



WALPURGIS

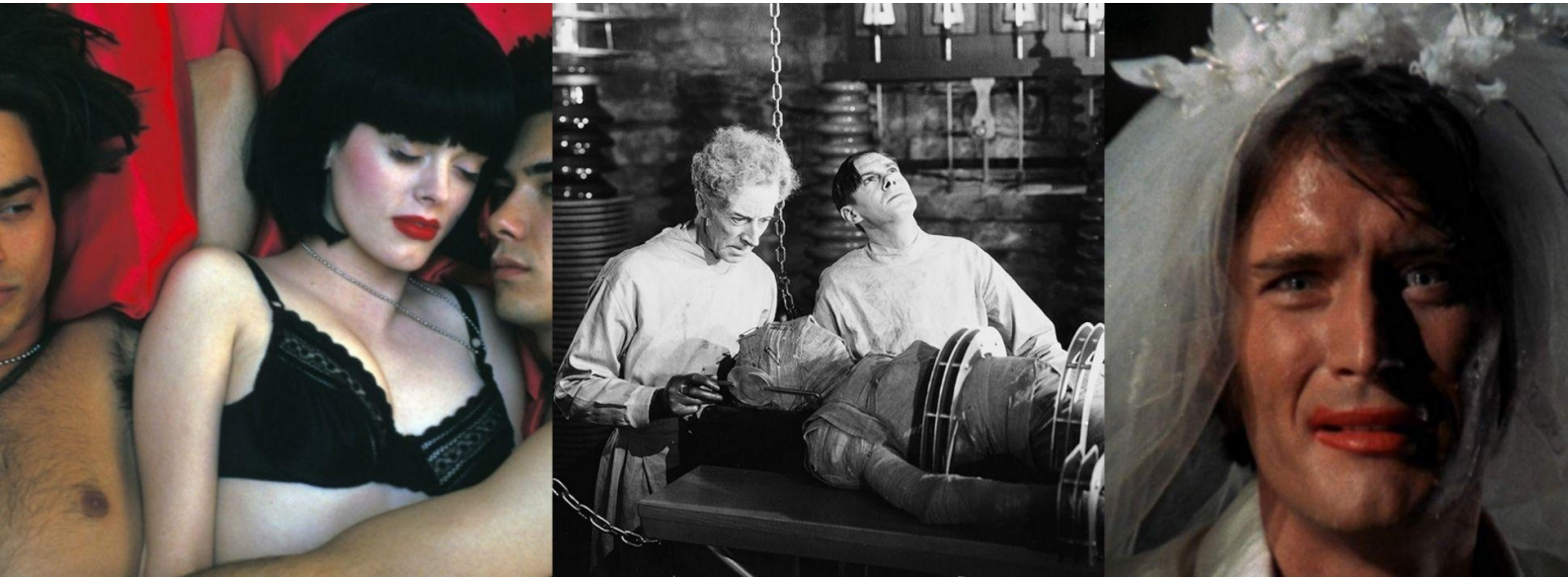
BCN QUEER HORROR FILM FEST

Known in the Anglo-Saxon world as **The Werewolf Versus the Vampire Woman**, **Walpurgis Night (León Klimovsky, 1971)** is one of the most representative titles (if not the most) of fantaterror, the name by which Spanish horror and fantasy productions shot in the 1960s and 1970s are known.

In it, **Paul Naschy** once again gives life to the iconic **Waldemar Daninsky**, the spanish werewolf par excellence. His figure, chiseled by a past dedicated to weightlifting, fit into **the canon of the Iberian male, a concept so shabby and outdated that it borders on a kind of involuntary homoeroticism, linked to the cult of the body and accentuated by the sensuality of the vampires of indeterminate sexual orientation that surround him** (whose archetype was repeated ad nauseam in the productions of the time).

On the other hand, **Walpurgis night**, which gives the film its name, is how it is known in Central and Northern Europe on the eve of the Christian festivity of **Saint Walpurga**, celebrated on the night of April 30 to May 1, in which bonfires are lit to ward off witches as it happens in other territories in San Juan. On that night of the Witches, paganism seems to have won over Christianity, at least as far as tradition is concerned, where tens of thousands of people undertake the journey to the Harz mountain range and are welcomed by neo-pagans. The party begins with dances, then a huge bonfire is lit and drums rumble. Once the midnight fireworks are extinguished, the one who will bring health and fertility is welcomed, the successor of all witches: the "Queen of May".

