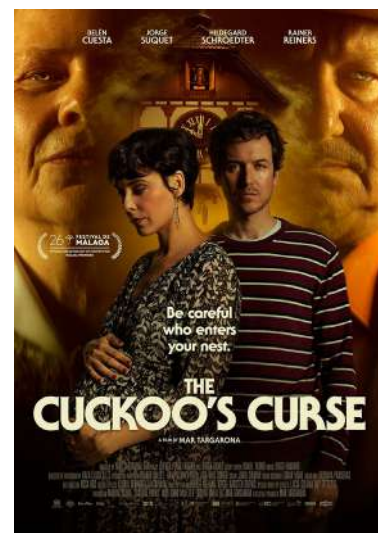
THE CUCKOO'S CURSE

(2023, Spain, Germany)

Do you know the principle of home exchanges between individuals for holidays? It's supposed to be amazing. You can travel all over the world and not pay a cent to lay your head to rest. That's exactly what Marc and Anna need. They're all for a completely different kind of holiday this year. Something original and above all quiet, because Anna is about to give birth. They decide to stay in the cozy lil' nest of Hans and Olga, a genteel German retired couple. And they've hit the jackpot: an idyllic villa in the middle of the Black Forest, full of high-tech gadgetry, an outdoor pool and German beer by the gallons. At the same time, our genteel Germans discover the couple's Barcelona flat, which is cute, charming... and ready to be ransacked from top to bottom! Bookcases, cutlery,

bedding, everything has to go in very typically Teutonic turmoil fashion. In the pastoral Schwarzwald our little lovebirds are enjoying their vacation in ignorant bliss. They wanted a different kind of vacation? Well, they're getting exactly what they bargained for...

Mar Targarona, member of our international jury at the BIFFF 2017, does not only produce amazing Spanish genre features such as *THE ORPHANAGE* and *JULIA'S EYES*. She also directs diabolically twisted supernatural thrillers. *THE CUCKOO'S CURSE* refers to the bird that lays its eggs in the nests of other birds. Do you get the metaphor? No? Great, then just wait and see what this 'curse' is exactly about...



Director :	Mar Targarona
Writers :	Alfred Pérez-Fargas Roger Danès
Cast :	Belén Cuesta Hildegard Schroedter Jorge Suquet Rainer Reiners
Runtime :	98 minutes



EVIL EYE

(2022, Mexico)

Having exhausted all the resources that modern medicine can give them, little Luna's parents are already receiving a tutorial on palliative care from their family doctor. But, if the modern world condemns the little girl to certain death, the mother has a backup plan that we could euphemistically call a «grandmother's recipe». She takes Luna and her older sister Nala to the Mexican countryside, to the home of Josepha, an arthritic crone they can call Grandma... And she's nice, Grandma. She smells a bit, she doesn't know Wi-Fi, but she smiles a lot. However, as soon as the parents run off in search of rare ingredients, leaving the two girls alone with the abuela, things take a turn for the worse. Josepha continues to smile, but creepily, while the housekeeper tries

to put the little ones to bed with stories of witches that would make a Saudi executioner spend sleepless nights. And, during these endless nights, torn between insomnia and nightmares, they finally ask themselves a legitimate question: why have they never met their grandmother before? Surely not just because of the smell...

Isaac Ezban is a regular at the BIFFF, having sung songs to the (world) premieres of *THE INCIDENT*, *THE SIMILARS* and *PARALLEL*. Now he leaves behind his cherished sci-fi worlds to plunge headfirst in pure unfiltered horror, drenched in local folklore. The result is a box-office hit, a nugget that appears in many genre top 10's of the year and a thrilling promise: to do to grannies what *JAWS* did to sharks...

Director :	Isaac Ezban
Writers :	Felix Armando Rosario Viñals Edgar San Juan Pidilla Isaac Ezban
Cast :	Ofelia Medina Paola Miguel Samantha Castillo Arap Bethke Ivanna Sofia Ferro
Runtime :	100 minutes



ONE-PERCENTER

(2022, Japan)

Big action star Takuma Toshiro has succeeded in riling up the whole profession against him by declaring that cinematographic fights should be closer to reality than these choreographed ballets, where shrimps without talent tickle each other with foam swords. After a ten-year hiatus, Takuma is attempting a comeback with a very personal project, a straight-up actioner for which he's already got the ideal location in mind: a shut-down factory on a deserted island with zero cell phone coverage. Once they arrive on the spot though, the island turns out to be a little less deserted than expected. Two rivaling gangs of yakuza sought out a quiet little place to peacefully massacre each other all the while looking for two millions dollars' worth of cocaine that was hidden somewhere on the island.

If the majority of the film crew is shitting their pants out of pure, undiluted fear, Takuma is overjoyed. Where the others see ruthless hoodlums, he sees lots of extras in his movie to beat up for free in front of a rolling camera!

Some might see ONE PERCENTER as a reckoning with an industry that's a little too fond of wires and CGI à gogo. But it is above all an ode to the legendary fighting machine Tak Sakaguchi aka "John Wick with a sword". He was Ryūhei Kitamura's muse (VERSUS, AZUMI, etc.) and was recently pitted against no less than 588 enemies in one room in CRAZY SAMURAI MUSASHI. And behind the camera? Well well, if that isn't Yūdai Yamaguchi, who won a Silver Raven at the BIFFF 2013 for ABDUCTEE!

Director :	Yūdai Yamaguchi
Writer :	Yūdai Yamaguchi
Cast :	Tak Sakaguchi Kohei Fukuyama Kanon Harumi Rumika Fukuda Norihisa Hiranuma
Runtime :	85 minutes

FOUR'S A CROWD

(2022, Spain)

Julian, a fifty-year-old, divorced executive in a high-tech company, is a newly converted apostle of carpooling. Especially since Lorena, twenty years his junior, single and armed with a disarming smile, accompanies him weekly from Bilbao to Madrid. This Sunday, however, Julian is feverish because he is about to declare his undying love for Lorena. But he'll have to find the right moment for his serenade at 90 mph, because two other passengers are expected for the trip: Sergio, a ravishing single with a disarming smile, who uses the profile picture of his fat cousin for carpooling. And Rodrigo, who will quickly turn out to be a capital A-Asshole. A rare specimen of crass selfishness with a small bladder to boot. But that's

really the least of Julian's worries, even if he doesn't realize that yet...

What's incredible about Alex de la Iglesia is that he could make a blockbuster out of a rock and a leaf of lettuce if he wanted to. Out of an aggressively mundane situation, which in the hands of other directors would water down into soapy pap, he - together with long-time partner-in-crime Jorge Guerricaechevarría - distills a darkly shimmering diamond of black humor, with sharp, acid dialogs and a share of deviously deranged characters. And all the while mocking all the modern man's shortcomings, he still ends up with a surprisingly sweet love story between dysfunctional losers? Hats off to you, Alex!



Director :	Alex de la Iglesia
Writers :	Jorge Guerricaechevarría Álex de la Iglesia
Cast :	Alberto San Juan Blanca Suárez Ernesto Alterio Rubén Cortada
Runtime :	100 minutes



THE ROUNDUP

(2022, South Korea)

Sutheast Asia is not just a holiday paradise. It's also the favorite haven of the Korean underworld, where they can continue to squeeze out a buck from all the Korean tourists and businessmen. Detective Ma and Captain Jeon travel to Vietnam to extradite a gangster. The guy actually sought refuge in the embassy because his boss's methods were becoming a bit extreme even to him. We're talking about Kang, the ruthless leader of a well-oiled crime machine responsible for the kidnapping and murder of several Korean tourists. Obviously, our dynamic duo can't stand for that and they decide to go after Kang. It doesn't take long before they also have to deal with rival gangs, their Vietnamese colleagues and a father who seeks revenge for his son's murder. Fortunately, Ma couldn't care much about the rules and (literally) punches his way through the investigation.

THE ROUNDUP, the sequel to 2017's THE OUTLAWS, was last year's Korean box office champion. Not surprising, considering the movie's a perfect fit for the imposing stature of Dong-seok Ma aka Don Lee (TRAIN TO BUSAN, THE ETERNALS). He brawls his way towards his goal, like a cross between Dirty Harry and Bud Spencer. Comic relief can be found in the interaction with Gwi-hwa Choi (PROJECT WOLF HUNTING) as Captain Jeon. And Sukku Song (HIT-AND-RUN SQUAD) portrays a wonderfully menacing and unpredictable Kang. THE ROUNDUP is the ideal wedding between humor and brutal action scenes, whirling towards a very satisfying ending. Appointment next year at the BIFFF for part 3?!

Director : Sang-yong Lee

Writer : Minsung Kim

Cast : Lee Don
Sukku Son
Guy-hwa Choi
Ji-hwam Park

Runtime : 105 minutes

CULT HERO

(2022, Canada)

Dale Domazar is the kind of obnoxious, pigeon-brained alpha male TV channels all over the world love to air in dumb shows like "Cult Buster", in which Dale goes around de-programming secret cults. A smash hit! That is, until the season's finale goes off the rails with a human sacrifice and all the cult members committing mass suicide live on TV, which prematurely ends Dale's budding career. Elsewhere, realtor Kallie Jones is struggling with her husband Brad who seems to have lost all will to live. It doesn't occur to her that her dominant type-A personality might have something to do with it. The poor guy can't even decide what boxers he wants to wear. Kallie forces Brad to enroll in a retreat for men, Hope Acres, led by guru

Jagori. And it works! Brad regains confidence and self-esteem... and is unwilling to go back home to his wife. Supremely upset, Kallie suspects the place is a cult and she knows just the guy to call for help... Dale Domazar!

