



Press release
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VdR-Industry reveals its 2024 winners



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Over CHF 100,000 of prizes were distributed to sixteen victorious projects at the 2024 Visions du Réel Industry Awards Ceremony. Hosted for the first time by Alice Burgin, VdR-Industry welcomed 1,400 professionals representing 71 countries and more than 500 individual meetings were held over three days.

The 2024 VdR-Industry awards took place in Nyon to close the Visions du Réel industry programme, offering over CHF 100,000 in awards and prizes to projects pitching across a number of the industry showcases. This included the first year of the prestigious Eurimages Co-production Development Award, a €20,000 cash prize, as well as the CHF 10,000 prize from visions sud est, Switzerland's national fund designed to encourage independent film production in countries with low production capacity.

"The increasingly prominent role played by the VdR-industry awards on the international documentary landscape is a testament to the continuing importance of nonfiction stories to challenge, inspire and enrich our lives" says Alice Burgin, Head of Industry at Visions du

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Réel. "With our awards partners, we are able to recognise and celebrate the power of bold, risk-taking projects showcased in our market. Our hope is that, in these difficult times, these awards can encourage filmmakers from all over the world to continue to pursue their passion to tell the salient stories of our time."

The *The Last Days of the Hospital* project took out the Eurimages Co-production Development Award, created to promote the Fund's role in encouraging international co-production from the initial stages of a project, decided by a jury comprising of Susana Santos Rodrigues (IndieLisboa International Film Festival), Eleni Chandrinou (Eurimages) and Vadim Jendreyko (Mira Film).

"The jury decided in favour of a project that is both challenging and urgent. The director is immersed and immerses us, the audience, in a world that is beyond our comfort zone. An unconventional approach that questions our perception of people living in a mental health institution. In the harsh reality of the death of a public hospital, the film constructs a utopia where the patients become people."

Special Eurimages Co-production Development Award of €20,000 was also given by the Eurimages jury to the Ukrainian project *Fixing the War*. This award has been created to support a Ukrainian co-production in development.

"The Jury chose to award an intimate, raw and experiential European co-production that will go behind the curtain of news creation to show the people that really make it happen. This film gives a key to understanding how the media function in the twenty-first century - seen from the trenches of both war and news creation."

The coveted **visions sud est award** went to Hanz Rippe Gabriel, for their project about *The Shadow of Yolüja*. The jury, including Zsuzsi Bánkúti, Head of Open Doors Locarno Film Festival, Meret Ruggie co-director of Trigon-film, and John Canciani, artistic director of Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, said of the project:

"We extensively discussed the eligible projects and were impressed by the diversity of topics, visual approaches, and the depth of the personal stories. We ended up with a shortlist of three, and after a long discussion we decided to award a young and enthusiastic team that has a clear vision. They are currently researching a story linked to a local community that carries significant global relevance."

Finally, the VdR-Industry jury, comprising of Kristy Matheson, Head of Festivals at British Film Institute, Rémi Burah, CEO and Selection Committee member at ARTE France Cinema, and Lisa Chanoff Kleiner, co-founder at Catapult Film Fund deliberated over numerous cash and in-kind awards across the VdR-Pitching and VdR-Work In Progress showcases. This included the **Xe Award**, a CHF 5,000 awarded to one project in the VdR-Pitching programme, which was awarded to *Life of Tipu*.

"For the 2024 Xe Award, the jury selected a film that we greatly admired for its poignant and playful approach. Through the lens of the artistic process, the film explores the complexity of familial relations and migration."

In addition, the same jury awarded the **Lightdox Award**, a cash prize of €3,000 for one project in the VdR-Work In Progress programme, which was bestowed on *At Least to See the Ocean*.

Numerous other prizes were awarded including the **RTS Award**, a Swiss pre-sale awarded to *She Wrestles* as well as the **TËNK Opening Scenes Award**, an acquisition of one finished film from the Opening Scenes program, awarded to the film *Mawtini*. The new **NO NATION FILMS Award**, consisting of a fellowship with the dynamic filmmaking duo Diana El Jeiroudi and Orwa Nyrabia to one project from a low-production capacity country, was awarded to *TAU*.

Overall, sixteen projects won prizes in a successful conclusion to the 2024 Visions du Réel Industry program.


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