

Dear Fan of Fantastic Cinema,

Welcome to the February/March 2006 issue of the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation Newsletter. February marks the one-year celebration since the launch of Melies.org, The European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation's new website.

The countdown for the 2006 Méliès d'Or Ceremony in Espoo, Finland in August has started. Six Méliès d'Argent were given out during 2005, the remaining four will be handed out during the coming six month period leading up to the August Ceremony in Finland. First out is Fantasporto Intl. Film Festival, Portugal (February 24th to March 5th), followed by Brussels, Amsterdam, Rome and Neuchâtel.

I look forward to seeing you at a festival near you,

/Christian Hallman
EFFFF Web Producer

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Fantasporto set to launch first Silver Méliès of 2006

Founded 26 years ago, the Portuguese festival, a founding member of the EFFFF, hasn't lost any of its early day's energy and appetite: Fantasporto presents an impressive program in its numerous sections, ranging from art house, Asian cinema and fantasy. The Méliès selection shows the same interesting diversity throughout its 11 features: the art house experimentations of "Johanna", a splendid and weird Hungarian essay on the myth of Joan of Arc, are presented next to the genre frenzy of Irish "Dead Meat" and the Viking efficiency of "Frostbitten", the first feature by EFFFF friends Solid Entertainment.

Upcoming fest news from Brussels

The Brussels International Festival of Fantastic Film will live its 24th edition from March 10th to 25th, 2006. The program will be spread in four different venues, and will feature some 150 films, among which 82 are premieres. The Festival will open with Courtney Solomon's "An American Haunting", starring Donald Sutherland and Sissy Spacek, and will close with "V for Vendetta" by James McTeigue, and produced by Joel Silver and the Wachowski brothers. Other highlights will be the premiere of Alexandre Aja's "The Hills Have Eyes", the "Masters of Horror Night", Tobe Hooper's Mortuary. Guests include Tobe Hooper, Michael Ironside, Peter Weller and Ray Wise.

The full program can be consulted on www.biff.org.

Adherent member Malaga

There are just a few days left until the 16th International Week of Fantastic film begins. This film festival is organized by Málaga University. The festival takes place between the 2nd and the 10th of March.

We want you to enjoy a week with films and film cycles ranging from science fiction classics to current genres: Panorama Hoy (feature films in competition), Andalusian, Spanish and Foreign short films, informative section, Fantastic literature in the Cinema... tributes to Manga Films, Lotte Reiniger, Richard Fleischer etc...

There is also a cycle called "Déjà Vu" devoted to children. It is made up of the two versions of *King Kong* (1933, 2005) and *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

The IWFF is accompanied by other interesting parallel activities: lectures, talks (followed by a Q&A session), and round tables. We will have the presence of Juan Eslava Galán, León Arsenal, Juan Manuel de Prada, José luís Garci, Eduardo Torres Dulce, as well as filmmakers, producers, and directors of other films festivals.

For more info read the whole press release in the press section at melies.org as well as visiting the IWFF website here. (www.fantastico.uma.es)

Danish tribute to European Fantastic Films

Fantasy, Science fiction and horror are the starting grounds for many special interest film festivals all over Europe, some of them are gathered under the umbrella of The European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation, EFFFF.

NatFilm presents as a celebration to European fantastic films a program with the best of the best from last year's European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation circuit, some of them Méliès d'Argent prize-winners. We can guarantee ice cold thrills and adventure out of this world...

The small, handpicked selection will screen at the Copenhagen Cinematheque during the 17th edition of the NatFilm Festival, March 24 to April 9 2006.

The films are:

MirrorMask / Dave McKean

Next Door / Pål Sletaune (Méliès d'Argent winner in Luxembourg)

Night of The Living Dorks / Mathias Dinter

The Descent / Neil Marshall (Méliès d'Argent winner in Lund)

The Ordeal / Fabrice Du Welz

The Piano Tuner of Earthquakes / Timothy Quay, Stephen Quay

Trouble / Harry Cleven (Méliès d'Argent winner in Sitges)

More info at www.natfilm.dk

European Production Spotlight

This section highlights new European fantastic films either in production or films that were recently released.

Spain

Bosque de sombras (Backwoods)

Director: Koldo Serra

Spain/UK/France 2006 – Currently in post-production

Official website with more info: www.thebackwoodsmovie.com/

Bloodline

Director: Nacho Cerdà
Spain 2006 – Currently in post-production

More info @ www.filmaxinternational.es/bloodline

El Ojo Descarnado

Director: Giordano Gederlini
Spain/France 2006/2007

Netherlands**SL8N8 (Slaughter Night)**

Directors: Edwin Visser and Frank van Geloven
Netherlands 2006

Website: www.lagesteefilm.nl/r_4_features_sl8n8.html

Doodeind (Deadend)

Director: Erwin van den Eshof
Netherlands 2006

Website: www.doodeind.nl/

Sweden**Frostbitten (Frostbite)**

Sweden 2006, 95 min, 35 mm cinemascope – Release date in Sweden February 24th

More chilling info at www.frostbitten.se

Storm (Storm)

Sweden 2006 – Released in Sweden on January 20th

For more information visit www.stormfilmen.se and www.openthebox.se

UK**Splinter (Splinter)**

Director: Kai Maurer
UK 2006, 93 min

Website: www.splinterthemovie.com/

Lie Still

Director: Sean Hogan
UK 2006, 80 min

Website www.liestill.com

Belgium**The Room**

Director: Giles Daoust
Belgium 2006

The story revolves around a dysfunctional family whose house hides a room in which the family members will disappear one by one. The film will premiere at the upcoming BIFFF.

More information can be found on: <http://www.titlefilms.be/theroom/>

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On this note we conclude this, the fifth 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: info@melies.org or christian@melies.org

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