

Dear Fan of Fantastic Cinema,

Welcome to the April/May issue of the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation Newsletter. With March behind us, three festivals have come to an end; Fantasporto, Brussels and Malaga, adding two new Méliès d'Argent, as well as three new Short film nominations for a Méliès d'Or to the selection.

During April Amsterdam Fantastic Film festival will hand out the 9th Méliès d'Argent and adherent member Dead by Dawn will provide a short film nomination for a Méliès d'Or.

The Federation will have its annual board meeting during the Cannes Film Festival in May. If you would like to contact the federation while we are in Cannes information on how to do so can be found further down in this newsletter.

And to all you festival goers out there - Keep up the good work of supporting European Fantastic Films.

Stay sharp,

/Christian Hallman
EFFFF Web Producer

CONTENT:

- **Méliès d'Argent winner in Fantasporto**
- **Méliès d'Argent winner in Brussels**
- **Short film nomination for a Méliès d'Or from Malaga**
- **Amsterdam to award 9th Méliès d'Argent**
- **Dead by Dawn: What's hot, and what's not...**
- **Federation present at Cannes 2006**
- **Reminder: Danish tribute to European Fantastic Films**

Méliès d'Argent winner in Fantasporto

The 26th edition of Fantasporto proved to be a successful one - A great program, fantastic guests, and a wonderful setting provided by Porto itself.

And the winners were...

Méliès d'Argent

ANIMAL, Roselyne Bosch, (Portugal, UK, France), 2005

Short Film Nomination for a Méliès d'Or

THE LEGEND OF THE SCARECROW, Marcos Besas, (Spain), 2005

Méliès d'Argent winner in Brussels

Brussels 24th Edition ended March 25th with the annual Vampires Ball.

The Méliès d'Argent went to Anders Thomas Jensen's **ADAMS APPLES** (Denmark), 2005

Short Film Nomination for a Méliès d'Or went to **DOLL 639**, Andras Desi (Hungary), 2005

This year's Award listing was nearly all-European, with Jensen's opus collecting the Golden Raven (Grand Prize) and the Pegasus (Prize of the Public) in addition to the Méliès d'Argent.

In the International Competition, the International Jury (Michael Ironside, Philippe Nahon, Matthew Robbins and Rob Schmidt) also awarded the Swedish film **STORM** by Marilind & Stein with a Silver Raven and Jaume Balagueró's **FRAGILE** with a Special Mention for its special effects. A second Special Mention went to Joe Dante's **HOMECOMING**, to celebrate its political awareness.

Short film nomination for a Méliès d'Or from Malaga

Once again, the International Week of Fantastic Film in Malaga, had the pleasure to offer to the film lovers of southern Spain a great variety of fantasy cinema and other activities like exhibitions, conferences and live shows. In addition to the official section, and the informative one, other programs have been offered, for example such as the one about Lotte Reiniger, Richard Fleisher and science fiction classics.

The 16th Semana Internacional de Cine Fantastico in Malaga (Spain) organized by the Vicerrectorado de Cultura y Relaciones Institucionales and the Universidad de Malaga took place from March 2 to 10 2006. Among different sections and retrospectives the adherent member of the EFFFF screened around 50 features and 30 short movies.

The Méliès d'Or short film nomination went to the Spanish movie AVATAR by director Lluís Quilez, 2005.

As a panorama the organizers put up an exhibition by French artist Patrice Hubert "Kinetic Totems" as well as different panels and round tables. One of the round tables organized at the University of Malaga was dedicated to the evolution of the European fantastic cinema, among the speakers were, the director of the festival Ramon Reina Lopez, Angel Sala, the director of the Sitges Festival International de Film de Catalunya and Romain Roll, representing Cinénygma Luxembourg International Film Festival and the EFFFF.

Amsterdam to Award 8th Méliès d'Argent

Films that are nerve-wrecking, films that astound and astonish – heaps of them will be shown during the **22nd Amsterdam Fantastic Film Festival**, from April 19 through April 26. In the main programme of the AFFF the whole range of the genre film, as is custom at the AFFF, can be seen on screen: fantasy, horror, science fiction, thriller, anime, and cult.

From blockbuster to art house film, from Dutch fabrication to films from far and away. Also, the European fantastic short film is celebrated and during the Night of Terror you can count on old-fashioned goose bumps.

One of the festival highlights is the Méliès d'Argent Competition where one European feature film will be handed the d'Argent award and the possibility of becoming "Best European Fantastic Film 2006", at the Méliès d'Or ceremony in Espoo, Finland in August.

The following feature films compete for the Méliès d'Argent:

MIRRORMASK, Dave McKean (GB/USA)
STORM, Måns Mårilind, Björn Stien (Sweden)
FRAGILE, Jaume Balagueró (Spain)
BEOWULF & GREINDE, Sturla Gunnarsson (Iceland/GB/Canada)
SHEITAN, Kim Chapiron (France)
NUIT NOIRE, Olivier Smolders (Belgium)
RENAISSANCE, Christian Volckman (France/GB/Luxembourg)

Dead by Dawn: What's hot, and what's not...

As Dead by Dawn, Scotland's International Horror Film Festival, turns 13, the festival celebrates in style with a programme of independent shorts and features.

The cast and crew will attend the World Premiere of **BLOOD TRAILS**, and the UK Premiere of Shinya Tsukamoto's latest **HAZE**. There will also be premiere screenings of Adam Mason's **BROKEN**, as well as some bizarre visions from Japan with **THE LAST SUPPER** and **ZOMBIE JIETAI**.

The Cutting Edge short film competition for debut and emerging filmmakers is back, alongside the main shorts programme and the "What You Make It" short film programme, featuring Tom Geens extraordinary short **SHAME**, which won the Dead by Dawn award at the Hallowe'en Short Film Festival in London.

Dead by Dawn will also, hand out a Nomination for a Méliès d'Or to one of its European short films in competition.

EFFF Federation present at Cannes 2006

Most of the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation members will be in Cannes. If you would like a meeting, and/or to get in touch with us please contact us through the following information:

E-Mail: info@melies.org or Christian@melies.org

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(Phone might be the easiest way, as we might not check email every day)

Reminder: 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 2006)

Night of The Living Dorks / Mathias Dinter

The Descent / Neil Marshall (Méliès d'Argent winner in Lund 2006)

The Ordeal / Fabrice Du Welz (Méliès d'Argent winner in Amsterdam 2004/2005)

The Piano Tuner of Earthquakes / Timothy Quay, Stephen Quay

Trouble / Harry Cleven (Méliès d'Argent winner in Sitges 2006)

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On this note we conclude this, the sixth 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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