

## **Humour and revelations on the programme! The first highlights are being revealed**

15 March 2016, Nyon (Switzerland) – **The fantastic documentary comedy *Jesus Town, USA* will open the 47th edition of Visions du Réel, Festival international de cinéma Nyon. The traditional free Avant-Première for the general public will take place on Thursday 14 April. The Grand Angle section is also unveiled, with powerful documentaries on the line-up that will make you smile, shiver and dream. Finally, the Festival will include a special one-off screening of the film *Fuocoammare* — winner of the 2016 Golden Bear award in Berlin. And of course Visions du Réel will be strengthening its local ties with musical events, gastronomy, window decorations, an extension to Gland and an ecumenical celebration. The full programme will be announced on 23 March.**

### **The Festival's Avant-Première: the truculent *Jesus Town, USA***

"To kick off Visions du Réel this year, we have chosen a funny film that shakes up preconceptions and offers a few twists!" exclaims Luciano Barisone, Festival Director. For 88 years, a life-size dramatization of the Passion of Christ has been acted out in the heart of the USA. But the actor who plays Jesus is retiring. His replacement, a young man who does not really have the right body for the job, is about to make a serious revelation... This screening, a Swiss premiere, is offered to the general public by the City of Nyon and Visions du Réel. It will be followed by a discussion with Billie Mintz, one of the two directors.

Thursday, 14 April at 19:30 at Théâtre de Marens, Nyon. With a second screening at 20:00 in the Salle Communale, Nyon. Free entry.

[Trailer for \*Jesus Town, USA\*](#)



### **Spotlight on the Grand Angle section: between recognition and censorship**

Funny, surprising, moving, musical, poetic, committed, spectacular... The 12 films in the Grand Angle section aim to enthral the audience by offering them the best in contemporary documentary production. The prize of this section is voted for by the public. The audience's favourite film will be awarded the Sesterce d'Argent Prix du Public Ville de Nyon, and a prize of CHF 10,000. The Festival will be the world, international or Swiss premiere for all of these documentaries. Although they may have won awards at festivals around the world, some of these films have faced censorship. "As our Festival plays a role in discovering talents and highlighting the best in current documentary cinema, we are naturally very sensitive to the issue of censorship during the selection process. We feel it is important to make a real commitment to free speech — which is an intrinsic value of documentary cinema", stated Claude Ruey, President of Visions du Réel. Two films from the Grand Angle section are particularly emblematic in this respect. [North](#), an exceptional documentary that offers a view from inside the Kurdish guerrilla movement PKK and that was censored by the Turkish Ministry of Culture at the Istanbul Film Festival. And [Under the Sun](#), which offers a unique look at North Korea, a country that is completely shielded from the outside world, revealing a finely orchestrated staging. Ten of the films in the Grand Angle section will be screened in the presence of their directors and followed by a discussion with the audience.

[Details and trailers for the 12 films in the Grand Angle section](#)

***Fuocoammare*: a special screening of the winner of the Golden Bear 2016 in Berlin**

The Festival is revealing one of the special screenings that will be on offer this year. The winner of the prestigious Golden Bear in Berlin in February, *Fuocoammare* will be on the programme for a single screening: a year on the island of Lampedusa, a port that welcomes hundreds of migrants, as seen through the eyes of a boy, aged 12. "Gianfranco Rosi is definitely one of the essential directors of our time," explains Luciano Barisone. "As was confirmed by this new prize in Berlin for *Fuocoammare*, three years after receiving the Golden Lion at the Mostra in Venice for *Sacro GRA* — which he also presented in project phase at Visions du Réel 2012. We are proud to have followed the career of this talented director for several years and to present his latest film at the Festival." he adds.

Sunday, 17 April at 15:00 at Théâtre de Grand-Champ, Gland

[Trailer for \*Fuocoammare\*](#)

**Next event**

**Annual press conference: unveiling of the full programme**

**Wednesday 23 March 2016** – 9:30 Au Premier in Zurich, 14:30 Hôtel Real in Nyon.

Registration: [cstevens@visionsdureel.ch](mailto:cstevens@visionsdureel.ch)

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