

18<sup>th</sup> edition | Trieste, October 30 – November 4, 2018

## **TRIESTE SCIENCE+FICTION FESTIVAL: THE NUMBERS OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> EDITION AND THE VIDEO OF THE AWARDS CEREMONY**

Press Release of November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Trieste – The 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Trieste Science+Fiction Festival**, the main science fiction event in Italy, came to a close yesterday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, with the **awards ceremony** held in the Rossetti Theatre.

**An audience of over 20.000 people** enjoyed the movies screened in the Miela and the Rossetti theatres. A big attendance was registered also at the **Futurology meetings** and the **Masterclasses by international guests**, Academy Awards winner Douglas Trumbull, writer Richard K. Morgan and porn icon Stoya, as well as at the **Fantastic Film Forum** workshops and the **Education Program** events, with the participation of many professionals of the field and young science fiction and new technologies enthusiasts.

*“If this was our coming-of-age test on our 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, I think we passed with full marks!” – says Daniele Terzoli, director of the Trieste Science+Fiction Festival – “A beautiful edition as regards the quality of the film selection, too, expressing a very vital moment for genre cinema, with productions from all over the world and very young directors we hope will become as well known as their predecessors who came to our festival before starting a great international career.” – he concludes – “A very positive result. The Festival is thriving in its new location, the Politeama Rossetti Theatre, where we hope we will be again next year.”*

The coveted **Asteroid Award** this year went to the Canadian film **Freaks**, by Zach Lipovsky and Adam Stein, an amazing science fiction thriller. A **Special Mention** was awarded to **Await Further Instructions** by Johnny Kevorkian, the first post-Brexit genre movie full of powerful and brutal political criticism. The **Méliès d’argent Award** for the best feature film went to **Man Divided**, debut fiction film by Max Kestner, already an accomplished documentarist. The **CineLab Spazio Corto Award** went to the **Italian short film Herd** by Mattia Temponi, while the **Trieste audience award** went to the Hungarian **Lajko Gipsy in Space** by Balazs Lengyel, a hysterical black comedy. The web critics **Stars’ War** award went to Bill Oliver’s **Jonathan**.

[DOWNLOAD THE AWARDS CEREMONY VIDEO](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE BEST OF VIDEO OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> EDITION](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE PHOTOS AND TRAILERS OF THE WINNERS](#)



**ALL THE WINNERS OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE  
TRIESTE SCIENCE+FICTION FESTIVAL**

**Asteroide Award**

International competition section for the best science fiction, horror or fantasy film by emerging directors at their first, second or third feature film. The prize for the Neon| Competition section is awarded by an international jury of film professionals and fantastic genre film experts. The members of the Asteroide Award 2018 jury are: writer **Richard K. Morgan**, international programmer **Annick Mahnert**, film critic and documentarist **Alexandre Poncet**.

**Winner of the Asteroide Award TS+FF2018**

**Freaks** by **Zach Lipovsky and Adam Stein** (Canada, 2018)

**Motivation**

*Freaks* offers an utterly complete and explosive emotionally engaging experience, with a remarkable range and scope and the ferociously smart subversion of a dominant global form of movies. It also proposes a powerful political comment on a rising cultural paranoia that is spreading around the world.

**Special Mention**

**Await Further Instructions** by **Johnny Kevorkian** (Great Britain, 2018)

**Motivation**

*Await Further Instructions* is the first post Brexit Genre film. It contains a savagely powerful political critique, is prescient for the times and will be acutely relevant for many years to come.

**Synopsis - Freaks**

Directly from Toronto, a sci-fi thriller where a brave little girl escapes her father's paranoid and hyperprotective control to discover that the world can be cruel to those who are different. No spoilers: let yourselves be embraced by mystery and enjoy this delightful Canadian debut... and the unsettling performances by Emile Hirsch and Bruce Dern.

**Synopsis Await - Further Instructions**

It's Christmas day and the Milgram family find a mysterious black substance surrounding their house while on the TV screen a message glows ominously: "Stay Indoors and Await Further Instructions". A terrifying battle to survive in Cronenberg's style in the terrifyingly fascinating second feature film by British director Johnny Kevorkian.

**Méliès d'argent Award – Feature Film**

The jury of film professionals of this competition section, organized in collaboration with the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation (EFFF) awards the prize for the best European fantastic feature film production and the nomination to the annual competition for the Méliès d'or Award. Members of this year's jury are: journalist and film critic **Enrico Magrelli**, film teacher and



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critic **Roy Menarini**, journalist and writer **Alessandro Mezzena Lona**.

