

TGIFF: more than a Science Fiction and Fantasy Film Festival

The Covid-19 pandemic is affecting almost every sector of human activity that needs the close human presence, in medium or large groups. Cultural events are suffering the most, and this is particularly disturbing, because in these hard times we, as social creatures, feel the need to be together and have cultural and recreational activities.

At local, national and global level, scores of events announced their cancellation, during the first few months of the year. After the first shock, the organizing teams tried to find alternative solution, in order to make things work. One example is “The Galactic Imaginarium” Film Festival (TGIFF), from Dumbrăvița-Timiș, Romania, which will host two types of events: offline film screenings (drive-in cinema) and online events.

TGIFF is the first Romanian Science Fiction and Fantasy Film Festival and one of the hand few of them in Eastern Europe. It is an ambitious project, that is trying a fresh approach to the film festival concept: a tight conjunction between Sci-Fi and Fantasy films and the public that enjoys them. The organizers are using an interactive take: they are inviting ordinary people, active in different pop-culture areas, to be part of the programme. These areas are:

- *cosplay* (a [portmanteau](#) of the words *costume play*, is a [performance art](#) in which participants called cosplayers wear [costumes](#) and [fashion accessories](#) to represent a specific character¹)
- *LAPR* (a live action role-playing game, is a form of role-playing game where the participants physically portray their characters²)
- *video games* (all of us know what they are...)
- *board games* (you probably played one of those...)
- *space ship modeling* (ship models or model ships are scale models of ships, in this case space ships from film and TV series)
- *fan art* (Fan art or Fanart is artwork created by fans of a work of fiction and derived from a series character or other aspect of that work)

The only condition is: all of these pop art means of expression must be related to Science Fiction and Fantasy films or TV series.

As any other film festival, TGIFF will have:

- films screenings (drive-in and online)
- theme panels
- workshops
- Meet&Greet events
- autograph signings
- Award Gala...

but the vast majority of them will be hosted online.

TGIFF will have 10 films in the official selection (5 Sci-Fi and 5 Fantasy/Fantastic) and around 20 films outside official selection, in “The Final Cut” section, selected from over 230 films submitted

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/feed/a49427-2000feb14.htm>

² Tychsen et al. 2006

to the festival. The Jury will give TGI Sci-Fi Award and TGI Fantasy Award. Also, the public will vote online for the Sci-Fi Popularity Award and the Fantasy Popularity Award.

TGIFF will have special guests from North Ireland (Rachael Kelly), Serbia (Jovan Ristić and Miroslav Lakobria), Montenegro (Adrijana and Dragić Rabrenovic) and a Fan Special Guest from Poland (Marcin Klak).

The Guest of Honor will be the British actor Miltos Yerolemou, known to fans as Syrio Forel from “Game of Thrones” TV Series, who also had parts in “Star Wars VII -The Force Awakens”, “The Danish Girl”, “Orient Express” etc. and countless theater productions in London and other cities of UK. Miltos will be part of two program panels, one of which will be very special: “Sword choreography in film and theater”, alongside Florin Kevorkian (from Romanian National Film and Theater University) and acclaimed Romanian fencing champion Ana Maria Brânză (3 time World Champion in fencing). Also, Miltos will be host of the online “Water Dancing” workshop (Water Dancing is the sword style taught by the character Syrio Forel in “Game of Thrones”).

The online section of the festival will take place in 7 venues:

- ZOOM, for the main line of program
- Google Meet, for the second line of program
- Discord, for socializing and networking
- youtube.com, hosting the video recordings from the festival
- Facebook, streaming videos using Facebook Watch Party
- Board Game Arena for board games
- Twitch for video games

To participate at TGIFF, you need a General Access Ticket, which costs 20 RON (just over 4 Euros), for all two days (26th and 27th September 2020). Tickets can be bought online at <https://bilete.ro/tgiff>. For workshops and Meet&Greet with autograph with Miltos Yerolemou, you must also get a ticket at the same online address.

For more information, visit the TGIFF website at <https://festival.galactic.one>, where you can find the festival program.

If you are a Sci-Fi or Fantasy Fan, or you are engaged in cosplay, LARP, video games, board games, space ship modeling or fan art, check out TGI Film Festival. You will have the opportunity to dive in the world of the future or in alternative universes, connecting with other film and TV series fans from all around the world.