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10th Cinénygma Luxembourg International Film Festival

The 10th edition of Cinénygma Luxembourg International Film Festival takes place from 22 to 28 October 2006.

This year the festival has a special event on the eve of its official opening, a cinema master class. President of the International Jury, Jess Franco, will be at the Luxembourg City Municipal Cinémathèque on Saturday 21 October at 8 p.m. to deliver a talk illustrated by extracts from his films titled "How did you do it, Mr. Franco?" This master class, conducted by one of the living legends of fantastic cinema, will be followed by a screening of his classic 1968 film *Necronomicon*.

The official opening of the festival takes place the following day, Sunday 22 October, at the Utopolis. On this occasion, the festival will screen the Belgian film *The Room* by Giles Daoust, who will be at the screening. The festival is particularly proud to also welcome two actors from the film, notably Pascal Duquenne (who won the Palme d'Or at Cannes for his role in *Le huitième jour*) and Philippe Résimont (*La couleur des mots*, *Les convoyeurs attendent*).

For the second successive year, an International Jury will award this year's Grand Prix Cinénygma. The jury will be presided over by Jess Franco, who has directed more than 200 films and also includes Steven Severin, co-founder of Siouxsie and the Banshees and composer of film soundtracks (including *Nature Morte* which receives its world premier at the festival this year) and Elias McConnel, a young American actor who has appeared in *Elephant* by Gus van Sant among other films.

Eight films have been selected for the Grand Prix Cinénygma competition: *Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon* by Scott Glosserman, USA; *Venus Drowning* by Andrew Parkinson, GB; *Dark Remains* by Brian Avenet-Bradley, USA; *Saints-Martyrs-Des-Damnés* by Robin Aubert, Canada; *The Lost* by Chris Sivertson, USA; *Starfish Hotel*

by John Williams, Japan; *Storm* by Mans Marling & Björn Stein, Sweden and *Grimm Love aka Rohtenburg* by Martin Weisz, Germany.

European film also plays an important role in the festival. As is tradition, as a member of the European Federation of Fantastic Film Festivals, Cinénygma Luxembourg International Film Festival will be awarding the Méliès d'Argent award to the festival's best European fantastic film.

The Méliès d'Argent jury will have to choose a winner from nine films this year. They are: *The Room* by Giles Daoust, Belgium; *Hate 2 O* by Alex Infascelli, Italy; *Frostbitten* by Anders Banke, Sweden; *Ausentes* by Daniel Calparsoro, Spain; *In a Dark Place* by Donato Rotunno, Luxembourg; *Coisa Ruim* by Tiago Guedes & Frederico Carvalho, Portugal; *Ils* by David Moreau & Xavier Palud, France; *Broken* by Adam Mason & Simon Boyes, GB et *Grimm Love* by Marin Weisz, Germany.

The Méliès d'Argent jury is this year comprised of Jean-Claude Schlim (president), Pol Cruchten, Paul Lesch and Claude François. The winner of this year's Méliès d'Argent award will go on to be represented at the Méliès d'Or competition in Lund, Sweden in September next year.

As a reminder, "our" Méliès d'Argent from last year, Norwegian film *Next Door*, received a special mention at the recent Méliès d'Or awards in Espoo, Finland.

Every year the festival programme also incorporates an important short film selection. This year the films will again be screened in two sections and will include a total of 19 European short films. A jury comprised of local audiovisual and entertainment industry professionals will select the best of these for the Kodak Short Movie Award, which has a value of 1,750 euros.

The jury of the Kodak Short Movie Award is composed of Christina Schaffer (president) as well as Melting Pol (alias Paul Schumacher), Nico Pleimling and Amin Jaber. The jury is also charged with nominating the best European fantastic short film for next year's Méliès d'Or Short Movie Award, which also takes place in Lund, Sweden.

Last year's nomination from Cinénygma Luxembourg International Film Festival, *Starfly* by Beryl Koltz, won this year's Méliès d'Or Short Movie Award in Espoo in August.

The annual Audience Prize, which has always been highly valued by the festival organisers, will this year be even more important as the winning film will receive a prize of 2,500 euros as the award is renamed the *Prix du Public Circlefilm une marque de Circles Group*.

Before this year's closing ceremony on Saturday 28 October, at which the festival is pleased to be screening the new masterpiece by Alfonso Cuarón, *Children Of Men*, the famous *Nuit du Film Fantastique* will celebrate its 12th edition. Four films, *Saw III*, *See No Evil*, *The Grudge 2* and *The Wicker Man*, will be screened during the night from 27 to 28 October. As the *Nuit* falls just before Halloween, the festival is using the occasion to relaunch its Costume Competition, the winners of which will receive some great prizes.

Another event not to be missed during the festival takes place on 26 October at the Utopolis when one of our main sponsors, PriceWaterhouseCoopers presents a very special screening of the 1922 classic *Nosferatu* (Germany) which will be accompanied by live music from FAUST. 50 public seats for this exclusive performance can be won by sending an email to nosferatu@lu.pwc.com as of 12 October. Winners will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

And to really round off the 10th edition of our festival, an entirely restored Fritz Lang's legendary Metropolis (Germany, 1926) will be screened with the original music by Gottfried Huppertz.

Finally, a list of guests who have already confirmed their presence at our festival this year includes: Giles Daoust, Pascale Duquenne and Philippe Résimont for *The Room*; Anders Banke and Magnus Paulsson for *Frostbitten*, Alex Infascelli for *Hate 2 O*; Robin Aubert for *Saints-Martyrs-Des-Damnés*; Paul Borrows and Carole Derrien for *Nature Morte....*. Other guests will be confirmed at a later date.

We wish you all a most excellent festival. Comprehensive details of films, special events and the festival programme will be available on the festival's website:
www.cinenygmalu.lu

Enjoy Cinénygma 2006!

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