**SLASH Film Festival 2021, September 23 through October 3, 2021  
Folk Horror & Fantastic Cinema from Austria**

**Vienna – The twelfth edition of Vienna’s SLASH Film Festival will take place from September 23 through October 3, 2021. For eleven days, the festival will dedicate itself to international Fantastic Cinema, showing 55 feature films and 25 short films at four locations: Stadtkino, Filmcasino, METRO Kinokulturhaus, and schikaneder Kino.**  
  
Dark legends, the occult, nature mysticism—for some years, the horror genre has presented itself as gloriously enchanted with folk tropes (think of the international success of Robert Eggers’s THE WITCH from 2015 or Ari Aster’s MIDSOMMAR from 2019). Recently, SLASH Film Festival has also brought several gems of this subgenre to the big screen. This fall, the festival will pay special tribute to the phenomenon that is **folk horror**.

Taking the **documentary** **WOODLANDS DARK AND DAYS BEWITCHED: A HISTORY OF FOLK HORROR** by Canadian director **Kier-La Janisse** as a roadmap, SLASH Film Festival will present the eponymous **folk horror retrospective WOODLANDS DARK AND DAYS BEWITCHED.**

Folk horror scholar Kier-La Janisse, who analyzed more than two hundred films from the subgenre and interviewed about fifty people for her documentary, has curated a **retrospective sporting more than a dozen titles** for the festival, which will guide audiences through gloomy myths and legends from various cultures—from British cult movies like THE WICKER MAN, THE BLOOD ON SATAN’S CLAW, and WITCHFINDER GENERAL as well as the Yugoslavian vampire story SHE-BUTTERFLY to the award-winning Belarusian folk horror tale THE SAVAGE HUNT OF KING STAKH.

The retrospective will be accompanied in the regular programming by the subgenre’s contemporary representatives like **GAIA** by **Jaco Bouwer**, a South African eco-folk horror movie brimming with wonderful special effects.

Aside from international productions, SLASH will also celebrate Austrian Fantastic Cinema with several highlights: Gracing the big screen will be **2551.01**—a “dystopian slapstick movie,” as director **Norbert Pfaffenbichler**, the Austrian master of silent-movie revamps, calls Part One of his 2551 trilogy.

Two **workshop talks** will provide unique insight into the creative process of domestic moviemaking: director **Magdalena Lauritsch**, producer Loredana Rehekampff, art director Johannes Mücke, and visual effects supervisor Franz Brandstätter will give a sneak peek at their sci-fi drama **RUBIKON**. And writer/director **Peter Hengl** and producer Lola Basara Hengl will offer a taste of their psychological horror film **FAMILY DINNER**. Both productions are to hit theaters in 2022.

The entire program will be available in mid-September at [**www.slashfilmfestival.com**](https://slashfilmfestival.com/)*Further titles, the satellite program, and guests will be announced in the coming weeks.*

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**12th SLASH Filmfestival**  
**September, 23 through October 3, 2021**  
**Filmcasino, METRO Kinokulturhaus, Schikaneder, Stadtkino****

****FILM DESCRIPTIONS****

****Ein Bild, das Text, Buch enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung****

Documentary **WOODLANDS DARK AND DAYS BEWITCHED: A HISTORY OF FOLK HORROR**Kier-La Janisse | USA 2021 | 194 mins

In her colossal documentary project, the Canadian filmmaker Kier-La Janisse explores the philosophical history of the rather elusive subgenre, taking us on an illuminating, impressive journey through the history of folk horror cinema around the world. In doing so, she also unearths long buried layers of significance in terms of the self and the other, the rural and the urban, home and remote destinations. The woods, they are singing again.

**Ein Bild, das Gras, draußen, Berg, Megalith enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung**Filmstill: THE WICKER MAN © 1974 - CANAL+ IMAGE UK. All rights reserved. **FOLK HORROR-RETROSPECTIVE:   
WOODLANDS DARK AND DAYS BEWITCHED**  
curated by Kier-La Janisse  
  
**List of films (TBC):**

* **EYES OF FIRE** (Avery Crounse | US 1983)
* **SHE-BUTTERFLY** (OT: Leptirica | Djordje Kadijevic | YU 1973)
* **THE SAVAGE HUNT OF KING STAKH** (OT: Dikaya okhota korolya Stakha | Valeri Rubinchik | USSR 1980)
* **DARK WATERS** (Mariano Baino | RU/IT/UK 1993)
* **THE DREAMING** (Mario Andreacchio | AU 1988)
* **NANG NAK** (OT: Nang Nak | Nonzee Nimibutr | TH 1999)
* **WITCHHAMMER** (OT: Kladivo na čarodějnice | Otakar Vávra | CS 1970)
* **WITCHFINDER GENERAL** (Michael Reeves | UK/US 1968)
* **THE WICKER MAN** (Robin Hardy | UK 1973)
* **BLOOD ON SATAN'S CLAW** (Piers Haggard | UK 1971)
* **SUKKUBUS** (OT: Sukkubus - den Teufel im Leib | Georg Tressler | DE 1989)
* **THE WOLF** (OT: Wilczyca | Marek Piestrak | PL 1983)
* **PENDA'S FEN** (Alan Clarke | UK 1974)



**GAIA**Director: Jaco Bouwer | ZA 2021 | 96 mins  
  
Park ranger Gabi steps on a foothold trap in the underbrush of the Tsitsikamma rainforest. When father-and-son survivalists Barend and Stefan bring her to their nearby hut, she thinks the worst may be behind her. But she soon realizes how wrong she was, as the two men seem religiously devoted to the forest and its inhabitants. GAIA is an eco-folk horror story overgrown with mushrooms, moss, and lichens. Director Jaco Bouwer stages his idiosyncratic, terrifying vision with sharp focus and the support of excellent special effects.

Ein Bild, das Person, dunkel, schließen enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

**2551.01**  
Director: Norbert Pfaffenbichler | AT 2021 | 65 mins  
  
Strobe lights flashing, thrash metal rumbling, a kid with a bag on its head scurrying into the underground with a man wearing an ape mask: A parallel society, a precarious community of monsters, has established itself under the cover of darkness. Norbert Pfaffenbichler is the domestic master of the silent-movie revamp. Part 1 of his 2551 trilogy is aptly titled “The Kid,” a nod to Charlie Chaplin’s 1921 film of the same name, whose lumpenproletariat milieu Pfaffenbichler yanks into the fantastical realm. What has remained is the unconditional solidarity with all things repressed and stowed away. Freaks of the world, unite! A labor of love.