

Dear fan of European Fantastic Cinema,

Welcome to this, the first newsletter of the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation, EFFFF, consisting of 21 film festivals from more than 15 countries around the world. We also thank you for being an active supporter of the federation by signing up for this newsletter.

/Christian Hallman
EFFFF Web Producer

New Website:

The new official website for the federation was launched on February 1st 2005, and is the new home of the Méliès d'Or. The website focuses primarily on three things;

- 1 Promoting European fantastic films
- 2 Promoting the official awards – the Méliès d'Or & the Méliès d'Argent
- 3 Promoting the festivals within the federation as well as the federation itself

The website features a calendar for all the festivals within the federation, as well as a news section, with a news archive, where you can find news about the latest winners, information on when the next Méliès d'Or Ceremony will be held and more. There is also a press section where you can download press releases, images and logos.

Under the Méliès d'Or and Méliès d'Argent banner you can find all present and past winners from all the festivals in the federation, complete with information on the film, as well as Production Company and sales company if applicable. This service is to help promote European Fantastic Films, and to help other festival programmers or buyers to find information on whom to contact.

2004/2005 Méliès d'Or Winner – Best European Fantastic Film! **Michael Winterbottom's Science-Fiction Drama "Code 46" was elected the Best European Fantastic Feature of the Season at the 9th Golden Méliès Ceremony, held on June 30th at Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival, Switzerland.**

An international jury consisting of David ALCÁDE (Spain), Anna ARNMAN (Sweden), Mario CANALE (Italy), Harry CLEVEN (Belgium), Vera KIISKINEN (Finland), Chris MITCHELL (Netherlands), José PIMENTA DA FRANCA (Portugal), Paul THILTGES (Luxembourg), and chaired by Illustrator and Visual Designer John HOWE (Switzerland), granted the Award to Winterbottom's dark and modernistic vision of America's future.

Code 46 competed for the Méliès d'Or Award against seven other European productions, whom all have won a Méliès d'Argent at one of the federation festivals, **The Machinist**, **Les Revenants**, **Tempus Fugit**, **Calvaire**, **Hypnos**, **The Last Horror Movie**, and **Evilenko**.

In the presence of 300 professionals and guests from over all Europe, the Jury also granted the Golden Melies for Best European Fantastic Short film to **La Dernière Minute** by Nicolas Salis.

This edition of The Golden Melies Ceremony was the first MEDIA event to be held in Switzerland as the country will officially join the program in January 2006.

2 new members have joined the Federation:

Since the 1st of July, the EFFFF has two new Anglo-Saxon members:

The FrightFest Festival (London), joining the ranks as an associated member

ScreamFest (Los Angeles), which becomes the third supporting member (non-European).

FrightFest will hold its 6th edition from August 26 to 29 2005 at the Odeon West End in London. The festival proposes a programme of the best current productions in science-fiction, fantasy and horror. Among the screened films this year are George Romero's Land of the Dead, Timur Bekmambetov's Night Watch, Paul Schrader's Dominion : Prequel to the Exorcist and Greg Mclean's Wolf Creek, the horror film that caused quite a stir at this year's Cannes Director's Fortnight.

The complete programme can be found on www.frightfest.co.uk.

The next edition of ScreamFest (the 5th) will take place from October 14 to 23 2005 at Loews Universal Studios Cinema in Los Angeles.

Entries to the festival are still open (you can download the form at this address : <http://www.screamfestla.com/submissions.shtml>), but the festival can already announce some first screenings, such as Sigaw by Philippine director Yam Larana, Art of the Devil by Tanit Jitnukul and 2001 Maniacs by Tim Sullivan. The festival will also celebrate 25 years of Friday the 13th, in the presence of Sean S. Cunningham.

More information on www.screamfestla.com.

Calendar of the upcoming festivals:

Lund International Fantastic Film Festival : September 16 – 25, 2005

3rd Ravenna Nightmare Film Festival: October 4-9, 2005

38th Sitges – Festival Internacional de Cinema de Catalunya: October 9-18, 2005

16th San Sebastian Horror and Fantasy Film Festival: October 29 – November 5, 2005.

9th Cinéyngma – Luxembourg International Film Festival : November 13 – 19, 2005

19th Leeds International Film Festival : November 10 – 20, 2005

Utopiales 2005 – Festival International de Science-Fiction de Nantes : November 10-13, 2005

SciencePlusFiction – Festival Internazionale della Fantascienza de Trieste :November 22-27, 2005

Rome and Espoo first to hand out new d'Argent for 2006 award fest!

The first Méliès d'Argent for the upcoming 2006 Méliès d'Or was awarded at Rome Fantafestival in July to the Italian film **Mistero di Lovecraft/H.P. Lovecraft: The Terror Within** by Federico Greco and Roberto Leggio.

The second Méliès d'Argent for the upcoming 2006 Méliès d'Or was awarded at Espoo Ciné to the Danish puppet-animation "Strings" (2004) by the Danish director Anders Rønnow-Klarlund. In the short film series the winner and nomination for a Méliès d'Or for Best European Fantastic short film went to "Het verborgen gezicht" (2004) by Elbert van Strien.

The next Méliès d'Argent is handed out at Lund International Fantastic Film Festival in Sweden..

ESPOO CINÉ to host the 2006 Méliès d'Or Ceremony

Next year, in august 2006, it will be Espoo Ciné's turn to host the Méliès d'Or Ceremony, an event unprecedented in scope in Finland, attracting dozens of international guests.

"In the midst of preparing for the Espoo Ciné film festival 2005, we at Espoo Ciné are already eagerly looking forward to next year's grand event! And to celebrate this Espoo Ciné will arrange special screenings of a selection of last years Méliès d'Argent winners."

The 10th Edition of the Méliès d'Or Ceremony will be held between the 22nd and 27th of August 2006.

— — —

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

*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
© European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation 2005*