



WOMANINFAN
SITGES FANLAB

FANTASTIC GEOGENRE

**1st Meeting of
European Female
Filmmakers
Specializing in the
Fantastic Genre**

**OCTOBER 6TH-7TH
2023**



**FUNDACIÓ
SITGES**

In 2021, the Sitges International Film Festival of Catalonia Foundation designed the WomanInFan program with the aim of contributing to achieving gender parity within fantastic filmmaking. The creative leadership position of female filmmakers has historically always been inferior, but in the case of the fantastic genre, the situation is far worse. One of the explanations put forward by film historians points to the cultural and social patterns that prevail in the film industry and that have identified certain productions as alien to female sensibilities. As such, projects belonging to the horror, science fiction, action or thriller genres, for example, have been entrusted mostly to men. Although this industry trend is underlined by the female filmmakers themselves who have not identified fantastic as a genre within their reach.

After the **WomanInFan** program's two years of international experience, we have also detected that the situation of women in fantastic genre filmmaking differs enormously from one territory to another and, of course, points to a clear inferiority of European production compared to North American or Ibero-American, for example.

In 2023, **WomanInFan** focuses on storytelling, in other words, the creation of narratives and film imaginaries by creative women. Within this line we propose a first meeting of European women directors and/or screenwriters who expose their industrial, social and cultural context as a reflection of their national filmographies. The personal testimony of these filmmakers should be accompanied by that of historians who can establish a historical starting point, and that of cinematic promotion and/or education institutions from the respective countries, presenting historical data in order to obtain useful conclusions for designing future actions.



Astrid Frank, German actress and director considered to be a pioneer of European horror short films.

TABLE 1

FRIDAY, OCT 6TH 10:45-11:30

Cultural and Social References in the History of Film

What are we talking about when we refer to fantastic films created by women? What benchmarks have attained genuine importance in the history of cinema? What difficulties and what facilities have women creators encountered in genre? These and other questions are the ones that two of today's most important film critics and experts in genre film, Alexandra Heller-Nicholas and Alexandra West, will try to reveal. They will both explore the fundamental role of women in fantastic filmmaking, and they will do it together with historian, critic and festival director Alan Jones.



ALEXANDRA HELLER-NICHOLAS

She is the author of eight books on cult, horror and exploitation movies with an emphasis on gender politics, including *1000 Women in Horror, 1895-2018* (BearManor, 2020).



ALEXANDRA WEST

Genre Movie Journalist. Author of the study *'Films of the New French Extremity'*.



ALAN JONES (MODERATOR)

Alan Jones is an international film critic, broadcaster and best-selling author.

TABLE 2

FRIDAY, OCT 6TH 11:45-12:30

Education: the Gaze Bias

One of the debates behind the different roles in the film industry points to the social and educational environment as the first source of prejudice. Which film professions are traditionally reserved for women and what influence schools and universities have had in shaping them is the starting point for this roundtable, moderated by the screenwriter and president of the audiovisual rights management entity DAMA Virginia Yagüe. Sergi Casamitjana and Céline Rouzet will represent the educational sector and discuss their responsibility as “agents of change” in these perceptions.



SERGI CASAMITJANA

Director of the ESCAC, a film and audiovisual school with alumni including J. A. Bayona or Kike Maíllo.



CÉLINE ROUZET

Producer and director of *En attendant la nuit*



**VIRGINIA YAGÜE
(MODERATOR)**

DAMA president and moderator

TABLE 3

FRIDAY, OCT 6TH 12:45-13:30

Leadership and References in the Fantastic Genre: the Creation of a Storytelling by Female Filmmakers

How female creators working in the fantastic genre have carved out their niche in the industry and how their experience differs from one country to another is the starting point of this roundtable. The genre tradition differs according to the territory and statistics also show a very different number of films directed by women in each country. Cultural and social reasons, industry trends, lack of references... each experience draws a different casuistry, which we will represent with female directors from Italy, Poland and Spain. All of their testimonies will serve as proof of how European fantastic films directed by women contribute more and more to the creation of new narratives and monster.



**AGNIESZKA
SMOCZYŃSKA**

Polish director, auteur of films including 'The Lure'.

photo by Zuza Krajewska



MILENA COCOZZA

One of the very few Italian female directors of fantastic genre and auteur of the film 'Letto Numero 6'.



