

## **Dear Fan of Fantastic Cinema,**

Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation Newsletter, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007, the month of Halloween and horror. At the 2007 Méliès d'Or Award Ceremony, held at Lund Intl. Fantastic Film Festival on the evening of September 16<sup>th</sup>, Danish/German PRINCESS took home the trophy, full press release is in this newsletter for those of you that didn't receive the special Méliès d'Or Newsletter that went out after the ceremony.

October is as usual a fest filled month, and the first Méliès d'Argent for the 2008 cycle will be selected in Sitges, Spain, followed by our adherent member festivals in Dublin (Ireland), San Sebastian (Spain) and Ravenna (Italy) with at least two new short film nominations for a Méliès d'Or coming out at the end of the month to join the feature film winner in Sitges.

Also, ScreamFest, LA kicks off October 12<sup>th</sup>, and Fantastic Fest, Austin wrapped up their 3<sup>rd</sup> edition September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Stay scared,

/Christian Hallman  
EFFFF Web Producer

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### **Sitges**

2007 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sitges International Film Festival of Catalonia, and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of contemporary classics of horror and sci-fi such as The Thing, E.T., Poltergeist and Blade Runner. It is to the latest that Sitges dedicates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Alongside the most recent genre productions, some of them world premieres and European premieres, Sitges will have two retrospectives, America Gothic (gems of 1970's American Horror) and Imaginary Europe, now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition, dedicated to the fantastic genre in Europe.

Sitges will also hold panels, master classes and press conferences, and will award director George A. Romero with the Grand Honorary Award. Syd Mead

(Blade Runner's art director), Alex Proyas and Jess Franco will receive the Time Machine Award 2007.

The festival is especially proud of their *Méliès d'Argent* line-up, with films that go from fantasy animation to full-throttle horror, including a great selection among them Catalan and Spanish productions.

*Méliès d'Argent* Line up:

EL ORFANATO (SPAIN)  
REC (SPAIN)  
LOS TOTENWACKERS (SPAIN/UK)  
LA HABITACIÓN DE FERMAT (FERMAT'S ROOM) (SPAIN)  
CHRYSLIS (FRANCE)  
APARECIDOS (SPAIN)  
EL REY DE LA MONTAÑA (KING OF THE MOUNTAIN) (SPAIN)  
THE DEVIL'S CHAIR (UK)  
FRONTIERE(S) (FRANCE)  
WAZ (UK/USA)  
A L'INTERIEUR (FRANCE)  
EL ÚLTIMO JUSTO (SPAIN)  
LOS CRONOCRÍMENES (SPAIN)  
NOCTURNA (SPAIN)  
THE SWORD BEARER (RUSSIA)  
NOS AMIS LES TERRIENS (FRANCE)

Short Film Nomination for a Méliès d'Or:

142 (Spain)  
Colgados (Spain)  
Columba Palumbus (Spain)  
The Big Garage (Germany)  
Finkle's Odissey (UK)  
The Red Box (UK)  
Torsia (Croatia)  
La marea (Spain)  
Limoncello (Spain)  
Avan Pétalos Grillados (Spain)  
Alter Ego (Poland)  
Arka (Poland)  
Codehunters (UK)  
Crone (UK)  
El ataque de los Kritters asesinos (Spain)  
El bufón y la infanta (Spain)  
Famine (UK)  
Gloria (UK)  
Postman (The Netherlands)  
Raymond (France)  
Tong (France)

X.pression (France)  
After the rain (UK)

## **San Sebastian**

18th San Sebastian Horror and Fantasy Film Festival Oct 27 – Nov 3, 2007

Films like "FRONTIÈRE(S)" (Xavier Gens; France 2007), the last movie from the Spanish directors Jaume Balagueró and Paco Plaza, "REC" (2005), "AAACHI & SSIPAK" (Joe Bum-Jin; South Korea, 2007), "À L'INTÉRIEUR" (Alexandre Bustillo & Julien Maury; France, 2007), "DAINIPPONJIN" (Hitoshi Matsumoto; Japan, 2007) and "DARD DIVORCE" (Olaf Ittenbach; Germany, 2007), among many others, will be screened this year at San Sebastian.

