

### The second edition of the **Paris Virtual Film Festival** 30 June – 2 July 2017

The **Paris Virtual Film Festival** was successfully created by the Forum des images in 2016 and is set to return with another fully immersive weekend. This year, the program has been widened out for this event dedicated to virtual reality (VR), **to explore a series of exciting innovations** from a cinematographic and creative artistic perspective.

This public festival is broadening its reach with a one-day industry event on **Friday 30 June**, and is inviting all attendees to discover a range of works offering some diverse approaches in terms of fiction, documentary, and animation – and to enjoy **some new sensorial experiences**.

A selection of **international films in competition, brand new installations, Q&A sessions** with creators, and **round-table debates** will offer some unique moments to explore where VR fits into the questions the world is facing today.

On the **opening night** on Friday 30 June, the audience will be offered a chance to discover the world premiere of a **show** that has been specially created for the festival and which **blends hologram techniques with cinema**.

In parallel to the festival, the Forum des images is organizing the **VR Lab**, a theoretical and practical experience for filmmakers and producers, and hosting the first ever **Challenge VR**, coproduced with the INA and in partnership with Uni-VR.



■ **Opening night:** From screen to reality – holograms make their entrance!

**On Friday 30 June at 9:00pm**, the Paris Virtual Film Festival is hosting a **world premiere of a virtual show** in the fabulous surroundings of the **Saint-Eustache church**. Created especially for the festival, **this performance**, to be enjoyed headset-free, **combines cutting-edge technology and holograms with some of cinema's greatest masterpieces**. From screen to reality, this show, staged by **Adr naline**, offers a fresh interpretation of the magic of cinema.

■ The second edition of the Paris Virtual Film Festival will be screening a selection audacious works that will bring a new perspective to contemporary debate, covering issues such as terrorism, cyber-attacks, immigration, and collective memory. Audiences will be able to enjoy the screenings in the company of their **creators, from Europe, the US, and Asia**.

Around 100 **headsets using cutting-edge technology** made by Oculus, Samsung Gear, and HTC Vive, will allow the audience to experience this variety of immersive experiences.

The program contains a **selection of some 20 exciting and socially-aware films** that were spotted **at recent festivals** and which, for the most part, have yet to screen in France. They include ***Pearl*** by Patrick Osbourne, nominated for an Oscar in 2017; the documentary ***Indefinite*** by Darren Emerson, on the daily life of refugees; the thriller ***Alteration*** by Jérôme Blanquet, the ***Planet*** ∞ from Momoko Seto; and ***Dear Angelica*** by Saschka Unseld, with its hand-painted animation.

Several **international directors** will come to present their creations and chat with audiences, including **Mia Donovan**, author of ***Deprogrammed***, a film about indoctrination and brainwashing; the Iranian director **Ali Eslami**, whose film ***Death Tolls*** places the audience in the center of terrorist attacks; and Burmese photographer **Minzayar Oo**, whose film ***A New Reality, Along My River*** immerses audiences into the city of Rangoon. The American director **Gabo Arora** will also be there to present his documentary, ***Ground Beneath Her***, an immersive experience in the company of a young Nepalese woman after the 2015 earthquake.

■ **The 16 films and installations in competition will be judged by two juries which, during the closing ceremony, will reveal the winners of:**

❖ **The Grand Prix**, for the best of the 16 works in the official competition, across all categories.

The jury is made up of **members of the VR Lab**, including **Alejandro Jodorowsky**, director, novelist, and graphic novel author; **Davy Chou**, director and producer; **Cédric Bonin**, producer, and co-director of Seppia Film; **Olivier Bibas**, producer, Atlantique Productions, and **Josza Anjembe**, screenwriter and director.

❖ **The French-Language Virtual Reality Prize – TV5 Monde**, in partnership with TV5 Monde, awarded to the best French-language work in competition.

The jury comprises **Hélène Zemmour** Head of Digital at TV5 Monde; **Gilles Rousseau**, Deputy Head of Programming at the Forum des images; and **Marina Borriello**, Head of VR for Prisma Média

■ This year, in coproduction with the INA and in partnership with Uni-VR, the festival will be inaugurating **Challenge VR**, a brand-new 48-hour creative event where participants must produce a **360° video** from a selection of **archive images offered by the INA**.

The creations will be screened during the festival and **two Challenge VR INA prizes** will be awarded to the most ambitious films at the closing ceremony, by a professional jury comprising **Laurent Vallet**, President of the INA, **Fabien Gaffez**, Head of Programming at the Forum des images; **Frédéric Josué**, president of Uni-VR; and **Gilles Freissinier**, Head of Digital Development at Arte France.

■ *What does virtual reality tell us about the world today? How can virtual reality help us discover the world in a different way? Virtual performance: The challenge for actors.*” These **round-table debates**, open to all, will bring together **directors, TV industry execs, and specialists from the world of virtual reality** to talk about these topics.

They will include **Mia Donovan** (creator of *Deprogrammed*), **Dan Tucker** (producer of *Easter Rising: Voice of a Rebel*), **Ali Eslami** (creator of *Death Tolls*), and **Yasmin Elayat** (director of *Zero Days VR*), who will provide lively commentary on **the challenges of creating and screening virtual reality films**.

- New this year, the Paris Virtual Film Festival will be dedicating **a whole day to industry professionals** on **Friday 30 June (registration for accreditations now open)**. It will be structured around the works in competition, debates, and conferences in the presence of international creators and producers, including **Nonny de la Peña** (director, CEO Emblematic Group), **Tom Burton** (Head of Interactive, BBC), and **Jessica Brillhart** (director, Google).

Moreover, creators and producers will be attending **work-in-progress sessions**, dedicated to films in development, such as the exclusive teaser for the highly anticipated production **Fan Club** by Vincent Ravalec with Mathieu Kassovitz, Sylvie Testud, and Denis Lavant; **Kosmik Journey** directed by **Jan Kounen** and produced by Okio Studio; and **Paris 2050**, created by Alain Damasio and produced by Red Corner.

Click here to request your accreditation [HERE](#)

- In parallel to the festival, the Forum des images is organizing the **VR Lab**, with three days of discussion and reflection for **five writers, directors, and producers who are new to the medium**. This year, the festival has the pleasure of welcoming **Alejandro Jodorowsky**, director, novelist, and graphic novel author; **Davy Chou**, director and producer; **Cédric Bonin**, producer, and co-director of Seppia Film; **Olivier Bibas**, producer, Atlantique Productions, and **Josza Anjembe**, screenwriter and director.

They will be introduced to the technical issues involved in creating VR, and will consider together the possibilities and reach of this new technology within the framework of cinematographic creation. At the end of the festival, they will reveal the results of their discussion and initiation into virtual reality, at a time when increasing numbers of filmmakers are getting involved in immersive experiences.

Paris Virtual Film Festival is organized in partnership with:



**Prices: ONE DAY PASS \***

Adults: €9

Concessions: €7 (under-25s, students, unemployed, over-60s, disabled)

Forum Liberté card price: €6

**Opening night show (Friday 30 June – 9:00pm – Saint-Eustache church)**

Price: €5

\*The one-day pass gives access to: A **program of Samsung Gear collective sessions** (one session per day and per pass, by reservation only) ; to **immersive installations and experiences** (no reservation required) ; to the **Cardboard Workshop** ; to **round-table debates** (reservation recommended)

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE FORUM DES IMAGES**

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