



19th Edition

Trieste, October 29th - November 3rd, 2019

## TRIESTE SCIENCE+FICTION FESTIVAL 2019 THE FIRST WAVE HAS ARRIVED...

*TRIESTE, September 19th, 2019* - **Trieste Science+Fiction Festival**, the science fiction event taking place in Trieste from October 29th to November 3rd reveals **the first 5 titles of the 2019 official selection**.

**Five Italian premieres** ready to explore the endless declinations of the fantastic film genre, an eclectic selection ranging from black comedy to horror via the *monster movie*, not to mention the inevitable science fiction travels in deep space.

### ***Iron Sky - The Coming Race* by Timo Vuorensola**

After the **nazis** from the moon of the first *Iron sky*, Finnish director **Timo Vuorensola is back** behind the camera for the second chapter of one of the best received science fiction comedies of the last few years. This time, Earth will have to face the Vrils, an ancient **reptilian race** who landed at the centre of Earth 65 million years ago.

20 years after the events of *Iron Sky*, the former Nazi Moonbase has become the last refuge of mankind. But buried deep under the earthly wasteland lies a power that could save the last of humanity – or destroy it once and for all. Humans vs. the ancient shapeshifting reptilian race of the Vril - and their army of dinosaurs - in the sequel of the sci-fi cult by Finnish director Timo Vuorensola!

Timo Vuorensola will be a **guest of the Trieste festival** this year: he will present the film and participate to the **Fantastic Film Forum** on Thursday, October the 31st. Timo Vuorensola is one of the most innovative and interesting directors of recent days, also thanks to the movie *Iron Sky* (2012), the sci-fi comedy that spread over 60 countries and

has been seen by over 10 million people. He gained a deserved cult following after his first movie *Star Wreck: In the Pirkinning* (2005).

*“During its six years of production, Iron Sky: The Coming Race became more than a movie to me – like a hungry dinosaur, it devoured me. I was still recovering from the previous seven-year-long rough ride with the first “Iron Sky” when the ideas for the second part started to sprout in my mind. [...] The vision for the movie started to form as I began to list things I loved. Indiana Jones-style adventures, dinosaurs, and a clean-cut story that rolls on like a steam train. [...] I wanted to tell a story with an atypical trio as its core: a girl, who is used to make it by herself, without help from anyone, rebelling against her mother; a Russian pilot stumbling on his own, bloated ego; and a fighter with golden retriever mentality. To cross the t's and dot the i's, I got Udo Kier to sign up not to one but two roles for the film. I also wanted to take a step back from the dark and hopeless world of the first Iron Sky, and introduce a brand new environment – the lush, green Inner Earth bustling with life, where the sun shines constantly. [...] The film that we eventually finished is an entertaining, action-packed sci-fi flick with a touch of sociopolitical criticism and good dose laughs directed at itself.”*

## **Ghost Town Anthology by Denis Côté**

In competition at the **2019 Berlin Film Festival**, *Ghost Town Anthology* is a hybrid film by Canadian director Denis Côté, who since 2005 has been gaining a solid reputation in the best international film festivals as an independent author, both at home and abroad. His debut feature film *Les états nordiques* (*Drifting States* - 2005) won an award at the Locarno Film Festival, followed by *Nos vies privées* (*Our Private Lives* - 2007), *Elle veut le chaos* (*All That She Wants* - 2008) and *Carcasses* (2009), presented in Cannes' *Quinzaine*.

In Irénée-les-Neiges, a small, isolated town with a population of 215, Simon Dubé dies in a car accident. The stunned townspeople are reluctant to discuss the circumstances of the tragedy. From that point on, for the Dubé family as well as for Mayor Smallwood and a handful of others, time seems to lose all meaning, and the days stretch on without end. Something descends slowly upon the area. In this period of mourning and in this fog, strangers start to appear. Who are they? What is happening?

*“What inspired me is present-day Quebec - explains the director who will be present at the Trieste Science + Fiction Festival. I feel as though people today are very afraid of losing the sense of comfort that my homeland offers. This fear presents itself in various ways,*

*and our resistance to change is fierce. The rise of populism in the media, the migrant crisis, the reluctance to be open to other people and identitarian closure are all themes that interest me. Laurence Olivier's book is a poetic collection of slices of life and disjointed stories, and I tried to keep its spirit. Changes and tears in the social fabric are fascinating phenomena, and I designed a story with holes in it where the supernatural could creep in, bringing multiple anticlimaxes. It's not a complex script, but I enjoy playing with tone; I like when things aren't easy to define or categorize. Essentially, I wanted to write a script about the Other and the fear it inspires [...] At first, I thought of the many times I've been asked to make a horror film. I started down that road, but I gradually shifted toward a rural tale that straddles the line between social realism and the supernatural. I prefer to distort the rules of genre film rather than follow them. In the end, the film uses metaphor and explores themes that interest me, instead of turning into a zombie movie or a horror film full of easy jump scares."*

### **Extra Ordinary by Mike Ahern and Enda Loughman**

Mike Ahern and Enda Loughman present an unmissable **romantic comedy with supernatural elements**, skilfully playing with the traditional tropes of the possession genre. The result is a bubbly **horror comedy** unafraid to be politically incorrect.

