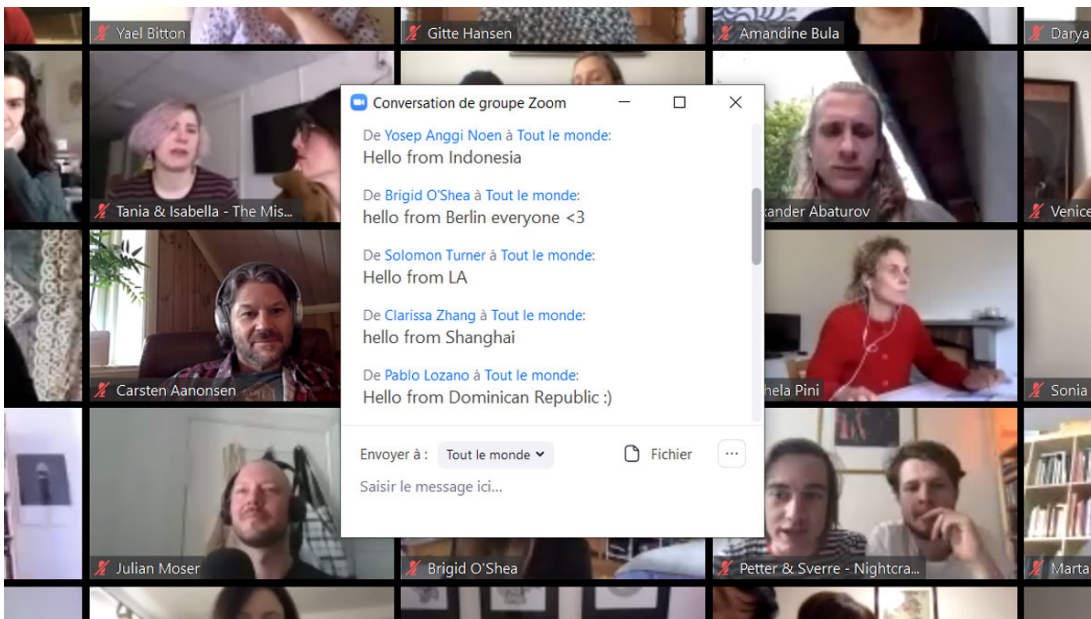




Press Release  
1 May, Nyon

## A success for the online edition of Visions du Réel Industry

The professional section of Visions du Réel (Industry) closed on Thursday with the awards ceremony. The majority of the planned activities could thus be redeployed on the internet and 1300 professionals were accredited. The aim of the Industry is to accompany films at each stage of their creation, from writing to broadcasting, using custom tools, by putting the different players in contact with each other. There were also intensive discussions throughout the week about festivals, creation, production and distribution during and after COVID-19.



The decision to redeploy Visions du Réel's Industry online was evident from the first measures announced by the Swiss Confederation. However, it was necessary to set up a relevant platform for all the players in the industry in order to ensure the most appropriate conditions for meetings and exchanges between project holders and decision-makers. "We missed to share more informal moments with this wonderful film community, but we may also take some useful ideas and stimulating inputs into the future." says Gudula Meinzolt, Co-Head of the Industry.

## Projects from around the world

A total of 28 projects were selected from China, Burkina Faso, Chile and Norway and many other countries. This diversity can be seen not only in the countries of production or in the topics addressed, but also in the list of winners awarded this year by the various juries.

*Attached the list of prize/winners*

This year's Industry Jury consisted of Vincenzo Bugno (Director of the Berlinale World Cinema Fund), Sergei Loznitsa (Director, Writer and Producer, ATOMS & VOID) and Debra Zimmerman (Executive Director of Women Make Movies). The visions sud est jury was represented by Martial Knaebel (Distributor trigon-films and visions sud-est), Delphine Niederberger (Director of cultural projects and school programmes of the Freiburg International Film Festival), and Antoine Thirion (Member of the selection committee of the International Film Festival Locarno). The Rough Cut Lab jury was composed of Yaël Bitton (editor) and Emma Davie (filmmaker and editor), and the RTS jury of Gaspard Lamunière and Steven Artels.

The Pitching du Réel, an international co-production forum, was thus able to maintain its three traditional stages: a live presentation of 15 projects followed by more than 200 professionals and virtual round tables bringing together more than 170 people, complemented by a multitude of individual meetings.

As for the Docs in Progress activity, it brought 9 project holders into contact with distributors, festivals and numerous television channels.

More than 400 individual meetings have been organized within the framework of these activities, thus offering industry professionals the opportunity to connect with each other and in many cases to initiate collaborations allowing projects to be realized more easily or quickly.

Finally, the Rough Cut Lab gave the opportunity - as is also the case in its physical form - to 4 projects to obtain valuable feedback in the framework of an editing workshop gathering dedicated tutors and editors.

## A platform for Swiss industry

Once again special emphasis was placed on the Swiss film industry. First of all, the co-production meeting Switzerland Meets UK brought together Swiss and English producers and institutions. They were able to discuss the challenges and opportunities that co-productions between these two countries entail. The RTS activity: "Perspectives d'un Doc" prize enabled 7 projects to be presented with a view to development aid, while at the same time the channel decided to award a new prestigious prize consisting of a pre-buy of a project as part of the Pitching du Réel. The now traditional SWISS FILMS Previews were set up in partnership with SWISS FILMS and will take place on Monday, May 4

## A successful technical challenge

The vast majority of the Industry's activities have been transposed virtually, thanks to fruitful technical collaborations: in particular Eventival, which has enabled the implementation of a secure platform, B.Square, which has created a customised interface for managing individual appointments, and Cinando, which has optimised access to the Media Library. This last virtual platform brings together more than 400 films, including the official selection, as well as more than 250 films with a high distribution potential proposed by the selection committee and partners.

"Going online has allowed us to expand our borders and we are happy to confirm that, under the current circumstances and through different platforms, we have created a large number of business and exchange opportunities both for the project holders and for the decision makers", concludes Violeta Bava, Co-Head of the Industry.

## Contacts

Caroline Stevens, Press Officer

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

+41 79 759 95 11

Beat Glur, Press Officer for German-speaking Switzerland

[bglur@visionsdureel.ch](mailto:bglur@visionsdureel.ch)

+41 79 333 65 10

Gloria Zerbinati, International Press Officer

[gloria.zerbinati@gmail.com](mailto:gloria.zerbinati@gmail.com)

+33 7 86 80 02 82

**51st edition of Visions du Réel: 17 April—2 May 2020**