Dale's approach to cult busting is one of a bull in a china shop and much the same can be said of this movie. CULT HERO races through a platoon of rapid-fire gags, guns a-blazing and without ever taking its foot off the gas pedal or its tongue out of cheek. And in the midst of all the glorious gonzo mayhem, there's the outrageous performances by Liv Collins and Ry Barrett as our very incompatible cult-busting duo, to really hit this one home.



Director : Jesse Thomas Cook

Writer : Kevin Revie

Story of Tony Burgess,
Liv Collins & Jesse
Thomas Cook.

Cast : Liv Collins
Ry Barrett
Tony Burgess
Jess Vano
Justin Bott
Steve Kasan
Jonathan Craig

Durée : 94 minutes

BONNE CONDUITE

(2023, France)

Pauline is a psychologist who gives compulsory courses to drivers who got their license revoked because they thought they were auditioning for FAST X. But lecturing about traffic rules to a bunch of Neanderthal road warriors with a gearstick between their legs is no picnic... Nothing gets through their thick skulls, especially coming from a woman. Well, in that case they're gonna learn the hard way. At night, she gets behind the wheel all black-gloved and turns into a merciless Messenger of Death bouncing dickwads off the road and letting them crash and burn for all eternity. She considers it a good deed for humanity. But inspectors Kervella and Giordano have a different view on the matter. To them, she's a nuisance that keeps them from their stache grooming and Candy Crash playing and therefore she must be stopped!

After MAX & LEON and THE WANNABES, Jonathan Barré once again takes his pals David Marsais and Grégoire Ludig from the Palmashow for a ride and brings along newcomers to his universe like Laure Calamy, Tchéry Karyo (NIKITA, THE PATRIOT) and Thomas VDB. If that just sounds like a load of French to you, well, that's because it is and the cast is immensely popular with your fellow French(wo)man. The result? As if DRIVE stayed into the southern French sun a little too long, with deadpan dialogues à la Quentin Dupieux (MANDIBULES starring... Marsais and Ludig!) and just perfect with a glass of Pastis. But remember, don't drink and drive, or else...!



Director :	Jonathan Barré
Writers :	Jonathan Barré Laurent Vayriot
Cast :	Laure Calamy Tchéky Karyo David Marsais Grégoire Ludig Thomas VDB Sixtine Aupetit Ragnar Le Breton
Runtime :	95 minutes



Director :	Cécilia Rouaud
Writer :	Cécilia Rouaud
Cast :	François Damiens Vanessa Paradis William Lebghil Laura Felpin
Runtime :	97 minutes

LES COMPLICES

(2023, France)

A painful divorce can have unexpected side effects. When his wife leaves him, Max, a 50+ ruthless hitman, discovers he has a huge problem. The slightest drop of blood is enough to knock him off his feet, and in his line of business that's a mayor disadvantage. There is nothing left to do but to sink into a deep midlife crisis. Until the young couple across the street, Karim and Stéphanie, manage to shake him out of his lethargy. They're slaving their lives away for a real estate agency, trying to sell houses over the phone to people who can't afford them. Maybe this is a place where he can unleash his killer instinct. His new friends, stuck in their shitty jobs, dream of a life of action and adventure. But they're going to get more than they bargained for when Max's past catches up with him.

The latest film from screenwriter-director Cécilia Rouaud (UNE VIE AILLEURS, PHOTO DE FAMILLE) is a black comedy the way we like it, with endearing and irritating characters, plenty of absurd situations and lots of (verbal) bullets in search of a willing target. Belgium's pride François Damiens (THE BELIER FAMILY, THE LULUS) is in top shape as the depressed hitman. William Lebghil (THE FRESHMEN) and Laura Felpin (ASTERIX & OBELIX: THE MIDDLE KINGDOM) are superb as the hapless couple. With great supporting roles for Vanessa Paradis (HEARTBREAKER, KNIFE+HEART) as Max's ex and Bruno Podalydès (ONLY GOD SEES ME) as Max's mentor.

ALIENOID

(2022, South Korea)

Brace yourselves, 'cause describing this film is like discussing atom splitting with a drunk Fin. So, here we go: after a war of the planets on the other side of the galaxy, the alien winners decide to imprison their opponents on a poorly developed rock called Earth, more precisely in the puny minds of the insects that crawl all over the planet – that would be us! Two alien guards, Thunder and Guard, make sure none of them can escape their fleshly envelopes. But, one day a mysterious spaceship appears above Seoul, which is going to start up a whole new intergalactic war severely neglecting the space-time

continuum, between 14th century mages and present-day warriors. All of that inserted into a quest for a precious ring, ergh no, for a precious dagger that within its blade holds the destiny of more than a few planets...

That's a lot of information to process, we know. But, on the big screen it magically falls into place, streamlined and crystal clear and supremely put together. ALIENOID is everything we love about sci-fi all balled up in one magnificent clusterfuck: robots, time travel, aliens and lots of bim, bam, kaboums. Space opera extravaganza!



Director : Dong-hoon Choi

Writers : Dong-hoon Choi
Ki-cheol Lee

Cast : Jun-yeol Ryu
Woo-bin Kim
Tae-ri Kim
Ji-sub So
Jung-ah Yum
Woo-jin jo

Runtime : 142 minutes

05.

SHORT FILMS

5.1. BELGIAN COMPETITION

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 AT NOON

SHORT FILMS JURY



LOUIS-PHILIPPE CAPELLE

In 1978, after graduating from the INSAS film school, Louis-Philippe Capelle takes part in numerous projects as director of photography: from art house documentaries to television films, from fiction to advertising and TV documentaries. At the start of his career, he helps to create the production company Triangle 7, where he stays for 15 years. He then sets up the postproduction company Hoverlord, which will last for 5 years. After that, he begins to work for Eye-Lite, Belgium's biggest audiovisual material company. He first participates to the development of digital cinema and then manages the commercial and artistic relations of the organization. This doesn't prevent him from continuing his passion as he partakes in different projects as director of photography. But Louis-Philippe doesn't stop there. Besides from teaching at various schools, he's the chairman of IMAGO, a European federation for directors of photography that regroups 53 countries with almost 5.000 members worldwide. Since January, he's vice-chairman of the SBC (Belgian Society of Cinematographers).

CHRISTIAN BONTINCKX

Born in 1954, Christian Bontinckx studied psychology, pedagogy and cinematography at the ULB in Brussels. He also finished studies in art at the art academy of Sint Josse and Anderlecht, worked as a psy and helped on papers like "does cinema make you a mean person?" that was presented at BIFFF in 2001. He participated at the writing of pedagogic short movies made by Frederic Dumont in 1994 and Vincent Lannoo in 1996. He also curates expos.



SARAH GURY

After graduating from the Saint-Lucas School of Arts in 2012, Sarah Gury joins the team of UniversCité Belgium as editorial and marketing manager. UniversCiné, an initiative of Belgian independent producers and distributors, is a platform for renting and buying video on demand films (www.universcine.be) and also offers subscriptions (www.uncut.be).

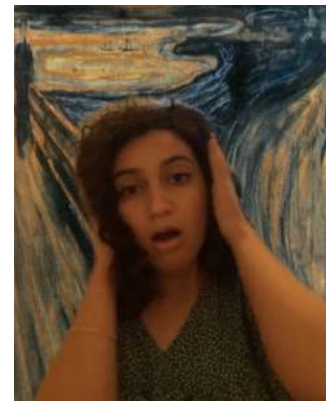


THIERRY VANDERSANDEN

Thierry Vandersanden (Brussels, 1968°) studied editing at the Institut des Arts de Diffusion. After some jobs and a short period at the RTBF, he takes over “Le Moniteur du Film” in 1994. This is a magazine specializing in the distribution and the exploitation of films in Belgium. For five years, he’s the only editor, courier, typist, encoder and stamp gluer. In 1999, he joins the team of the Centre du Cinéma et de l’Audiovisuel de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles. Nowadays he’s head of the promotion and distribution services, responsible for supporting distributors, theater owners, workshops and festivals.

ZAHRA BENASRI

Zahra Benasri (Liège°) studied European Politics in the Netherlands. After graduating, she decided to focus on what she was always passionate about: film. She gained experience at film festivals, in marketing, in international sales and in production. She directed two self-produced short films, LA PETITE HONTE and PENDANT 12 ANS, JE SUIS NEE LE 6 MAI, a documentary that was screened at several international festivals. While distributing her films herself, she discovered that filmmakers of self-produced works did not receive support in distributing their productions. In 2023, she founded Hors du bocal, an international sales and distribution company for short films with a focus on self-produced films seeking to raise the profile of films with low visibility. At the same time, she is working on a new film as a director.