Shorts from all over the world will compete for 3 prizes: the Audience Award, the International Jury Award and the Prize for the Best Spanish Short Film (the European ones also compete for the Méliès d'Or short film nomination).

This year's retrospective (and book) will be dedicated to *American Gothic: USA Horror Movies 1968-1980*. Exhibitions (*Fantastic Voyage, Stanley Kubrick's Files*), the 4<sup>th</sup> Comic-book Encounters (this year with exhibitions of Hideshi Hino, Victoria Francés and *Fantastic Euskadi III*), children screenings and other activities will complete this year's program.

Short Film Nomination for a Méliès d'Or:

### **Ark (Poland)**

Artificial Worlds V.3.0 (UK)

### **Codehunters (UK)**

### **Columba palumbus (Spain)**

Même les pigeons vont au paradis (France)

Morsure (France)

Niebla (Mexico/Spain)

The Pierce Sisters (UK)

Souffle de vie (France)

## **Ravenna**

Ravenna Nightmare Film Festival, Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

Great news for the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Ravenna Nightmare Film Fest, which moves to the Halloween weekend, October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The festival is definitely the place to be for horror in Italy, and will include the International Competition for feature films (main event of the festival), which usually admits around 10-12 feature films, all of which are national premieres; and the European Competition for Short Films, with around 15 films

Added to this a number of special events out of competition; and last but not least parties, music, and literature events featuring important writers of the horror genre, which will make Ravenna, the capitol of horror cinema for one week.

Among the previous guests: Dario Argento, Pupi Avati, Brian Yuzna, Jeff Lieberman, and the festival's special supporter Valerio Evangelisti.

### **Short Film Nominee, Lund**

Lund Intl. Fantastic Film Festival closed its gates to their 13<sup>th</sup> edition on Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

As host of the 2007 Méliès d'Or Ceremony, Lund does not hand out a Méliès d'Argent feature film award this year, as it will be the last festival in the 2008 cycle, and thus will hand out the Méliès d'Argent in September 2008, just prior to the Méliès d'Or Award Ceremony, which will be held at Sitges International Film Festival of Catalonia in October 2008.

However, Lund has nominated a short film for the 2008 Méliès d'Or, as well as given out an audience Award.

#### **Short Film Nomination for a Méliès d'Or:**

RAYMOND (Fabrice Le Nezet, Francois Roisin, Jules Janaud, UK/France, 2006)

#### **Audience Award:**

Feature Film: SEVERANCE (Christopher Smith, UK, 2006)

Short Film: RAYMOND (Fabrice Le Nezet, Francois Roisin, Jules Janaud, UK/France, 2006)

### **2007 Méliès d'Or Press Release**

#### **Méliès d'Or winners awarded at Lund Intl. Fantastic Film Festival, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

This year's Méliès d'Or competition winners for best European fantastic feature film and short film of 2007 - have now been awarded. The Danish/German anti-pornography film **PRINCESS** won the feature category, while the Norwegian short film **SNIFFER** won the short film nomination category for the prestigious Méliès d'Or award during a ceremony at Lund Intl. Fantastic Film Festival Sunday night.

The jury's motivation reads as follows:

*"This year's winner of the Méliès d'Or mixes the visual styles of Manga and home movies. It tells a morally complex and fantastic tale of violence and*

*pornography. It twists and turns and is highly original in its use of colour and music. Princess is an outstanding European movie."*

**PRINCESS** (directed by Anders Morgenthaler and produced by Sarita Christensen), a film, which is eighty percent animated, it is a dark tale told with a type of moral complex of problems that might not look like something one would ordinarily associate with animated film.

A missionary, August, battles with the tragic fate of his sister. After many years in the pornography industry the Princess has so run down both her life and carrier that the only final option left is her own death. August leaves his life as a minister and tormented by his sister's fate and the need of her daughter's he begins a crusade to destroy all pornographic materials containing the Princess.

