

EMBARGO: Wednesday, April 21th 2010, 20H30

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES OF THE 16th EDITION, APRIL 15rd-21th 2009

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION:

THE INTERNATIONAL JURY:

Molly Dineen – british filmmaker, winner of the « Grand Prix Visions du Réel » in 2008 for **The Lie of the Land**

Bernard Comment – swiss writer, Fiction & Cie collection director published by Editions du Seuil

Thierry Garrel – a producer, former director of the documentary film unit of Arte France which, thanks to him, has enjoyed an international outreach.

Jordi Ballò – a writer, lecturer in audiovisual communication at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, exhibitions director of the Barcelona Contemporary Culture Centre

Grand Prix La Poste Suisse – Visions du Réel, CHF 20'000.- to:

INTO ETERNITY, Michael Madsen, Danemark/Finland

For its depth of subject
For the formal strength of its writing
For the heady questions asked of our society, confronted with its long-term future
and for the doubts which emerge because of it
The international jury unanimously awards the

For the Special Prize SSR SRG idée suisse – Visions du réel
Opinion was divided in the international jury and so two films were chosen equally for their immersion in brutal contemporary realities:

SRG SSR idée suisse-Award, CHF 10'000.- to:

SAINTE ANNE, HÔPITAL PSYCHIATRIQUE de Ilan Klipper, France

et

SOMETHING ABOUT GEORGIA de Nino Kirtadzé, France

THE AUDIENCE-JURY:

Alain Brönnimann, Thônex
Andreas Bachmann-Helbling, Nyon
Geneviève Perraudin, Nyon
Violaine Paccot, Féchy
awarded the

Audience-Award of the City of Nyon, CHF 10'000.- to:

SALAAM ISFAHAN, Sanaz Azari, Iran/Belgium

What is simpler than taking a photo in the street in order to make contact and trigger speech? From the insignificant to the intimate, from the public to the private, the filmmaker leads us from apparently neutral conversations to considerations which put in perspective the political stakes faced by an entire society. With tact, sobriety and sensitivity, the film carefully handles a beautiful progression from levity to gravity and creates great cinematic moments, such as the nocturnal shot from a cable car which slowly plunges the spectator into the growing noise of the city. With originality, this first film acts as the accompaniment to a country's meeting with its history, expressed to the world through cries of revolt shouted from the roofs.

For all these reasons, the Jury unanimously awards the Prix du Public de la Ville de Nyon – Visions du Réel to Salaam Isfahan de Sanaz Azari!

THE JURY OF THE YOUNG-AUDIENCE:

Adrien Barruat, Chésereux
Laron Kagny, Nyon
Joëlle Meylan, Bursins
Léa Oriol, Crans
Jennifer Siegrist, Nyon

Following very long deliberation, two films stood out. The majority made the decision. For its surprising, touching subject, its depth and its intelligent cinematographic approach, we decided to award the prize to a film which subtly touches upon a different way of life. Through a most singular portrait, prejudices about marginality are transformed into a respectful understanding. Despite the quantity of films we viewed, this one remained with us. We would therefore like to encourage the director of this very promising first film. His artist's touch and his humility added the final touch to a unique film. We therefore award our

Young-Audience-Award of the Côte-Hôtel-Association, CHF 3'000.- to

LE PLEIN PAYS, Antoine Boutet, France

We would also like to give special mention by way of congratulations to a film which deeply touched us through its exceptional images, its message of hope and the realization it brings. This film is

AISHEEN [STILL ALIVE IN GAZA], Nicolas Wadlmoff, Switzerland/Quatar

THE INTERRELIGIOUS JURY:

From 2005 SIGNIS and INTERFILM have been present at the Visions du Réel Festival in Nyon (Switzerland) with an interreligious jury. From 2008, the jury include a representative of the Roman Catholic and the Protestant Church, and a member from the Jewish and the Muslim faith. The jury will award its prize to a film from the international competition and possibly a commendation. This prize endowed with CHF 5'000 by the Swiss Catholic and the Swiss Protestant Churches (Conference of the Churches in the French speaking part of Switzerland/CER and the "Reformierte Medien" in Zurich).

The members of the interreligious jury 2010, nominated by the Swiss representatives of SIGNIS and INTERFILM, were: Ege Görgün (Turkey), Daniel Grivel (Switzerland), Nathalie Roncier (France) and Brigitta Rotach (Switzerland) as president.

The interreligious jury awards its prize of 5000.- to the film

**Prize of the Interreligious Jury, CHF 5'000.-
Of the Swiss Catholic Church and the Conférence des Eglises protestantes de Romandie (CER), to**

STEAM OF LIFE/ MIESTEN VUORO de Joonas Berghäll et Mika Hotakainen, Finlande/Suède

Through the sauna, a lava's cornerstone of the finish art of living, the co-directors present men who show them-selves naked – in every meaning of the word. Rhythmed like a choral song, STEAM OF LIFE mixes tears and smiles, sorrows and joys, shared emotions, in a spirit of forgiveness, serenity and brotherhood.

