



Press release

14 March 2023, Nyon

Visions du Réel unveils the first selected titles and its opening film for 2023

Visions du Réel has revealed the first titles of its 54th edition (21 to 30 April 2023). 12 feature films and a host of film proposals – including 3 world premieres – will compete for the Audience Award in the Grand Angle section. The non-competitive Highlights section will also present an eclectic programme that testifies to the current vitality of non-fiction film – as well as its formal and narrative freedom – including films by Claire Simon, Paul B. Preciado and Mehran Tamadon. The 2023 edition will open with the world premiere of *Nightwatchers* by Juliette de Marcillac. Filmed at night in an idyllic Alpine resort a stone's throw from the French-Italian border, *Nightwatchers* walks the vertiginous peaks alongside volunteers who help migrants. The opening ceremony, to be held on Friday 21 April, will be attended by Federal Councillor Elisabeth Baume-Schneider, State Councillor Nuria Gorrite, and Daniel Rossellat, the Mayor of Nyon. The full Festival programme will be announced on 28 March.

Grand Angle

The **Grand Angle** competition, where 12 titles compete for the **Audience Award** (CHF 10,000), features premieres of films that are soon to make waves at festivals, as well as those that have already won over international audiences. For 2023, this section includes three world premieres: the activist story of Extinction Rebellion in *Planet B* by **Pieter Van Eecke**; *Behind the Lines* by Syrian filmmakers **Alisar Hasan** and **Alaa Amer**, which focuses on the city of Idlib's first female cartoonist, interweaving animation and live action; and the opening film *Nightwatchers* by **Juliette De Marcillac** (see below). The selection also includes the international premiere of *The Mountains* by Danish director **Christian Einshøj**, a film that combines autobiography with a story of a superhero in search of redemption; as well as the European premiere of Indian production *Against the Tide* – fresh from its Sundance premiere – which explores fishing, the techniques and its economic and social issues. Finally, the selection includes a series of Swiss premieres, such as *The Echo* by **Tatiana Huezo** (2021 VdR Atelier) – honoured at the last Berlinale – and the spectacular Franco-Swiss production *Paradise* by Alexander Abaturov, that tells the story of one heroic village's struggle against 'The Dragon', the nickname given to the fires ravaging the Siberian taiga.

Highlights

The non-competitive **Highlights** section presents 11 Swiss premieres that the programming team felt essential including. Two films echo contemporary concerns about identity. Philosopher and activist **Paul B. Preciado's** first feature film, *Orlando, ma biographie politique* – a cinematographic, collective essay invoking the work of Virginia Woolf – foretells a joyful punk revolution that puts an end to binarity. *Notre Corps* by the illustrious **Claire Simon** (2018 Guest of Honour) invites viewers on a sensitive and personal immersion in a political ode to the female body. **Highlights** also features films that reflect modern day crises, such as *My Worst Enemy* by Franco-Iranian **Mehran Tamadon**, which deploys a chilling cinematic device to unaffectedly expose the violence of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and *When Spring Came to Bucha*, co-directed by Ukrainian artist **Mila Tessaieva** and

German filmmaker **Marcus Lenz**, which captures on-the-ground witness accounts from residents of the city of Bucha after the tragedy that shook the world.

The world premiere of *Nightwatchers* will open the 54th edition

The world premiere of *Nightwatchers*, French director **Juliette de Marcillac**'s first feature film, will open the 54th edition on Friday 21 April, with the director in attendance. Filmed in the high-end resort of Montgenèvre, a stone's throw from the French-Italian border, as night falls family ski days give way to a game of chase between the police and a group of 'marauders'. Mostly doctors, they roam the mountain peaks at night, watching for the arrival of migrants who have just completed long, life-risking journeys. Police surveillance is permanent and denunciation is commonplace, pushing the exiles ever higher up the mountain. It is a cinematic experience in a breathtaking twilight setting, bringing to light a vital and powerful close-nit network.

The opening ceremony will be attended by Federal Councillor **Elisabeth Baume-Schneider** of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, State Councillor **Nuria Gorrite** of the Department of Culture, Infrastructure and Human Resources, and **Daniel Rossellat**, the Mayor of Nyon.

Grand Angle

After Work

Erik Gandini, Sweden/Italy/Norway, 2023, 81'
Swiss premiere

Against the Tide

Sarvnik Kaur, France/India, 2023, 97'
European premiere

Behind the Lines

Alisar Hasan, Alaa Amer, Belgium/France/Germany/Luxembourg/, 2023, 73'
World premiere*

Eat Bitter

Pascale Appora-Gnekindy, Ningyi Sun, Central African Republic/China, 2023, 94'
Swiss premiere

Fantastic Machine

Axel Danielson, Maximilien Van Aertryck, Sweden/Denmark, 2023, 88'
Swiss premiere

Nightwatchers

Juliette De Marcillac, France, 2023, 69'
World premiere*, Opening film

Paradise

Alexander Abaturov, France/Switzerland, 2022, 89'
Swiss premiere

Pianoforte

Jakub Piątek, Poland, 2023, 89'
Swiss premiere

Planet B

Pieter Van Eecke, Belgium/Holland, 2023, 74'
World premiere*

She Chef

Melanie Liehheit, Gereon Wetzel, Germany/Austria, 2022, 105'
Swiss premiere


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The Echo

Tatiana Huezo, Mexique, 2023, 102'
Swiss premiere

The Mountains

Christian Einshøj, Denmark, 2023, 87'
International premiere

Highlights

Apolonia Apolonia

Lea Glob, Denmark/Poland/France, 2022, 116'
Swiss premiere

Ciné-Guerrillas: Scenes from the Labudović Reels

Mila Turajlić, France/Serbia, 2022, 94'
Swiss premiere

Le Spectre de Boko Haram

Cyrielle Raingou, Cameroon/France, 2023, 75'
Swiss premiere

Love Is Not an Orange

Otilia Babara, Belgium/France/Holland/Moldova, 2022, 73'
Swiss premiere

My Worst Enemy

Mehran Tamadon, France/Switzerland, 2023, 82'
Swiss premiere

Notre corps

Claire Simon, France, 2023, 168'
Swiss premiere

Orlando, ma biographie politique

Paul B. Preciado, France, 2023, 98'
Swiss premiere

Theater of Violence

Emil Langballe, Lukasz Konopa, Denmark/Germany, 2023, 106'
Swiss premiere

The Last Year of Darkness

Ben Mullinkosson, USA/China, 2023, 90'
Swiss premiere

Vera

Tizza Covi, Rainer Frimmel, Austria, 2022, 115'
Swiss premiere

When Spring Came to Bucha

Marcus Lenz, Mila Teshaieva, Germany, 2022, 66'
Swiss premiere

The full programme will be announced in detail on 28 March 2023. Accreditation for professionals are now open.


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54th edition of Visions du Réel: 21 – 30 April 2023


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