



Press release

28 April 2023, Nyon

Swiss director Peter Mettler wins the 2023 Grand Prix

The competitions of the 54th edition of Visions du Réel came to a close this evening, Friday 28 April, at the award ceremony. Swiss-Canadian director Peter Mettler won the Grand Prix of the International Feature Film Competition with *While the Green Grass Grows*, an extraordinary project that will consist of seven parts once completed – two of which were presented as a world premiere. This is the second time Peter Mettler has won this award. The Burning Lights Competition was won by *Knit's Island*, shot entirely from inside a video game, as further proof of the section's future-oriented positioning. The National Competition's chosen winner was *Chagrin Valley*, a debut film that offers a disconcerting immersion in the evanescent daily life of retirement home residents. Visions du Réel will continue until Sunday evening at Nyon theatres, and online until Monday 6pm. The Prix du Public and the first figures from the edition will be announced tomorrow.

Visions du Réel's artistic director Emilie Bujès had this to say: *"The wealth of artistry on display at this edition made it a particularly enjoyable occasion. The list of winners – which includes a number of female-directed films (11 out of 18) – helps paint a picture of a Festival whose exceptional Guests of Honour and Special Guests will linger long in the memory. Lucrecia Martel and Alice Rohrwacher, alongside Jean-Stéphane Bron, will have made this Festival a place for dialogue that is at once inspiring, open and accessible. The 2023 edition will have been dominated by women. It is also an honour and a pleasure that the Grand Prix will once again be awarded to a Swiss production, which – and this is already a certainty – will go down in the history of cinema."*

A diverse and inspiring list of winners

Alongside the Grand Prix awarded to Swiss-Canadian filmmaker Peter Mettler for *While the Green Grass Grows*, the Jury's Prix Spécial went to the disturbing Korean production *Defectors*, while the special mention went to the meticulous *In Ukraine* by Piotr Pawlus and Tomazs Wolski, a Festival regular. The Jury was made up of director Kleber Mendonça Filho, programme director Florence Almozini and producer David Epiney. The winning films in the Burning Lights Competition – *Knit's Island* by trio Ekiem Barbier, Guilhem Causse and Quentin L'helgoualc'h, shot entirely in a video game, as well as the astonishing portrait of a young woman in *This Woman* by Chinese director Alan Zhang – are proof of the section's desire to embrace the formal and narrative audacity of contemporary non-fiction cinema. These films were also the winners of two additional prizes. Finally, the National Competition – composed almost entirely of works by women and a large number of young filmmakers – was won by Nathalie Berger's debut film *Chagrin Valley*, which immerses itself in the daily life of a retirement home, and director Emmanuelle Antille's philosophical exploration *The Wonder Way*. All the award-winning films had their world premiere at the Festival.

Prize list of Visions du Réel 2023

International Feature Film Competition

Jury:

Florence Almozini, Senior Director of Programming, USA

David Epiney, Producer, Switzerland

Kleber Mendonça Filho, Filmmaker, Brazil

Grand Jury Prize offered by la Mobilière

CHF 20 000

While the Green Grass Grows, of Peter Mettler (Switzerland, Germany)

Special Jury Award offered by Région de Nyon

CHF 10 000

Defectors, of Hyun kyung Kim (Republic of North Korea, United States)

Special Mention

In Ukraine, of Piotr Pawlus and Tomasz Wolski (Poland, Germany)

Burning Lights Competition

Jury:

Leonardo Bigazzi, Curator and producer, Italy

Michelle Carey, Programmer, Germany/Australy

Elena López Riera, Filmmaker, Switzerland/Spain

Jury Prize in the Burning Lights Competition offered by Canton de Vaud

CHF 10 000

Knit's Island, of Ekiem Barbier, Guilhem Causse and Quentin L'helgoualc'h (France)

Special Jury Award offered by la Société des Hôteliers de la Côte

CHF 5 000

This Woman, of Alan Zhang (China)

Special Mention

Guián, of Nicole Chi Amén (Costa Rica)

National Competition

Jury:

Anne Delseth, Programmer, Switzerland

Francesca Mazzoleni, Filmmaker, Italy

Eugénie Michel-Vilette, Producer, France

Jury Prize in the National Competition offered by SRG SSR

CHF 15 000

Chagrin Valley, of Nathalie Berger (Switzerland)

Special Jury Award in the National Competition for a feature film directed by a filmmaker of Swiss nationality or resident in Switzerland offered by SSA/Suissimage

CHF 10 000

The Wonder Way, of Emmanuelle Antille (Switzerland)

Special Mention

La Maison, of Sophie Ballmer (Switzerland)

International Medium Length and Short Film Competition

Jury:

Alan Eddine Aljem, Filmmaker and producer, Morocco

Zeynep Güzel, Filmmaker and producer, Turkey

Enrico Vannucci, Programmer, Switzerland/Italy


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Jury Prize for the best Medium Length Film offered by Clinique de Genolier

CHF 6 000

Self-Portrait Along the Borderline, of Anna Dziapshipa (Georgia)

Jury Prize for the best Short Film offered by la Fondation Goblet

CHF 5 000

Losing Ground (Myanmar)

Special Mention (Medium Length Film)

Vampires, It's Nothing to Laugh at, of Kinga Michalska (Canada)

Special Mention (Short Film)

Souvenir d'une journée parfaite, of Davina Maria (Belgium, Lebanon, Hungary, Portugal)

Youth Jury Prize

Youth Jury:

Davyd Kiryanov

Gaëlle Sallansonnet

Maera Suh-Ju Dusapin

Julia Thyssen

Giulia Tonnella

Special Youth Jury Award for a Medium Length Film offered by École Moser

CHF 4 000

La Ricerca, of Giuseppe Petruzzellis (Italy, United States)

Special Youth Jury Award for the best Short Film offered by Mémoire Vive

CHF 2 500

Voices of November, of Lam Can-zhao (China)

Interreligious Award

Interreligious Award: Feature film of the International Competition that sheds light on issues dealing with the meaning of life

Jury:

Nicolas Besson (President), Pastor, Switzerland

Linda Dombrowszky, Filmmaker, Hungary

Garance Hayat, Film critic, France

Mohammed Rezaeian, Legal advisor, Switzerland

CHF 5000.-

Pure Unknown, of Valentina Cicogna and Mattia Colombo (Italy, Switzerland, Sweden)

Zonta Award

Prize for a female filmmaker whose work reveals mastery and talent and calls for support for future creations.

Jury:

Simone Jenni, Programmer, Switzerland

Dora Manz, Club Zonta member, Switzerland

Fisnik Maxville, Filmmaker, Switzerland

CHF 5000

This Woman, of Alan Zhang (China)

International Critics' Award – FIPRESCI Award

First feature film presented in the International Feature Film Competition or the Burning Lights Competition.

Jury:

Ruggero Calich, Film critic, Turkey

Dina Pokrajac, Film critic, Croatia

Dominic Schmid, Film critic, Switzerland

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Knit's Island, of Ekiem Barbier, Guilhem Causee and Quentin L'helgoualc'h (France)

Perception Change Award

Prize awarded to a film that sheds light on the current issues that will define the world of tomorrow. Offered by the Director General of the Geneva UN with the support of the Diplomatic Club

Jury:

Aziyade Poltier Mutal, Head of the UN Perception Change Project

François Vioud, Program Management Specialist of the UN Perception Change Project

CHF 5 000

Against the Tide, von Sarvnik Kaur (India, France)

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

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