**Winner of the Méliès d'argent Award – Feature film TS+FF2018**

**Man Divided by Max Kestner** (Denmark, Sweden, Finland 2017)

## **Motivation**

*Man Divided*, the first film by respected documentary director Max Kestner, convinces for its narrative originality and its skill in re-inventing classic themes: time traveling, the insecurity of survival in a not so distant future, the restless anxiety of the double. The film is directed with a steady hand and the acting shows great balance, disclosing a so far unknown horizon of the fantastic cinema, which belongs to Denmark and to Northern Europe, and that ought to be followed carefully.

## **Synopsis - Man Divided**

2095. The world is ravaged by ecological disaster: all natural freshwater is gone. Fang Rung has undergone molecular fission to send his other half, code name Gordon Thomas, back in time in search of a scientist whose ground-breaking research was lost before it could save the world. Documentarist Max Kestner's first fiction film is a not-to-be-missed Danish sci-fi!

## **Méliès d'argent Award - Short Film Competition**

This competition section is organized in collaboration with the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation (EFFF) and awards the best European fantastic short film production. The award is won by the short film most voted by the audience which also gains the nomination to the annual Méliès d'or Award.

**Winner of the Méliès d'argent Award - Short Film Competition TS+FF2018**

**Thunder from a Clear Sky" by Yohan Faure** (France, 2018)

## **Synopsis - Thunder from a Clear Sky**

Ten years after the discovery of a remote planetary system likely to sustain the early stages of a civilization, we wait for the results of a worldwide referendum to answer the question: Should we meet this civilization?

## **Rai 4 Award**

Rai 4 TV channel, media partner of Trieste Science+Fiction Festival 2018, awards the Rai 4 prize to one of the films in the Neon competition section.

**Winner Rai 4 Award TS+FF2018**

**Freaks by Zach Lipovsky and Adam Stein** (Canada, 2018)

## **Motivation**

Among the very high quality films of the Trieste Science+Fiction Festival, Rai 4's award goes to *Freaks*, for ironically and uniquely overturning the classic theme of superpowers and diversity breathing new life into genre cinema.



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## **Synopsis - Freaks**

Directly from Toronto, a sci-fi thriller where a brave little girl escapes her father's paranoid and hyperprotective control to discover that the world can be cruel to those who are different. No spoilers: let yourselves be embraced by mystery and enjoy this delightful Canadian debut... and the unsettling performances by Emile Hirsch and Bruce Dern.

## **Stars' War – Web Critics Award**

Nine web magazines guests of the Festival present an award for the best debut film of the 2018 edition: BadTaste, Blow Out, Cineblog, CineClandestino, CineLapsus, Cinematographe, Quinlan, Sentieri Selvaggi and Taxi Drivers.

## **Winner of the Stars' War Award – Web Critics Award TS+FF2018**

**Jonathan by Bill Oliver** (USA, 2018)

## **Synopsis - Jonathan**

Jonathan lives a mundane life. He goes to work. He eats alone. He plays videogames and he swaps video messages daily with John, with whom he shares a modest apartment. The lives of the two are entwined, though not quite in the way it might initially seem. Ansel Elgort delivers a stunning performance in a double role in this Tribeca's favorite!

## **Nocturno New Visions Award**

The award is given to an original and significant work for the progress of genre movies by Nocturno, the main Italian genre cinema magazine.

## **Winner of the Nocturno New Visions Award TS+FF2018**

**Await Further Instructions by Johnny Kevorkian** (Great Britain, 2018)

## **Motivation**

Very topical and retro at the same time, the movie is a hilarious, frenetic and terrifying journey into a *Twilight Zone* where genres mix and find new dimensions.

## **Synopsis - Await Further Instructions**

It's Christmas day and the Milgram family find a mysterious black substance surrounding their house while on the TV screen a message glows ominously: "Stay Indoors and Await Further Instructions". A terrifying battle to survive in Cronenberg's style in the terrifyingly fascinating second feature film by British director Johnny Kevorkian.

## **CineLab Spazio Corto Award**

The award, in collaboration with DAMS (Arts, music and Entertainment studies), an inter-university



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course of the Udine and Trieste Universities, goes to the best Italian short film presented in the Spazio Italia | Spazio Corto section. The 2018 jury members are Leandro Urbani, Edoardo Vidiz, Riccardo Tonon, Ajad Noor and Luciano Ranaldi.

