

VISIONS DU RÉEL 2016 AWARD WINNERS

The Sesterce d'or goes to a film about a Chinese family and closes a wonderful 47th edition. Increasing its audience, the Festival maintains its leading role.

22 April 2016, Nyon (Switzerland)—The consecration of the film *Another Year*, which features a family of Chinese workers, closes the 47th edition of Visions du Réel, Festival international de cinéma Nyon, in the presence of Anne-Catherine Lyon, member of the Cantonal Council of Vaud. Attendance figures for the Festival reached over 39,000 spectators in addition to the 6,000 people attending Visions du Réel On Tour this year. With a total audience of 45,000, Visions du Réel confirms its ongoing success. Many films were sold out — some even had second screenings due to the strong demand. “With 116 world and international premieres, its masterclasses and its many forums, Visions du Réel confirms its role as a leading Festival internationally as well as in Switzerland, and the public shows its support!” rejoices President Claude Ruey. The quality of filmmaking for the 180 films, coming from 49 countries, has been applauded by the juries and the critics. The Sesterce d'or La Mobilière for the best feature film from the International Competition is awarded to the Chinese director Shengze Zhu for *Another Year*, a film with a particularly original content: three hours of film, thirteen dinners filmed in static shots over a period of fourteen months. Switzerland also takes pride of place with five award winners, including two coproductions. The many opportunities to meet the guest directors—157 attended the Festival—as well as the musical evenings of this 47th edition attracted an enthusiastic public.

Confirmation of the Festival's success and its role as a stepping stone

“Attendance figures at Visions du Réel this year hit record levels again, consolidating its success with the public and with film professionals”, announces Claude Ruey, President of the Festival. With three masterclasses dedicated to big names in film — Peter Greenaway, Maître du Réel 2016, as well as Dominic Gagnon and Audrius Stonys, the guests for the Ateliers — and a total of 157 directors present at the Festival, the public enjoyed many opportunities to rub shoulders with professionals from the world of documentary film. With 1,800 accreditations this year, the festival was also able to count on even more film professionals — notably attending the numerous activities proposed by the Doc Outlook – International Market (DOCM), Visions du Réel's film market. It should be noted that three of the award winning films had been presented at the DOCM during previous editions of the Festival when they were still at project stage. These films are *Tadmor* by Monika Borgmann and Lokman Slim (presented as part of Focus Lebanon 2013; winner of the Sesterce d'argent for best Swiss film as well as a special mention from the Jury for feature films from the International Competition this year), *The Dazzling Light of Sunset*, by Salomé Jashi (presented as part of Focus Georgia 2015 ; winner of the Sesterce d'argent Regard Neuf for the best film this year) and *Calabria*, by Pierre-François Sauter (presented as part of the Pitching du Réel 2013; special mention from the Swiss Film Jury this year). “These awards emphasise the role of



stepping stone that our Festival plays, as it selects and promotes films at every stage of their development”, adds Claude Ruey.

The Sesterce d'or goes to the Chinese film: *Another Year*

“Encounters are the basis for everything. Encounters enable one to know each other and to recognise each other, to experience the world”. These were the words of Luciano Barisone, Director of Visions du Réel, during the opening ceremony, speaking about the sense and the importance of the Festival, reminding the public that documentary filmmaking is precisely the medium that enables these necessary encounters. The film winning the Sesterce d'or this year reflects these words: *Another Year* by Chinese director Shengze Zhu proposes an immersion into the intimacy of daily family life, vividly summarising the reality of the relationship between the members of a three-generation family and the evolution of their living conditions. Social and economic challenges are implicitly understood through these family encounters via the ritual of eating. The film's originality particularly convinced the Jury for feature films from the International Competition: three hours of film, thirteen dinners filmed in static shots over a period of fourteen months.

Swiss films among the 2016 award winners

Swiss cinematographical production has a prime position among the awards: in total, five Swiss films including two coproductions take awards. The film *Tadmor* by Monika Borgmann and Lokman Slim (Lebanese, Swiss and French coproduction) thus wins the Sesterce d'argent SRG SSR for the best Swiss film, from all categories, as well as a special mention from the Jury for feature films from the International Competition. The film *Raving Iran* by Susanne Regina Meures wins the Prix du Jury SSA/Suissimage for the most innovative Swiss feature film, and *Calabria* (France, Switzerland and Italy) receives a special mention. The Prix Buyens-Chagoll is awarded to the film *Un paese di Calabria* by Shu Aiello and Catherine Catella, and the Interreligious Jury gives *Looking Like My Mother* by Dominique Margot a special mention.