Beyond the fact that Walpurgis is a catchy term, we declare that we appropriate it for two reasons: the queer look at a type of cinema traditionally seen from a heteronormative perspective, and because a coven made up of several thinking minds who love horror cinema deserved a name like this.



MANIFIESTO OF WALPURGIS BCN QUEER HORROR FILM FESTIVAL

Foundations and origins

The **Walpurgis BCN Queer Horror Film Festival** arises from a deep need: to create a unique space in Barcelona, **a place where queer horror cinema, also embracing the feminine gaze, dissidents and, therefore, opposed to heteropatriarchal cinema**, can flourish and be celebrated. In a panorama full of film festivals and exhibitions, our festival stands out for providing a sensitivity and perspective that, until now, have been absent. We want to fill that gap and provide a platform that reflects and celebrates diversity.

Diversity and sensitivity

With a multidisciplinary approach **(where in addition to cinema, there is room for literature, music and drag, among others)** that will enrich the experience of our audience, the intention is to create an environment where the interconnection between different forms of art can be appreciated. This festival is not just a film event, but a beacon of diversity. **Our goal is to create an inclusive and varied context within the festival landscape.** Promote and celebrate films in which the main characters or plots represent the LGTBQIA+ community, women and/or dissidents, which reflect the problems and discrimination that these people face on a daily basis, contributing to greater visibility and

understanding and dismantling myths, clichés and stereotypes and breaking barriers, where all voices are heard and all talents are valued.

Aspirations

Our small festival aspires to be a space for dialogue and reflection. By screening and discussing films that address issues of discrimination, identity, and diversity, we hope to inspire meaningful conversations and foster greater understanding and empathy. We want our attendees to leave each screening not only entertained, but also more aware and committed to the fight for equality and inclusion.

Commitment to excellence and innovation

We are committed to presenting a selection of films and works of art of the highest quality, both classic and new, highlighting both emerging talents and established creators. We believe in the importance of innovation and creativity, and we are dedicated to supporting and promoting the boldest and most original productions within the queer horror genre.

The **Walpurgis BCN Queer Horror Film Festival** wants to be a festival for everyone, and we extend an open invitation to the community to join us. We want this to be a space where everyone feels welcome, where differences are celebrated and experiences are shared. Together, we can create a festival that not only reflects the diversity of our society, but also celebrates and enhances it, a space where horror cinema meets diversity and inclusion.



1. Objectives

Among the main objectives we set ourselves would be the following:

- a. To give visibility to those proposals for horror and fantasy films that have representation from the LGTBQIA+ community and women creators or other dissidents.
- b. Promote both film culture and education in sexual and gender diversity.
- c. Promote inclusion and diversity in the cultural field, generating contexts that have not been addressed in the local cultural agenda until now.
- d. To create links and synergies with other horror & fantastic film festivals held in Catalonia and the rest of the world in order to share information, various projects and generate spaces for respect, collaboration, and eliminate stereotypes, clichés and bad practices.
- e. To contribute to Barcelona's cultural agenda, expanding the offer with new visions and new inclusive and transgressive proposals.

2. Scheduling and timing

¿When? Our second edition will be between 28th and 31st May 2026.

¿Where? Inusual Project in Barcelona for the main screenings and different spots for the rest of the activities (To be confirmed in each edition)

Programme:

- Selection of feature films and short films, focusing on classic and current proposals, with debates/colloquiums accompanying the screenings.
- Creation of parallel activities such as book presentations, art exhibitions, role-playing games, and other types of proposals that relate in some way to our values.
- Round tables / conferences on the possible themes that may arise from the values we want to promote through the Festival.

3. Colaborations

3.1. With other Festivals (Sitges – Festival Internacional de Cinema Fantàstic de Catalunya; B-Retina, Festival de Cinema de Sèrie B en Cornellà; Autotracking Fest, Festival de Cinema Oblidat en VHS; L’Horror Film Festival and other possible partners in crime.

