

## Leading festival Visions du Réel celebrates a major art form in the name of encounters

15 April 2016, Nyon (Switzerland)–Leading international festival, Visions du Réel, celebrates a major art form, as noted by Claude Ruey, President, during the opening of the 2016 edition. “Documentary filmmaking is indeed a major art form, which represents life in all its forms, expression in all its aspects, and the world in all its facets” said the President, who is delighted with the ever-growing success that documentary filmmaking is experiencing in Switzerland and around the world. And it was under the theme of encounters that Director Luciano Barisone launched this 47th edition: “Encounters are the basis for everything and the Festival provides the structure conducive to these encounters” he declared. This opening ceremonies welcomed many people of note from the worlds of politics and filmmaking, notably Federal Councillor, Guy Parmelin, Member of the Cantonal Council of Vaud, Isabelle Chassot, accompanied by the head of the film department, Ivo Kummer, and the Councillor with responsibility for Culture for the Municipality of Nyon, Olivier Mayor. The Festival will be screening 180 films from 49 countries this year, including 116 world or international premieres and 30 Swiss films. This 2016 edition began with a full house in the Théâtre de Marens for the screening of the opening film *Presenting Princess Shaw* that celebrates an encounter worthy of a fairy tale. For the full programme [www.visionsdureel.ch](http://www.visionsdureel.ch)

### Documentary filmmaking: an encounter between a state of mind and the state of the world

“Far from being scholarly, schematic or exaggeratedly propagandist, the documentary is less and less different from fictional film. But if in the domain of fiction, we use actors to play an agreed role, in documentary filmmaking, the protagonists are playing a role in their own lives.” This is how Claude Ruey reminded us of the importance and relevance of documentaries. He also described it as a major art form, the result of considered creation and one that enjoys boundless creativity. Quoting the filmmaker, critic and theoretician Jean-Louis Comolli, Luciano Barisone added that film is the place of encounter between a state of mind and the state of the world.

### A host of celebrities were present

Many people of note, from both the world of politics and filmmaking, were present for the inauguration of this 47th edition of the Festival. Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin reminded us of the multiple and borderless characteristics of film, while highlighting the quality of Visions du Réel’s selection: “Far from glitter, a thousand leagues away from simplicity, a source of questioning and in tune with the times.”

### An encounter worthy of a fairy tale for the opening film

“A genuine contemporary fairy tale that bears witness to a miraculous encounter!” That is how Luciano Barisone summed up Visions du Réel’s opening film, *Presenting Princess Shaw*: an encounter between a young unknown YouTuber from New Orleans and a great artist who arranges her songs with other clips unearthed online. This sold-out screening in the presence of the director had a second screening at the Salle Communale at 20.00. The opening ceremony finished on a festive note with a reception for the festival goers offered by Visions du Réel and its main sponsors, La Mobilière and SRG SSR.

Please note: *Presenting Princess Shaw* will be screened a third time at the Théâtre de Grand-Champ on Saturday 16 April at 20.15, as part of the opening ceremony for the Visions du Réel programme in Gland.



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