



Press release
12 April 2021, Nyon

Visions du Réel will kick off on Thursday, April 15

Healers, Marie-Eve Hildbrand's first feature film, will kick off the 52nd edition of Visions du Réel on Thursday 15 April 2021. Until April 25 the Festival will present 142 new feature, medium and short non fiction films from 58 countries. The International Film Festival Nyon has been redesigned as an online event to ensure that the public and professionals can safely access the bold and singular works selected. However, the Festival will also take place in the streets and cinemas of Nyon and will welcome a good number of filmmakers, students and professionals in person. Visions du Réel pays tribute to the French author, filmmaker and screenwriter Emmanuel Carrère. The 2021 Workshops of Switzerland's only festival for non fiction cinema are dedicated to Tatiana Huezo and Pietro Marcello.

82 films of the Official Selection will be presented as world premieres and 16 as international premieres. Moreover, with 26 Swiss (co)productions, the Festival affirms itself as an essential partner of national creation. 41% of the films selected were directed by women; 31 films are first films.

Among the filmmakers who have so far announced their presence in Nyon, let's first mention Emmanuel Carrère (Guest of Honor) and the directors of the International Feature Film Competition Tomasz Wolski (*1970*), David Herdies and Georg Götmark (*Bellum – The Daemon of War*), Aliaksei Paluyan (*Courage*), Liesbeth De Ceulaer (*Holgut*), Ahmet Necdet Cupur (*Les Enfants terribles*), Abdallah Al-Khatib (*Little Palestine – Diary of a Siege*), Svetlana Rodina and Laurent Stoop (*Ostrov – Lost Island*), Avi Mograbi (*The First 54 Years – An Abbreviated Manual for Military Occupation*) as well as Juan Martín Hsu (*The Moon Represents My Heart*).


The Burning Lights Competition films will be accompanied onsite by the directors Nikola Ilić and Corina Schwingruber Ilić (*Dida*), Stephen Loye (*Le Ventre de la montagne*), Stefan Pavlović (*Looking for Horses*), Aitziber Olaskoaga (*Non-Stop*), Elitza Gueorguieva (*Notre endroit silencieux*), Pacho Velez (*Searchers*), Philip Cartelli (*Slow Return*), Sebastian Mez (*The Great Void*), Pauline Julier (*Way Beyond*) as well as Wouter de Raeve and Lietje Bauwens (*WTC A Love Story*).

The filmmakers of the National Competition who will attend the Festival on the shore of Lake Geneva are Sabine Bally (*À l'intérieur*), Maria Iorio and Raphaël Cuomo (*Chronicles of That Time*), Andrea Pellerani (*Dreaming an Island*), Valeria Mazzucchi (*L'Étincelle*), Marie-Eve Hildbrand (*Les Guérisseurs*), Pavel Borecký (*Living Water*), Fisnik Maxville (*Nostromo*), Frank Matter (*Parallel Lives*), Lesia Kordonets (*Pushing Boundaries*), Valerie Bäuerlein (*The Lunar Course of My Life*) and Marion Neumann (*The Mushroom Speaks*).

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Film professionals will be able participate in screenings in Nyon's cinemas from Sunday 18 April to Thursday 22 April. Other meetings and round tables will be held in a hybrid form, in the presence of Swiss and international filmmakers.

Other guests at the International Film Festival Nyon: Thomas Imbach and Savina Neirotti (Jury International Feature Film Competition), Kamal Aljafari, Sergio Fant and Garbiñe Ortega (Jury Burning Lights), Anna Berthollet, Julie Frères and Diana Tabakov (Jury National Competition).

VdR-Industry is an important networking platform and supports projects at all stages of their development. Its online program will also include a wide range of guests, including Tabitha Jackson (Artistic Director of the Sundance Film Festival), Carlo Chatrian (Artistic Director of the Berlinale), Hédi Zardi (CEO of the production and sales company Luxbox), Jason Ishikawa (Senior Executive at Cinetic Media), filmmakers Sébastien Lifshitz, Vitaly Mansky and Gaston Solnicki, producers Myriam Sassine (About Productions), Eugenia Mumenthaler and David Epiney (Alina Films) or Orwa Nyrabia (Artistic Director of IDFA and producer) who will take part in the Industry Talks. In addition, representatives of television channels from all over the world, national and international producers and distributors, and representatives of numerous international festivals (including Venice, Cannes, Marrakech, Dok Leipzig, Mar del Plata, DMZ in South Korea, etc.) will take part in the VdR-Pitching and the VdR-Work in Progress. Lastly, the Swiss branch will meet for various activities, including the now traditional Documentary and Audiovisual Forum, which should welcome the presence of the Federal Office of Culture, the Zürcher Filmstiftung and Play Suisse.

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