



Press release

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For immediate release

VdR—Industry : spotlight on Swiss projects and new collaborations



This year, once again, Visions du Réel will showcase Swiss productions, with no fewer than 26 national (co-)productions featured across both the Festival's main selections and its non-competitive sections. This promotion of national cinema also resonates with the work done by the VdR—Industry team, led by Sabine Fayoux Cantillo – for whom this is the first edition as Head of Industry – with 19 new projects presented through the annual partnerships with RTS and SWISS FILMS, as well as through a new collaboration with the Migros Culture Percentage Story Lab. Among these works are 9 debut features, as well as 12 films (co-)directed by women, reflecting the Festival's dual commitment to supporting emerging talented filmmakers and addressing gender parity. In parallel, over the four days dedicated to industry professionals – from 19 to 22 April – the VdR—Industry programme is equally pleased to welcome filmmakers established within the Swiss cinematic landscape and to host leading production companies that contribute to enriching documentary creation at both the national and international level.

Highly anticipated returns and emerging talent: spotlight on 15 new Swiss projects

A leading figure in Swiss cinema, **Jean-Stéphane Bron** has been selected to take part in the prestigious VdR—Pitching section with his new project *A Season in Europe*. In contention for several awards, the project is backed by producer **Lionel Baier** (Bande à part Films), alongside **Philippe Martin** (Les Films Pelléas), who notably produced *A Night at the Opera* by Sergei Loznitsa, Special Guest of this 57th edition of Visions du Réel.

The production company Bande à part Films is supporting a second film during the Industry days, with producer Agnieszka Ramu accompanying **Ludmila Claude** in the development of *The Invisible Mountain*, one of eight works competing for the Prix RTS de soutien à la création documentaire (RTS award to support documentary creation), worth CHF 10'000. Among the other (co-)productions from French-speaking Switzerland in the running for this valuable support is *She Eats*, the latest project by **Céline Pernet** (*Garçonnières*, VdR 2022), produced by **Stéphane Goël** (Climage), co-director of *Un Terrain Neutre* (National Competition 2026) and producer behind several works that have left their mark on the

Festival (*Ladies*, VdR 2018; *Ardente-x-s*, VdR 2022); **Karim Sayad**, whose film *Amore e Mentalità* is produced by **Jaber Debzi** (Les films de l'alambic); and **Gaël Métroz** who, with *Loris*, presents a Swiss-Belgian co-production supported by **Bertrand Coppey** (EPYC Films) and **David Borgeaud** (Roue Libre Production). The Valais actress and screenwriter **Noémie Schmidt** will present *You're Welcome*, which she is co-directing with **Joris Avodo**. The project benefits from the support of **Samy Thiébaud** and **Pierre-André Thiébaud** (PCT cinéma télévision). Finally, **Tom Keller** and **Yelena Ganshof van der Meersch** (Inside Tomorrow), a renowned director and producer, will present *Chasing the Sun*, a film produced by Basel-based **Alex Martin** (European Star Cinema) and Briton **Julian Alexander Oliver** (Conscious Create); **Elena Avdija** will be in Nyon to talk about *Warriors' Whisper*, a feature film supported by **Flavia Zanon** (Close Up Films); and **Vanessa Droz** (Point Prod) will support filmmaker **Camille Budin** with *The Missing Piece*.