ELLEN BABELIOWSKY

Ellen J. Babeliowsky (15/05/1986) is a Belgian filmdirector and cinematographer. From a very young age she was a natural storyteller and encouraged by her grandfather, she fell in love with cinema. In 2015 she graduated cum laude at the Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema and Sound - Brussels (RITCS). Her most known shortfilm ‘Motel Motel’ was nominated at several Film Festivals abroad and won some very nice awards like ‘Best Cinematography’ at the Wildsound Film Festival Toronto. Ellen has a special interest for genre-cinema and the surreal. As it seems, all her films have certain surreal elements and turn out to be a complete mindfuck. She finds her inspiration with Lynch and Buñuel. For now, Ellen is mostly writing scripts. She has a feature film and a documentary going in pre-production very soon and she’s selling her script for a tv-series to a big production company.

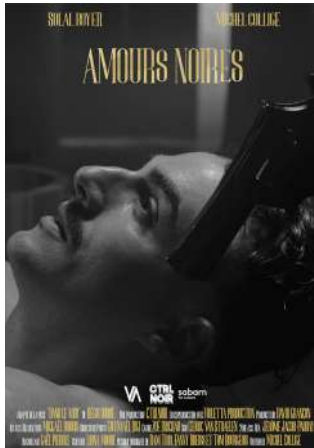
SALOMÉ RICHARD

Salomé Richard became an actress somewhat by accident. As a child, she rather saw herself as a designer or an architect. As a teenager, the Brussels native went to work at an advertising agency, more to earn some extra money than that she harbored film ambitions. In the end, Salomé never made a commercial. At the age of 19, she was spotted during a casting for a short film. Her first role was that of a.... corpse! Despite this «deadly» start, she did not give up and went on to play a series of small and then larger roles. She was the revelation of PANDORA as Ludivine. The militant character, whose values and beliefs she shared, seemed to have been written for her.



TOM POUCE

This die-hard fan has been a BIFFF-regular since the 2nd edition. He's crazy enough to spend his holidays each year at the festival. He's a member of our short film jury and responsible for the smooth progress of the Audience Award. His name is Alain Galand, but everybody knows him as Tom Pouce.



Director : Michel Colligé

Cast : Michel Colligé
Solal Boyer
Dimitri Lepage

Runtime : 25 minutes

BLACK LOVES

(2022, Belgium)

A DUEL BEHIND CLOSED DOORS IN THE FORM OF VERBAL JOUSTING THAT PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE FILM NOIR, WITH A GOOD TOUCH OF BELGIAN-STYLE ABSURDITY.

A FRIEND'S FRIEND

(2022, Belgium)

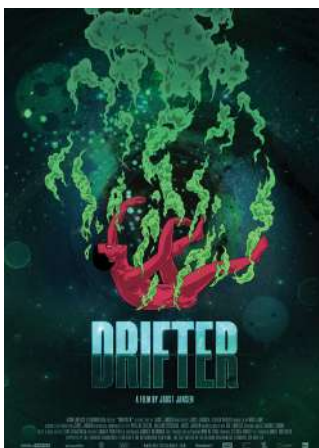
LOU KILLS TIME BY TELLING MADY THE STORIES OF HER FRIENDS' FRIENDS. AND IF ONE DAY, A STORY HAPPENS TO HER FRIEND?



Director : Henry Julien

Cast : Mara Taquin
Salomé Dewaels

Runtime : 8 minutes



Director : Joost Jansen

Cast : Mike Ladd

Runtime : 15 minutes

DRIFTER

(2022, Belgium)

DRIFTER, A METAPHORICAL JOURNEY OF HUMAN WANDERING.



Director : Tim Truyens

Cast : Willem Herbots
Inge Paulussen
Johan Heldenbergh

Runtime : 19 minutes

INERT

(2022, Belgium)

INERT IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL SLOW BURN HORROR. AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, CASPER IS PLAGUED BY FEELINGS OF SELF-BLAME AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS. THESE FEELINGS SLOWLY BUT SURELY PUSH HIM INTO A CORNER AND FORCE HIM TO FACE HIMSELF.

SIGNAL

(2022, Belgium)

DÉBORAH, IN HER THIRTIES, IS STUCK IN A HOSPITAL BED FOLLOWING A CAR ACCIDENT. AS SHE TRIES TO WARN HER SPOUSE, SHE FEELS A PRESENCE IN THE DARKNESS OF THE ROOM...



Director : Jérôme Pierrat

Cast : Coralie Denis
Sybille Du Plessy
Egon Di Mateo

Runtime : 9 minutes



Director : Rakan Mayasi

Cast : Saleh Bakri
George Ibrahim
Nada Zoabi

Runtime : 19 minutes

THE KEY

(2022, Belgium)

AN ISRAELI FAMILY'S EQUILIBRIUM GRADUALLY DISINTEGRATES AS THE MYSTERIOUS SOUND OF A KEY IS HEARD EVERY EVENING IN THE DOOR OF THEIR APARTMENT.



THE FOREMAN'S WIFE

(2022, Belgium)

A HANDFUL OF DAYS IN THE LIVES OF SOFIA AND ALEX. TOGETHER THEY PREPARE 'THE FOREMAN'S WIFE', A PLAY IN WHICH SOFIA IS THE DIRECTOR AND ALEX THE LEAD ACTOR.

Director : Marius Chodé
Cast : Marc Gooris
Olivia Harkay
Jean-Mathias Pondant
Runtime : 22 minutes

THE MAN WHO TOUCHED THE BALL

(2022, Belgium)

FOLLOWING HIS ENCOUNTER WITH MR. BUSHY, MR. BALD WILL SEE HIS LIFE GRADUALLY SLIP OUT OF HIS CONTROL, DUE... TO A GIANT EGG GIVEN TO HIM BY MR. BUSHY.



Director : Sylvain Hua
Cast : Kelvin Hua
Sylvain Hua
Runtime : 6 minutes



SOUVENIR

(2023, Belgium)

EVERT AND HIS FATHER MARK LOST RITA TO AN INCURABLE DISEASE A YEAR AGO. THE GRIEVING PROCESS IS DIFFICULT AND AN INEXPLICABLE FATIGUE OVERTAKES MARK. THERE IS SOMETHING OMINOUS IN THE FAMILY HOME, SOMETHING THAT GRADUALLY BUT SURELY TAKES CONTROL.

Directors : Jasper Vrancken
Bert Aeles
Cast : Johan Knuts
Willem Herbots
Jonathan Michiels
Runtime : 21 minutes

5.2. EUROPEAN COMPETITION

SUNDAY, APRIL 16 AT 12 NOON

EUROPEAN SHORT FILMS JURY - MÉLIÈS



GILLES RÉUNIS

After working for 5 years as marketing manager at the Cinéart movie distribution company, Gilles Reunis now is head of acquisitions at Bety-VOO and is in charge of broadcasting, selecting and buying feature films, movies made for TV and short films for PayTV and VOD. He's also in charge of coproducing Belgian full length and short films.

FRANÇOIS STASSENS

François Stassens is the head of the SABAM's audiovisual department. His mission is to be the go-to person between the SABAM and the French-speaking members of the audiovisual business. His main role is to be present on the field, handle communication, operating files as well as the requests for sponsorship in the audiovisual business. He's also very active at the Pro Spere federation, which is consisted of many authors' associations specialized in audiovisual, as well at the movie department's Consultation Committee of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.





BÉNÉDICTE BOURGOIS

Since 2006 she's been the head of the RTBF's Short Films Acquisitions and TV shows, especially with La Trois Channel's «Tout Court». When the RTBF started coproducing Belgian short films, back in 2009, she also became a member of the selection committee for the pending scripts. For several years now, she's been working with the editing short film committee at the WEBKey of the Centre of Wallonia Brussels imagery promotion tool which aims at putting our directors' works on the big screens of foreign markets and festivals.

NATHALIE LEBEL

Studied literature and cinema at the University of Paris VIII. Since 2006, head of Sales and Acquisitions at the short films Agency, Broadcast service: «I've had the pleasure of discovering many short films masterpieces, all by working in collaboration with producers, directors and buyers to put forward and valorize a thousands short films filled catalog made for all types of broadcasters around the world.»



GHÖKAN KULAK

Gökhan's early fascination with movies was encouraged by his father, who took him to Sunday Matinées, where he saw his first sword-and-sandal film as well as lots of martial arts movies. He was performing as an extra in several short films and TV series. Gökhan is responsible for the selection of the short films for the Fantasy Film Fest which takes place in the late summer in several cities in Germany.

THE FARMHOUSE

(2022, Spain)

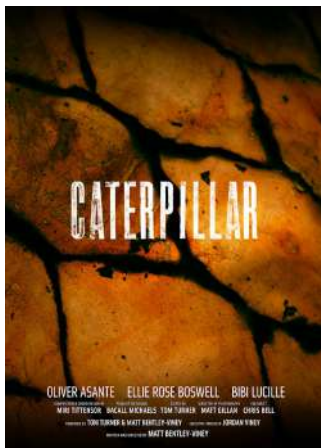
HELGA SPENDS A FEW DAYS WITH HER GRANDPARENTS WHOM SHE HASN'T SEEN FOR YEARS, TWO SINISTER OLD MEN WHO LIVE IN A HUGE CATALAN FARMHOUSE LOST IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.