ÁNGELES HUERTA

Director of 'O Corpo Aberto', an almost poetic approach with supernatural elements.



**SILVIA PÉREZ DE
PABLOS (MODERATOR)**

SGAE Foundation.

TABLE 4

FRIDAY, OCT 6TH 16:30-17:15

Exploring the Fantastic Legacy



KYRA ELISE GARDNER

Director of *Living with Chucky*.



KATHARINA KUBRICK

Actress and art director.



**MAURA MCHUGH
(MODERATOR)**

Writer of prose, theatre, film/
TV, video games, and comic
books specialized in Gothic
Fiction and Pop Culture.

The memory of the fantastic is filled with great names of men and women who have worked in front of and behind the camera, or who have dedicated their careers to the promotion of this type of art. At this roundtable, we have exceptional witnesses who have worked on preserving references or who contribute with their own memories to recall the relevance and importance of cult titles.

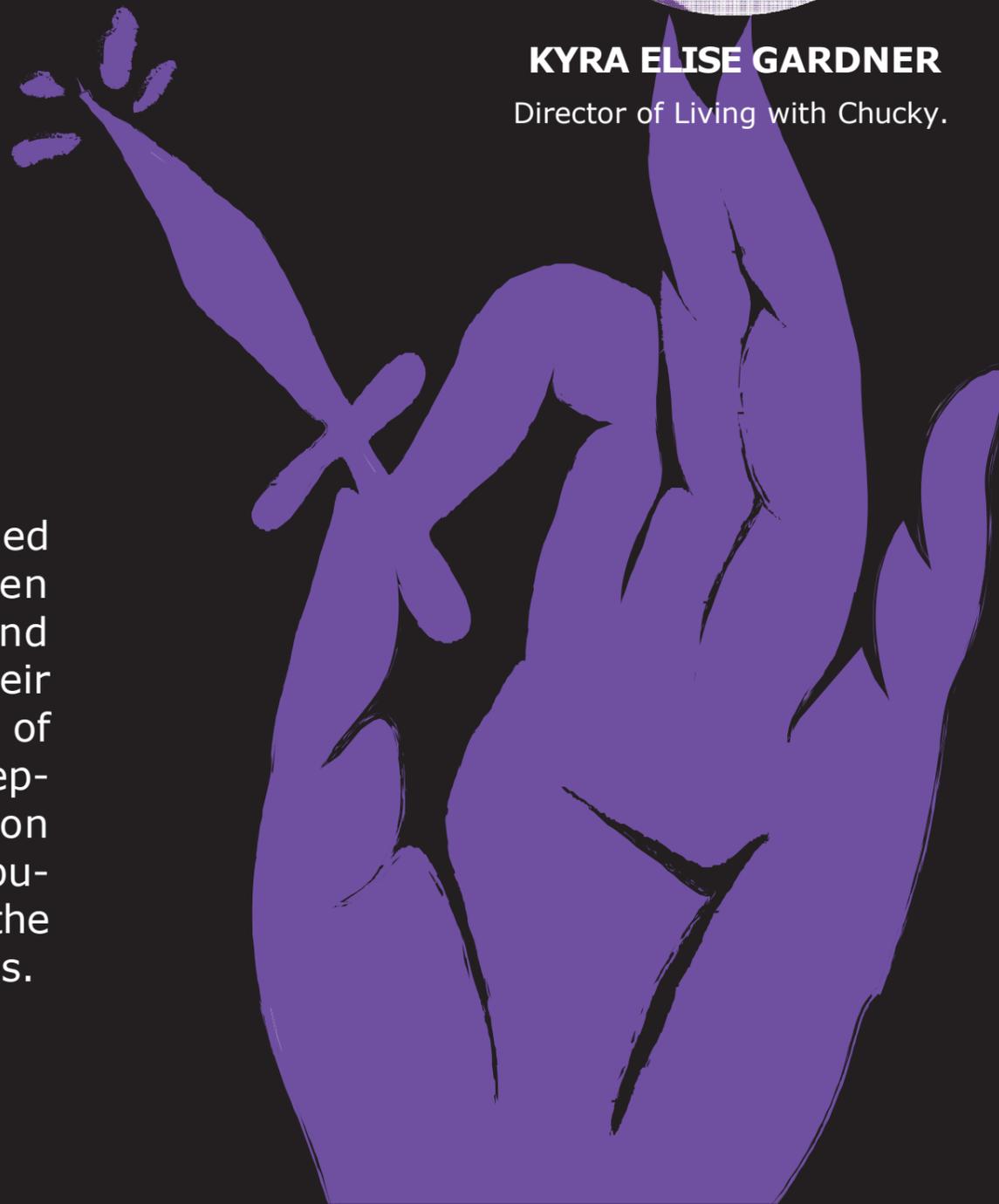


TABLE 5

SATURDAY, OCT 7TH 10:30-11:15

Creating Amazing Worlds: The Role of Women in Fantastic Film Special Effects

Makeup artist and special effects expert Milicent Patrick was the creator of the famous 'Creature from the Black Lagoon', which led to her becoming the first woman to be accepted in a special effects department. Her story ended tragically, as she was erased from the credits of the monster she had created and pushed into the background of the film industry. Since then, the role of women in the field of special effects has changed radically. Proof of this are these three leading women in the special effects industry, who will share their careers and the sources of inspiration that inspired them, the challenges they faced and overcame, as well as their groundbreaking projects and outstanding collaborations.



MARÍA LUISA PINO

Special effects editor and technician and special effects makeup artist.



MONTSE RIBÉ

Special effects makeup artist.



**MONICA MURGUÍA
UGAMURI**

Special effects technician and special effects makeup artist.



VÍCTOR GARCÍA (MODERATOR)

Director and special effects technician.

TABLE 6 SATURDAY, OCT 7TH 11:45-12:45

The MaestrAs. Encounter with Mary Lambert