REGARDS NEUFS:

THE REGARDS NEUFS-JURY:

Richard Brouillette – Canada, Filmmaker, Grand Prix La Poste Suisse - Visions du Réel 2009 for L'Encerclement – la démocratie dans les rets du néolibéralisme

Gideon Koppel – Great Britain, Filmmaker, professor at the London University and Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales in Paris

Kathrin Plüss – Film editor, Switzerland.

Denis Sneguirev – France/Russia, Filmmaker, Prix du Public de la Ville de Nyon 2008 for Entre ours et loup (24h dans la ville de N.)

Two Prizes of the canton Vaud, each CHF 5'000.- to

ALDA de Viera Cákanyová, République Tchèque

This film blurs the boundaries between fiction and documentary, and is innovative: suggesting new possibilities and dissemination for documentary. Without sentimentality it describes and evokes something of the experience of an individual with Alzheimer's disease and at the same time celebrates the absurdities and beauty of life.

LA CUERDA FLOJA de Nurla Ibáñez Castañeda, Mexique

Set in the world of a travelling circus, this film is instinctive and fluent in its pure cinematographic approach. The filmmaker's way of looking at the characters is tender and human, which at times moves the story from a world of conventional documentary to a world of magic realism. It is a moment of grace.

The Regard neuf Jury wants to give a special mention to

NARGIS – WHEN TIME STEOPPED BREATHING

With silence and dignity, this is a document which witnesses the struggle of a people to survive. The courage of these filmmakers from Myanmar (Burma) is exemplary. This is a film that needs to be seen.

CINEMA SUISSE:

THE SWISS-FILM-JURY:

Bernard Fibicher - Switzerland, director of the museum of Fine-Arts, Lausanne

Claas Danielsen - Switzerland, director of the museum of Fine-Arts, Lausanne

Francis Kandel - commissioning editor Canal Plus, France

awards the

Prize of the George Foundation for the best Newcomer-Film, CHF 10'000.- to

GOODNIGHT NOBODY, Jacqueline Zünd, Suisse/Allemagne

The filmmaker takes us on a voyage through night, space and time. Four protagonists from four continents share the same handicap: they cannot sleep. The film gives no medical or psychological explanations, but shows four ways to face the fact of having to live without interruption 24 hours a day and four ways of making time pass. Through exclusively nocturnal images, very different according to the geographical and cultural contexts, and a soundtrack which links them together, the filmmaker manages to create a bewitching, hypnotic atmosphere – an artistic mastery which commands the jury's respect. The images alone reveal to us the solitude of these four people, their silence, their inability to socialise, permanently confronted as they are with themselves.

Prize of Suissimage und the Society of Swiss Writers SSA for the most innovative Swiss film, CHF 10'000.- to

BEYOND THIS PLACE de Kaleo La Belle, Suisse/Allemagne

Can one hold accountable those who, in the 1960's, rejected the establishment and the Vietnam War, advocated drug use, free love and communal living, and broke definitively with the stereotypes of the traditional exclusive couple? The secondary effects of the hippy movement on its children, the resentment of a son abandoned by a father infatuated with freedom, are themes which go far beyond the reconciliation framework usually programmed into very personal films. This is the story of a difficult meeting between a father who is an occasional cyclist and a lover of great psychedelic spaces, whose responsibility for his life choices is determined by his absolute rejection of consumer society.

This impossible reunion is filmed without excessiveness and with sincerity by the son, who, having become a director, allows himself be drawn by his father into a cycling road movie, in which the successive stages immerse us without voyeurism in a relationship that has been interrupted for thirty years. There is a palpable, progressive tension and skilful montage which inserts the accounts of relations echoing the director's insistent "why"s directed towards a father with a charming smile who once again flees his responsibilities. One ends up believing in an improbable happy ending to this film which unanimously captivated the jury.

Prize Loterie Romande Vaud et Genève (New Prize for a swiss film in the « First Steps » section)

Awarded by Jean Perret (Festival Director), Jenny Billeter and Barabara Levendangeur (Visions du Réel workgroup members) to

COTONOV VANISHED, Andreas Fontana, Suisse

For the precision of its device, its reflection, based on a rumour circulating in the profession, on the work of the interpreter, and, above all, for its subtlety in playing off the real and the false and in creating doubt as to what is real; in summary, for the cinematic promise it reveals, we have decided to award the Prize to Cotonov Vanished by Andreas Fontana.

ALL SECTIONS:

THE BUYENS-CHAGOLL JURY:

Vadim Jendreyko (filmmaker, Bâle)

Lydia Chagoll (filmmaker, Bruxelles),

Sonja Horisberger (Visions du Réel working group)

Jean Perret (Vision du Réel director, Nyon)

awards the

Prize «Buyens-Chagoll», CHF 5'000.- à

AISHEEN [STILL ALIVE IN GAZA], Nicolas Wadlmoff, Suisse/Quatar