

40 years of the Nyon Festival – a tradition 15 years of Visions du Réel – a project

23-29 April

We are celebrating a double anniversary in Nyon this year: the 40th anniversary of the Nyon Film Festival and the 15th anniversary of its revival under the name Visions du Réel. Rather than turning towards the past, one of the “must” meetings in the documentary films calendar offers a varied, in-depth programme but one that’s also festive. A panorama of films, guests and special evenings, always with the same spirit of openness towards the public at large.

The International Jury

Visions du Réel is honoured to welcome a first-rate International Jury for its 15th anniversary: **Sally Berger**, a programmer at MOMA (United States), **Molly Dineen**, director of *The Lie of the Land*, Grand Prix La Poste Suisse-Visions du Réel 2008 (Great Britain), **Fernand Melgar**, director of *La forteresse* (Switzerland) and, lastly, the Colombian journalist **Hollman Morris**, the main figure in *Témoignage indésirable*, which was presented at the Festival last year.

Opening evening of the Festival

Official inauguration of the Festival with *El Sistema* by **Paul Smaczny** and **Maria Stodtmeier**. In Venezuela, a unique music-education programme, concerts imbued with magnificent passion, an exceptional alternative to resignation and violence. A world premiere.

The International Competition

Return of not-to-be-missed directors and their new films to Nyon: the Canadian **Peter Mettler** (*Aerial Perspectives on the Alberta Tar Sands*), the German **Thomas Heise** (*Material*) and the Swiss **Peter Liechti** (*The Sound of Insects - Record of a Mummy*). 20 films from 16 countries feature the lurking dangers of neoliberalism (*L'Encerclement - La démocratie dans les rets du néolibéralisme* by **Richard Brouillette**, Canada), the tribulations of real-estate agents and the tenants of a community flat in Russia (*Perestroika - ReConstruction of a Flat (aka Russian Monopoly)* by **Christiane Büchner**, Germany) or a historiography of the great wars of the 20th century seen through cooking (*Cooking History* by Peter Kerekes, Slovakia, Austria and the Czech Republic).

Regards Neufs

27 films to introduce in 2009 the talented new documentary film directors with origins as varied as the Netherlands (*Babaji an Indian Love Story* by Jiska Rickels), Switzerland (*Carnets d'un fragment sonore* by Samantha Granger), Austria and Macedonia (*Cash and Marry* by Georgiev Atanas), China (*Pediatrics Department* by Wang Hao), Brazil (*Um Lugar ao Sol* by **Gabriel Mascaro**) or again Estonia and Finland (*The Revolution That Wasn't* by **Aliona Polunina**).

Helvétiques

Some rich themes for a high-quality Swiss production in 2009. Living alone at the age of 30 in Geneva (*La Vie en 2* by **Frédéric Baillif**), modernization versus tradition in the forest of Ecuador (*Trans-Cutucú Zurück in den Urwald* by **Lisa Faessler**) or a portrait of Christoph Marthaler, the former star of the Zurich Schauspielhaus (*Familientreffen - Marthaler Theater im Grand Hotel* by **Sarah Derendinger**). Swiss filmmakers embrace the documentary and project it into the future.

Tendances

El olvido by **Heddy Honigmann** (Netherlands, Germany), *Hunting the Hunters* by **Angela Graas** (Germany) or *Pizza à Auschwitz* by **Moshe Zimerman** (Israel) are among the 28 films of the Tendances section that testify to the extraordinary diversity of documentary films. With, as the icing on the cake, the return of **Avi Mograbi** (*Z32*) and the re-editing of a **Pier Paolo Pasolini** film by **Giuseppe Bertolucci** (*La rabbia di Pasolini - ipotesi di ricostruzione della versione originale del film*).

Investigations

Non-voting America (*Dear Oprah: Non-Voting America's Wildest Dream* by **Kasper Verkaik**), ill-treated nuclear power station employees (*R.A.S. Nucléaire, rien à signaler* by **Alain de Halleux**, Belgium) and boxer speculators (literally, in *Traders* by **Jean-Stéphane Bron**) – the Investigations section sets out to discover the big wide world and its contrasts.

Fictions du Réel

Claire Simon is back at the festival in 2009 with *Les bureaux de Dieu*, with notably **Nathalie Baye, Nicole Garcia and Béatrice Dalle**, a powerful film about the condition of women as seen by a family planning centre. The programme also features animated figures in modelling clay (*Dossier rê Bordosa* by **Cesar Cabral**) and a humorous Hungarian caricature about two corrupt wheeler-dealers from Romania (*Barthalo! Good Luck!* by **Robert Lakatos**).

40 years and 15 years, an anniversary to remember

To celebrate our anniversary, the whole week there will be a light creation by **Sophie Guyot**, a trail of enchanting visible beacons between the Salle Communale and the Usine à Gaz – a salute from the town of Nyon to the Festival and its audience; Saturday April 25th, some exceptional films, music and inventive culinary creations by le Caillou Farci, then then at night, an exceptional VJ show devised by **Mimetic** (Geneva) and **Lech Kowalski**. With the support of the Festivals of the Town of **Nyon: Paleo, Caribana and the far° - festival of living arts**. Visions du Réel has asked a large number of directors to make some **visual haikus**, meditation in three planes. About fifty of these works have been entrusted to the Festival and will be projected before each showing. Some great gifts for Visions du Réel!

A new partner and a new prize

La Mobilière Suisse has joined Visions du Réel and become its second main sponsor after La Poste Suisse, which is renewing its partnership with the Festival for a second year. The **Buyens-Chagoll Prize** will be presented in addition to the other awards. Endowed with CHF 5,000, it will reward “a film with humanistic value that highlights narratives giving greater confidence in the future of humankind.”

Doc Outlook International Market

The International Market has been further expanded this year, both in the space made available during the Festival and in the trade events during the Festival week. Worth noting: the **Pitching du Réel and the One-on-One Meetings** (organized in cooperation with EDN), the **Docweb Panel** (the web-based documentary), **Cinema Babel – Translating Global Cinema** (the world of sub-titles) and the **Apple Switzerland and Schweizer Video AG** seminar (the HD camera in all its facets on Final Cut Pro).

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Press officer:

Pierre-Yves Walder

+41 22 365 44 52 / pywalder@visionsdureel.ch

Press material and images from the selected films and visual of the Festival on

<http://www.visionsdureel.ch/presskits/>

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