

Dear fan of European Fantastic Cinema,

Welcome to the October/November issue of the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation Newsletter. With Halloween just around the corner The Federation Festival members are getting hyperactive as 4 events get ready to start in Luxemburg, England, France and Italy. Also, our newest addition in the Supporting Members section, ScreamFest LA, just finished their event.

Happy Halloween Wishes!

/Christian Hallman
EFFFFF Web Producer

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Leeds Fest to welcome first Méliès Competition on British Soil

For its 19th edition, the Leeds International Film Festival (Nov. 3-13) will run its first Silver Méliès Competition. The dynamic festival team, also responsible for the Leeds Children Film Festival, has been focusing more and more on fantasy and genre film through its new "Fanomenon" section. Six European films compete for this first British Méliès Award, ranging from the gory humour of Irish flick "Boy Eats Girl" to the brilliant minimalism of Jessica Hausner's "Hotel" and the surrealism of "The Piano Tuner of Earthquakes", the latest film by the Quay Brothers. Completing his worldwide tour of film festivals, icon director Terry Gilliam will join Kurosawa Kiyoshi and many other guests for a most promising event.

For more information visit www.leedsfilm.com/2005/liff/page/home

Cinénygma returns for the last Silver Méliès of the year

Previously held at the end of March, the Cinénygma fest develops fresh ambitions for this 9th edition (Nov. 13-19). The only international film festival of the "Grand Duché" of Luxemburg, Cinénygma presents a broad panorama of this year's fantastic film productions, from "Nothing" to "Saw 2", "Serenity" and many more. The Silver Méliès selection, counting 7 features, shows a strong taste for the new wave of British and Irish genre films with "Evil Aliens", "Dead Meat", "London Voodoo and "Wild Country", all looking fit to make it to next year's final in Finland. However Norwegian "Next Door" and Spaniard "The Birthday" will try to make sure this doesn't happen...

More information visit www.cinenygma.lu/

Adherent Members have got a crush on science and fiction

Following the blood thirsty Ravenna and San Sebastian festivals, the science-fiction festivals of **Trieste** (Nov. 22-27) and **Nantes** (Nov. 10-13) celebrate the other dimension of fantasy, where rationality will not sell its computerized soul to a non-existing devil.

In **Nantes**, a multimedia festival presenting a huge program of exhibitions, literature and comics events, lectures, concerts, and of course films, this 6th edition will be wholly dedicated to local boy Jules Verne. The immense and visionary writer, born in Nantes, died just a

hundred years ago and would surely be amazed at the retrospective of screen adaptations of his work. Besides a special chapter introduced by guest Ray Harryhausen, the festival team has excavated ancient treasures of the French cinémathèque. Along with the local breed of gory yet fresh and juvenile oysters, the selection of early 20th century French short films makes the detour a must.

While some festivals get to die and vanish for eternity, some get the privilege of being brought back to life by the combined magics of rocket science and acute cinephilia. Heir to the famous Trieste Festival of the 70's, the **Scienceplusfiction** team intends on prolonging their ancestor's tradition of cosmopolitanism and esthetical diversity. Far from the clichés of contemporary fantasy and space opera, the Trieste selection features indeed some brilliant attempts at drifting away from the mainstream, such as Tsukamoto's "Vital" or Shinji Aoyama's "Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani". The "British Invaders" retro will maybe reassure the more traditionalist fans that God hasn't in fact forsaken them yet.

More information on both festivals visit www.melies.org

Festival report from Ravenna's 3rd Edition

The 3rd edition of Ravenna Nightmare Film Fest was a successful one. The Festival consolidated its structure, and has achieved in gaining audience, press and professionals, and also to propose itself as the new focus point for horror and fantastic cinema in Italy.

Pivotal events were, as every year, the **Competitions**: for feature and for shorts. This year the winning films were: "SATAN LITTLE HELPER" (USA) by Jeff Liebermann (a Special Mention to "THE LOST" (USA) by Chris Sivertson; and for shorts: "THE TEN STEPS" (Ireland) by Brendan Muldowney (a Special Mention to "THE KISS" (Bulgaria) by Toma Waszarow).

During the 3rd Edition 39 films were screened, 24 of which were national premieres: "NIGHTWATCH", "WOLF CREEK", "THE NUN", "INCIDENT AT LOCHNESS", "P", "DAY OF DEAD 2: CONTAGIUM". In addition 3 films had their world premiere at Ravenna: "BENEATH STILL WATERS", "THE LOST"; "LIE STILL", all films that are already scheduled in other festivals. There was also a special screening for "A ROAD TO L." by federico Greco & Roberto Leggio, the Méliès d'Argent winner in Rome.

Sitges In Memorandum

The 38th edition of the Sitges International Film Festival of Catalunya has meant a return to its traditional dates of early October. This, added to an outstanding selection of films and the attendance of several celebrities and A-list filmmakers, created the most impressive box office returns since 1968, including over 41,000 tickets sold.

This year's winner, David Slade's "HARD CANDY", epitomizes the aims of the Sitges directional team: to promote the innovative as well as the transgressive in this genre, and help those films find their place in the global market.

To promote European cinema has also been one of our objectives, dedicating for the first time an entire day (Sunday the 16th) to European productions in all our sections throughout the festival.

Méliès Awards:

We are also very happy with the Méliès d'Argent winners. "TROUBLE" is an excellent piece of Euro psycho-thriller that hopefully will find a distributor in Spain soon. "CITY PARADISE" also proves that Animation is not a subgenre anymore, but a cinematic language as valid as live-action productions, that can hold its own in order to break new imaginative hemispheres.

Interview with Paco Plaza on “Romasanta”
Director of Second Name & Romasanta
By Kasper Heftholm Kristensen

Kasper Heftholm Kristensen: *I'm sitting here with Paco Plaza from Spain, who's here with his latest movie Romasanta. Hello, and welcome to Lund.*

Paco Plaza Thank you very much

KHK . *Paco, tell me a little bit about your latest movie Romasanta.*

PP . Well, *Romasanta* is a film we shot in 2003 I think. It's a film about some real events that happened in North Galicia in the middle of the 18th century, and what really happened was that this traveling vendor in the north of Spain who was called Manuel Blanco Romasanta who did not only steal from people and kill them, after death he also stole their body fat to use it to make soap out of it.

KHK . *So you would call him a serial killer today?*

PP . Yes, some people say that he was the first and maybe the only serial killer we have had in Spain. But I don't like to look at him like that because I think there's some despise in calling him "serial killer". It brings to my mind other examples of film characters which I really don't like to identify with Romasanta. I think Romasanta is much more complex it's not just a crazy man killing people, there's a kind of a philosophy behind what he's doing.

KHK . *But he was also a werewolf, depending on who you ask, so it's also a werewolf movie.*

PP . Yes, I think *Romasanta* is not exactly a werewolf movie, but a movie with a werewolf in it, which is more accurate because it's not really about the process of lycanthropy but about someone who uses lycanthropy to hide what he's really doing as an alibi which is something I've never heard about before I got in contact with the Romasanta character. And I think it's really interesting for the character that until he was captured he never talked about being a werewolf it's just that he wanted to use peoples superstition to get free.

To read the full interview visit www.melies.org

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On this note we conclude this, the third 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 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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