Director : Víctor Catalá

Cast : Enric Arquimbau
Paula Moreta
Mont Plans

Runtime : 16 minutes



Director : Matt Bentley-Viney

Cast : Oliver Asante
Bibi Lucille
Ellie Rose-boswell

Runtime : 14 minutes

CATERPILLAR

(2022, UK)

LUKE'S WORLD IS ROCKED WHEN A STRANGER SHOWS UP CLAIMING TO BE HIS PARTNER. LUKE DESCENDS INTO MADNESS AS HE STRUGGLES TO GET THE BOTTOM OF WHO THIS PERSON IS WHILE ALSO EXPERIENCING HIS OWN TERRIFYING METAMORPHOSIS.

SHURIK

(2022, Russia)

MOM AND DAD LEAVE THEIR 4-YEAR-OLD SON SHURIK AT HIS STRANGE GRANDMOTHER'S PLACE.



Director : Aleksandr Samsonov

Cast : Roza Khairullina
Ivan Turlakov
Igor Khripunov

Runtime : 12 minutes



Director : Pauline Ouvrard

Cast : Chloé Lefray
Kawthar Krittès
Anne Benoit

Runtime : 23 minutes

TURKEY JEANNE

(2022, France)

AT 13 YEARS OLD, JEANNE IS STILL A CHILD. HER ONLY FRIEND, A TURKEY LIVING IN HER GARDEN AND SPEAKING TO HER IN HER HEAD, KEEPS TELLING HER THAT GROWING UP IS BETRAYING YOURSELF. BUT IN HIGH SCHOOL, JEANNE IS STIRRED BY LAURÈNE, WHO TRIGGERS A DESIRE.

FAMILY NIGHT

(2022, Ireland)

AN OFFBEAT SHORT HORROR FILM SET IN THE WINTER OF 1995, A PRE DIVORCE ERA DUBLIN, IRELAND. IT TELLS THE STORY OF A FAMILY FORCED TO TAKE PART IN A FAMILY NIGHT BY THEIR EXTREMELY STRICT FATHER.



Director : Alan Dunne

Cast : Eoin Quinn
Denise McCormack
Flynn Gray
Molly McLoughlin

Runtime : 17 minutes

LOST IN THE SKY

(2023, Sweden)

IN A STRANGE GALAXY A SMALL RESCUE ROBOT DREAMS OF BECOMING A HERO, BUT IN HIS SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS HE MAKES A DARK DISCOVERY, LEAVING HIM WITH A DEVASTATING CHOICE. A SCI-FI SHORT FILM CREATED ENTIRELY WITH PRACTICAL EFFECTS.



Director : Simon Öster
Cast : Amanda Kilpeläinen
Arvidsson
Runtime : 12 minutes



Director : Javier Carneros
Lorenzo
Cast : Carolina Lapausa
Nico Romero
Runtime : 16 minutes

THRESHOLD

(2022, Spain)

MERY AND OSKAR ARE A COUPLE WHO FOUND A HOMELESS LAYING ONE MORNING ON THE LANDING OF THEIR DOWNTOWN APARTMENT IN MADRID. THEY'RE DISAGREE ABOUT WHAT TO DO, DEBATING BETWEEN HELPING HIM THEMSELVES OR CALL THE SOCIAL SERVICE TO CLEAR OUT THE STAIRS.

AIRHOSTESS-737

(2022, Greece)

AN AIRHOSTESS COLLAPSES ON FLIGHT, CONVINCED THAT HER PROBLEM IS HER NEW BRACES, WHILST SHE TRANSFERS HER MOTHER'S BODY TO BURY HER NEXT TO HER GRANDMOTHER.



Director : Thanasis Neofotistos

Cast : Lena Papaligoura
Konstantina Koutsonasiou
Haris Alexiou

Runtime : 16 minutes



Director : Daniel Padró

Cast : Alain Hernández
Ariadna Cabrol

Runtime : 14 minutes

MIND HEIST

(2022, Spain)

A CRIMINAL BREAKS INTO A WOMAN'S HOME. AFTER A SHORT STRUGGLE, HE MANAGES TO SEDATE HER AND PROCEEDS TO INSERT WIRES INTO HER BRAIN. SHE WAS A WITNESS TO A MURDER AND HIS MISSION IS TO EDIT HER MEMORIES BEFORE THE LINEUP.

SWEET TOOTH

(2023, France)

YOUNG MADELEINE ACCOMPANIES HER MOTHER, A NAIL BEAUTICIAN, TO MEET NEW CLIENTS. AS SHE ARRIVES IN THE STately HOME, THREE GIRLS INVITE HER DOWNSTAIRS TO PLAY A RUTHLESS BOARD GAME...



Director : Joséphine Darcy Hopkins

Cast : Lou Deleuze
Katell Varvat
Naomi Arlix

Runtime : 25 minutes

5.3. INTERNATIONAL SELECTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 AT 9PM

BEFORE NIGHTFALL

(2022, France)

A LONELY AND DESPERATE MAN AGREES TO HELP A WOMAN AND HER YOUNG DAUGHTER. TOGETHER, ON A FREEZING NIGHT, THEY WILL FACE A FRIGHTENING DARKNESS.



Director : Hervé Freiburger

Cast : Paul Hamy
Héloïse Bousquet
Elena Lasowski

Runtime : 27 minutes



Director : Matt Inns

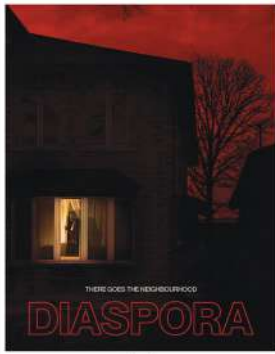
Cast : John Bach
Ben Stewart

Runtime : 14 minutes

THE BALLAD OF MADDOG QUINN

(2022, New Zealand)

AN UNLIKELY OUTLAW WREAKS HELL ACROSS THE DUSTY DYSTOPIA OF THE STATE ON A WILD QUEST TO SAVE WHAT IS HELD MOST DEAR, BUT THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM ON THE DESOLATE WASTELAND FRONTIER.



DIASPORA

(2022, Canada)

IN A BLACK SUBURB, A COUPLE BEGINS TO NOTICE THAT THEIR NEIGHBOURS ARE DISAPPEARING AND WHITE PEOPLE ARE MOVING IN. WHAT THEY DISCOVER IS MUCH DARKER THAN THEY COULD EVER IMAGINE.

Director : Tyler Mckenzie Evans

Cast : Cara Ricketts
Rainbow Sun Francks

Runtime : 16 minutes

POWER SIGNAL

(2022, US)

WHILE TRYING TO NAVIGATE A CITY THAT WON'T PROVIDE HIM A BATHROOM, A DELIVERY WORKER DISCOVERS AN UNEARTHLY PRESENCE INFECTING WOMEN ALL OVER NEW YORK.



Director : Oscar Boyson Boyson

Cast : Babs Olusanmokun
Will Brill
Brooke Bloom
Bryce Townsend

Runtime : 20 minutes



A.S.M.ORTAL

(2022, Canada)

WHAT IF ASMR DID MORE THAN PUT YOU TO SLEEP?

Director : Maxime S. Girard

Cast : Cristophe Voyer
Vanessa Larose
Gabriel Antoine-roy
Pascal Devrillon

Runtime : 12 minutes

DIVINE ACCOUNTS

(2022, Spain)

MONICA IS A NORMAL WOMAN WITH A NORMAL LIFE IN ANY PLACE IN ANY OF THESE MODERN TIMES. HOWEVER, ONE DAY, FOR AN UNIMPORTANT DETAIL THAT COULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED LIKE ANY OTHER PREVIOUS DISAGREEMENT, SHE KILLS HER HUSBAND. SHE THUS DISCOVERS CRIME AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR ANXIOLYTICS, LIBERATION FROM ALL HYPOCRITICAL MORALISM AND, WHY NOT?, THE USEFULNES.



Director : Eulalia Ramón
Cast : Celia Freijeiro
Fele Martínez
Marina San José
Runtime : 12 minutes



ALEX'S MACHINE

(2022, France)

ALEX IS THE ONLY GIRL IN HER «AUTOMOTIVE BIOMECHANICS» CLASS. FOR HER DEGREE, SHE HAS CHOSEN TO BUILD AN ENGINE MADE OF ARTIFICIAL FLESH.

Director : Mael Le Mée
Cast : Lomane de Dietrich
Manon Drugmant
Rio Vega
Nicolas Wanczycki
Runtime : 25 minutes

SKINNED

(2022, France)

IN AN OLD BUILDING, LOST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SWAMP, LIVE TWO STRANGE WOMEN, SIAMESE TWINS BY ONE LEG. AT NIGHT, THE FLAYED HAS TERRIFYING NIGHTMARES IN WHICH SHE SEES HER SISTER'S FLESH COVERING HER OWN BODY...



Director : Joaquin Hérissé
Runtime : 15 minutes



Director : Inga Elin Marakatt
 Cast : Katja Omma Simma
 Runtime : 19 minutes

UNBORN BIRU

(2022, Norway)

A PREGNANT WIDOW STEALS SILVER FROM A DEAD BODY IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AND FEED HER DAUGHTER. BUT THE SILVER IS CURSED AND HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL OF THEM, INCLUDING THE UNBORN.

