

Visions du Réel, Festival international de cinéma Nyon (15–23 April 2016), unveils its full programme

A breath of fresh air hits the Festival: youth, when everything seems possible

23 March 2016, Nyon (Switzerland) — **The elixir of youth is on the agenda for the 47th edition of Visions du Réel: youth, when everything seems possible, synonymous with resistance, liberty, daydreaming or discovery, this is the theme that emerges in 2016. Two other highlights: the opening musical film *Presenting Princess Shaw*, a genuine tale of Cinderella in the Internet age, and a special out-of-competition screening of *Where to Invade Next*, the latest Michael Moore. Ultimately, there will be 180 films from 49 countries, including 90 world and 26 international premieres, vying to take the audience on a journey. Swiss films will be particularly in the limelight, with no fewer than 30 films selected.** For the full programme: www.visionsdureel.ch

Youth: between resistance and poetry

After having covered festivals all over the world and viewed over 3,000 films with his selection committee, Luciano Barisone, Director of Visions du Réel, selected a total of 180 films for this 47th edition. A theme emerges from the 2016 selection: youth is strongly represented at the heart of these films. “The films in this year’s programme are peopled with characters who are resisting”, says Luciano Barisone. “So it is not that surprising that the figure of youth is omnipresent: sometimes rebellious, sometimes dreaming, in search of liberty and deliberately turned towards the future, it is the vehicle of this dynamic of resistance so specific to documentary filmmaking”, he adds. The commitment of the young Peshmerga warrior women ([Gulistan, Land of Roses](#)), the pure and carefree happiness of childhood ([Chiens des champs](#)), the den of thieves operated by a group of Afghan kids ([Land of the Enlightened](#)), the elusive radiance of adolescence over a summer ([The Cormorants](#)), a patriotic singing competition for children in Poland ([Patriotic Lesson](#)), the apparent day-to-day triviality of two Norwegian brothers filmed by their mother over a period of eight years ([Brothers](#))... between resistance and poetry, these are all examples of the various perspectives on youth around the world today.

New media meets a modern-day Cinderella for the Opening Ceremony

A YouTube user in New Orleans posts her a cappella songs. In a kibbutz on the other side of the world, a musician arranges them into a patchwork of videos unearthed on YouTube... *Presenting Princess Shaw* is a genuine tale of Cinderella in the Internet age: the meeting between a young singer and a great artist gives life to a touching film. This documentary will be presented as a Swiss premiere, in the presence of the director Ido Haar, during the official opening ceremony of the Festival, on Friday 15 April (19:30, Théâtre de Marens, Nyon) as well as for the opening ceremony for Gland, the following day, Saturday 16 April (20:15, Théâtre de Grand-Champ, Gland). [Trailer](#)



Headline event: Michael Moore on the attack

Where to Invade Next: the title sets the tone. The Pentagon's new secret weapon is called Michael Moore. The famous director-agitator sets off to conquer the world to plunder its resources... social resources. He discovers French school canteens, the Finnish education system and Italian holiday entitlements, which he takes as an example with a view to a better future. An explosive, militant documentary, buoyed with optimism, which takes a humour-filled look at youth and at European social structures. See it at a one-off special out-of-competition screening, on Sunday 17 April (21:00, Théâtre de Marens, Nyon). [Trailer](#)



A strong presence for Swiss films

Out of the 180 films selected, no fewer than 30 are Swiss productions. Switzerland leads the 49 producing countries represented and will therefore be particularly showcased this year. "Such a strong presence of Swiss films in our programming bears witness to creativity at a national level, which particularly inspires us", rejoices Claude Ruey, President of the Festival, who adds "the recent successes of the documentary genre strengthen our conviction that this type of cinema really does fall under the category of a major art form. We are delighted to see Switzerland offer some exceptional productions this year." As well as the traditional *Helvétiques* section, which highlights Swiss documentary filmmaking with 12 feature-length films, 18 other films are featuring in the Festival's other sections.

Youth at the heart of the Festival's activities

In parallel with the film screenings, Visions du Réel proposes many events in which creativity and encounters take pride of place. The common theme of youth also runs through these activities, particularly within the framework of the cultural mediation actions run by the Festival. New for 2016: an intergenerational workshop for children and senior citizens. This initiative is offered in partnership with La Lanterne Magique and Pro Senectute Vaud, with the generous support of the Fondation Leenaards. The short documentary films developed during this workshop will be shown at the **Espace Jeunesse**, a site entirely dedicated to young people, with free access throughout the duration of the Festival. It will be continuously screening the creations of these budding filmmakers, aged 4 to 26, from La Lanterne Magique, the festival Reflex, the Gymnase de Nyon, CinéCivic and the Klik! Festival. Finally, the Visions du Réel film market, Doc Outlook – International Market, is proposing **Generation** for the second consecutive year; this is a specific programme, aimed at Swiss and international film schools (production, directing, editing), offering students unique opportunities for networking and exchange, as well as privileged access to experienced film industry decision-makers and professionals. This year, the following schools will be present: ECAL (Lausanne, CHE), FAMU (Prague, CZE), Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg (Ludwigsburg, DEU), HEAD (Genève, CHE), HFF (Munich, DEU), INSAS (Bruxelles, BEL), La Fémis (Paris, FRA) and ZHDK (Zurich, CHE).

Full press book: www.visionsdureel.ch/festival/presse

Accreditations open until 10 April 2016 at www.visionsdureel.ch/industry/accreditations

- **15 April, Opening Ceremony:** 19:30, Théâtre de Marens, Nyon — followed by the film *Presenting Princess Shaw*
- **18 April, Soirée Maître du Réel:** 20:30, Théâtre de Marens, Nyon — ceremony for the award of the Sesterce d'or Prix Raiffeisen Maître du Réel to Peter Greenaway, followed by his latest film *Eisenstein in Guanajuato*
- **22 April, Closing Ceremony:** 19:30, Théâtre de Marens, Nyon — followed by the film *The Journey*

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