



PRESS RELEASE

GLOBAL PITCH 2024 BY SUNNY SIDE OF THE DOC AND THE WINNER IS...

REPLICA

Produced by: Axel Rise Films (Australia), The Why Foundation (Denmark)

Directed by: Chouwa LIANG



©Replica - GP24 Winner

La Rochelle, February 7, 2024 - [Sunny Side of the Doc](#), the international community and marketplace dedicated to linear and non-linear documentary, **today announced the winner of the fourth edition of [Global Pitch for Global Change](#)** which took place online on 6 and 7 February.

This edition, **sponsored by AJB DOC and Al Jazeera Documentary Channel**, was focused on documentary projects dealing with issues linked to the sustainable development objectives as defined by the United Nations.

The online event gathered the professional community around the committed theme of "**Docs for the future**". They took part in the **Meet the Sponsors** session, as well as two exciting panels "**DOCA, IDA, DAE: Uniting Doc Forces for Professionals**" and "**How do Big Issues relate to Programming Decisions?**" with our expert guests from the **BBC, ARD/WDR and ABC**.

The quality of the projects and the richness of the exchanges have made Global Pitch an annual online event that is highly prized by the international documentary community, and fits in perfectly with the **2024 focus "Mapping the Future"**, which will be the main thread running through the 35th anniversary edition of Sunny Side of the Doc (24-27 June, La Rochelle).

[The 12 projects of the Official Selection](#) from the 135 submitted during the call for projects were presented to a panel of high-level decision-makers. This year, two projects particularly caught the attention of the prestigious jury of industry experts: **Patricia Finneran** (The StoryBoard Collective, Switzerland), **Mohamed Saïd Ouma** (Documentary Africa Fund, Kenya) and **Jane Mote** (The Whickers, UK).

THE 'BEST GLOBAL PITCH 2024' AWARD GOES TO:

REPLICA

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Logline: "With the widespread use of AI chatbots, young urban women in China are trying out a 'never-ending' love affair with machines."

The Global Pitch Award is endowed with € 3,000 by the sponsors plus 2 full passes to Sunny Side of the Doc 2024.

Jury's word: "Our award goes to an important story of post-modernity, unconditional love, and addiction. It is ironic, at times tragic, but very sensitive with well-cast protagonists. The Director is highly articulate, has a good sense of where she wants to take you and asks the right questions. It's a story that is relevant to this day and age and one that we think is important for the world to see. It happens to be set in China but has universal themes that should concern us all. The winner is *Replica* - congratulations to Director Chouwa LIANG and her producer Andy Huang."

"In a brilliant, oblique way, through the personal experience of the director and the subtle portrayal of the relationship of three Chinese women with their AI lovers, *Replica* uses a universal theme - love and companionship - to raise pressing questions on the sustainability of a future where AI and technology invade our private lives. Gender roles, data sharing and privacy challenge human values and social relationships and underpin this original, sensitive story." says **Mathieu Béjot**, Director of Strategy and Development at **Sunny Side of the Doc**. "Congratulations to director Chou-wa Liang and producer Andy Huang."

A special mention from the jury goes to

CAMELS OF THE SEA

produced by: Elefant Films (India) - directed by: Vikram Singh

Jury's word: "The Director of this project is hugely engaging and convincing with a beautifully filmed teaser and multi-layered story to tell. The jury was especially taken by the Director's eye when filming both sides of this urgent story - we could really sense the challenges that lie ahead with climate change and over-development of sensitive lands. Our special mention goes to *Camels of the Sea*. Congratulations to Vikram and his team."

For more information about the Global Pitch 2024, visit: [Global Pitch 2024](#)

Link to [GP24 Media Kit](#)

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Notes to editors:

Sunny Side of the Doc is the international community and marketplace dedicated to linear and non-linear documentary. Every June, a specific event brings together decision makers, producers, filmmakers, sales agents and funders to support the international financing of documentary projects and the circulation of completed programs. The 4-day market offers unique creative, business and networking opportunities for the 2,200+ participants from 60 countries through a mix of high-level pitching sessions, panels on the latest industry trends and an exhibition hall. **The 35th Sunny Side of the Doc will be held in La Rochelle from June 24-27, 2024.**

Doc Services, the organiser of Sunny side of the Doc and PiXii Festival, is a member of 1% for the Planet.