VARIATIONS ON A THEME

(2022, US)

A COUPLE HAS BEGUN PHYSICALLY SPLITTING INTO MANY DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES, AND MUST INVESTIGATE AN UNCOMFORTABLE MUTATION THAT HAS ARISEN.



Director : Peter Campbell
 Cast : Peter Campbell
 Sophia Dunn-walker
 Runtime : 7 minutes



Director : Sandy Honig
 Cast : Carolina Lapausa
 Nico Romero
 Runtime : 11 minutes

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

(2023, US)

«PENNIES FROM HEAVEN» IS A SHORT COMEDY ABOUT TWO ECCENTRIC TWIN SISTERS WHO WORK AT A CONVENIENCE STORE AND STUMBLE UPON A PICKUP TRUCK FULL OF PENNIES. IT'S AN ABSURDIST FARCE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT AND THE TWINS FOLLOW THE ADVENTURE WHEREVER IT TAKES THEM - ONLY TO END UP RIGHT BACK WHERE THEY STARTED.

5.4. SPAINKILLERS

TUESDAY, APRIL 18 AT 6:30 PM

ONCE YOU POP

(2022, Spain)

ALICIA AND RUTH FINALLY LEAVE MALASAÑA TO PLAY WITH THEIR BAND, LAS HERMANITAS DE LA CALIDAD, AT A MUSIC FESTIVAL. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY ARE STRANDED THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE AND THEY CAN'T GET A SIGNAL. THEIR ONLY WAY TO GET THERE ON TIME IS TO GET INTO JAVI'S CAR, A YOUNG HUNTER FROM THE AREA WHO DOESN'T GIVE THEM A GOOD FEELING.



Directors : Edu Hirschfeld
Kevin Castellano

Cast : Paula Usero
Maria Caballero
Jorge Silvestre

Runtime : 16 minutes



Director : Nacho Solana

Cast : Catalina Sopelana
Loli Astoreka
Agus Ruiz

Runtime : 15 minutes

THERE ARE NO GHOSTS

(2022, Spain)

ANDREA IS A YOUNG WOMAN WITH A SPECIAL FUNCTION. WHEN SOMEBODY FEELS SOME PARANORMAL PHENOMENON AT HOME, SHE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CLEAR IT UP.



Directors : Germán Sancho
Raúl Cerezo

Cast : Alba Bersabé
Asier Flores
Sally Harrison

Runtime : 10 minutes

DARKFACE

(2022, Spain)

LEGEND HAS IT THAT DURING A COLD JANUARY NIGHT, DARKFACE WANDERS THE STREETS OF A REMOTE VILLAGE. LITTLE CARLA WAKES UP FRIGHTENED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. HER OLDER BROTHER, LUCAS, TRIES TO REASSURE HER.

MYSTIC TIGER

(2022, Spain)

AFTER THE ACCIDENT, NOTHING HAS EVER BEEN THE SAME.



Director : Marc Martínez Jordán

Cast : Alex Maruny

Runtime : 15 minutes



Directors : Lorena Ares Lago
Carlos Fernández de Vigo

Cast : Camilo García
Joaquín Calderón
Mercè Montalà
Roger Pera

Runtime : 9 minutes

IT DAWNS THE LONGEST NIGHT

(2022, Spain)

THE 4 HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE MEET TO REVIEW THE STATE OF HUMANITY AND DISCUSS STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE. A WEAK AND DYING DEATH RECEIVES HIS COMPANIONS WITH THE INTENTION OF CONVINCING THEM TO TORMENT HUMANS LESS, BUT FAMINE, PESTILENCE AND WAR DREAM OF A HUMANITY TRAPPED IN A WORLD WITHOUT ESCAPE.

IN CORPUS

(2023, Spain)

A MAN IS SURPRISED BY THE ARRIVAL OF A METEORITE IN HIS ROOM.



Director : Ignacio Rodó

Cast : Marc Pujol

Runtime : 3 minutes



IAGO AND TRISTÁN

(2022, Spain)

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF RELATIONSHIP, IAGO AND TRISTAN HAVE DECIDED TO SEPARATE. THE AFTERNOON THAT TRISTAN IS COLLECTING HIS THINGS TO LEAVE THE APARTMENT THEY SHARED, HE RECEIVES THE UNEXPECTED VISIT OF IAGO.

Director : Miguel Ibáñez Monroy

Cast : Lluís Marquès Quim Àvila

Runtime : 12 minutes

THERE'S ONLY ONE

(2023, Spain)

NOELIA SURVIVES A ZOMBIE HOLOCAUST BARRICADED IN HER COUNTRY HOUSE. SHE SUSPECTS THAT SHE IS THE LAST PERSON ALIVE, UNTIL ONE DAY SHE GOES HUNTING AND FINDS A MAN.



Director : Mik J. López

Cast : Macarena Gómez Octavi Pujades Gio García

Runtime : 16 minutes

5.5. RE-ANIMATED

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 AT 4PM

THE SMILE

(2022, Netherlands)

WHEN A WORLD-FAMOUS FILM STAR IS ACCUSED OF EATING HIS FEMALE CO-STARS, HIS CAREER GOES DOWN THE DRAIN. THAT WIPES THE SMILE OFF HIS FACE! QUOI EFFACER SON SOURIRE !



Director : Erik van Schaaik

Cast : Claire King
Tim Gunther

Runtime : 16 minutes



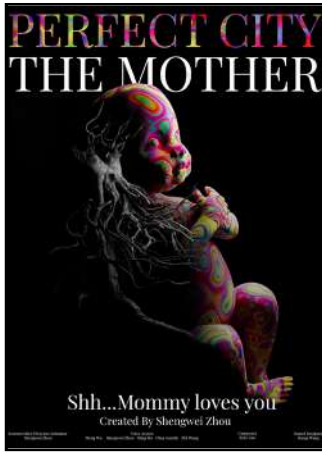
Director : Nick Cremers

Runtime : 14 minutes

WHAT KILLED TIMMY BENSON

(2022, Netherlands)

IN A SLEEPY SNOW-COVERED VILLAGE, A YOUNG PLAYFUL TIMMY BENSON IS BEING WATCHED BY A DARK PRESENCE FROM THE PAST.



Director : Shengwei Zhou

Cast : Meng Wu

Runtime : 12 minutes

PERFECT CITY: THE MOTHER

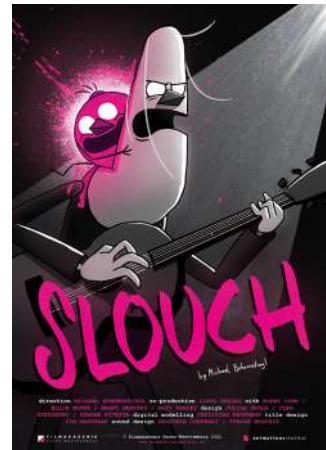
(2022, US)

LURED BY THE PERFECT HALLUCINOGENIC LIQUID, A WOODEN MONSTER MOTHER DECIDES TO CARVE HER ROOT BABY INTO A HUMAN.

SLOUCH

(2022, Germany)

WANNABE MUSICAL LEGEND SLOUCH IS PUSHED BY HIS SONG-WRITING-DEMON NUFFTI TO DEEP DIVE INTO HIS DARKEST EMOTIONS, WHILE HIS GIRLFRIEND LISA IS PREGNANT AND WANTS HIM TO TRANSITION INTO A HARMONIC FAMILY LIFE...



Director : Michael Bohnenstingl

Cast : Bobby Conn
Ellie Goffe
Michael Bohnenstingl

Runtime : 18 minutes



Director : Tyler March
Eric Paperth

Cast : Rob Tanchum
Stephanie Hsu
Jack Quiad

Runtime : 11 minutes

SUCKS TO BE THE MOON

(2022, US)

JEALOUS OF THE SUN'S STARDOM, THE MOON JOURNEYS INTO SPACE, SEARCHING FOR A PLANET THAT ACTUALLY CARES ABOUT HIM. WILL HE FIND HIS PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE, OR IS HE DESTINED TO BE A LONELY LOSER FOREVER?

PUSSY LOVE

(2022, Germany)

HEY PUSS! STILL PLAYING HARD TO GET? LET ME BE YOUR PUSSYCAT.



Director : Linda Krauss

Cast : Lisanne-Marie Hadi

Runtime : 4 minutes



Director : Sarah Shabani

Runtime : 10 minutes

GIANT & THE SEED

(2022, Spain)

A TINY SEED IS FEELING TRAPPED IN HER PARADISE BY A GENTLE GIANT WHO SEEMS TO BE THE NATURE'S FORCE. IMPELLED BY HER CURIOSITY SHE FALLS OUT OF EDEN. ADRIFT AMONG DARK CAVES SHE DISCOVERS BEING IN FACT A VOLCANIC ROCK COVERED WITH SOFT PLANTS. ONLY THEN SHE FINDS THE WAY BACK TO THE GIANT THE OLD VOLCANO GUARDING THE PARADISE FROM ITS OWN FIRE.