Mary Lambert, who will be receiving the Time Machine Award this year, is a graduate of the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design, where she studied fine art. As a filmmaker, she applied her sensitivity to innovative work on music videos for Madonna, Janet Jackson, Eurythmics and many other icons of the era, helping to fuel the MTV revolution. Her visual imprint led to the hallucinogenic, dreamlike landscapes in her first feature film, the cult classic *Siesta*, for which she received an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Debut Feature. Lambert is perhaps best known for directing the first Stephen King adaptation, *Pet Sematary* (1989). It proved to be a huge box office sensation, reaching #1, and spawning a sequel, *Pet Sematary II* (1992). A prolific director who isn't afraid to approach diverse mediums and genres. Lambert has directed everything from horror to animation. Today, *Pet Sematary* continues to be the most successful genre film directed by a woman.



MARY LAMBERT

DIRECTOR



JORDI SÁNCHEZ-NAVARRO
(MODERATOR)

Associate Professor at the UOC, currently Director of the Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences, and coordinator of the Learning, Media and Entertainment Research Group (GAME)

OCTOBER 6TH

GARBÍ ROOM - Hotel Meliá

10:30-10:45 **Welcoming**

10:45-11:30 **Cultural and Social References in the History of Film** with Alexandra Heller-Nicholas and Alexandra West - Moderated by Alan Jones.

11:45-12:30 **Education: the Gaze Bias** with Sergi Casamitjana and Virginia Yagüe.

12:30-12:45 **Coffe Break**

12:45-13:30 **Leadership and References in the Fantastic Genre: the Creation of a Storytelling by Female Filmmakers** with Agnieszka Smoczynska, Milena Coccozza, Ángeles Huerta - Moderated by Silvia Pérez de Pablos.

16:30-17:15 **Exploring the Fantastic Legacy.**

OCTOBER 7TH

GARBÍ ROOM - Hotel Meliá

10:30-11:15 **Creating Amazing Worlds: The Role of Women in Fantasy Film Special Effects** with María Luisa Pino, Mónica Murguía Ugamuri, Montse Ribé - Moderated by Jordi Sánchez Navarro.

11:45-12:45 **The MaestrAs. Encounter with Mary Lambert**

13:30-14:30 **WomanInFan Cocktail Networking (At the Atrium/Atri - Hotel Meliá)**

This program is funded by

Funded by

Activity funded by the Ministry of Culture



With the support of

