

**A CONFIRMED SUCCESS AND A WINNING GAMBLE
THE DOCUMENTARY POLITICAL THRILLER *THE TRIAL* WINS THE SESTERCE D'OR
WHEN ARABS DANCED IS AWARDED THE AUDIENCE AWARD**

The gamble taken by Visions du Réel in appointing a young Artistic Director in the person of Emilie Bujès has paid off. For her first edition heading up the artistic direction of Visions du Réel, Emilie Bujès has brilliantly confirmed the expectations placed upon her, notably by proposing a selection lauded both by audio-visual professionals and critics as well as proving popular with the public. During the nine days of the Festival, which were particularly spring-like this year, the Village du Réel in the heart of the Festival remained full throughout the entire event and was massively invaded by film fans, film professionals and directors invited from all over the world. "On the threshold of the Festival's half century, which we will celebrate next year, the success of the Festival is confirmed; in particular, we are delighted to see our attendance figures consolidated, which is a testament to both the local and international importance of Visions du Réel," emphasises Claude Ruey, Executive President. The documentary political thriller *The Trial* by Maria Augusta Ramos wins the Sesterce d'or La Mobilière for the best feature film, while the film *When Arabs Danced* by Jaouad Rhalib is awarded the Audience Award. A selection of award-winning films can be seen again on Saturday 21 April 2018 in the Grande Salle (Salle Communale). All the award winners: www.visionsdureel.ch/en

A confirmed success for the new Artistic Director Emilie Bujès

"We have experienced a radiant edition, focused on encounters and discussions around film," points out Emilie Bujès, Artistic Director. "The City of Nyon has been beating to the rhythm of the Festival throughout the entire event." The management team of Visions du Réel is smiling: the Festival confirms its attendance figures with 40,000 admissions. The Village du Réel, a convivial space at the heart of the Festival, remained full, offering concerts and DJ sets to festival-goers every evening. This 49th edition, with 139 directors present in Nyon, opened up a forum for discussion with the public, in particular through the debates following the screenings. The Morning Talks held every day of the Festival enabled the public and film professionals to talk informally with directors. This year, with 78 world and 23 international premieres, and three Masterclasses with Claire Simon, Robert Greene and Philip Scheffner, Visions du Réel once again presented a singular and unforgettable selection of films from all over the world, with particular attention paid to new vocabularies and forms of writing. The cinematographical quality of the 174 films, from 53 countries, was lauded by the juries and critics.

The Sesterce d'or goes to the documentary political thriller *The Trial* by Maria Augusta Ramos

The Sesterce d'or La Mobilière for the best film in the International Feature Film Competition, with a prize of CHF 20,000, is awarded to a co-production between Brazil, the Netherlands and Germany: *The Trial* by Maria Augusta Ramos. This film



paints a portrait of Dilma Rousseff, the first woman to be democratically elected to the Brazilian presidency. Imprisoned and tortured from 1970 to 1972 under military dictatorship, she has become a symbol of the Brazilians' quest for democracy. Maria Augusta Ramos films the trial that led to Rousseff's destitution with a powerful energy reminiscent of the best political thrillers of the 1970s. Justifying its choice, the Jury underlined the attention paid both to the details and the situation as a whole, the dramatic intensity and the suspense of this film. "*The Trial* is a politically vital film, which analyses with precision and commitment an event that is both historic and contemporary, as it happens," comments Emilie Bujès.

The Audience Award goes to *When Arabs Danced*

The festival-goers have voted: this year's Sesterce d'argent Audience Award Ville de Nyon, with a prize of CHF 10,000, is awarded to the film *When Arabs Danced*, by Jaouad Rhalib, a co-production between Morocco, France, Egypt, Iran and Belgium. In the face of Daesh's violently oppressive political project, Jaouad Rhalib examines the many facets of Arab culture, through his love for dance, music, philosophy and science. The film explores aspects that are often overlooked or

ignored, and which constitute the heart of Arab culture. To be seen again tomorrow, Saturday 21 April, during the additional screenings of award-winning films (detailed times below).

Saturday 21 April 2018: additional screenings of award-winning films at the Grande Salle (Salle Communale), Nyon
Further screenings will be available at the Salle Colombière if the first screening is sold out.

The Festival offers the opportunity to watch (or re-watch) the best of its 2018 edition.

