

## VISIONS DU RÉEL 2017 AWARD WINNERS

### 7 years of magic and success: a review of Luciano Barisone's Artistic Direction, and the Sesterce d'or for a powerful film about the meaning of life in exile

28 April 2017, Nyon (Switzerland) – The consecration of the film *Taste of Cement*, a magisterial and moving testimony of life in exile for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, closes the 48th edition of Visions du Réel, Festival international de cinéma Nyon, this evening. This Closing Ceremony also marks the end of Luciano Barisone's term of office as the Festival's Artistic Director after seven years. "Seven is the magic or sacred number; seven is the symbolic number, often synonymous with perfection. Seven years is how long Luciano Barisone has been successfully directing the Festival, offering professionals, film fans and the general public a true lesson in film and humanity, which he was also able to share with colleagues and the Visions du Réel Foundation Board", highlights Claude Ruey, the Festival President. Visions du Réel has consolidated its success, with attendance figures reaching over 40,000 spectators. Many screenings were sold out—some, exceptionally, had to have additional screenings due to the enthusiasm of festivalgoers - particularly those for the Festival's Avant-Première and the opening and closing films.

#### The Sesterce d'or goes to *Taste of Cement*, by Ziad Kalthoum

With 130 world or international premieres, three Masterclasses with world-renowned guests—Alain Cavalier, Stéphane Breton, and Jacopo Quadri, the editor of all of Gianfranco Rosi's films –Visions du Réel confirms its role as a leading Festival in the field of documentary filmmaking, at an international level as well as for Switzerland. The quality of filmmaking for the 179 films from 55 countries has been applauded by juries and critics. Tonight, the Sesterce d'or La Mobilière for best feature film from the International Competition is awarded to Ziad Kalthoum for *Taste of Cement*, a film that bears witness to the daily life of Syrian construction workers building skyscrapers in Beirut, while their own houses are being shelled. The Jury awards this film for the power of its cinematographic language, and the way in which it emphasises the human capacity to create beauty - but also to destroy everything. Switzerland also takes pride of place with 6 films, including 3 co-productions. The Audience Prize goes to *In Loco Parentis*. The many opportunities for encounters—more than 1,200 film professionals, including 153 directors with a film on the programme, were present during the Festival—as well as the musical evenings of this 48th edition attracted an enthusiastic public to the Village du Réel.

#### Luciano Barisone's departure: seven years of magic and success

Luciano Barisone, Artistic Director, steps down this evening. As he had announced when Visions du Réel sought him out in Florence in 2010 to take over the direction of the Festival de Nyon, he led his final edition this year. He will therefore have successfully directed the Festival for seven years. "Throughout all this time, Luciano Barisone has constantly insisted on the high ethical and qualitative requirements that should preside over the selection of films. This teacher who became a festival director has indeed always been willing to meet others and in particular young people, whether they are at film school, secondary or high school; he is always passionate about encounters and sharing", recounts Claude Ruey, saluting the Artistic Director's commitment. Emilie Bujès, currently Luciano Barisone's Deputy and a member of the selection committee since 2012, has been nominated as his successor. She will take up her post in August in time to work on setting up the 49th edition of the Festival, which will take place from 13 to 21 April 2018.



**Saturday 29 April: a second screening of prize-winning films at the Salle Communale, Nyon**

The Festival offers the opportunity to watch (or re-watch) the best of its 2017 edition.

Special prices: full rate 10 CHF, reduced rate 5 CHF / day pass 38 CHF

Ticketing on site or online: [www.visionsdureel.ch/en](http://www.visionsdureel.ch/en)

The Sesterce d'or Fondation Goblet for the best short film and the Sesterce d'or George for the best medium-length film from the International Competition

10:30 am – LA PESCA and VIVRE RICHE

The Sesterce d'argent Canton de Vaud, best first film from the Regard Neuf section

2.00 pm – ALL THAT PASSES BY THROUGH A WINDOW THAT DOESN'T OPEN

The Sesterce d'argent SRG SSR, best feature-length Swiss film from all competitive sections

4.00 pm – RETOUR AU PALAIS

The Audience Prize, Sesterce d'argent Municipality of Nyon, best film from the Grand Angle section

6.00 pm – IN LOCO PARENTIS

The Sesterce d'or La Mobilière, best feature-length film from the International Competition