The VdR-Industry days will also feature the SWISS FILMS Previews, a highlight of the VdR-Industry programme dedicated to the presentation of six feature films in the final stages of production and ready for international distribution. Returning to Nyon after presenting *Parallel Lives* in the National Competition in 2021, **Frank Matter** will present *Journey to the End of the Night*, a project rooted in the era of artificial intelligence that the filmmaker (soap factory GmbH) has co-produced with **Madeleine Corbat** (Recycled TV AG). While their film *Echoes* competed in the International Medium Length & Short Film Competition in 2014, **Céline Carridoit** and **Aline Suter** return to the Festival this year to explore the theme of rejection with *Johanna*, a French-Swiss co-production led by **Aurélien Marsais** (Cavale Films), **Elise Hug** and **Cécile Lestrade** (Alter Ego Production). **Mateo Ybarra**, a rising talent of Swiss cinema, will discuss *Small Talk*, his latest project co-produced by **Madeline Robert** (L'ARTIFICE). Accompanied by **Gaspard Vignon** and **Charlotte Klinke** of Marmotte Productions, filmmaker **Victoria Maréchal** will share *Inhabiting the Night*, her latest feature set in a rural environment. Two other films are part of these SWISS FILMS Previews: *Two Donkeys and a Saint*, the first feature-length documentary by the Swiss-Italian **Davide Tisato**, produced by **Michael Graf** (Cloud Fog Haze Pictures), as well as *Sunsets Don't Matter*, co-directed by **Lasse Linder** and **Alexandra Rüegg**. The feature film benefits from the dual support of **Philipp Ritler** and **Luzius Fischer** of Dynamic Frame GmbH.

Visions du Réel partners with the Migros Culture Percentage Story Lab for a new collaboration

This year, VdR-Industry is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Migros Culture Percentage Story Lab, dedicated to innovative approaches in non-fiction cinema. During a pitch session, six voices from Swiss cinema will present to industry professionals five inventive and ambitious projects at various stages of development. Among them are **Tobias Kubli** and **Jonathan Jäggi** – also featured in the National Competition with *Common Ground* – who are currently working on *Spirits We Didn't Ask For*, a Swiss-Argentine co-production led by producers **Andreas Weber** and **Lea Fröhlicher** (point de vue). A renowned figure in Swiss cinema, **Yamina Zoutat** makes her return to Nyon after presenting *Retour au Palais* (VdR 2017) in the International Feature Film Competition and *Chienne de rouge* (VdR 2023) in the National Competition. This time, the filmmaker returns with *Flight 7014 to Algiers*, a highly personal project supported by **Xavier Grin** (P.S. Productions) and **Richard Copans** (Les Films d'ici). **Noa Epars**, an emerging filmmaker whose short films have been acclaimed at several major festivals, will discuss *22,000 Screams from the Mine*, his first feature supported by **Xavier Derigo** and **Léa Génique** (IDIP Films). **Raphaël Harari** will also present his first film, *Beyond Dad's Moustache*, a French-Swiss co-production supported by producers **Sophie Martin-Achard** (Point Prod) and **Céline Loiseau** (TS Productions). *Amada Libertad*, the second feature by **Celina Escher**, a Swiss filmmaker of Salvadoran origin, completes the list of projects selected to participate in the Migros Culture Percentage Story Lab Pitching. Produced by **Sereina Gabathuler** (Roundabout Film GmbH), the project aims to trace the journey of Amada Libertad, a poet and activist who opposed the military dictatorship in El Salvador.


Switzerland Meets Central Europe

Designed to establish sustainable co-production networks and enable the Swiss film industry to further its relationships internationally, the Switzerland Meets programme welcomes this year delegations from four Central European countries: Austria, Croatia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Organised around networking sessions, this programme gives international production companies the opportunity to present their ongoing projects and explore potential avenues for collaboration. On the Austrian side, we will count on the presence of AUSTRIAN FILMS, represented by its Executive Director **Anne Laurent-Delage** and Head of Festivals and Film Markets **Emilie Dauptain**, as well as producers **Karin Berghammer** (berg hammer film GmbH) and **Lena Weiss** (Glitter & Doom). On the Croatian side, the VdR-Industry days will welcome the Croatian Audiovisual Centre's advisor **Karla Bacic-Jelincic**, as well as producers **Tibor Keser** (KOMPOT) and **Sabina Kresic** (RASTIKA). The Czech Republic will be

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represented by three industry professionals to discuss its international collaborations, strengths and future projects: **Alice Tabery** (CINEPOINT), **Jan Bodnár** (Safe Place Production) and **Vitezslav Chovanec** – who is responsible for promoting documentary works at the Czech Audiovisual Fund, the main public funding body for the Czech audiovisual sector. Finally, producer **Michaela Kaliská** (Ninja Film) will share her valuable insights on Slovak cinema and its financing and production practices. These producers will be meeting with Swiss producers **Corinna Dästner** (DokLab), **Franziska Sonder** (Ensemble Films), and **Moris Freiburghaus** (Sabotage Kollektiv), among others, to discuss their current projects and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