GNOMES

(2022, Netherlands)

UNKNOWNLY, A GIRL ENTERS THE HABITAT OF A TRIBE OF KILLER GNOMES DURING HER DAILY RUN. LURED BY MYSTERIOUS GLOWING MUSHROOMS, SHE'LL SOON WISH SHE'D STAYED ON HER USUAL TRACKS.



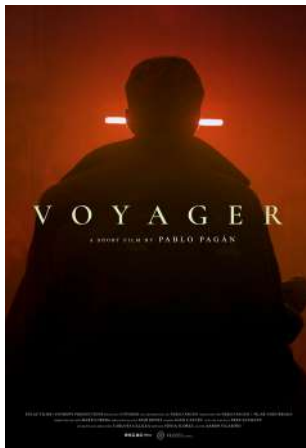
Director : Ruwan Heggelman

Cast : Moïse Trustfull
Duncan Meijering

Runtime : 6 minutes

5.6. THEY'RE THE FUTURE

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12 AT 4PM



VOYAGER

(2022, Spain)

A TRUCK DRIVER DISCOVERS THE ABILITY TO LEAVE HER PHYSICAL BODY, AND TRAVEL THE WORLD IN AN IMMATERIAL WAY, IN AN ASTRAL JOURNEY.

Director : Pablo Pagán
Cast : Neil Llado
Oscar Domenech
Dani Seguí
Mateo Ibarra
Runtime : 20 minutes

WOLVES

(2022, France)

A GANG OF WOMEN, SOWS TERROR IN THE STREETS AND AMONG MEN. THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE «WOLVES».



Director : Lucie Cabon
Cast : Alma Rosenbeck
Sabrine Ben Njima
Victoria Granger
Juliette Charré-Damez
Runtime : 22 minutes



PHANTASMAGORIA

(2022, Germany)

TWO WOMEN LIVING ALONE ARE VISITED BY A YOUNG STRANGE MAN WHOSE IDENTITY AND INTENTIONS THEY BEGIN TO QUESTION AS THE EVENING PROGRESSES.

Director : Alejandro Mathe
Cast : Felix Mayr
Runtime : 15 minutes

MY UNBORN SON

(2022, Finland)

NORA IS FACING THE LIFE-ALTERING CHOICE OF WHETHER OR NOT TO BECOME A MOTHER. BY MEANS OF A LIFELIKE SIMULATION, SHE MEETS AN AI VERSION OF THE CHILD SHE COULD HAVE. WHAT WILL NORA SEE WHEN SHE LOOKS INTO THE EYES OF HER FUTURE CHILD?



Director : Gyöngyi Fazekas

Cast : Saga Sarkola
Juho Kuusamo
Jonna Järnfeldt
Eeva Putro

Runtime : 19 minutes



Director : John Adam Krueger

Cast : Christian Weissmann
Gabriel Storm
Bil Mendieta
Liesel Kopp

Runtime : 11 minutes

HECTOR'S HELL HOUSE

(2022, US)

IN A FAMILY THAT COMMANDS HIM TO BE TOUGH, YOUNG ELLIOTT MUST CONFRONT HIS FEARS TO MAKE HIS FATHER PROUD. BUT ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT, THE BLURRY LINE BETWEEN HIS IMAGINATION AND REALITY PUSHES HIM TO HIS LIMIT.

ALL YOUR FAULT, PD

(2022, South Korea)

AT THE BUSY FILMING SITE, THE FILMING SUDDENLY STOPS DUE TO THE APPEARANCE OF A MANAGER, AND A DISCUSSION OF THE MAIN STAFF BEGINS INSIDE CAR. WHILE EVERYONE IS SHIFTING THE BLAME FOR THE PD'S FAULT, A ZOMBIE VIRUS SPREADS OUTSIDE CAR, CAUSING HAVOC. MEANWHILE, THE D.O.P IS WORRIED ABOUT EQUIPMENT BORROWED FROM COMMERCIAL FILM TEAM, AND SOMEONE HAS TO LEAVE TO BRING EQUIPMENT THAT IS ABOUT TO FALL OFF AND A CAR KEY.



Director : Kim Sun-yeun

Cast : Ga-eun Kim
In-kwon Kang
Oliver Jung

Runtime : 16 minutes

06.

BIFFF TIMETABLE



Free Newsletter
Free Information

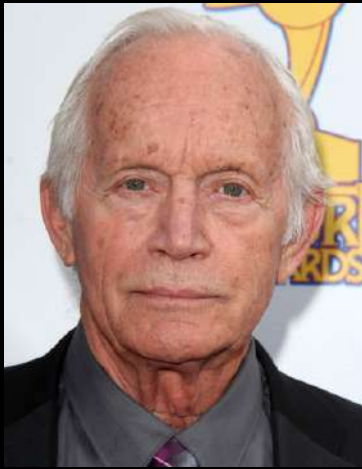
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12:00					WELKOM SINCE 1962	WELKOM SINCE 1962																		
13:30	STEPHANE + SHORT Enl'Sazewood								REBELLE EN				THE BANGBANG	REBEL										
16:00	THEY'RE THE FUTURE - SHORT FILMS				A MONSTER CALLS		MAD CATS		RE-ANIMATED SINCE					BLAZE	REBELLE									
18:30	JAMES SPENCER [doc]		THE MATURE MAN		SATURN HOWLING [doc]		NOMOLTH		HALFWAY HOME + SHORT: Night of the Birds		SPINNERS, SPINNING SHORT FILM FRIENDS		LIFE FOR SALE		REC. REBORN SPINNING AFFECTION [doc]		ABERRANCE		REYN. BURNAL		REBEL SINCE [doc]			
21:00	DRIVE		MIDNIGHT ARE + SHORT: Zacharia		THE LORDS OF CHANCE		THE COFFEE TABLE [doc]		DECIBEL		WINTERDIE + SHORT: Wade		CYBERHIST		WOLFEN		RE-ANIMATED SINCE 1962		SOFT AND QUIET [doc]		ONE DANCE SERIES OF TWO HOURS		SINCE	
23:59					CULTUR + SHORT: Zacharia, Rebecca		THE OUTWATERS									RE-ANIMATED SINCE 1962		SPINNING SINCE 1962						

11.04	12.04	13.04	14.04	15.04	16.04	17.04	18.04	19.04	20.04	21.04	22.04	23.04	
PREWELL CONTEXT & WILLAGE - @ DROGDA			PREWELL CONTEXT & RESULTS		TR ENGAGE @CONE 1	MANAGE-UP CONTEXT @ WPPROFFSTAGE	BULK @ DRY DRY NIGHT @CONE 2		R&P MAN INETS FENING - PROFESSIONALS ONLY			SCM STWDS & CONFERENCE @CONE 1	CLOSING CEREM @CONE 1
OPENING CEREMONY @CONE 1	DO EN AFTER... @CONE 1 & 2	CONCRETE FACTORY @ FERRYWAY FACTORY L OND 1					R&P MAN INETS FENING - PROFESSIONALS ONLY			CONCRETE FOR MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	PICK-UP PARTY @ WPPROFFSTAGE		
										BULK POSTER'S ARTISTS @ WPPROFFSTAGE	BULK POSTER'S ARTISTS @ WPPROFFSTAGE	ARTISTS @ WPPROFFSTAGE BULK @ WPPROFFSTAGE	BULK @ WPPROFFSTAGE
R&P MAN INETS FENING - PROFESSIONALS ONLY		R&P CONTEXT @ WPPROFFSTAGE WILLAGE								ARTISTS @ WPPROFFSTAGE BULK @ WPPROFFSTAGE			
LES 2 @ DRY DRY NIGHT @CONE 1	LES 2 @ DRY DRY NIGHT @CONE 1	YOUNG @CONE 1	MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	MAN @ WPPROFFSTAGE	
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AFTER MAN INETS FENING - PROFESSIONALS ONLY @CONE 2 @CONE 1 @CONE 2 @CONE 3 @CONE 4 @CONE 5 @CONE 6 @CONE 7 @CONE 8 @CONE 9 @CONE 10 @CONE 11 @CONE 12 @CONE 13 @CONE 14 @CONE 15 @CONE 16 @CONE 17 @CONE 18 @CONE 19 @CONE 20 @CONE 21 @CONE 22 @CONE 23 @CONE 24 @CONE 25 @CONE 26 @CONE 27 @CONE 28 @CONE 29 @CONE 30 @CONE 31 @CONE 32 @CONE 33 @CONE 34 @CONE 35 @CONE 36 @CONE 37 @CONE 38 @CONE 39 @CONE 40 @CONE 41 @CONE 42 @CONE 43 @CONE 44 @CONE 45 @CONE 46 @CONE 47 @CONE 48 @CONE 49 @CONE 50 @CONE 51 @CONE 52 @CONE 53 @CONE 54 @CONE 55 @CONE 56 @CONE 57 @CONE 58 @CONE 59 @CONE 60 @CONE 61 @CONE 62 @CONE 63 @CONE 64 @CONE 65 @CONE 66 @CONE 67 @CONE 68 @CONE 69 @CONE 70 @CONE 71 @CONE 72 @CONE 73 @CONE 74 @CONE 75 @CONE 76 @CONE 77 @CONE 78 @CONE 79 @CONE 80 @CONE 81 @CONE 82 @CONE 83 @CONE 84 @CONE 85 @CONE 86 @CONE 87 @CONE 88 @CONE 89 @CONE 90 @CONE 91 @CONE 92 @CONE 93 @CONE 94 @CONE 95 @CONE 96 @CONE 97 @CONE 98 @CONE 99 @CONE 100 @CONE 101 @CONE 102 @CONE 103 @CONE 104 @CONE 105 @CONE 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07.

