

FINAL PRESS RELEASE

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## **An admissions record and a rejuvenation cure for Visions du Réel 2009**

The anniversary edition of Visions du Réel is drawing to a close with some positive results: the quality of the programming in the diversity of genres that are the Festival's trademark has been unanimously acknowledged. The attendance is up, with more than **30,000** admissions for the projections, Workshops, Great Debates and various panel discussions. An increased number of young people were in the audience along with students from film schools in Switzerland and abroad. The school projections attracted 1,685 teenagers from the region's state schools. On the professionals' front, there were 10% more accredited visitors.

A new generation of film enthusiasts has thus flocked to the Festival's cinemas: *cinéma du réel* is heading for a great future!

The Grand Prix La Poste Suisse has been awarded to **L'Encerclement** by the Quebecer **Richard Brouillette**, an exciting contribution to an understanding of how today's economy works; the SSR SRG idée suisse Prize goes to **Die Frau mit den 5 Elefanten** by the Swiss **Vadim Jendreyko**, testifying to the richness of a selection capable of arousing interest among a wide audience.

### **40 years of the Nyon Festival – a tradition**

#### **15 years of Visions du Réel – a project**

#### **A double anniversary**

Nearly 70 filmmakers made a birthday gift to the Festival of **Haikus**, visual poems in 3 planes, some consummate gems of concision that were presented before each projection.

### **A programme of 143 films to highlight the diversity of documentary films**

Some renowned filmmakers, **Peter Mettler, Peter Liechti, Lech Kowalski, Thomas Heise, Avi Mograbi, Claire Simon, Sourav Sarangui, Kazuhiro Soda and Jos de Putter**, along with some talented new directors who were particularly present in the First Steps section, convinced the curious and generous spectators.

### **Workshops and Reprocessing Reality: two Lebanese, one Russian and one American**

As the main pillars of the Visions du Réel programme, the Lebanese couple of filmmakers **Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige** and the Russian **Sergey Dvortsevov** turned the Workshops devoted to them into benchmark events. **Je veux voir**, a narrative of Catherine Deneuve's short journey to the ruins of war-torn Lebanon, aroused a lot of discussion, as did **Tulpan**, the first fiction film with the precious documentary touches of **Dvortsevov**, who took advantage of the platform offered by the Festival to release the film for showing in cinemas in Switzerland.

As the (very) free electron of this edition, the US filmmaker **Susan Mogul**, in the Reprocessing Reality section, also electrified the festival-goers with her autobiographical films tinged with exhibitionist irony. If a mascot had had to be elected for Visions du Réel 2009, the artist would probably have won all the votes.

### **From Wall Street to Nyon**

The Swiss filmmaker **Jean-Stéphane Bron** made a stunning return to Nyon for the world premiere, in partnership with TSR, of **Traders**, which is about the merciless world of finance, centred on a boxing ring at the heart of Wall Street.

### **20 years ago: the Fall of the Berlin Wall**

As part of the co-operation with L'Hebdo, Payot Bookstores and the University of Geneva, a Great Debate punctuated with film excerpts was an opportunity to reflect on the events centred on the Fall of the Berlin Wall that changed the face of Europe.

### **EURODOC is 10 years old**

The projections of the films made as a result of EURODOC highlighted the importance of this European training programme with some intense debates.

### **Doc Outlook – International Market**

The Doc Outlook International Market enjoyed a significant increase in its attendance: more than 24%, that is, 871 accredited professionals.

The digitized Market, which is acknowledged as one of the most efficient in Europe, presented 240 films and totalled 3,270 viewings.

In the scope of the professional Meetings (Pitching du Réel and the One-on-One Meetings), 23 projects were presented to an international gathering of financial partners

As part of the co-operation with the French-speaking Swiss broadcaster TSR, the prize to encourage the making of documentaries, "**Perspective of a doc**" was presented to *YK2* by **Michael Borgognon, Rita Production Geneva**, in front of a full house.

The DocuWeb Panel, in co-operation with FOCAL, took an exciting first look at the new concepts of, and means of disseminating, documentary films designed for the web.

### **Priorities already set for 2010**

The public success has definitively given notice to the Festival and the Town of Nyon to find solutions: a new cinema will be built to meet everybody's expectations!

### **Main partners**

With **La Poste Suisse** and, since this year **La Mobilière**, along with the media partner SSR SRG idée suisse, the public authorities, the **Loterie Romande and Media**, Visions du Réel – its Festival and its Doc Outlook-International Market - are looking towards the future with confidence and some fine projects.

### **Visions du Réel continues... in Paris, Lucern, Zurich**

As every year, a selection of the 2009 prize-winning films will be presented on Monday, May 11 at the MK2 Quai de Loire, Paris.

The Grand Prix La Poste Suisse will be on the screens on May 10 at the Bourbaki cinema in Lucern at 11.30 a.m. and at the Riff Raff in Zurich at 08.00 p.m.

The Festival is also playing extra time at the Swiss Cultural Centre in Paris. Meetings, discussions and projections centred on the issue of image authenticity. "**Les Fictions du Réel**" is a project developed by Visions du Réel at the invitation of the co-directors **Olivier Kaeser and Jean-Paul Felley**. From May 19 to 22 and from June 16 to 19, 2009.

And there will still be the monthly slot on TSR 2.

**The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Visions du Réel will be held from April 15 to 21, 2010**

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