

visions du réel

50^e FESTIVAL
INTERNATIONAL
DE CINÉMA NYON

VISIONS DU RÉEL
PLACE DU MARCHÉ 2
CH-1260 NYON
SUISSE

www.visionsdureel.ch

PRESS RELEASE

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A PACKED HOUSE FOR THE OPENING OF THE 50TH EDITION OF VISIONS DU RÉEL

The 50th edition of the International film Festival Nyon opened to a packed house with the screening of a commemorative film directed by Mariama Balde and retracing 50 years of its presence in Nyon. Then Federal Councillor Alain Berset, President of the Vaud government Nuria Gorrite and Mayor of Nyon Daniel Rosselat launched this 50th edition in the company of the Festival president, Claude Ruey, and its Artistic Director Emilie Bujès. At the beginning of the ceremony, tribute was paid to the former presidents and directors of the festival. The public turned out in force for the Opening Party and Ceremony, as well as for the screening of the film *Gods of Molenbeek* by Finnish director Reetta Huhtanen.

Prestigious guests at the Opening Ceremony and Celebration

Claude Ruey, who has been the Festival's Executive President for 10 years, evoked the cornerstones of the Festival: "Freedom of expression, openness to the world, and quality filmmaking made the success of Visions du Réel for 50 years." This success was recognised by Mayor of Nyon Daniel Rosselat, who declared: "Visions du Réel is the spring get-together for the local population!" President of the Vaud government Nuria Gorrite explained this "formidable success of Visions du Réel" by the depth of immersion afforded by documentary film: "It enables people to broaden their perspective and add some nuance to their capability for judgment, thus reinforcing this civic culture that is so vital for our democracy to function correctly." Federal Councillor Alain Berset chose to highlight the necessary and almost therapeutic aspect of documentary film: "By escaping into another's reality, we are able through cinema to become aware of our own reality and forget our fears and relieve our concerns." He added: "Given the state of the world, it's a safe bet that the conditions are set to keep spectators flocking to Nyon for some time to come and for Visions du Réel to grow further." This conclusion was shared by Artistic Director Emilie Bujès who reminded the public to what extent "documentary filmmaking, in a definition as large and open as possible, is an inspired, determined and major cinematographical language."

Gods of Molenbeek, a film at a child's level

The audience discovered *Gods of Molenbeek*, the film by Finnish director Reetta Huhtanen that was screened during the Opening Ceremony and Celebration as a Swiss premiere. Filmed at a child's level, *Gods of Molenbeek* offers a beautiful story of friendship between Aatos, a little boy who would like to have a god, and his best friend Amine, who is Muslim, framed within the tension following the terror attacks in Paris and Brussels. The film was followed by a reception offered by Vins de Nyon in the Village du Réel and the party continued at La Parenthèse with the group Small Feet's alternative indie folk and in the Village du Réel with the DJs Ramin & Reda and Obertonstruktur der Kaulquappe.

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/gods-of-molenbeek

A dive into the history of the Festival with the Cinquante section

Conceived as carte blanche for the former Directors and Artistic Directors of the Festival, the Cinquante section brings together nine films selected by Moritz de Hadeln, Erika de Hadeln, Jean Perret and Luciano Barisone among the works that marked their respective periods at the head of the Festival. "For this jubilee, it seemed natural and timely to invite those who constructed the history of the Festival" emphasised Emilie Bujès. Also as part of this Cinquante section, episodes from *Histoire(s) du cinéma* de Jean-Luc Godard will be shown after certain screenings and the Swiss filmmaker Mariama Balde has directed a brand-new short film made up of archives, presented during the Opening Ceremony and Celebration.

Short film: http://bit.ly/VdR2019_50ans

Cinquante Section: www.visionsdureel.ch/festival/programme-2019/cinquante

Find the full programme at: www.visionsdureel.ch/festival/programme

Contact: Gloria Zerbinati, Press officer gloria.zerbinati@gmail.com +33 7 86 80 02 82

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