



## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Digital Frontier of 360° Storytelling The Festival launches VR Cinema in Alsace**

**The Strasbourg European Fantastic Film Festival**, in partnership with the Shadok and Seppia Interactive, will launch 360° storytelling in a series of six programmes, running from 20 March to 18 December 2018. Screenings will be held at the Shadok, the Festival's long-standing collaborator in presenting innovative digital events.

VR is no longer the solitary experience it was in the past. Today's VR cinema has moved into a new frontier of collective viewing, as participants are immersed simultaneously into the dynamic 360° world of the story. Using full-circle swivel chairs, they can choose where they want to look in the world that surrounds them in this cinema without a screen.

The theme of our first VR evening is the illustration, both as subject and technique, in a rich and varied programme. *Sea Prayer* tackles the tragic death of a migrant child while crossing the Mediterranean; *Extravaganza* deals with prejudice by plunging viewers into a scathingly insulting and very weird puppet show. In *I Saw the Future*, participants take an astonishing journey into the brilliant mind of futurist Sir Arthur C. Clarke and in *Le voyage intérieur de Gauguin*, they'll accompany Paul Gauguin on his first trip to Tahiti. *La Grotte de Chauvet* delves into pre-history and explores the Palaeolithic rock art of the Chauvet cave by torchlight, seeing it as our prehistoric ancestors did.

VR cinema is developing rapidly. Many major artists, such as Alejandro Gonzales Inarritu and Terrence Malick have already engaged with it, and works from Stephen Spielberg and Gaspar Noé should soon be on the scene.

But whether VR cinema will ever seriously challenge the traditional screen, or settle down to the quiet life of 3D, remains to be seen. In the meantime, sit back and swivel, share and enjoy. **The programme kicks off on 20 March.**

### VR CINEMA

The remaining five VR evenings will take place on 17 April, 19 June, 28 September, 20 November and 18 December.

The programmes will be announced, but tickets can already be purchased online.

### INFO

#### **Le Shadok**

25 presque André Malraux  
67100 Strasbourg  
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**La grotte de Chauvet** (7min.30)

Directed by Philippe Mayrhofer and written by Nadja Dumochel  
 Head of Art Stories 360 Collection: Clément Cogitore  
 With Andrea Fies

Coproduced by Seppia Interactive and Arte GEIE, with the participation of the TV channel Histoire and the support of the CNC, the Grand Est Region and Eurométropole Strasbourg

Arte's «Art Stories 360» proposes a visit to the Chauvet cave in the Ardeche department of France. The lights are doused and you'll see the wall frescoes as prehistoric humans saw them, shimmering in torchlight. In this immersive journey to the beginning of art history, you'll also learn about the latest technology used to conserve and study these priceless examples of parietal art.



La grotte de Chauvet

**Le voyage intérieur de Gauguin** (4min.)

Directed by Hayoun Kwon and produced by Innerspace VR  
 Coproduced by Arte France, RMN Grand Palais and the Musée d'Orsay

This immersive journey into the heart and spirit of Paul Gauguin's imagination encompasses participants in a fascinating ballet of colours. Some of his major works, such as «Arearea» and «Vahine no te viare» take shape as in a dream. Based on first-person accounts written by the artist, you'll travel with Gauguin's thoughts on his first trip to Tahiti.



Le voyage intérieur de Gauguin

**Extravaganza** (5min.40)

Directed by Ethan Shaftel  
 Produced by Easy Action

An official selection of the Tribeca Film Festival, Extravaganza mixes 3D animation with live action footage in a short immersive satire. When the viewer puts on the VR headset they become a puppet trapped in a stunningly offensive puppet show.

Instead of a consumer, they find themselves in the novel position of "consumed", subjected to insults by their audience and confronted with many prejudices. The issue here: Can technology change society for the better, or does it just magnify our worst traits in new ways? With Paul Scheer and John Gemberling.



Extravaganza

**Sea Prayer** (7min.)

Directed by Khaled Hosseini  
 Produced by UNHCR  
 Coproduced by The Guardian

Khaled Hosseini, acclaimed novelist of The Kite Runner, commemorates the second anniversary of the death of Alan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian refugee who drowned at sea trying to reach the Greek coast with his family. The night before this potentially fatal voyage, a father tells his son about their life in Syria before the war and how uncertain their future is.



Sea Prayer

**I saw the future** (5min.)

Directed by François Vautier  
 Produced by Da Prod

A 2017 Venice Film Festival selection, I Saw the Future emerges viewers into a tri-dimensional space that echoes Sir Arthur C. Clarke's future predictions, as revealed to the BBC in 1964. The celebrated British novelist and co-author of 2001: A Space Odyssey rightly predicted with extraordinary foresight the mutations brought on by the digital age. In I Saw the Future, Clarke's futuristic visions merge intimately with the texture of the BBC archive, taking participants on an astonishing voyage into time.



I Saw the Future

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