Rose, a mostly sweet & mostly lonely Irish small-town driving instructor, must use her supernatural talents to save the daughter of Martin (also mostly sweet & lonely) from a washed-up rock star who is using her in a Satanic pact to reignite his fame... and be home in time for a light snack... A brilliant comedy, already a favorite in the festival circuit!

Recent winner of the Jury Prize at the Brussels International Festival of Fantasy Film and of both the Audience and Narcisse Award at the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival.

*"Extra Ordinary is a character-based romantic comedy with supernatural elements. The initial idea was inspired by two characters very briefly mentioned in an article that we felt focused a lot of other funny ideas we were having re: Ireland's rural spirit-world: 'We contacted husband-and-wife ghost-hunters Ray and Beryl Herne from Central Parade to send the poltergeist packing. Spirit medium Ray, a 52-year-old lorry driver, says he can draw the gross ghost into him while Beryl, 59, will envelop it in a "vortex of light" and send it to the "other side." Beryl said: "Sometimes spirits need to be here. There is usually a reason. Sometimes it's family. Sometimes we have to alleviate some stress." ' While the article was silly, these sentences grabbed our attention as an initial basis for some great*

*very local yet very universal characters. [...] We have very deliberately flipped the Horror movie idea that all hauntings are these big powerful demons that tear people apart and ravage bloody revenge on the living. We want the opposite of that. Hauntings can't be seen because ghosts are small and a bit crap. They bit like humans, stuck in a situation they don't like with low energy and can't figure a way out."*

### ***After midnight, produced by Aaron Moorhead & Justice Benson***

Jeremy Gardner stars - and co-directs together with Christian Stella – this unusual and very original **monster movie**, Tribeca's surprise hit produced by Aaron Moorhead and Justin Benson, previously at the TS+FF with *Resolution* and *The Endless*.

Ten years into his storybook romance with Abby, Hank suddenly wakes up to an empty home. To make matters worse, Abby's disappearance seems to trigger the arrival of a ferocious creature that crawls out of the old grove on the edge of his property.

Jeremy Gardner and Christian Stella are the filmmakers behind the indie zombie film *The Battery* (2012) and survival comedy *Tex Montana Will Survive!* (2015). Lifelong friends, both directors were born and raised in Florida. Jeremy Gardner has also appeared in the movies *Spring, Like Me, Sadistic Intentions, The Mind's Eye, Psychopaths* and *Bliss*. Christian Stella is also a colorist, sound designer, food photographer, and New York Times bestselling cookbook author.

### ***Aniara by Pella Kågerman and Hugo Lilja***

An adaptation of the Nobel Prize-winning author Harry Martinson's *Aniara*. Aniara is one of the many spaceships used for transporting Earth's population to their new home planet Mars. But just as Aniara leaves the ruined Earth, she collides with space junk and is knocked off her course. Aniara's passengers slowly realise that they'll never be able to return, that they will continue onwards through an empty and cold universe forever.

*"All science fiction films are inevitably formed by their time. However, instead of trying to counteract this, we wanted to use contemporary architecture to create a style that is new in space films - Pella Kågerman & Hugo Lilja state - and also possible to produce with a relatively low budget. In this way, Aniara (our version) will be the world's first "no-set science fiction film" or "science fiction that isn't filmed in a studio. The author of the book (Harry Martinson A/N) called Aniara a Cassandra prophecy and we definitely think it still is."*

## **ACCREDITATION PRE-SALE**

**Trieste Science+Fiction Festival** online accreditation pre-sale started on Friday, September 20th. For additional info: [www.sciencefictionfestival.org](http://www.sciencefictionfestival.org)

## **19th EDITION OF THE TRIESTE SCIENCE+FICTION FESTIVAL**

**Trieste Science+Fiction Festival** is the most relevant science-fiction and fantasy event in Italy. Cinema, television, new media, literature, comic book art, music, visual and performative art all make part of the exploration of the *meraviglie del possibile (the wonders of possibility)*. Founded in Trieste in 2000, the festival continues the legacy of the **Trieste International Science-Fiction Festival** (1963 – 1982), the first genre film event in Italy and one of the first in Europe.

The **Trieste Science+Fiction Festival** official selection runs across **three international competition sections**: the **Asteroide Award** for the best science fiction film by an emerging director and the two **European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation Méliès d'argent awards** for the best European fantastic genre feature film and short film. The **Spazio Italia** section includes the best Italian film productions of the genre. Last but not least, the unmissable **Futurology meetings**, a focus on **science** and **literature**, in collaboration with the main scientific institutions, and the **Urania d'argento career award** to a master of the genre (in collaboration with the Urania magazine published by Mondadori).

**Trieste Science+Fiction Festival** is organized by the film and audiovisual research and experimentation Centre **La Cappella Underground** with the support and collaboration of: **Friuli Venezia Giulia** autonomous regional authority, **Trieste Municipality**, **Trieste University**, **CRTrieste Foundation**, **Kathleen Foreman Casali Charity Foundation**.

**Trieste Science+Fiction Festival's** main venue is the **Politeama Rossetti** theatre, in collaboration with the **Teatro Stabile del Friuli Venezia Giulia**. The **Casa del Cinema** building, home to the the main film culture associations in Trieste, will be the festival's headquarters and with the collaboration of the **Teatro Miela** will host the festival's collateral sections, while other events and special programmes will be held in the **Ariston** art house theatre.

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