

Dear Fan of Fantastic Cinema,

Welcome to the August 2006 issue of the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation Newsletter. The highlight of this month is the 2006 Méliès d'Or Ceremony that takes place at Espoo Cine in Finland on the 25th of August. The ten Méliès d'Argent winners will go head to head as the international jury selects the film that will win the Méliès d'Or thus claiming the title "Best European Fantastic Film 2006".

Also this month, adherent member Frightfest, London will host their event at Odeon West End in London, as well as an update from supporting member PiFan and affiliated member Neuchatel.

/Christian Hallman
EFFFF Web Producer

CONTENT:

- **2006 Méliès d'Or at Espoo Cine**
- **Scandinavian movies triumph at Neuchatel**
- **FrightFest update**
- **Report from PiFan**

2006 Méliès d'Or at Espoo Cine

This year, Espoo Ciné International Film Festival (August 22-28) 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 an 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 four other nordic competitors: **Pål Sletaune's** *NABOER*, **Jens Lien's** *DEN BRYSSOMME MANNEN* and **Anders Thomas Jensen's** *ADAMS ÆBLER*, as well as *STORM*, directed by **Måns Mårland** 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 the producer of *ADAMS ÆBLER* **Mie Andreasen**, the director of *IL MISTERO DI LOVECRAFT* **Federico Greco** and the director of *ANIMAL* **Roselyne Bosch**.

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 Luxembourgish producer **Christian Kmiolek** and the British filmmaker **Matt Palmer** as well as the Spanish director/producer **Christian Molina**, the Portuguese 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.

Méliès d'Argent:

Storm
Adam's Apples
Next Door
Strings
Hotel
Animal
The Descent
The Bothersome Man
Il Mistero di Lovecraft
Trouble

Awarded at the following festival:

Amsterdam Fantastic Film Festival
Brussels Intl. Festival of Fantastic Film
Cinéyngma, Luxembourg Intl. Film Festival
Espoo Ciné Intl. Film Festival
Fanomenon, Leeds Intl. Film Festival
FantasPorto, Oporto Intl. Film Festival
Lund Intl. Fantastic Film Festival
Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival
Rome, Fantafestival
Sitges Festival Internacional de Cinema de Catalunya

Read more here www.espoo.cine.fi/2006/index.php?page=ohjelmisto2&lang=eng

Scandinavian movies triumph at Neuchatel

While Danish Black Comedy *ADAM'S APPLES* picked up the Audience Award, *THE BOTHERSOME MAN*, directed by Norwegian director Jens Lien collected both the Jury Grand Prize and the Méliès d'Argent.

International Jury President George A. Romero granted the HR Giger Award to Lien's art house sci-fi comedy, which was also described by the Méliès d'Argent Jury as "an enchanting vision on the depressing consequences of contemporary conformism". This movie thus completes the line up for the upcoming Méliès d'Or finale in Espoo.

In the short films category, Netherlands *DILEMMA* was chosen by the audience to be Neuchâtel's nominee to the Méliès d'Or 2006.

Visit Neuchatel here <http://www.niff.ch/>

Frightfest update

Festival dates: August 25-28

FrightFest's exclusive sneak previews and premiere selections have always had an international feel. This year's program includes;

Chris Sivertson's adaptation of the savage novelist's thrill-kill ride *THE LOST*, fellow American Adam Green's *HATCHET*, *RE-CYCLE* a newbie from Hong Kong's Pang Brothers, and of course Billy O'Brien's eco-terrorizer *ISOLATION*.

Other hot choices include Anders Banke's Swedish vampire comedy chiller *FROSTBITE*; French first timer Kim Chapiron's visceral shocker *SHEITAN*; and Korean mutant creature-feature *THE HOST*, directed by Memories of Murder maestro Joon-ho Bong.

For the full program and more information visit Frightfest
(<http://www.frightfest.co.uk/Hone.html>)

Report from PiFan

The 10th edition of Puchon Intl. Fantastic Film Festival, PiFan ended July 22nd. The festival was a week jam packed with movies, receptions, interviews, concerts and other nice events. Cinema lovers and guests from all over the world enjoyed well over 200 features and shorts.

The European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation, EFFFF Asian Award Jury's honorary mention: For a very well made story about troubled girls at a boarding school, where terrible events leads up to a tragic ending - **D-Day by Kim Eun Kuyung, Korea.**

The EFFFF Asian Award winner: A very well made – and genuinely scary production. Nicely shot, good SFX, well-crafted – believable characters. Very fine acting - especially from Alessandra de Rossi and Shucheng Chen. It's not just a scary movie - it's also a social comment on the issue of foreign labour. The 2006 EFFFF Asian Award goes to **The Maid by Kelvin Tong, Singapore.**

Read more at www.pifan.com

On this note we conclude this, the eight 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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