

Lionel Baier

Istituto Svizzero

Lionel Baier was born in Lausanne into a Swiss family of Polish origin in 1975. He has been programming and co-managing the Cinema Rex in Aubonne. Between 1995 and 1999, he studied at the Faculty of the Arts at Lausanne University. Since 2002, Lionel Baier has been in charge of the Film Department of the Lausanne University of Arts and Design (ECAL).

In 2000, he directed his first film, *The Pastor's*, a documentary about his father, a pastor in the canton of Vaud, followed by *The Parade (Our History)* one year later, showing the first gay parade in the Catholic canton of Valais. The filmmaker then turned to fiction, first shooting *Stupid Boy* (2004) and then *Stealth* (2006). In 2006, *Stupid Boy* was one of the four films selected to represent Swiss cinema at the International Film Festival of Cannes in its section "Tous les cinémas du monde". His third feature film *Another Man* (2008) was in the international competition at the Locarno Film Festival. *Low Cost (Claude Jutra)* is Switzerland's first film shot with a mobile phone. The film represented Switzerland at the Input Festival of Korea in 2011 and was shown online by RTS between December 2010 and February 2011. In November 2009, Lionel Baier founded *Bande à part Films* together with filmmakers Ursula Meier, Frédéric Mermoud and Jean-Stéphane Bron. *Longwave* was screened at the Piazza Grande during the Locarno Film Festival of 2013. *La Vanité* was presented at the Cannes Film Festival in 2015, and nominated for Le Prix Lumières in 2016. His production for ARTE and SSR (Swiss Broadcasting Corporation) *First Name: Mathieu* was presented at the 2018 Berlinale/Panorama.

Lionel Baier worked with Barbet Schroeder, Ursula Meier, Jean-Stéphane Bron and Blaise Harrison. *Le Vénérable W* was screened in Cannes in 2017 and *Pearl* at the Venice Film Festival in 2018. He is the vice chairman of the Foundation Board of the Swiss Film Archive (Cinémathèque Suisse) and also a committee member of the Visions du Réel International Film Festival in Nyon, and of Suissimage, the agency in charge of distributing royalties. In September 2014, Lionel Baier received the "Grande Culture" Award of the Fondation Vaudoise pour la culture.