



Press release  
April 24, 2021 Nyon

## *Faya Dayi* wins the Grand Jury Prize of Visions du Réel 2021

**The Grand Jury Prize of the International Film Festival Nyon goes to the American-Ethiopian-Qatari co-production *Faya Dayi* by Jessica Beshir. In addition to the Grand Jury Prize sponsored by la Mobilière, *Faya Dayi* also grabs the FIPRESCI Award, presented for the first time at Visions du Réel. In the Burning Lights Competition, *Looking for Horses* by Stefan Pavlović is awarded the main prize, sponsored by the Canton of Vaud. Fisnik Maxville wins the national competition with *Nostromo*. The prize is presented by SRG SSR.**

In her debut feature *Faya Dayi*, Mexican-Ethiopian director Jessica Beshir tells the story of Ethiopian peasants whose lives revolve around the cultivation of psychotropic cath leaves. "Interweaving an ancient Sufi parable with a rigorous meditation on labor, exploitation, and exile, and moving freely among different levels of reality and consciousness, Jessica Beshir has created a dreamlike fable for our own uncertain times," said the international jury at the hybrid awards ceremony. The Special Jury Award of the International Feature Competition, sponsored by Région de Nyon, was awarded ex aequo to *1970* by Tomasz Wolski and *Les Enfants terribles* by Ahmet Necdet Cupur.

The top prize of the Burning Lights Competition, sponsored by the Canton of Vaud, was awarded to *Looking for Horses* by Stefan Pavlović. The Special Jury Award, offered by la Société des Hôteliers de la Côte, went to Natalia Garayalde for *Splinters*, while Sebastian Mez received a special mention for *The Great Void*.

In the National Competition, *Nostromo* by Fisnik Maxville was awarded the SRG SSR prize. The Special Jury Award of the National Competition, sponsored by SSA/Suissimage, went to *Chronicles of That Time* by Maria Iorio and Raphaël Cuomo.

The list of juries included filmmakers such as Kamal Aljafari (*An Unusual Summer*), Alejo Franzetti (*Panke*), Thomas Imbach (*Nemesis*) or Laila Pakalnina (*In the Mirror*); the producers Consuelo Frauenfelder (*Un couteau dans le coeur*, Yann Gonzalez) and Julie Frères (*Drôle de pays*, Clémence Hébert); industry delegates such as Savina Neirotti, Director of the TorinoFilmLab and Head of Programme at the Biennale College of the Venice Festival, Anna Berthollet (Lightdox) or Diana Tabakov, Executive Director of Doc Alliance Films, as well as programmers and curators such as Josh Siegel from MoMa, Sergio Fant from the Berlinale or Garbiñe Ortega, Artistic Director of the Punto de Vista International Documentary Film Festival.

All prizes of the 52nd edition of Visions du Réel.

The 52nd edition of Visions du Réel continues in Festival cinemas until Sunday, April 25 and online until Tuesday, April 27. The audience award and the admission figures will be communicated afterwards.

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