Saturday 23 April: a second screening of award winning films at the Salle Communale, Nyon

The Festival offers the opportunity to watch (or re-watch) the best of its 2016 edition with this selection of six award winning films showing throughout the whole day. Special prices: CHF 38/day pass, CHF 10/screening (CHF 5 reduced rate). Ticketing on site at the Village du Réel (rue des Marchandises) or online:

<http://www.visionsdureel.ch>

The Sesterce d'or Fondation Goblet, from the International short films competition, and the Sesterce d'or george, from the International medium-length films competition

10.30 – [I'm Not from Here](#) and [Sit and Watch](#)

The Sesterce d'argent Regard Neuf Canton de Vaud

14.00 – [The Dazzling Light of Sunset](#)

The Sesterce d'argent SRG SSR Cinéma suisse

16.00 – [Tadmor](#)

The Sesterce d'argent Prix du Public Ville de Nyon

18.00 – [Presenting Princess Shaw](#)

The Sesterce d'or La Mobilière, from the International feature films competition

20.00 – [Another Year](#)

See you next year for the 48th edition, from 21 to 29 April 2017!

Materiel: Images from all the selected films: www.visionsdureel.ch/programme

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AWARDS

MAÎTRE DU RÉEL

Sesterce d'or Prix Raiffeisen - Career Award

PETER GREENAWAY

COMPÉTITION INTERNATIONALE LONGS MÉTRAGES

Jury composed of Antoine Duplan (Critic, Switzerland), Abbas Fahdel (Filmmaker, Iraq/France), Simone Gattoni (Producer, Italy)

Sesterce d'or La Mobilière - Best feature film of the international competition CHF 20'000

ANOTHER YEAR by Shengze Zhu

“The Jury recognises a real cinematic offering and emphasises the originality of the device: in three hours and thirteen static shots spread over a year, the director evokes, via the ritual of eating, Chinese society and the family-related, professional and economic challenges faced by workers.”

Prix du jury Régionyon - Most innovative feature film of the international competition CHF 10'000

LIBERATION, THE USER'S GUIDE by Alexander Kuznetsov.

“This film takes a discreet look at the fight being led in contemporary Russia by young women deprived of their civic rights. The director also recounts with sensitivity the broken dreams as well as the Kafkaesque dimension of Russian bureaucracy.”

Mention spéciale

TADMOR by Monika Borgmann by Lokman Slim

COMPÉTITION INTERNATIONALE MOYENS MÉTRAGES

Jury composed of Safia Benhaim (Filmmaker, Morocco/France), Emmanuel Cuénod (Festival Director, Switzerland), Tina Janker (Film school manager, Germany)

Sesterce d'or george - Best medium-length film CHF 10'000

SIT AND WATCH by Matthew Barton and Francisco Forbes

“As much a philosophical essay as a political pamphlet, *Sit and Watch* is a hard-hitting film whose power stems both from the diversity of the materials brought together by the filmmakers as from the implacable mechanics of an editing style in which the repeated motifs gradually become dizzying. This radical and deeply immersive device ultimately places the audience before their own condition as a “sitting” subject “watching”, while forcing them to question themselves, and therefore to resist.”

Prix du jury george - Most innovative medium-length film CHF 5000

SAMIR IN THE DUST by Mohamed Ouzine

“*Samir in the Dust* constantly plays with the codes of documentary film and fiction, so as to evoke the life of its protagonist in an overwhelming, intimate and poetic manner. Somewhere between a story and a political account, the film dares to bet on a style of cinema that would be sufficient by itself, on a set of aesthetics that obey no rules other than its own, and on a relationship that is both direct and extremely constructed between the filmmaker and the filmed. “

Mention spéciale

FROM THE WEST by Juliane Henrich

“An essay gracefully mixing intimate geography, personal memories, political reflections and philosophical sources, *From the West* is based on a device whose false simplicity reveals the underlying complexity hidden behind every human. Through the filmmaker’s perspective, the history of West Germany continues to emerge behind the apparent banality of its urban landscapes.”

COMPÉTITION INTERNATIONALE COURTS MÉTRAGES

Jury composed of Safia Benhaim (Filmmaker, Marocco/France), Emmanuel Cuénod (Festival Director, Switzerland), Tina Janker (Film school manager, Germany)

Sesterce d'or Fondation Goblet - Best short film of the international competition
CHF 5000

I'M NOT FROM HERE by Maite Alberdi and Giedrė Žickytė

"With *I'm Not from Here*, the filmmakers have successfully tackled complex and serious issues, such as old age, illness and exile, with humour. Based on the observation, as precise as it is tender, of a personality whose strong character has been weakened by age and the degeneration of the senses, and interspersed with amusing, even surrealist, scenes, the film is also the portrait of a whole community. Its success is largely due to consummate editing and the specific length of each shot."