"The choice that the jury made proves that the movie-making climate in Denmark never ceases to interest people. Considering their two strong movies nominated for this year's competition and the one winning the Méliès d'Or last year, and you have to take your hat off for our neighbors' great success. Princess is stylistically innovative and controversial regarding its subject. It gives an important comment on a yet more important debate. It is in all ways a worthy winner",  
says Lars Diurlin, FFF Festival Director.

The 2007 Méliès d'Or short film **SNIFFER** is directed by Bobbie Peers.

The jury would also like to address a Special Mention to **RENAISSANCE** for its visually innovative style and to **GRIMM LOVE** for its courage.

The 12th Méliès d'Or Award Ceremony will be held at Sitges Festival Internacional de Cinema de Catalunya in October 2008.

### **ScreamFest, LA**

Screamfest takes place Oct. 12th -21st 2007 @ Grauman's Chinese Mann 6 at Hollywood and Highland in Hollywood. This year's festival will include:

Opening Night film - George A. Romero's "DIARY OF THE DEAD".

Feature films eligible for awards include Denmark's "KOLLEGIET" (ROOM 205), directed Martin Barnewitz, Frances's "A'L'INTERIEUR" directed by Alexandre Bustillo and Julian Maury which is this year's Centerpiece Film, Thailand's "ALONE" directed by Banjong Pisanthanakun and Parkpoom Wongpoom. "DAYS OF DARKNESS" directed by Jake Kennedy, Austria's "DEAD IN 3 DAYS" directed by Andreas Prochaska, Netherland's "DOOEIND" (Dead End) directed by Martin Barnewitz, "HALLOWED GROUND" directed by David Benullo, Pakistan's first gore film "HELL'S GROUND", directed by Omar Khan, "PARANORMAL ACTIVITY", directed by Oren Peli, Robert Kurtzman's "THE RAGE",

Ireland's "SHROOMS" directed by Paddy Breathnach, "THE SIGNAL" directed by David Bruckner, Dan Bush and Jacob Gentry, "SYMPATHY" directed by Andrew Moorman. "STORM WARNING" directed by Jamie Blanks, "TOOTH AND NAIL" directed by Mark Young, "WASTING AWAY" directed by Matthew Kohlen, "FRAYED" directed by Norb Caoili and Rob Portman and The Closing Night Film "TIMBER FALLS" directed by Tony Giglio

Special advance red carpet screening of "30 DAYS OF NIGHT" in the Grauman's Chinese theatre. The special screening will be attended by the film's stars, Josh Hartnett, Melissa George, and Ben Foster, producers Sam Raimi and Rob Tapert, director David Slade, and Steve Niles and Ben Templesmith.

The 25th anniversary screening of the classic "FRIDAY THE 13TH Part 3 in 3D" followed by a Q & A with Tracie Savage, Paul Kratka, Richard Brooker, Larry Zerner, David Katims and Harry Manfredini.

For more info visit [www.screamfestla.com](http://www.screamfestla.com) <http://www.screamfestla.com>

### **Fantastic Fest, Austin**

2007 FANTASTIC FEST JURY AND AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED.

Awards were announced September 27th at the closing ceremony of the 2007 Fantastic Fest in Austin Texas.

Taking top honors was Nacho Vigalondo with "CRONOSCRIMINES" (TIMECRIMES), a world premiere screening.

Vigalondo won the "Best Feature" award in the AMD Next Wave Competition and wins a \$3500 editing system from AMD/Dell and a \$1000 cash prize.

The Audience Award went to Ernesto Diaz Espinoza's MIRAGEMAN, a Chilean martial arts film featuring Marko Zaror.

For a complete list of all the winners check out the press release under the press section @ [melies.org](http://melies.org) and/or visit Fantastic Fest here. ([www.fantasticfest.com](http://www.fantasticfest.com))

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On this note we conclude this, the twenty-first EFFFF Newsletter. Please feel free to forward the content of this newsletter as long as you announce the source of the material.

*The European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation Newsletter is put together by the federation newsgroup, comprised of selected members from the federation's film festivals.*

*This newsletter is distributed by the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation, the only federation for promoting European fantastic films to a world audience, as well as acknowledging the force of fantastic films from all over the world. Contact Phone: +32 2 201 1713, Contact Email:*

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