3.2. With Local institutions

3.3. Cultural centers around Barcelona.

3.4 Associations: we are members of TAC (Terror arreu Catalunya)

4. Expected impact

a. On a cultural level, we consider the **Walpurgis BCN Queer Horror Film Festival** to represent a vibrant and essential addition to Barcelona's cultural scene. By incorporating film productions that explore the horror genre from a queer, women's, and other dissidence's perspective, the festival offers a platform for narratives and aesthetics that rarely find space in other festivals. This festival not only diversifies the existing cultural offer, but also introduces the public to new forms of artistic expression, broadening horizons and enriching the cultural experience of the city. In addition, by including literature, art and music related to horror and dark fantasy, we encourage an interdisciplinary dialogue that strengthens Barcelona's cultural fabric.

b. On a social level, it is a way of betting on awareness and education in diversity and gender. In addition, we create a safe and inclusive space for the LGTBIIQA+ community

c. On an economic level, taking in consideration that we are a small festival, we will promote cultural tourism with a direct impact on the local economy of those spaces in which the different events are held.

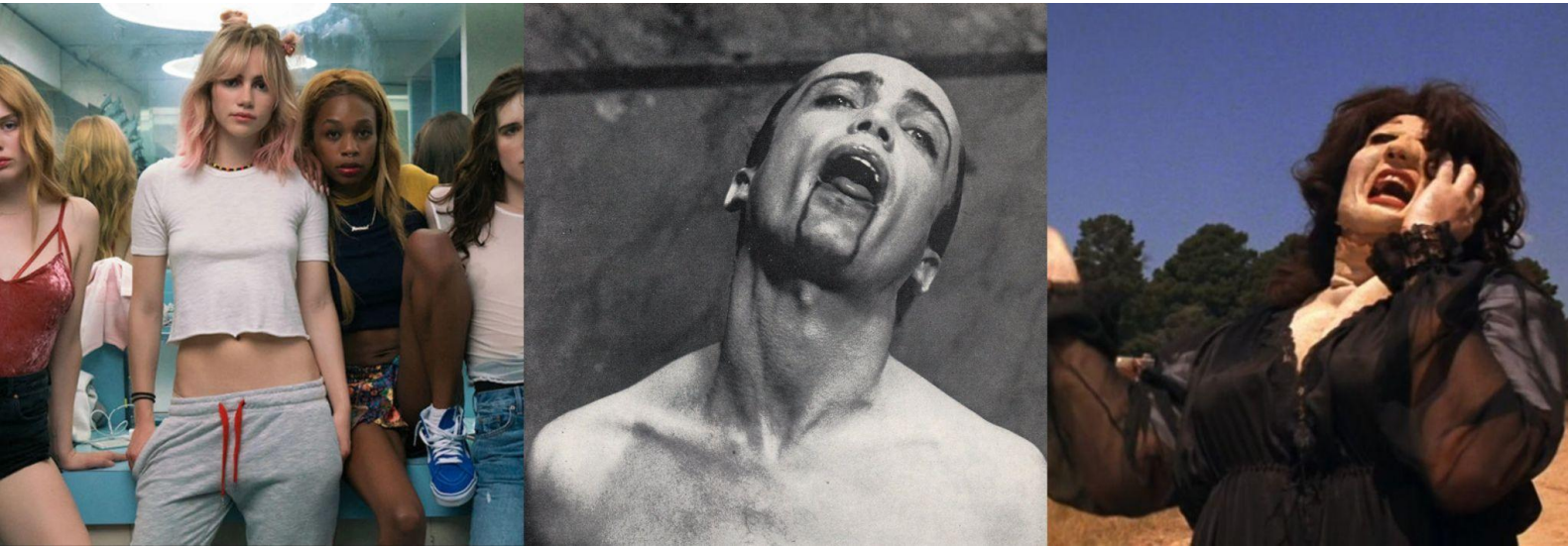
5. Conclusion

The Walpurgis BCN Queer Horror Film Festival is crucial for cultural visibility, inclusion and innovation in Barcelona. Its main contributions are:

- a. Cultural diversification. Introduce marginalized narratives, enriching the cultural landscape and fostering creativity.
- b. Awareness and sensitization. Address discrimination, identity and human rights, promoting an empathetic society.
- c. Community strengthening. To create a safe space for the LGTBQIA+ community, women, dissidents and allies, strengthening cohesion and well-being.
- d. Artistic innovation. Encourage creativity and social criticism from a queer perspective.
- e. Inclusivity and equity. Promote equality and fair representation in the film industry.
- f. Social transformation. Changing perceptions and challenging prejudices, using art to foster understanding and social change

Invitation to collaborate with us

Supporting the Walpurgis BCN Queer Horror Festival is promoting an inclusive and diverse Barcelona. We invite everyone to join in this transformative initiative and celebrate diversity through film and art.



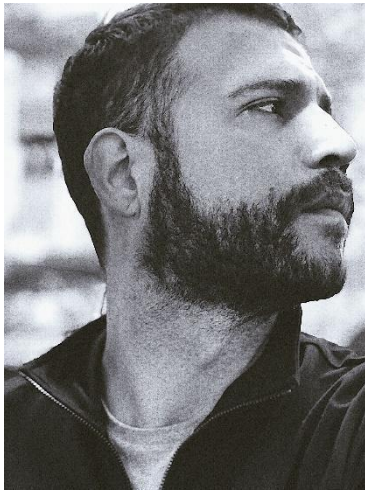
¿WHO ARE THE WALPURGIS TEAM?

ORGANIZATION



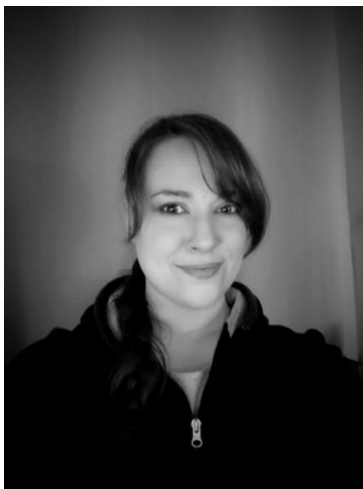
LA VICENTA (Mallorca, 1974) is an unconditional fan of horror films, graduated in Performing Arts from the Institut d'Arts Escèniques de Mallorca, with a career as a performer since 2003 participating in different contemporary dance, dance theatre and performing arts companies nationally and internationally and now as an artist manager at Palosanto Projects Arts Management. Creator and facilitator of different queer festive events and related to horror and fantasy cinema such as ALHT (aloshuevestuyos) at Sala Apolo (2007-2010), Rockahulababe at

Cines Maldá y Alexandra (2010-2012), Peliculeame películas cabareteadas (2014-2024), as well as creator and facilitator of events in different non-profit associations such as Ben Amics, Ram l'Aigua, among others and activist in Artists at risk collective.



Javier Parra He grew up watching horror movies. He has a degree in History from the University of Barcelona and a Master's degree in Contemporary Film and Audiovisual Studies from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. A film critic with experience in international festivals as a programmer and juror, he is the author of *Terror en serie* (*Héroes de Papel*, 2019), *La madre terrible en el cine de terror* (*Hermenauta*, 2020) and *Scream Queer*. LGBTQ+ representation in horror cinema (*Dos Bigotes*, 2021), a work that opened the doors to teaching and served him to curate the retrospective *Scream Queer* at the 2022 edition

of the NIFFF – Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival. She lives in Barcelona, is part of the podcast ¡Estamos Vivas! and the publications department of Sitges – International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia. In 2023 he coordinated *Long Live Trash! John Waters' cinema as you've never been told it* (*Dos Bigotes*, 2023) and has just published *Scream Queer 2: The Revenge* (*Dos Bigotes*, 2024)



Stefani Vila (Rosario, Argentina, 1987). Daughter of audiovisual producer and psychologist Sandra Laporte, she grew up in an environment that was conducive to creativity: as a child she did theater, musical comedies, classical dance, music and illustration. She finally graduated in Communication and Graphic Design. She continues to accumulate various hobbies, such as playing the bass and doing archery. In 2020 she crossed the pond and settled in Barcelona. Since then she has turned her creative need to role-playing games, in which she creates and directs her own original games (including one that is a musical). She is the founder of the online role-playing club

Alquimia Rolera.