8.00 pm – TASTE OF CEMENT

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**la Mobilière**

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**SRG SSR**

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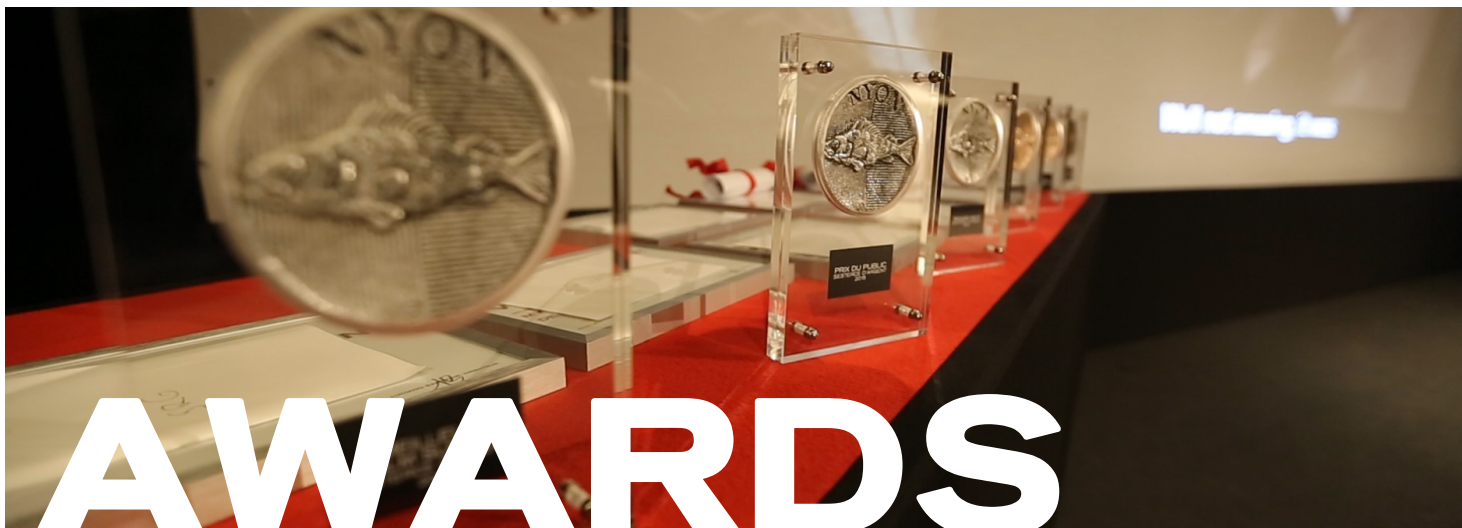
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 canton de  
vaud

 VILLE DE  
NYON

 LOTERIE  
ROMANDE



## **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FEATURE FILM**

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Members of the Jury : Joëlle Bertossa (Producer, Switzerland), Lluís Miñarro (Director and Producer, Spain), Sergio Oksman (Director and Producer, Brazil).

**Sesterce d'or La Mobilière** - Best feature film - CHF 20,000

### **TASTE OF CEMENT by Ziad Kalthoum**

*Beyond bearing witness to a harrowing conflict, this film expresses, with powerful cinematographical language, the human capacity to create beauty but also to destroy everything.*

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**Prix du jury Régionyon** - Most innovative feature film - CHF 10,000

### **UPWELLING by Silvia Jop and Pietro Pasquetti**

*For having created a most singular portrait, which shows how politics today has become a pantomime with surrealist nuances.*

## **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION MEDIUM-LENGTH FILM**

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Members of the Jury : Reda Benjelloun (Journalist and Producer, Morocco), Babak Karimi (Actor and Editor, Italy/Iran), Elsa Kremser (Producer and Director, Austria).

**Sesterce d'or George** - Best medium-length film - CHF 10,000

### **VIVRE RICHE by Joël Akafou**

*Vivre riche introduces us to an unknown, closed world. With humor, dignity and without moralizing, the film reveals the dreams of a generation. Africa has rarely been so real and close.*

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**Prix du jury George** - Most innovative medium-length film - CHF 5,000

**YVONNES by Tommaso Perfetti**

*For the formal, aesthetic and personal courage to make this film without compromises. A cinematic experience that breaks the clichés of this genre.*

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**Special mention**

**MISS RAIN by Charlie Petersmann**

*Miss Rain calmly tells us a private and at the same time universal story, that combines mythology, psychology and faith.*

**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION SHORT FILM**

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Members of the Jury : Reda Benjelloun (Journalist and Producer, Morocco), Babak Karimi (Actor and Editor, Italy/Iran), Elsa Kremser (Producer and Director, Austria).

**Sesterce d'or Fondation Goblet** - Best short film - CHF 5,000

**LA PESCA by Pablo Alvarez Mesa and Fernando Lopez Escriva**

*La pesca made us experience the story of those men in an almost physical way. With his sense of observation and respect of silence, the director takes us to another world and changes our perception of time.*

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**Prix du jury Mémoire Vive** - Most innovative short film - CHF 2,500

**STARS OF GAOMEIGU by Marko Grba Singh**

*With its uncommon perspectives, Stars of Gaomeigu creates a unique atmosphere and proposes a dramatic arch leading from the stars over an ancient tale to a universal and contemporary love story. The director uses unconventional tools, full of humor, realism and surrealism which create a story that talks to all of humankind.*

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**Special mention**

**ONE DAY IN ALEPPO by Ali Alibrahim**

*For the capacity to be at the heart of reality and show that whatever happens, life goes on.*

**REGARD NEUF**

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Members of the Jury : Lionel Baier (Director and Producer, Switzerland), Carine Chichkowsky (Producer, France), Pieter van Huystee (Producer, Netherlands).

