



Press release
16 April, Nyon

Official ceremony for a virtual edition

On Friday April 17th, the 51st edition of Visions du Réel will kick off with the virtual opening ceremony at 7.00 pm. Forced to reinvent itself because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event is moving to a fully digital version. The opening ceremony will begin with speeches by several personalities before giving way to *Reunited* by Mira Jargil, chosen as this year's opening film. Initially reserved for an audience of guests, this feature film from the Grand Angle section will be put online on April 25th.



Reunited, Mira Jargil, Grand Angle

Opening evening

After the opening video of its President, Raymond Loretan, as well as those of the Festival's Artistic Director, Émilie Bujès, the virtual ceremony will be punctuated by the interventions of Daniel Rossellat (Mayor of Nyon), Cesla Amarelle (Head of the Department of Education, Youth and Culture), Isabelle Chassot (Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Culture), Gilles Marchand (Managing Director of SSR SRG), Pascal Crittin (Director of RTS), Jean-Philippe Moser (Pension Director, La Mobilière) and its

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President, Raymond Loretan. They will be followed by the broadcast of the film *Reunited* by Mira Jargil only for those people invited, presented as an international premiere. This work will then be free of charge as part of the Grand Angle section on April 25th at 5.00 pm and over a period of 24 hours.

Total commitment

The cancellation or postponement of the 2020 edition having never been an option, the exceptional health situation prompted the management of Visions du Réel and its Foundation Board to make an effort to innovate and completely overhaul the edition, initially scheduled from April 24 to May 2. On the day after the recommendations of the Federal Council, the Festival's Artistic Director, Émilie Bujès, announced her intentions: "It is important for us to fulfil our commitments." The Festival team aspiring to find a large audience, rallied together to stage a virtual event. The event will take place online from April 17th until May 2nd.

Encounters and new practices

This year, Visions du Réel will launch its virtual Forum where the discussions and round tables which are so dear to the Festival will be held. Informal chats between the directors and the public, regular themed discussions moderated by members of the selection committee, and a cycle of conversations on the state of filmmaking—documentary and beyond—during and after COVID-19 with international speakers.

The Masterclasses given by Claire Denis (Wednesday April 29th, at 3.00 pm), Petra Costa (Thursday April 30th, at 3.00 pm) and Peter Mettler (Friday May 1st, at 3.00 pm) will be done in an interactive and unprecedented format.

Programme

The 130 films of the official selection will be broadcast in two blocks from the Festival website.

The first group of films will be available from April 17th to 24th: films from the International Medium Length & Short Film Competition (CIMC) and the Opening Scenes (OS) section will be presented. As for the National Competition, it will be broadcast on RTS's Play feature, with one film per day becoming available from 5.00 pm during a 24-hour period. Moreover, some films in this Competition will also be presented on the platforms of the SRF and RSI channels.

From April 25th to May 2nd, the films in the International Feature Film Competition and Burning Lights International Competition will be broadcast, together with those from the non-competitive Latitudes section. The films in the Grand Angle section will also be available, with one film every 24 hours from April 25th to May 3rd.

The five juries for the national and international competitions will deliberate and award the Prizes online. The full list of prize-winners will be announced on Sunday May 3rd.

Online accessibility

The Festival team will take calls on a dedicated hotline, **+41 22 365 44 55**, every day from April 17th to May 2nd between 9.00 am and 8.00 pm.

One of the main focus of this digital edition is accessibility for different audiences. In this respect, the cultural participation sector is crucially important in encouraging audiences to meet each other and be able to create social connections through cultural objects accessible from their homes. The challenge is significant, but we wish to rise to it by offering varied, easy-to-access and innovative sharing channels.

This year, in order to achieve this, the Festival will offer in addition to the hotline: film trails aimed at schools, online directing competitions, a film critic blog where people can share their opinions with everyone, short-form participative radio spots, useful infographics and instructions for accessing the films, a drawing competition for children in partnership with La Lanterne Magique, the Jury des Jeunes (Youth Jury) who will debate and deliberate online, as well as many partnerships with the region's cultural sites to communicate our offer and encourage audiences to meet despite the confinement.

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Attachment

Instructions

How to access the films?

It could not be easier! From April, 17th go to www.visionsdureel.ch. From there, in just a few clicks, you can consult and view all the films in the programme. You just need to sign up by entering your e-mail address and creating a password that you can reuse for future screenings.

What are the different sections and what should you know about them?

At the heart of the programme there are several sections that are available free of charge from our website! Please find below information for each of them:

International Feature Film Competition: 25 April to 2 May

Burning Lights International Competition: 25 April to 2 May

National Competition: 17 April to 30 April, one film broadcast per day from 5.00 pm to 5.00 pm (24 hours); the order of the films broadcast will be communicated on our website.

International Medium Length & Short Film Competition: 17 April to 24 April

Opening Scenes : 17 April to 24 April

Grand Angle: 25 April to 3 May, in partnership with Doc Alliance, one film broadcast per day from 5.00 pm to 5.00 pm (24 hours); the order of the films broadcast will be communicated on our website.

Latitudes: 24 April to 7 May, in partnership with Tënk

Maître du Réel Claire Denis: 17 April to 13 June, in partnership with Tënk

Ateliers Petra Costa and Peter Mettler: 17 April to 2 May, in partnership with Doc Alliance

Online activities: 17 April to 2 May, discover many live or interactive activities: Masterclasses, Ateliers, Discussion forum, Reïdyo or the 'Nuits de Visions' evenings.

Hotline +41 22 365 44 55 (available throughout the Festival from 9.00 am to 8.00 pm)

Contacts

Caroline Stevens, Press Officer

cstevens@visionsdureel.ch

+41 79 759 95 11

Beat Glur, Press Officer for German-speaking Switzerland

bglur@visionsdureel.ch

+41 79 333 65 10

Gloria Zerbinati, International Press Officer

gloria.zerbinati@gmail.com

+33 7 86 80 02 82

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

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