VdR–Pitching

A Season in Europe by **Jean-Stéphane Bron** (Switzerland)

Production: Lionel Baier (Bande à part Films), Philippe Martin (Les Films Pelléas)
Switzerland, France

Prix RTS de soutien à la création documentaire

Amore e Mentalità by **Karim Sayad** (Switzerland, Algeria)

Production: Jaber Debzi (Les films de l'alambic)
Switzerland

Chasing the Sun by **Yelena Ganshof van der Meersch** (Switzerland), **Tom Keller** (Switzerland)

Production: Yelena Ganshof van der Meersch (Inside Tomorrow), Alex Martin (European Star Cinema), Julian Alexander Oliver (Conscious Create)
Switzerland, United Kingdom

Loris by **Gaël Métroz** (Switzerland)

Production: Bertrand Coppey (EPYC Films), David Borgeaud (Roue Libre Production)
Switzerland, Belgium

She Eats by **Céline Pernet** (Switzerland)

Production: Stéphane Goël (Climage)
Switzerland

The Invisible Mountain by **Ludmila Claude** (Switzerland)

Production: Agnieszka Ramu (Bande à part Films)
Switzerland

The Missing Piece by **Camille Budin** (Switzerland, France)

Production: Vanessa Droz (Point Prod)
Switzerland

Warriors' Whisper by **Elena Avdija** (Switzerland, Kosovo)

Production: Flavia Zanon (Close Up Films)
Switzerland

You're Welcome by **Noémie Schmidt** (Switzerland), **Joris Avodo** (France)

Production: Pierre-André Thiébaud & Samy Thiébaud (PCT cinéma télévision)
Switzerland

SWISS FILMS Previews

Inhabiting the Night by **Victoria Maréchal** (Switzerland)

Production: Gaspard Vignon & Charlotte Klinke (Marmotte Productions)
Switzerland

Johanna by **Céline Carridroit** (Switzerland, France), **Aline Suter** (Switzerland)

Production: Aurélien Marsais (Cavale Films), Elise Hug & Cécile Lestrade (Alter Ego Production)
Switzerland, France

Journey to the End of the Night by **Frank Matter** (Switzerland)

Production: Madeleine Corbat (Recycled TV AG), Frank Matter (soap factory GmbH)

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Switzerland

Small Talk by **Mateo Ybarra** (Switzerland)
Production: Madeline Robert & Mateo Ybarra (L'ARTIFICE)
Switzerland

Sunsets Don't Matter by **Alexandra Rüegg** (Switzerland), **Lasse Linder** (Switzerland)
Production: Philipp Ritler & Luzius Fischer (Dynamic Frame GmbH)
Switzerland

Two Donkeys and a Saint by **Davide Tisato** (Switzerland, Italy)
Production: Michael Graf (Cloud Fog Haze Pictures)
Switzerland

Migros Culture Percentage Story Lab Pitching

22'000 Screams from the Mine by **Noa Epars** (Switzerland)
Production: Léa Génique & Xavier Derigo (IDIP Films)
Switzerland

Beyond Dad's Moustache by **Raphaël Harari** (Switzerland)
Production: Sophie Martin-Achard (Point Prod), Céline Loiseau (TS Productions)
Switzerland, France

Flight 7014 to Algiers by **Yamina Zoutat** (Switzerland)
Production: Xavier Grin (P.S. Productions), Richard Copans (Les Films d'ici)
Switzerland, France

Spirits We Didn't Ask For by **Jonathan Jäggi** (Switzerland, Argentina), **Tobias Kubli** (Switzerland)
Production: Tobias Kubli, Jonathan Jäggi, Lea Fröhlicher & Andreas Weber (point de vue)
Argentina, Switzerland

Amada Libertad by **Celina Escher** (Switzerland, El Salvador)
Production: Sereina Gabathuler (Roundabout Film GmbH)
Switzerland, El Salvador, Sweden

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