Prix du jury Mémoire Vive - Most innovative short film of the international competition
CHF 2500

THE ROCK by Hamid Jafari

"With this portrait of an Iranian woman spending her life breaking stones in a quarry, the filmmaker makes the best of the relationship between a character and her environment. Magnified by a heightened sense of framing and space, this silent dialogue between a body, which is tired but still standing, and the hard rock, which is indifferent to the human, could be equally understood as a rereading of ancient mythologies or as a parable on the destiny of contemporary Iran's marginalised people."

REGARD NEUF

Jury composed of Darya Bassel, (Programmer, Ukraine) , Carlo Hintermann (Filmmaker and Producer, Switzerland /Italie), Flor Rubina (Producer, Chili)

Sesterce d'argent Regard Neuf Canton de Vaud - Best first CHF 10'000

THE DAZZLING LIGHT OF SUNSET by Salomé Jashi

« To show all the nuances of life you need to be open to the wonder of daily life. This movie follows this approach in a very profound way, balancing many elements, and showing the richness of a community. There is not a more exciting discover than life in itself.»

Prix du jury Regard Neuf- Most innovative first film CHF 5000

NOT MY JOB by Denis Shabaev

“For the skill to build a story that shows through a particular reality, the complex experience of a family and through it, the current reality of many others, challenging stereotypes about migrants deeply rooted in the society, with respect and accuracy that can only be achieved by a director with great talent.”

Mention spéciale

TRIOKALA, THE THREE GIFTS OF NATURE by Leandro Picarella

“The power of a place is reflected in the eyes of its people. The actual geography becomes a human landscape. The acts of ancestors become the ones of the newcomers.

“Triokala” is there to witness the place we are coming from and the destination we are going to, and there are both full of beauty.”

CINÉMA SUISSE

Jury composed of Inti Cordera (Festival Director, Mexico), Michel David (Producer, France), Arami Ullón (Filmmaker, Paraguay/ Switzerland)

“What has guided our choices, in a genuine jury harmony, is a desire—a single desire. To seek out, among all the films that we were shown, what qualified as real films. And only films. Documentary films clearly reflect their time. They are deeply political. But the subjects, as strong as they may be, do not suffice. Is there a cinematographical notion? That is our only question, our response, our choices.”

Sesterce d'argent SRG SSR - Best Swiss feature film, out of all competitive sections
CHF 15'000

TADMOR by Monika Borgmann and Lokman Slim

“Why and how do we film what is unfilmable? This is always the most difficult question that documentary films have to deal with. The answer is political, moral and cinematographical. Several choices are possible, but the prize-winning film makes that choice. Filming characters in their naked truth, with the precision of the colour of their skin, with that of the walls, in the density of the discourse, in the precision of the framing. This film combines the most expert cinematographical techniques with the suffering of the survivors, whom the camera renders incredibly alive. The Sesterce d'argent is awarded to *Tadmor* by Monika Borgmann and Lokman Slim.”

Prix du jury SSA/Suissimage Most innovative Swiss feature film, out of all competitive sections - CHF 10'000

RAVING IRAN by Susanne Regina Meures

“The door of an embassy; the sound inside. The separation of image and sound as a cinematographical tool. An interruption of music at Swiss Customs to reveal the characters’ fear. An adventure for two young people, music, immigration, the feeling of abandoning one’s native country, the strength of loss. Hidden camera as a fair method. A really nice subject, really nice characters. And a real documentary film to tell a very simple and universal story. The Jury Prize is awarded to *Raving Iran* by Susanne Regina Meures”

Mention spéciale

CALABRIA by Pierre-François Sauter

JURY DES JEUNES

High-school students from Nyon and Geneva:

Noémi Aeschimann, Marie Brocher, Maéva Bussard, Coralie Colquhoun, Max Miller, Achille Penseyres and Solène Rochat

Presided by Sayaka Mizuno

Prix Société des Hôteliers de la Côte du jeune public - Best film of the Premiers Pas section CHF 3000 CHF

TALES OF RABASSADA by Ferrán Romeu

“We found this to be an accomplished film and we liked the parallels between the past and the present, the unusual characters, the humour and the use of different media: photos, films and archives.”