## **Winner of the CineLab Spazio Corto Award TS+FF2018**

***Herd* by Mattia Temponi** (Italy, 2018)

### **Motivation**

After a careful and detailed analysis of the short films in these sections, the jury decided the CineLab Spazio Corto Award goes to *Herd* by Mattia Temponi. A movie which succeeds in combining form and substance conveying its message clearly and ironically through genre, something lacking in Italy in the time being, according to the jury. The imaginary fear of the alien and the unknown and the increasingly explosive influence of mass media in our lives, passively conditioning us every day, are the themes of this 14 minutes long, very bright short film, together with excellent staging, a very capable technical department and the stronghold of an intense photography and a very captivating rhythm.

### **Synopsis - Herd**

A girl wakes up in the house of a man she met the night before. They slept together, but she does not know anything about him and, when she suspects she's in danger, terror takes over.

### **Audience Award**

This competition section includes all the other sections' fiction feature films, except the classics. The award goes to the movie most voted by the audience in the theatre.

## **Winner of the Audience Award**

***Lajko Gipsy in Space* by Balazs Lengyel** (Hungary, 2018)

### **Synopsis - Lajko Gipsy in Space**

A Black comedy teaching us that the first live being sent to space was not a dog named Lajka, but a young Roma man, pilot of vaporizer planes, named Lajko. Because, when the Soviet Union conceded Hungary the honor of selecting the first cosmonaut to be sent to space, the choice fell on the most unlikely candidate .

## **Urania d'Argento Life Achievement Award**

Since 2002, the Urania d'argento Award has been given to great masters who have worked in the fantastic genre field, in collaboration with the Mondadori book series of the same name.

## **Winner of the Urania d'argento Life Achievement Award TS+FF2018**

**Douglas Trumbull**, twice an Academy Award winner, regista e maestro degli effetti speciali.

### **18 YEARS OF TRIESTE SCIENCE+FICTION**

The Trieste Science+Fiction Festival offers again in its 18<sup>th</sup> edition world, international and national premieres in **three international competition sections**: The **Asteroid Award**, international competition for the best science fiction film by



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emerging directors from all over the world, and the two *Méliès d'argent* awards of the **European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation** for the best European fantastic genre feature film and short film. The **Spazio Italia** section will present the best Italian productions. Finally, the unmissable **Futurology meetings** will focus on **science** and **literature**, in collaboration with the main scientific institutes of the local territory and the **Urania d'argento Life Achievement Award** to a fantastic genre master.

Since the year 2000, the **Trieste Science+Fiction Festival** has collected the inheritance of the **Trieste International Science Fiction Film Festival** which took place from 1963 to 1982, the first genre film festival in Italy and one of the first in Europe.

The **Trieste Science+Fiction Festival** is organized by the Film and audiovisual research and experimentation centre **La Cappella Underground** with the support of and in collaboration with **MiBAC – Direzione Generale per il Cinema**, **Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia**, **Comune di Trieste**, **Università degli Studi di Trieste**, **Fondazione CRTrieste**, **Kathleen Foreman Casali Foundation**, **ARPA FVG - LaREA**, **PromoTurismo FVG**, **Teatro Stabile del Friuli Venezia Giulia**, **Fondazione Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi di Trieste**.

The **Trieste Science+Fiction Festival** is part of **AFIC – Italian Film Festivals Association** and of the **proESOF** project. The festival is supported by the main scientific institutes of the local territory: **AREA Science Park**, **ICGEB**, **ICTP**, **INAF – Trieste Astronomic Observatory**, **IS Immaginario Scientifico – Science Centre**, **SISSA**.

The **Rossetti Politeama** theatre is the main venue of the **Trieste Science+Fiction Festival**. The **Casa del Cinema** building, home of the most important film culture associations in Trieste, will be the festival's headquarters, and with the collaboration of the **Miela Theatre** will be hosting the festival's collateral sections, while other initiatives and special programs will take place in the **Ariston arthouse theatre**.

## Info:

La Cappella Underground  
Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi 3 – Trieste  
+39 040 3220551

[www.sciencefictionfestival.org](http://www.sciencefictionfestival.org)  
[info@scienceplusfiction.org](mailto:info@scienceplusfiction.org)

## Trieste Science+Fiction Festival\_18 Press Office:

E. [info@dimillamacchiavelli.com](mailto:info@dimillamacchiavelli.com)  
**Ilaria Di Milla** | M. +39 3493554470

E. [ilariadimilla@gmail.com](mailto:ilariadimilla@gmail.com)  
**Deborah Macchiavelli** | M. + 39 3335224413  
E. [macchiavellideborah@gmail.com](mailto:macchiavellideborah@gmail.com)

## Communication Trieste Science+Fiction Festival 2018:

**Gianluca Guerra** | M +39 392 1286372  
E. [comunicazione@scienceplusfiction.org](mailto:comunicazione@scienceplusfiction.org)

**Press Area:** <http://www.sciencefictionfestival.org/press-area>