Tickets: full price CHF 15, reduced CHF 12 | Day pass for award-winning films CHF 38

Ticketing on site or online <https://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/festival/programme>

10:30

International Medium length and Short Film Competition 2018

Sesterce d'argent Fondation Goblet, meilleur court métrage

UNE FILLE DE OUESSANT, Éléonore Saintagnan (28')

<http://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film/une-fille-de-ouessant>

Sesterce d'argent George Reinhart, meilleur moyen métrage

TOUCHING CONCRETE, Ilja Stahl (58')

<http://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film/touching-concrete>

14:00

Burning Lights Competition 2018

Sesterce d'or Canton de Vaud

THE STILL LIFE OF HARLEY PROSPER, Juan Manuel Sepúlveda (65')

<http://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film/the-still-life-of-harley-prosper>

16:00

National Competition 2018

Sesterce d'or SRG SSR

CHACO, Daniele Incalcaterra, Fausta Quattrini (110')

<http://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film/chaco>

18:00

Grand Angle 2018

Sesterce d'argent Prix du Public Ville de Nyon

WHEN ARABS DANCED, Jaouad Rhalib (84')

<http://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film/when-arabs-danced>

20:00

International Feature Film Competition 2018

Sesterce d'or La Mobilière

THE TRIAL, Maria Augusta Ramos (139')

<http://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film/the-trial>

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la Mobilière

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 **VILLE DE NYON**

 **LOTÉRIE ROMANDE**



Screening of the award winning films

Saturday 21 April 2018

Grand Salle (Salle Communale)

International Medium length and Short Film Competition

10:30 Sesterce d'argent Fondation Goblet, best short film
UNE FILLE DE OUessant by Éléonore Saintagnan

Sesterce d'argent George Reinhart, best medium length film
TOUCHING CONCRETE by Ilja Stahl

Burning Lights Competition

14:00 Sesterce d'or Canton de Vaud
THE STILL LIFE OF HARLEY PROSPER by Juan Manuel Sepúlveda

National Competition

16:00 Sesterce d'or SRG SSR
CHACO by Daniele Incalcaterra and Fausta Quattrini)

Grand Angle

18:00 Sesterce d'argent Prix du Public Ville de Nyon
WHEN ARABS DANCED by Jaouad Rhalib

International Feature Film Competition

20:00 Sesterce d'or La Mobilière
THE TRIAL by Maria Augusta Ramos



AWARDS

International Feature Film Competition

Members of the Jury: Laurence Ferreira Barbosa (Filmmaker), James Lattimer (Programmer and Critic) and Dennis Lim (Director and Programmer)

Sesterce d'or La Mobilière to the best feature film (CHF 20,000)

THE TRIAL by Maria Augusta Ramos

A film that captures political events as they unfold, with a responsiveness to the moment, an eye both for detail and the big picture and a sense of drama and suspense. Through this impressive combination, it illustrates the performative nature of politics even as it conveys the necessity of political engagement.

Jury Prize Régionyon to the most innovative feature film (CHF 10,000)

MY FATHER IS MY MOTHER'S BROTHER de Vadym Ilkov

A tender yet unsentimental portrait of a highly specific milieu which acknowledges the complexity of mental illness, sexuality and familial responsibility with empathy and sensitivity. The film tells the story of a new kind of family while suggesting that there is nothing more normal in the world.



Burning Lights Competition

Members of the Jury: Patric Chiha (Filmmaker), João Matos (Producer) and Victor Iriarte (Programmer)

Sesterce d'or Canton de Vaud to the best medium length or feature film (CHF 10,000)

THE STILL LIFE OF HARLEY PROSPER by Juan Manuel Sepúlveda

We were deeply moved and struck by a man, by a unique character, and by the relationship between the one who is filmed and the one who films. Through body and sound, this small room fills itself with Canada, with the history of native Americans and the world. The film begins with a fist banging on a wall without ever breaking itself nor the wall, setting the film on fire.

Jury Prize Société des Hôteliers de la Côte to the most innovative medium length or feature film (CHF 5,000)

MUSIC WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT by Ismael Caneppele

A neon hula hoop in the night guides us through a forest of desire. Not only is the main character searching for its identity, also the film, in a very generous way, explores all the beautiful possibilities of cinema. Thank you for the journey.

Special mention

4 YEARS IN 10 MINUTES by Mladen Kovačević

We decided to give a special mention to a film which created a unique experience and represents time in a singular way.



National Competition

Members of the Jury: Nicoe Gillet (Festival director), Claudia Maci (Assistant artistic director of festival) and Eugénia Mumenthaler (Producer)

Sesterce d'or SRG SSR to the best medium length or feature film (CHF 15,000)

CHACO by Daniele Incalcaterra and Fausta Quattrini

Starting with a land inheritance, the directors successfully transcend the economic and cultural issues linked to this property to enable us to discover an aspect of the political reality in this Paraguayan province. Thanks to a strong, tight narrative and images that always serve their subject, the directors produce a significant and much-needed cinematographical work.

