

## **The programme of the 44<sup>th</sup> Visions du Réel (19 to 26 April 2013) is revealed: the themes are reflection, exploration, and discovery**

**Nyon, 25th March 2013. Reflection, exploration, and discovery are the key themes of the International Film Festival of Visions du Réel in Nyon (Switzerland) this year which will be held from 19th to 26th April 2013. The programme of this 44th festival includes a total of 110 films in competition from 45 countries, including 24 Swiss films. For almost all of the films the festival screenings will be world or international premieres; the fruit of a record number of nearly 3 500 films submitted to Nyon or discovered in festivals around the world by Luciano Barisone and his selection committee. "This record number of films screened underscores the growing reputation of the Festival nationally and internationally and enables the organisers to apply particularly stringent criteria in the selection process", Claude Ruey proudly announces. The opening ceremony, on Friday 19th April 2013, at 7:30 p.m. at the Théâtre de Marens, will be attended by Federal Councillor Alain Berset. Also planned is an exceptional visit by the singer-composer Gilberto Gil on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, for the screening of the film *Viramundo*, directed by Pierre-Yves Borgeaud.**

### **Exploring new ways of life and imagining the future.**

"In the face of the contradictions of a globalised system, the world is seeking a possible future. After the social unrest which in recent years has affected the West, the East, as well as the Arab world, filmmakers everywhere are reflecting on the current situation, exploring new ways of life, and imaging the future". For Luciano Barisone, the subjects of the films screened at the Visions du Réel Festival this year bear witness to this state of affairs and highlight this thirst for reflection, exploration, and discovery.

### **An exclusive selection based on respect, commitment, originality, aesthetics, and creativity**

"To select the 110 films for the competition (50 feature length films, 24 medium length films, and 36 short films) from among 3 500 films, our selection criteria set very high standards", explains Luciano Barisone. The respect of the spectators and of the persons filmed, the filmmakers' commitment to their projects, as well as the originality and aesthetics of the films are among the key selection criteria. "The ability of the filmmakers to produce inspired, creative films is also very important for us", adds the artistic director. So as to strengthen its role as an international platform for the promotion of films, exclusivity is also crucial for Visions du Réel. All the screenings of the competition will be world premieres (72 films), international premieres (31), and European or Swiss premieres (7).

### **The "Doc Outlook – International Film Market" and the focus on Lebanon: Promoting exchanges between professionals and the circulation of films**

Visions du Réel also organises one of the most important film markets in Europe, the DOC OUTLOOK – INTERNATIONAL MARKET. Closely linked to the Festival, this unique film market in Switzerland is principally dedicated to professionals in the sector, and is attended by filmmakers, producers, distributors, programmers, buyers/sales agents and representatives from broadcasters as well as other platforms from all around the world. It is also a great opportunity for all of the films presented at the Festival or in the MEDIA LIBRARY (approx. 350 films selected, digitised, and available for screening) to find their distribution channels, in Switzerland and the rest of the world. At the same time, many conferences, co-production forums, and professional events are organised.

A FOCUS on documentary film in Lebanon open to the general audience will also provide an opportunity to discover 14 films produced in the country (see communique of 15 January 2013).

### **Opening evening in the presence of Federal Councillor Alain Berset**

The international premiere of French Canadian director Hugo Latulippe's film, *Alphée des étoiles*, a remarkable example of humanity and filmmaking, will open the Festival, on Friday 19th April, at 7 :30 p.m. at the Théâtre de Marens. Afflicted by a rare genetic disease which slows down her development, the young Alphée manages to outwit all the doctors' prognoses with the help of her parents who decide to throw themselves into a pitch battle to develop her learning abilities and refuse to put her in a special institution. The father, a filmmaker, films his daughter's progress and provides us with a personal diary and portrayal of an extraordinary person.

*The Festival enjoys the generous support of 3 major sponsors - La Poste Suisse, La Mobilière, and SRG SSR – as well as institutions such as the European Union (MEDIA programme), the Swiss Confederation, the Canton de Vaud, and the town of Nyon.*

**The 2013 Programme is now on-line at:** [www.visionsdureel.ch](http://www.visionsdureel.ch)

Discover the trailer of the 2013 Festival: [www.youtube.com/visionsdureel](http://www.youtube.com/visionsdureel)

**Press material** available at: <http://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/press/material.html>

**Online-Accreditation form** at: <http://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/festival/accreditation.html>

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