KNIGHTS OF THE ORDER OF THE RAVEN



LANCE HENRIKSEN



ALEJANDRO AMENABAR



DARIO ARGENTO



JAUME BALAGUERO



LUC BESSON



LARRY COHEN



JOE DANTE



TERRY GILLIAM



STUART GORDON



JOHN LANDIS



CAROLINE MUNRO



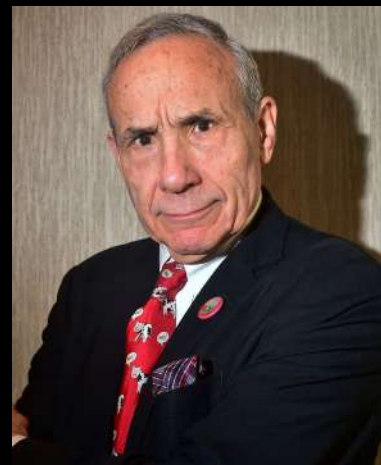
ALEXANDRE AJA



CHRISTOPHER LLOYD



CHAN-WOOK PARK



LLOYD KAUFMAN



JURGEN PROCHNOW



BARBARA STEELE



NEIL JORDAN



JOHN HOUGH



GUILLERMO DEL TORO



HARRY KUMEL



JEAN-PIERRE JEUNET



UDO KIER



BARRY SONNENFELD



DICK MAAS



RYUHEI KITAMURA



PAUL FEIG



JOHN MCTIERNAN

THE KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF THE RAVEN 2023



JUAN ANTONIO BAYONA

Juan Antonio Bayona (Barcelona, 1975°), that's the Spanish Spielberg! In 1993, his career takes a big turn at the Sitges Festival. It's there, at the age of 19, that he meets Guillermo Del Toro after the screening of CRONOS. The grandmaster of Mexican genre cinema immediately senses this young man's talent and promises to help him. Guess who produced his debut feature 14 years later? Thanks to his mentor, Bayona releases THE ORPHANAGE, a big budget horror film that wins no less than 7 Goya Awards. Thanks to this success, the gates open to an international career where he scores with emotionally crushing disaster films (THE IMPOSSIBLE), heartbreaking fantasy (A MONSTER CALLS) and trampling dinosaurs (JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM), so far his biggest blockbuster.

Filmography: The Orphanage (2007), The Impossible (2012), A Monster calls (2016), Jurassic World : Fallen Kingdom (2018), The Lord of the Rings (2 episodes, 2022)

08.

GUESTS



CAYE CASAS

He has already graced the BIFFF with his brilliant KILLING GOD (2017), in which a dwarf arrives in a house and decides to impersonate the Almighty Himself. Indeed, Caye Casas has a strong taste for blasphemy and dark humor. He made his mark with short films with metaphysical titles like NOTHING (2014) and RIP (2017). Already multi-awarded for his work (11 awards and three nominations in various competitions), he's a true master of the short film that stains (in red...). He also released an anthology film ASYLUM: TWISTED HORROR AND FANTASY TALES (2020). This year he finally arrives in the flesh in Brussels with THE COFFEE TABLE. A visit that will very likely be pretty intense!

Filmography: Killing God (2017), Asylum: Twisted Horror and Fantasy Tales (2020) & The Coffee Table (2022)

FERNANDO GONZALEZ GOMEZ

He has made over thirty short films, exploring a wide variety of narratives and characters. His work has been screened at hundreds of festivals and has received dozens of national and international awards. Of particular note are his three nominations for the Méliès and the Goya for best fiction short film for DOWNUNDER. With Raul Cerezo, he also co-directed THE PASSENGER which has been sold in 40 countries. THE ELDERLY, his third feature film, celebrated its international premiere at Fantasia (Montreal) by winning the Black Horse for Best Actor.

Filmography: The Passenger (2021), The Working Dead (2014), Downunder (2017) & Happy Ending (2020)



RAUL CEREZO

Raúl Cerezo is a Spanish director, screenwriter and co-producer. He is a leading figure in the Spanish short film industry. He has been a member of the jury of dozens of festivals and has collaborated in the creation of various events in the same field. He has collaborated with schools such as the CES (Spanish Film School), which itself co-founded the Short Film Academy, of which he was president. He is involved in the production of forty-four short films. Pioneer in online short film reviews and DVD editions of these formats, Cerezo is also co-founder and co-producer of the successful feature and short film distribution company YAQ. A loyal compañero of Fernando González Gómez, with whom he directed THE PASSENGER, which was already screened at the BIFFF. The last film of the duo left the festival audience with unforgettable memories of the best bullfighting scene in genre cinema with THE PASSENGER (2022). ELDERLY is his second feature film.



Filmography: 'The Passenger' (2021), 'El Semblante' (2022, short film) & '8' (2011, short film).

ISAAC EZBAN



Ah, Mexico! Between its legendary macabre folklore and its drug cartels that hang corpses by their feet from the top of highway bridges... Which is unsurprisingly a fertile ground for some genius creators of genre films. Isaac Ezban is one of them. A genius scriptwriter who wrote the stories of more than half of his films himself. He's been bathing in sci-fi and horror movies ever since he grew a stache (which, according to legend, appeared when he was around the age of 7 years and a half). He is such a fanatic that he owns his own drive-in movie theater in Mexico City, something even Tarantino can't claim. His films THE INCIDENT and PARALLEL, which Christopher Nolan would certainly not disapprove of, moved the crowds at BIFFF in 2015 and 2018. So it's safe to say Señor Isaac Ezban is a household director at the BIFFF!

Filmography: The Incident (2014), The Similar (2015), Parallel (2018) & Evil Eye (2022).

GUSTAVO HERNANDEZ IBAÑEZ

Gustavo Hernández Ibañez was born on February 21, 1973 in Uruguay. He is best known for the horror film THE SILENT HOUSE (2009), which won numerous international film awards. The film quickly became a cult flick in the eyes of the public and international critics. So much so that it was the first Uruguayan film to get a remake in Hollywood (ah, those Americans, always quick to hi-jack masterpieces and mix them with a royal doses of ketchup sauce). Gustavo Hernandez has also directed numerous television series. His film VIRUS 32 gladdened the BIFFF last year and won a Silver Raven.



Filmography: The Silent House (2009), You Shall Not Sleep (2018), Virus 32 (2022) & Ferocious Wolf (2023).



PAUL URKILO AJILO

Paul Urkijo Alijo was born on June 22, 1984 in the Basque Country, Spain. Since childhood he has been passionate about drawing, history and is an avid reader of mythology and traditional stories. He is a director and screenwriter, but also a singer in the metal band Hortzak. In 2017, he presented his first feature ERREMENTARI at the International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia, in Sitges. It is a fantasy film based on the story «Patxi Errementaria» which takes place during the first Carlist War. In 2022 he directed IRATI, a film shot in old Basque and of an epic nature similar to THE LORD OF THE RINGS. At the 37th Goya Awards it received five nominations (best adapted screenplay, best music, best song, best costumes and best special effects), although it did not win any of them. However, Paul's films have won more than 100 national and international awards and have been selected more than 400 times around the world.

Filmography: Errementari (2017), Monsters Do Not Exist (2012), El Bosque Negro (2015) & Irati (2022).

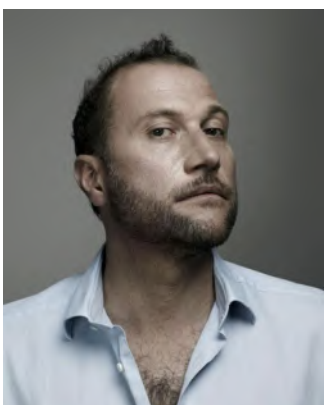
CÉCILIA ROUAUD

As the daughter of a documentary filmmaker and the sister of an editor, Cécilia fell into the world cinema at the early age of twelve. It was at this age that she played in LA FRACTURE DU MYOCARDE (1989), a unique experience that reinforced her desire to... get behind the camera! After a French university degree in Modern Literature, she started as an assistant director, notably with Gérard Jugnot and Cédric Klapisch. She made a real hit with her first feature film JE ME SUIS FAIT TOUT PETIT (2012) and has ever since continued as a gifted screenwriter and director.

Filmography: Je me suis fait tout petit (2012), Photo de famille (2018) & Les Complices (2023).