Mention spéciale

TRANSIT ZONE by Frederik Subei

PRIX INTERRELIGIEUX

Jury composed of Nasser Bakhti (Producer/Director, Switzerland), Alan Foal (Festival Director, England), Pierre Marguerat (EERV pastor, Switzerland), Ilaria Piperno (publishing house advisor and literary translator, Italy)

Feature film of the International Competition that sheds light on existential, social or spiritual questions as well as human values CHF 5000

LIBERATION, THE USER'S GUIDE by Alexander Kuznetsov

« A film which creates a portrait of two young women, confined within a neuropsychiatric establishment in Siberia but in search of their dignity and independence. The filmmaker tackles the subject with remarkable simplicity and narrative rigour. This desire for liberty requires them to call on courage, perseverance and solidarity in order to reach their goal. These fundamental human values convinced the jury unanimously to award its prize to the film "Liberation, The User's Guide". »

Mentions spéciales

LOOKING LIKE MY MOTHER by Dominique Margot

« A courageous work of personal and universal significance, displaying exceptional creativity. »

STILL BREATHING by Anca Hirte

« An avant-garde work which approaches a difficult subject with a delicate and innovative vision. »

PRIX BUYENS-CHAGOLL

Jury composed of Lydia Chagoll (Filmmaker, Belgium), Sara Cereghetti (Festival Director, Switzerland), Emmanuel Chicon (Programmer, France)

Film of humanist dimension focusing on stories developing values that confer meaning to the future of mankind CHF 5000

UN PAESE DI CALABRIA by Shu Aiello and Catherine Catella

“In 1972, two Greek bronze sculptures of warriors were excavated from the remains of a ship that sunk in ancient times off the coast of a small Italian village. The beginning of the 21st

century sees other “warriors” crossing the Mare Nostrum and fighting for a fundamental right: that of being able to live with dignity and in a safe place. These men and women have indeed found such a haven of peace and welcome in Calabria. For at the time that the Greek statues were emerging from the sea, Riace was in the process of running itself down, dying, due to a lack of inhabitants, a lack of fighters. Twenty years later, 2'200 people from twenty different nationalities are bringing the village back to life and, on a daily basis, work to maintain the connections that they have forged with each other and with the Calabrians who have welcomed them. Despite the presence of organised crime, despite political tensions and threats, Riace has become a “citadel of hope”, an inspiring model. Our views have thus come together around a film whose construction, rhythm and caring camera convey the values of solidarity, respect, courage and democracy via acts that should imbue any human undertaking. And it is because films should also be able to forge connections between the past and the present, and open up possibilities for humanity, that we have chosen to award the Buyens-Chagoll Prize to Shu Aiello and Catherine Catella for *Un Paese di Calabria*.”

PRIX DU PUBLIC

Sesterce d'argent Prix du Public Ville de Nyon - Best film of the Grand Angle section
CHF 10'000

PRESENTING PRINCESS SHAW by Ido Haar

PRIX VISIONS SUD EST

Jury composed of Aurélie Godet (Programmer, Switzerland), Thierry Jobin (Festival Director, Switzerland), Brigitte Siegrist (Public Relations and Subtitling, Switzerland)

Best Chilean Film project CHF 10'000

POIESIS by Carlos Klein

PRIX DOCS IN PROGRESS

Jury composed of Cynthia Kane (Consultant, USA), Carola Stern, (Distributor, Switzerland), Kirill Sorokin (Curator/Distributor, Russia)

Best Docs in Progress Feature Subtitling offered by Raggio Verde

SANCTUARY by David Redmon and Ashley Sabin

HEAD – GENEVE POSTPRODUCTION AWARD

Jury composed of Jean Perret (Dean of Cinema/Cinéma du réel department of HEAD – Genève), Pierre Schlessler (Editor/Assistant HEAD – Genève), Daniel Schweizer (Filmmaker/Professor HEAD – Genève), Olivier Zuchuat (Filmmaker/Editor/Professor HEAD – Genève)

Best Pitching du Réel Film project - Postproduction services

BETWEEN DOG AND WOLF by Irene Gutiérrez

PRIX RTS – PERSPECTIVES D'UN DOC

Jury composed of Irène Challand, Antoine Duplan, Romaine Jean, Gaspard Lamunière, Gilles Pache

Best Romand Film Project CHF 10'000 development funding

ECHANGES by Francis Reusser

PRIX REFLEX

Grand Prix Juchum du meilleur film toutes catégories confondues:

LA FILLE DES TOILETTES by David Romy and TERENCE Spagnolo (GE)

Prix Reflex du meilleur film dans la catégorie 12-15 ans :

3 SUR 10 by cycle d'orientation des Colombières, Versoix (GE)

Prix Reflex du meilleur film dans la catégorie 16-19 ans :

LE NOUVEAU MONDE by Mohamed Ajmi and Arnaud Sapin (FR)

Prix Reflex du meilleur film dans la catégorie 20-26 ans :

LA FILLE DES TOILETTES by David Romy and TERENCE Spagnolo (GE)

Prix Reflex du Public nyonnais :

MAUVAIS RÊVE by Iona Muratel

Prix Reflex du Public genevois :

3 SUR 10 by cycle d'orientation des Colombières, Versoix (GE)