

Tenth Méliès d'Or at Espoo Ciné International Film Festival

This year, Espoo Ciné International Film Festival will have the honour of hosting the tenth Méliès d'Or finale for fantastic films. Taking part in the competition will be 10 European fantastic feature films and 15 fantastic short films, each of which has won a Méliès d'Argent in the first stage of the competition. The Méliès d'Or is the largest competition for fantastic films ever held in Finland.

This year's feature film competition includes, among other films, the Méliès d'Argent winner of Espoo Ciné 2005, *Strings*, directed by **Anders Rønnow-Klarlund**. Fittingly for the northern location of the competition there are also other Nordic competitors: **Pål Sletaune's** *Naboer*, **Jens Lien's** *Den brysomme mannen* and **Anders Thomas Jensen's** *Adams Æbler*, as well as *Storm*, directed by **Måns Mårilind** and **Björn Stein**. Other competitors include the psychological horror film *The Descent*, the science fiction thriller *Animal* and the mockdocumentary *Il mistero di Lovecraft*. The competition line-up also features *Trouble* (dir. **Harry Cleven**) and *Hotel* (dir. **Jessica Hausner**), which were already screened in Espoo in 2005.

In connection with the Méliès d'Or, Espoo Ciné will host a total of nearly 50 international guests. Representatives of each feature film participating in the competition as well as a representative of the pre-selected winner of the short film series will be welcomed to the festival. These include **Anders Rønnow-Klarlund**, **Harry Cleven** and **Jessica Hausner** as well as producer of *Adams Æbler* **Mie Andreassen**, director of *Il mistero di Lovecraft* **Federico Greco** and director of *Animal* **Roselyne Bosch**.

Representing the affiliated member festivals of the EFFFF at Espoo Ciné will be **Jan Doense** from Amsterdam, **Freddy Bozzo** from Brussels, **Romain Roll** from Luxembourg, **Adriano Pinaldi** from Rome, **César Nóbrega** from Porto, **Magnus Paulsson** from Lund, **Laurence Boyce** from Leeds, **Michel Vust** from Neuchâtel and **Àngel Sala** from Sitges. Also some representatives of the adherent member festivals will arrive to Espoo Ciné. Each of the affiliated members have appointed a press representative for the Méliès d'Or so this year's Espoo Ciné will get plenty of international, as well as local, press coverage.

The Méliès d'Or jury has already been appointed and is currently starting its work by selecting the fantastic short film winner. The jury made up of European film industry professionals will be chaired by the Finnish director **Petri Kotwica**. The other jury members are the Belgian director **Fabrice Du Welz**, the Swiss director/producer **Xavier Ruiz**, the Swedish writer/director **Michael Hjorth**, the Luxemburgian producer **Christian Kmiotek** and the British filmmaker **Matt Palmer** as well as the Spanish director/producer **Christian Molina**, the Portugese writer/producer/jazz pianist **Filipe Melo**, the Italian film professional **Maria Luisa Celani** and the Dutch film critic/editor-in-chief **Tonio van Vugt**.

The winners of the Méliès d'Or 2006 will be announced on Friday the 25th August at the grand Méliès d'Or Ceremony. The Ceremony takes place in the Espoo Ciné festival centre at the Espoo Cultural Centre in Tapiola where most of the screenings also take place. All of the competing feature and short films will be screened at the festival and adding to the fantastic film theme Espoo Ciné has put together a new film series called Fantasy Zone which treats the fantastic film lover with another dozen film titles. Amongst these are **Chris Sivertson's** American visceral drama *The Lost*, **Christoffer Boe's** science fiction love story *Allegro* and **Anders Banke's** vampire film *Frostbiten*.