Noemí Navarra (Barcelona, 1982). Horror cinema has always been part of her life, in her adolescence she even created a small fanzine called GORE'97 where she commented on the films she was watching both in the cinema and by researching video stores or the video library that her father had at home. When FOTOLOG arrived, it found a way for the GORE'97 format to reach more people by becoming an account dedicated to horror under the name "Noemita Del Averno", and so it went through several social networks until with its Instagram @jesuislanoe (2019) it was consolidated using the video format to get criticism and reflections

closer to home. Collaborator on the Underbrain Show with a weekly fixed section La Noe Te Lo Cuenta (2021/2022). Curator of the online film forum VideoClub de La Señora Voorhees in @LaMonstruaCinefaga (Argentina) taking as a reference the cinema of the 2000s.



Mara Causarás (Avilés, 1987). Daughter of a painter, she can't help but let creativity guide almost everything she does. She has been passionate about reading ever since she was told her first bedtime story. Curiosity about fictional worlds opened the door to her love of cinema, which stays with her to this day. In her adolescence, wanting to understand her favorite songs, she acquired an English-Spanish dictionary (the only cool VOX) and began translating Blur, Nirvana, and Robbie Williams,

among other bands beloved by millennials. This led her to co-create the now-defunct Ramen Fansub, where she translated and subtitled videos of Japanese idols that were very well received among the audience of the Salón del Manga in the 2010s. As a result of the fansub, she was able to start working as a professional subtitler and collaborate with film festivals, many of them horror festivals. Among other creative things, she does improv to get out of her routine, plays bass and piano self-taught, designs and creates geeky cross-stitch pieces, and sometimes restores furniture.



JuanMa Ramírez (Rosario, Argentina, 1985). He arrived in Barcelona at the age of four, the city where he still resides. He holds a degree in Graphic Design, and although his professional career has been in fleet management, he has never abandoned his creative side: he continues to design in his free time for personal projects and collaborations, and is dedicated to video editing and learning 3D. His passion for horror movies began by secretly watching films prohibited for his age, although he considers himself a cinephile with eclectic tastes. Since childhood, Saturdays were a mandatory visit to the video store, a habit he maintained until the arrival of streaming

platforms. He is the co-creator of the failed podcast 'Que no me grites'.

COLLABORATIONS:



Xavi Sánchez Pons (Barcelona, 1976) is a film critic specializing in fantasy and horror, head of the Publications Department and a member of the Programming Directorate of SITGES - International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia. He has been active for more than twenty years, publishing reviews and interviews in various media, and writing scripts and making extra content for the Blu-ray releases of Severin Films, Mondo Macabro, A Contracorriente Films, El Setantanou and Divisa. He is the author of the book *El almanaque del video: Historia gráfica y oral de la era del videoclub* (2021), and is part of the podcasts specialized in fantasy and horror films *Marea*

Nocturna and *¡Estamos vivos!*



Sabina Pujol. Absolutely film-lover, professional subtitler, and detective of cinematic gems. If there's a screen and a good story, you'll probably find me nearby. I'm part of the programming team for festivals like Filmets, B-Retina, and Cryptshow, where I'm dedicated to hunting down films that make people fall in love (or traumatize them, as the case may be). In addition, I translate and subtitle so that great stories reach everyone without losing an ounce of their charm. My obsession with audiovisuals and language led me to study

screenwriting at the Escola de Guionistes de Barcelona and Micro Obert, and then I did a master's in Audiovisual Translation at the UAB to eventually become an expert in making films speak all languages. When I'm not subtitling or racking my brain to put together a good film lineup, I'm probably at some festival hunting for a filmic gem, devouring movies (or defending some misunderstood cult work). So now you know: if you have any festival project, call me and I'll come flying, popcorn in hand.

Contact: Email walpurgisqueerfest@gmail.com

IG @walpurgisqueerfestival



Contact: Email walpurgisqueerfest@gmail.com

IG @walpurgisqueerfestival