Jury Prize SSA/Suissimage to the most innovative feature film (CHF 10,000)

THE REMNANTS by Paolo Barberi and Riccardo Russo

The directors take us to meet villagers in Laos who are still living day-to-day with the traces of a war that they never declared. Through a respectful and attentive perspective, we discover an original use of the remnants of this war.

Special Mention

LA SÉPARATION DES TRACES by Francis Reusser

For the intelligence and subtlety with which he uses the archives of his films to make a diary.



International Medium Length and Short Competition

Members of the Jury: Stefan Ivančić (Filmmaker, Producer and Programmer), Myriam Sassine (Producer) and Aline Schmid (Producer)

Sesterce d'argent George Reinhart to the best medium length film (CHF 10,000)

TOUCHING CONCRETE by Ilja Stahl

A generous film that gives a rare and unique freedom to its characters. With absolute sincerity, they share their thoughts and their fears. Unable to flee nor ignore their surroundings, they have to embrace violence in order to survive. Their rebellion comes through dance – a dance that celebrates life and looks toward the future.

Special Mention

ALONE WITH ANNA by Axel Victor

For a filmmaker who embarked on an intimate journey that kept surprising us with his ability to film the magic of an unexpected encounter.

Sesterce d'argent Fondation Goblet to the best short film (CHF 5,000)

UNE FILLE DE OUESSANT by Éléonore Saintagnan

A film about a seemingly peaceful island. A wandering that transforms into a complex exploration of the place through surprising archives, revealing a tragic past, entangled with the author's own existential questions. A quirky and inventive film that tells a lot about love, loneliness, men and women, parenthood and mourning.



Special Mention

I SIGNED THE PETITION by Mahdi Fleifel

For a witty and sharp approach on a big dilemma – what are the possibilities of being politically active today?

Youth Jury

Inès Ben Salem, Philippine Coutau, Enora Gruénais, Sam Hurlimann, Axel Munoz, Aurélien Puntos, as well as Léa Célestine Bernasconi, president of Youth Jury

Youth Jury Prize George Reinhart to the most innovative medium length film (CHF 5,000)

CITTÀGIARDINO by Marco Piccarda and Gaia Formenti

A film that takes its time, with shots that leave enough time to see, feel and understand the waiting and the boredom of the characters. A gentle humour that binds us to them and that counters the dangerous trend towards dehumanising migrants and prevailing miserabilism. A film whose manner of dealing with the issue is perhaps insufficiently used in the media.

Youth Jury Prize Mémoire Vive to the most innovative short film (CHF 2,500)

I SIGNED THE PETITION by Mahdi Fleifel

For its innovative form, the character into whom we find our way, questioning our actions and our identities. In a world where rising up hurts your feet, civil resistance finds its place. Thanks to the most skilful wit and discussion.



Grand Angle – Audience Award

Sesterce d'argent Prix du Public Ville de Nyon for the best feature film (CHF 10,000)

WHEN ARABS DANCED de Jaouad Rhalib

Prix Raiffeisen Maître du Réel

Sesterce d'or Prix Raiffeisen Maître du Réel to reward the entire career of a major personality of the cinema du réel

Claire Simon

Opening Scenes

Prize of the Meta Cultural Foundation - Slon Residency

Laura Marques, director of COWS AND QUEENS

The award of the Meta Cultural Foundation - Slon Residency goes to a film that depicts, in a self-reflective way, the animal world in its mythological dimension. Simple, sensitive and sensual, the film evolves in the rhythm of the cows' bells, emphasized by the musical score and the dreamy visual style. The prize goes to Cows and Queens by Laura Marques.



Tënk Award – Purchase of broadcasting rights for three films of the section Opening Scenes.

LA RIVIÈRE TANIER by June Balthazard

The black-and-white sketch of La Rivière Tanier brings to life and documents much more than a family history or Alzheimer's disease. Creating its own traces, June Balthazard's very accomplished animation enables us to access the subconscious of a Creole society that is still marked by its slaving history. Far removed from picture-postcard Mauritius, she confronts us with our own memory lapse as former colonisers.

PLASTIC by Sissel Morell Dargis

In a real nod at the direct cinema style of the Maysles brothers, Sissel Morell Dargis' salesmen here find themselves transported into post-Castro Cuban society. And while we may laugh a great deal alongside the two buddies, selling their plastic boxes, the mirage of a Communist ideal quickly makes way for the bitter taste of a Cuba that has fully embraced Capitalist resourcefulness.

