



Press release

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Visions Du Réel and SWISS FILMS to premiere a curated showcase of four new Swiss documentaries in progress at Cannes in 2024



© Tale of Baba, Road 190, Songs of Sisterhood, Helvécia

Four powerful projects will be presented at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival during the exclusive Docs-In-Progress showcase, representing established and emerging voices of contemporary Swiss cinema.

Switzerland being the Country of Honour at **Marché du Film – Festival de Cannes**, **Visions du Réel** and **SWISS FILMS** have come together to curate a selection of four boundary-pushing non-fiction projects in their finishing stages as part of the Switzerland Showcase at Cannes in May 2024.

The Switzerland Showcase – which sees these four projects premiere in their current stage of production for the first time – is primarily designed for decision makers looking for fresh and new titles, in particular festival programmers and sales agents. The projects are open to post-production funding or general gap financing. They are sometimes still available for co-production opportunities which is an overarching theme: all four projects are internationally co-produced with partners from France, Belgium, Poland and Brazil. Collaboration also dominates the selection with two co-directing duos and gender parity across the selection. Each artistic proposal will be presented in the form of a pitch and a ten-minute excerpt of the rough cut.

“The selection demonstrates the strength of Switzerland as both an international co-production country, as well as a place with a powerful capacity for storytelling.” says **Alice Burgin**, Head of

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Industry at Visions du Réel. "While extremely different in stylistic approaches and varied in the themes they explore, this collection of films reminds us that documentary cinema has the powerful capacity to highlight captivating characters whose lived experience can help us gain a better understanding of the complex and varied world in which we live."

Meanwhile, **Charlotte Ducos**, SWISS FILMS Deputy Head of Festivals & Markets Department says, "Having a presence at Cannes Docs confirms, in style, that Swiss production is meeting the expectations of the international market. Migration, climate, extremism, injustice and the world of agriculture... these films cover a broad variety of themes, and develop original and visually striking approaches to cinematography. This demonstrates the incredible vitality of Swiss talents."

The four projects selected to be presented in the Switzerland Showcase are:

- *Tale of Baba*, a co-production between Akka Films (Switzerland) and Les Films du Tambour de Soie (France), co-directed by Matthias Joulaud and Lucien Roux. The film explores the challenges facing Didier, a deaf farmer who, at the death of his eldest brother, overcomes his fear of the unknown, thus reinventing his language and finding a way to turn his handicap into a strength.
- *Road 190*, a co-production between Close Up Films (Switzerland) and Stenola Productions (Belgium), co-directed by Emilie Cornu and Charlotte Nastasi. This project tells the story of Mabry, a death row inmate in a Texan prison who imagines the final journey that will one day lead him to the place of his execution.
- *Songs of Sisterhood*, a co-production by First Hand Films (Switzerland) and Offhand (Poland), directed by Hanna Nobis. This powerful documentary explores the real life struggles of a group of young LGBTIQ+ activists fighting against conservative, oppressive norms in contemporary Poland.
- *Helvécia*, a co-production between Intermezzo Films (Switzerland) and Doblechapa Cinematografia Production (Brazil) directed by Pablo Francischelli. This moving project depicts a coming of age story of love in a former Swiss and German colony in Brazil.

The Swiss showcase will take place on Sunday 19 May 2024, 11.45 am - 1.00 pm, at Lérins 4 Screening Room at the Cannes Film Festival.

Switzerland as the Country of Honour is an initiative by the [Marché du Film](#), organized by [SWISS FILMS](#) in collaboration with the [Swiss Federal Office of Culture \(FOC\)](#) and [SRG SSR](#).

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