**Sesterce d'argent Canton de Vaud** - Best first film - CHF 10,000

**ALL THAT PASSES BY THROUGH A WINDOW THAT DOESN'T OPEN** by Martin DiCicco

*From the start, the film succeeds in bringing together individual stories and the political situation of the Caucasus. Never complacent with reality, the filmmaker emphasises feelings and facts with the same intensity, producing a real encounter between an author and his characters.*

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**Prix du jury Société des Hôteliers de La Côte** - Most innovative first film - CHF 5,000

**NIÑATO** by Adrián Orr

*We were impressed by the ability of the filmmaker to show the complexity of fatherhood and by his capacity to maintain his focus in such intimate moments.*

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**Special mention**

**I KNOW YOU ARE THERE** by Thom Vander Beken

*A first film of delicate mastery whose aesthetics confer a physical energy upon the most profound dilemmas.*

**SWISS CINEMA**

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Members of the Jury : Darryl Els (Festival and Film Director, South Africa), Davide Oberto (Festival Director, Italy), Levin Peter (Director and Producer, Germany).

**Sesterce d'argent SRG SSR** - Best Swiss feature film of all competitive sections - CHF 15,000

**RETOUR AU PALAIS** by Yamina Zoutat

*Haunted by the ghosts that the Paris Law Court has left in her memory, a former court reporter returns in order to transform the institution into an imaginary space. This obsessed, cinematic account captivates the spectator through its visceral rendering of justice, power and violence. Trapped in its corridors, we are free to explore our own fears.*

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**Prix du jury SSA/SUISSIMAGE** - Most innovative Swiss feature film of all competitive sections - CHF 10,000

**KAWASAKI KEIRIN** by Sayaka Mizuno

*With this mid-length film, Sayaka Mizuno finely composes a balance of time, place and people through a reduced cinematic language. As colourful bicycles race circles endlessly around a track, a group of old men gather each day around a neighbourhood bar. Out of this repetition emerges a deeply empathetic, humorous film.*

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## Special mention

### **RUE MAYSKAYA by Gabriel Tejedor**

*In the light of a beautiful summer in the countryside, Gabriel Tejedor's sensitively framed generational portrait of a Belorussian family reveals their hopes, dreams and aspirations – always surrounded by the ghost of political repression.*

## **PRIX DU JEUNE PUBLIC**

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Jury made up of Geneva and Nyon high-school students : Lula Godoy, Leny Némitz, Naïma Pilet, Dounia Ravonel, Grégoire Rivier, Lola Schofrin and Iris Petit (President of the Jury).

**Best film of the Premiers Pas section** - CHF 3,000

### **BEAUTY by Kristina Kuzhakhmetova**

*« Filmmakers, how useless! »: The answer to this prejudice is fought by an instinctive finesse. A movie like a metaphor of life which extracts the very essence of it. A profound cinematographic movement which enlightens us immediately and keeps rolling through our minds. An opening to the world that proves that poetry and beauty can be found everywhere.*

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## Special mention

### **THE SOUND OF WINTER by Tizian Büchi**

*The filmmaker reveals a mesmerizing world that deconstructs clichés. Magic is everywhere, you just need to look for it.*

## **PRIX DU PUBLIC**

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**Sesterce d'argent ville de Nyon** - Best film of the Grand Angle section - CHF 10,000

### **IN LOCO PARENTIS by Neasa Ní Chianáin, Davide Rane**

## **MAÎTRE DU RÉEL**

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**Sesterce d'or Prix Raiffeisen** - Career award

## **ALAIN CAVALIER**

## **PRIX INTERRELIGIEUX**

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Members of the Jury : Mourad Boucif (Director, Belgium), Mikael Larsson (Assistant Teacher, Sweden), Geneviève de Simone-Cornet (Journalist, Switzerland).

**Feature film of the International Competition that sheds light on existential, social or spiritual questions as well as human values - CHF 5,000**

**THE GAZE OF THE SEA by Jose Álvarez**

*The Gaze of the Sea glows with beauty and grace. Giving voice to a community of Mexican fishermen struck by loss and grief, the film shows us what it is to be human. In these fragile men and women, forgiveness and redemption materialize. The film illuminates how love empowers them to overcome pain and find reconciliation with each other and with nature.*

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**Special mention**

**NO PLACE FOR TEARS by Reyhan Tuvi**

*As war rages in Kobane, the inhabitants of a neighboring Kurdish village resist oppression and brutality armed only with their sense of solidarity, identity and dignity. A powerful film of love and hope.*

**PRIX BUYENS-CHAGOLL**

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Members of the Jury : Lydia Chagoll (Filmmaker, Belgium), Madeline Robert (Producer, France), Jean-Guillaume Sonnier (Director, Switzerland).

