

## **A full house to launch the 48th edition of Visions du Réel Under the banner of diversity, humanism and enthusiasm**

21 April 2017, Nyon (Switzerland) – **Visions du Réel, Festival international de cinéma Nyon (21–29 April 2017), opened its 48th edition to a packed house with the moving documentary comedy *The Grown-Ups*. Festival President Claude Ruey and Federal Councillor Alain Berset came together to salute documentary filmmaking, free filmmaking, presenting the world in all of its richness, diversity, complexity and humanity, far from the simplistic approach and the demagogy that so often run through the current political and social climate. The special guest for this Opening Ceremony, Federal Councillor Alain Berset, described the humanist filmmaking offered by Visions du Réel as “a fabulous cultural antidote to all the new forms of obscurantism.” Echoing him, Festival President Claude Ruey reminded us that “the world cannot be summed up in 140 characters”, since reality is not binary, but fortunately far more rich, colourful and nuanced, as reflected by the films screened in Nyon. Anne-Catherine Lyon, Member of the Cantonal Council of Vaud, hailed “the importance of the Festival in Vaud’s cultural policy, as much in terms of supporting filmmaking as for the influence this event procures the Canton at regional, national and international levels.” Nyon mayor Daniel Rossellat underlines that “the Festival has reached full maturity and places Nyon firmly on the world map”.**

### **A full house with a host of personalities**

“In a world in which fake news has become both a societal phenomenon and the preferred weapon of the demagogues, it is essential to resort to culture to decode and denounce these ‘poor man’s aphorisms’ that spread so fast—not at the speed of light but rather at the speed of night.” This is how Federal Councillor Alain Berset reminded us of the importance of filmmaking such as that proposed at Visions du Réel. Free filmmaking, which encourages reflection and open-mindedness, which offers a plurality of perspectives on the state of the world. Questioning the powerful upswing in oversimplification in the public landscape and on social networks, the Festival President Claude Ruey again emphasised how the “the world cannot be summed up in 140 characters. Reality is not binary, but far more complex, colourful and diverse, and documentary filmmaking reminds us of this with joy.” Vaud Cantonal Council Member Anne-Catherine Lyon and Mayor of Nyon Daniel Rossellat were also in attendance to open this 48th edition of the Festival.

### **Humour, family and liberty for the opening film**

As proof of the enthusiasm that accompanies Visions du Réel, the public was also present: the Festival kicked off with a packed house at the Théâtre de Marens, with the screening of *The Grown-Ups*, a moving documentary comedy, “a magnificent lesson in humanity, simultaneously funny and tender, with a subtle approach” according to Artistic Director Luciano Barisone. A film that bears witness to the desires—for liberty, for marriage, for starting a family—of four forty-year-olds living with Down syndrome in an institution in Chili. This sold-out screening has an exceptional second screening at the Salle Communale at 8.30 pm.

Please note: *The Grown-Ups* will be screened for a third time at the Théâtre de Grand-Champ on Saturday 22 April at 3.00 pm. As part of the Grand Angle section, this film will be competing for the Prix du Public. Tickets > [www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film/the-grown-ups](http://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film/the-grown-ups)



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