HAMAMA & CALUNA by Andreas Muggli

The appearance of wild animals on Hamama and Caluna's route through the mountains initially seems fortuitous. Through its recurrence, Andreas Muggli gradually leads us towards reflection. And when one of his two heroes, taking refuge on the outskirts of a wood, exclaims: "We can't hide forever in the forest like animals!", then we are well and truly made to think about our own humanity and the way in which we, European countries, welcome migrants.



Prix Interreligieux

Members of the Jury: Praxedis Bouwman (President of the Lutheran missions of the Netherlands), Nathalie Fritz (Editor), Majid Movasseghi (Filmmaker, Critic and Professor), Daniel Zuta (Producer)

The **Interreligious Jury** awards a feature film that sheds light on issues dealing with meaning and sense of direction in life (CHF 5,000).

ALMOST NOTHING de Anna by Manincor, ZimmerFrei

Religious Affiliation or Nationality seem to be of no importance at CERN. Nevertheless, the film shows in a most convincing manner how the search for the meaning of life unites the scientists even into the smallest particle. The film succeeds in picturing the human being behind science in a humorous way and at a high level. At the same time the film shows those human beings in an unexpected religious context.

Special Mention

STORIES OF THE HALF-LIGHT by Luca Magi

The poem-like film, at a high aesthetical level, gives the human beings who are nearly voiceless a voice and gives them back their dignity.



Prix Buyens-Chagoll

Members of the Jury: Lydia Chagoll, (Filmmaker), Mourad Moussa (Programmer) and Charlie Petersman (Filmmaker)

The **Buyens-Chagoll Jury** awards a film of humanist dimension focusing on stories that develop values that provide meaning to the future of mankind (CHF 5,000).

ISLAND OF THE HUNGRY GHOSTS by Gabrielle Brady

On the Australian territory of Christmas Island, where the freedom of crabs calls into question the confinement of human beings, Gabrielle Brady throws a subtle and generous gaze on the issue of migration. Sensitive framing and editing create a strong cinematographical gesture, an answer to urgent questions provided through a much-needed work.

Special Mention

SRBENKA by Nebojša Slijepčević

A device that confronts the past and the present, a space that connects the power of film and theatre in order to initiate the long time needed for reparation, when a war that is over does not end.



Industry

visions sud est Award - Best Serbian project presented during the Focus Talk

MERRY CHRISTMAS, YIWU by Mladen Kovačević

Alphapanda Audience Engagement Award - Head of Industry Docs in Progress project with great potential to engage audiences through online activities

LEMEBEL by Joanna Reposi

Raggio Verde Subtitling Award - Best Rough Cut Lab project

UP TO DOWN by Nazareno Manuel Nicoletti

HEAD – Genève Postproduction Award - Best Pitching du Réel project

TREES FLOATING by Salomé Jashi

Prix RTS – Perspective d’un doc – Best Swiss French project

RÉVEIL SUR MARS by Déa Gjinovci



Prix Web Series Doc

Members of the Jury: Filip Uffer (Leenaards Fondation), Elizabeth Baume-Schneider (EESP director and CFC president) and Philippa de Roten (RTS)

CLIN D'ŒIL by Yann Angulo and Tristan Muhlestein

C'ÉTAIT MIEUX AVANT by Jeanne Weber, Irène Aeberli and Aina Randriamboavonjy

CHEMINS CROISÉS by Calvin Herizo and Adrien Beroud

Prix Klik! Festival

Pascale Mauron (School director), Sonia Guillaume-Gentil (Librarian), Philippe Clivaz (General secretary Visions du Réel), Antoine Guenot (La Côte) and Vincent Zeller (teacher)

EL MONSTRUO

Prix Festival Reflex

Members of the Jury: Cristina Del Biaggio (Researcher), Selver Kabacalman, (Journalist), Claudio Recupero (Politologue, Filmmaker), Nicolae Schiau, (Journalist Couleur 3), Pierre Schwerzmann (Painter) and Maria Watzlawick, (Codirector Black Movie Film Festival)

12 – 15 years: **FREE-WIFI** by Sacha Bourquard

16 – 19 years: **REZA** by Evelyne Peter and Mathilde Valfells

20 – 26 years: **AMINA** by Clara Chevalley

Prix spécial du jury: **IMAGE INIMAGINABLE** by Louis Tan

Prix spécial du jury: **#RTSITRISTE** by Enora Gruénais and Delphine Rozmuski

Prix du Public Genève: **FUIR** by the Cycle des Colombières

Prix du Public Nyon: **REZA** by Evelyne Peter and Mathilde Valfells