



*Piercing by Nicolas Pesce, with Mia Wasikowska and Christopher Abbott*

**47st International Film Festival Rotterdam**

**24 January- 4 February 2018**

Rotterdam, 9 January 2018

**International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) announces the eight titles selected for the [Hivos Tiger Competition](#): seven world premieres and one international premiere. The prestigious Hivos Tiger Award includes a cash prize of €40,000, to be divided between filmmaker and producer. An international jury of five filmmakers and film professionals also chooses an exceptional artistic achievement within the Tiger selection to receive a Special Jury Award worth €10,000.**

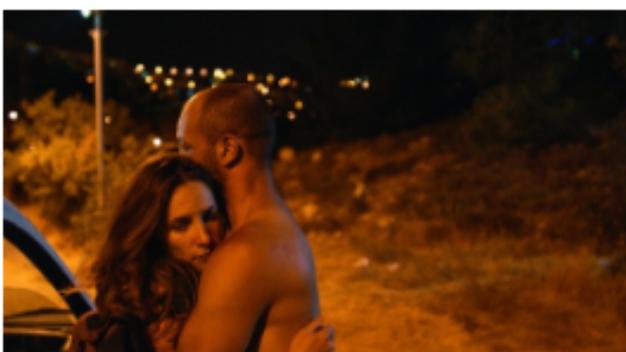
Festival Director Bero Beyer: "This year's Tiger line-up features daring filmmakers who boldly venture into new territories. All of them combine relevant stories and themes – like Israeli/Palestinian relations as seen through the eyes of two lovers, the consequences of the Olympic Games in downtown Rio, or the concept of the imminent end of the world – with outspoken cinematic form."

Three of the films to world premiere in the Hivos Tiger Competition 2018 were supported by the Hubert Bals Fund. **Nervous Translation** by Philippine filmmaker [Shireen Seno](#) (which was also selected for CineMart in 2014) is a sparkling and at times surreal film which quietly shows the politically unstable climate of the Philippines in 1987 as seen through the dreamy eyes of an eight-year-old girl.

**The Reports on Sarah and Saleem** by [Muayad Alayan](#) (also selected for BoostNL in 2016) is a story of the impossible affair between a Jewish woman and a Palestinian man which attracts the attention of security services, and was supported by the Hubert Bals Fund in 2017.

And **Sultry**, Brazilian filmmaker [Marina Meliande](#)'s combination of social realist drama and body horror, recounts the struggle of a young lawyer in the oppressive heat of Rio de Janeiro against the all-encompassing influence of the Olympic Games on the city. This is the second time Meliande has been supported by the Hubert Bals Fund; in 2011 she co-directed Cannes entry

**[The Joy](#)** (with Felipe Bragança).



*Left The Reports on Sarah and Saleem by Muayad Alayan, right Mormaço by Marina Meliande*

The world premiere of the fascinating cinematic essay **Possessed** reflects on the ways humans obsessively search for connections in a digital age. For this film, the filmmakers from the Amsterdam-based Metahaven collaborated with Dutch graphic designer and documentary filmmaker Rob Schröder, who also has a connection to IFFR – his short films screened at IFFR in 1998 and 2000.

The Hivos Tiger Competition also includes **Djon África**, a first fiction by documentary filmmakers João Miller Guerra and Filipa Reis portraying the playful odyssey of a 25-year-old Portuguese Rastafarian in search of his father and his own identity;

**I Have a Date with Spring** by South Korean director Baek Seungbin, a mysterious black comedy in which a filmmaker struggles with a script revolving around the hypothetical question of what to do on your last day on earth; and **The Widowed Witch** by Chinese filmmaker Cai Chengjie, which is a complete re-edit of the award-winning Chinese film **Shaman** and wryly details the life of an unfortunate woman who suddenly seems to possess magical powers.

Finally, the competition includes the international premiere of the US film **Piercing** by Nicolas Pesce, a playful psycho thriller in which a sadomasochistic game of cat-and-mouse unfolds between a man and the call girl he planned to murder.

Click [here](#) for a video of Festival Director Bero Beyer and Hivos Executive Director Edwin Huizing discussing the Tiger line-up.

The jury for the Hivos Tiger Competition 2018 consists of British filmmaker [Anthea Kennedy](#) (**The View from Our House**), Mexican producer Paula Astorga (**La caridad**), Dutch editor Job ter Burg (**Elle**), German filmmaker Valeska Grisebach (**Western**), and South Korean filmmaker [Kim Kyungmook](#) (**Stateless Things**). Both the Hivos Tiger Award and the Special Jury Award will be presented on Friday, 2 February 2018 during the Awards Ceremony.



*Clockwise: Possessed by Matahaven and Rob Schröder, Djon África by João Miller Guerra and Filipa Reis, right I Have a Date with Spring by Baek Seungbin, The Widowed Witch by Cai Chengjie*

**Djon África**, João Miller Guerra/Filipa Reis, 2018, Portugal/Brazil, *world premiere*

**I Have a Date with Spring**, Baek Seungbin, 2018, South Korea, *world premiere*

**Nervous Translation**, Shireen Seno, 2018, Philippines, *world premiere*

**Piercing**, Nicolas Pesce, 2018, USA, *international premiere*

**Possessed**, Metahaven/Rob Schröder, 2018, Netherlands/Croatia, *world premiere*

**The Reports on Sarah and Saleem**, Muayad Alayan, 2018,

Palestine/Netherlands/Germany/Mexico, *world premiere*

**Sultry**, Marina Meliande, 2018, Brazil, *world premiere*

**The Widowed Witch**, Cai Chengjie, 2018, China, *world premiere*

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