**Film of humanist dimension focusing on stories developing values that confer meaning to the future of mankind - CHF 5,000**

**BE'JAM BE THE NEVER ENDING SONG by Caroline Parietti and Cyprien Ponson**

*Unanimously, and in solidarity with an eminently ecological and anti-capitalist fight, represented here not as all black or all white but with all the possibilities presented by film: a dive in images and sound into a forest whose mythological power and natural balance are doomed to disappear.*

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**AWARDS DOCM**

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Members of the Jury : Irène Challand, Philippa De Roten, Antoine Duplan, Gaspard Lamunière, Francis Reusser.

**DOCM | PRIX RTS - PERSPECTIVES D'UN DOC - Best French-speaking Swiss film project - CHF 10,000**

**LÉLO L'INSOUMISE by Annie Gisler**

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Members of the Jury : Carlo Chatrian (Festival Director, Switzerland), Aimée Papageorgiou (Press Relations, Switzerland), Meret Ruggle (Media and Communication Manager, Switzerland).

**DOCM | PRIX VISIONS SUD EST** - Best film project of the respective Focus country - CHF 10,000

**DAYS OF CANNIBALISM by Teboho Edkins**

*The jury has decided to award a project that surprised us by the strength of its images. While it is deeply anchored in the South African reality, it opens up another perspective on the issues that small businesses have to face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

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Members of the Jury : Jean Perret (Cinéma/Cinéma du réel department Director HEAD, Geneva), Basil Da Cunha (Director and HEAD Teacher, Geneva), Pablo Briones (Director and HEAD Assistant, Geneva), Thomas Reichlin (Cinema student HEAD, Geneva).

**DOCM | HEAD - GENÈVE POSTPRODUCTION AWARD** - Best film project taking part in the Pitching du Réel - postproduction services

**ex-aequo:**

**HAMADA by Eloy Dominguez Seren**  
**THE VILLAGE by Claire Simon**

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Members of the Jury : Mathias Noschis (Film Marketing Strategist, Alphapanda founder, Germany), Joanna Solecka (Head of Alphapanda Warsaw, Poland), Hermann Barth (Script doctor, Germany).

**DOCM | AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT AWARD** - Pitching du Réel project with high artistic quality offering the greatest potential to engage audiences through online activities - Social media campaign by Alphapanda - Film Marketing Services

**HAMADA by Eloy Dominguez Seren**

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Members of the Jury : Anna Berthollet (Distributor, United Kingdom), Alexandar Govedarica (Distributor, Canada), Dimitra Kouzi (Producer and Journalist, Greece).

**DOCM | PRIX DOCS IN PROGRESS** - Best film project in postproduction - Subtitles offered by Raggio Verde

**WHITE CUBE by Wojtek Pustola**

**AWARDS MÉDIATION CULTURELLE**

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Members of the Jury : Christophe Büla, Elizabeth Baume-Schneider, Philippa de Roten.

**PRIX WEB SERIES DOC 2017** - Best three projects - CHF 5,000 each



**LE PETIT MONDE DE JACQUELINE** by Joëlle Marchesi and Laetitia Ponzio  
**PARLEZ-MOI D'AMOUR** by Eloiç Descloux, Arnaud Sapin and Paul Diaconescu  
**REGARDS SUR L'ÂGE** by Quentin Fantoli and Jade Vasey

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Members of the Jury : Anne Bisang, Anne Bussard, Marie Klay, Mathieu Loewer, Mathieu Truffer.

**GRAND PRIX REFLEX** - Best film of the category 12 to 15-year-olds

**MEIOSIS** by Ciné-Budy, Cycle de Budé

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**GRAND PRIX REFLEX** - Best film of the category 16 to 19-year-olds

**FÉMININ MASCULIN ?** by Quentin Fantoli

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**GRAND PRIX REFLEX** - Best film of the category 20 to 26-year-olds

**BUN BUSTER** by Quentin Maillard, ERACOM

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**PRIX SPÉCIAL DU JURY REFLEX** - The most original film of all categories

**STOP** from the Cycle des Colombières (category 12-15 years)

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**PRIX DU PUBLIC REFLEX** - Geneva Audience Award

**ALEXINE** by Constantin and Léda (category 12-15 years)

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**PRIX DU PUBLIC REFLEX** - Nyon Audience Award

**DES-ACCORDS** by Lola Mukuna, Alberto Rivas Gundin and Rebecca Kneubuehler