FRANÇOIS DAMIENS



With a Flemish grandfather and a Walloon grandfather François Damiens is definitely a pure Belgian product. Possibly you've never heard his name before, but know that in the French-speaking part of Belgium and in France he's something of a deity, a half-god that descended from the Olympus to grace us with his roles in big Belgian and French comedies such as DIKKENEK and NOTHING TO DECLARE. But before he achieved the cult status that he enjoys today, when he was still a mere mortal, he actually studied International Trade, which didn't go further than an internship in Australia that bored him to tears. Once he was back in Belgium, he started working for Belgian television chain RTL TVI. As an assistant to Jean-Michel Zecca on a candid camera program, his extraordinary talent for improvisation amazes and the student quickly becomes the master. In 2006, he appears opposite Jean Dujardin in OSS 117: CAIRO, NEST OF SPIES, a parody of James Bond and one of France's biggest cult movies of the 21st century, and spouts cult phrases at the speed of a machine gun in DIKKENEK. From then his rising star cannot be stopped anymore. He may not have been very successful at International Trade and frankly, we're happy about that!

Selective filmography: Dikkenek (2006), Nothing to declare (2011), La délicatesse (2011), La Famille Bélier (2014) Le Tout Nouveau Testament (2015) Mon Ket (2018) & Les Complices (2023).

WILLIAM LEBGHIL

William is the guy who is so extremely nice that he takes himself even less seriously than a Belgian. He was noticed by the general public as Kev Adams' partner in the series SODA. After having made a series of low-brow comedies (LES MYTHOS, THE NEW ADVENTURES OF ALADDIN), he obtains more and more roles in zanier, more off-beat comedies. Such as YVES, in which he plays an obscure rapper who gets famous thanks to... an intelligent fridge! He also doesn't shy away from roles in auteur films such as PREMIÈRE ANNÉE. He who as a child wanted to become a fighter pilot as a grown-up, has finally got pretty close to the top.



Filmography: Jacky au royaume des filles (2013), Les Nouvelles aventures d'Aladin (2015), Le Sens de la fête (2017), Première Année (2018), Yves (2019) & Les Complices (2023).

LAURA FELPIN



Born in Alsace (France), she took 12 years of German but only knows how to say two things in Goethe's language: 1) «I didn't do my homework» (Ich habe meine Hausaufgaben nicht gemacht) 2) «I have an inferiority complex» (Ich habe einen Minderwertigkeitskomplex). Laura Felpin first became a star on Instagram and YouTube with her parodies. At the same time, she also did dubbing on various films and series (PERCY JACKSON: THE SEA OF MONSTERS, THE MENTALIST, RINGS). She also featured as a comedian on TV (the popular French daily show Quotidien), on French radio and on stage with her show "ça passe". She also played in LE FLAMBEAU : LES AVENTURIERS DE CHUPACABRA and had a cameo in ASTERIX AND OBÉLIX: THE MIDDLE KINGDOM. That same year, she also had a lead role in the zany comedy LES COMPLICES.

Filmography: Le Flambeau: Les Aventuriers de Chupacabra (Series, 2022), LOL qui rit sort (2023), Asterix and Obelix: The Middle Kingdom (2023) & Les Complices (2023).

JORGE DORADO

Jorge Dorado first started working in advertising and then as an assistant director for such illustrious creator as Baz Luhrmann (on MOULIN ROUGE), Pedro Almodóvar (BAD EDUCATION and TALK TO HER) and Guillermo del Toro (THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE). So you can say he learned the trade with the very best! As a solo director he's been mostly active in the field of series (THE MINISTRY OF TIME, FERIA: THE SHINE OF DARKNESS and THE HEAD). And when Spain is a little picky about financing his project? No problemo, then he just goes looking for potential producers overseas and surprise, surprise: it turns out be easier to do so in Los Angeles! Jorge Dorado is the kind of director that doesn't stop at anything and it pays off, with his series ending up on Netflix and HBO. This year he's coming to the BIFFF to present his new thriller LOST & FOUND.



Filmography: Mindscape (2013), El Ministerio Del Tiempo (2015-2020), Lost & Found (2022).



YOUNG-SEOK NOH

Born in 1976, NOH Young-seok graduated from Seoul National University with a degree in polytechnics. Following his debut feature, DAYTIME DRINKING and INTRUDERS (BIFFF 2014), his third feature THE NATURE MAN will present his own blend of unique storytelling style. He's coming to Brussels to present it to the BIFFF in world premiere!

Filmography: Intruders (2014), Daytime Drinking (2009)

HONG-SEON KIM

South Korean director Hong-seon Kim comes to the BIFFF with his new film PROJECT WOLF HUNTING. He studied Film and Audiovisual Studies at the Tisch School of the Arts in New York, after which he began working as an assistant director on Korean television series. In 2012, he debuted as a director, co-producer and co-screenwriter of the action comedy TRAFFICKERS, for which he won the Best New Director Award at the Blue Dragon Film Awards. This was followed two years later by THE CON ARTIST starring Woo-bin Kim. In 2018, his thriller THE CHASE was released. Last year, he scored internationally with the Netflix series MONEY HEIST: KOREA - JOINT ECONOMIC AREA, the South Korean version of CASA DE PAPEL.

Filmography: Traffickers (2012), The Con Artists (2014), The Chase (2018), Money Heist: Korea – Joint Economic Area (2022) & Project Wolf Hunting (2022).



PATRICIA MAZUY

Patricia Mazuy is a director who worked alongside the famous Agnès Varda, while at the same time running the film club at the HEC (where she studied). Patricia Mazuy has a truly eclectic style. From traumatic thriller (SATURN BOWLING) to gritty black humor crime film (PAUL SANCHEZ IS BACK!) via teenage film (TRAVOLTA AND I) and grandiose historical fresco (SAINT-CYR) or popular science documentary on ... cattle (OF BULL AND COWS). Patricia Mazuy is everywhere and can do everything. Acclaimed at festivals from Cannes to Angers, she has had her own retrospective of her work at the French Cinémathèque. Here she is with her best film for a masterclass that you should only miss if you have a bullet in your leg and your guts ripped open.

Filmography: Peaux de vaches (1989), Travolta et moi (1993), Sport de Filles (2011), Rodin (2017) & Bowling Saturne (2022).



JALMARI HELANDER

Born in 1976 in the NOOORTH, more precisely in Finland, Jalmari Helander is a director and screenwriter of several short and feature films. Proud of his origins, his films always take place in his native country, in a mountainous, snowy and forest-y environment. He's also keen of freewheeling interviews. An example? Sure: «The shooting days are physical because my films are on the move, usually somewhere up a horse's ass», he confided an unsuspecting interviewer. He has several passions, among which: traumatizing children. His Christmas flick RARE EXPORTS was a smashing success and won the Audience Award at the BIFFF. We strongly discourage showing it to your nephew though, or you end up blacklisted by the great bearded man himself for the rest of your life.

Filmography: Fakiiri (2006), Rare Exports (2010), Big Game (2014) & Sisu (2022).

SUZANNE COOTE & MATT ANGEL

In 2017, Matt Angel and Suzanne Coote partnered and independently wrote, produced, and directed their first feature film, THE OPEN HOUSE. The film, a thriller starring Dylan Minnette (13 REASONS WHY), was acquired by Netflix as a Netflix Original Film, and was given a global release across all territories. It would quickly become one of Netflix's most watched thrillers to date. Just three years after its release, Angel and Coote would return to Netflix to direct HYPNOTIC, a psychological thriller starring Kate Siegel (THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE, MIDNIGHT MASS), Jason O'Mara (LIFE ON MARS, TERRA NOVA, AGENTS OF SHIELD) and Dulé Hill (PSYCHE, THE WEST WING). Currently, Angel and Coote are in development on a number of projects in both features and TV.

Filmography: The Open House (2018) - Hypnotic (2021) & The Wrath of Becky (2023)



09.

PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS

PUBLIC INFORMATIONS :



02/204.00.00.13



www.biff.net

PRESS INFORMATIONS :

Jonathan Lenaerts



Rue de la Comtesse de Flandre 8, 1020 Bruxelles



Tel. : 02/204.00.14



jonathan@biff.net

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Accreditation forms are already available on our website. Please fill the form out online before After this date, a 25€ administrative fee will be charged to obtain an accreditation. We will keep you informed by e-mail of the acceptance of your request for accreditation and of the type of accreditation that we will offer you. Please note that accreditation does not give automatic access to the festival screenings. It is obligatory to book the screenings you want to attend at least one day on beforehand. As the number of seats available for accredited persons is limited, we cannot guarantee the availability of seats for all screenings.

PRESS AND PROFESSIONALS AREA:

Video Library (for press and professionals): Video screens will be available for press and professional accreditation holders. Most of the films in the program can be viewed on a secure server. However, as the number of screens is limited, a reservation is required and our press department retains the right to determine who will have priority access. We would like to point out that the list of guests as well as that of the various juries is temporary and can be modified at any time

PRESS SCREENINGS:

A list of press screenings will be available later on our website or upon request to the contact person above. Please note that this list may still be subject to change.»

SHARING IS BIFFFING

Whether by Taxis Verts, “Poppy” car, bike, kayak or velociraptor, propose to share your ride with a fellow BIFFFer on the Facebook group “Sharing is BIFFFing”.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1011678406091654/>

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7 : Heysel

9 : Stade, Baudouin

51 : Stade

93 : Stade



6 : Heysel



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avenue impératrice Charlotte

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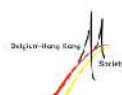
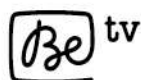
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