

Biography

Daniel Rossellat
President of Paléo Festival Nyon

Born on 22nd August 1953, Daniel Rossellat grew up in the countryside just outside Nyon and at the age of 19 became a youth worker. It was at about this time that he got together with a few friends and organised his first concerts at the Folk-Club de l'Escalier, which was to become «Paléo Arts & Spectacles» in 1975, the association which is still responsible for organising Paléo Festival Nyon today. At a time when the profession of event organising was still in its infancy, Daniel Rossellat spent several years juggling his responsibilities as a concert organizer, his studies in engineering and his placements as a trainee journalist before finally defining for himself an entirely new and previously unknown role : festival director.

In 48 editions, Paléo Festival has attracted almost seven million festivalgoers and is today a major Swiss and indeed European cultural event. With total crowds of more than 250,000 over six days, the Festival has built up a loyal and enthusiastic following. Recognition has come from fellow professionals too. Both the Festival and its charismatic figurehead have received numerous awards. In 2007, the French minister of culture and communication honoured Daniel Rossellat with the rank of Knight of the order of Arts and Letters and then in 2016 with the rank of Officer of the order of Arts and Letters. In 2018, he further received a *Lifetime Achievement Award* while attending the European Festival Awards Ceremony in Groningen. In 2019, the University of Lausanne awarded Daniel Rossellat a Doctorate Honoris Causa to recognize the quality of his commitment to the region. The Festival has been awarded several prizes and certificates in recognition of its cultural work and for its environmental protection policy.

True to his role as managing director, Daniel Rossellat captains a happy ship with over 46 permanent salaried staff, an organising committee with over 100 members and about 5500 volunteers. His creative capacity and his qualities as a manager of large scale projects did not escape the notice of the Swiss national Expo 02,

who appointed him head of events in 1999, a job involving the organising of 13,500 shows in 160 days. The enthusiastic and atypical boss of Paléo brings sincerity and simplicity to his job at the Festival as well as to his other spheres of activity, always placing friendship and human relations at the centre of his concerns.

An attentive observer of the political scene, partly due to his training as a journalist but also to his experience in show business, and a long-time active citizen in the local community, Daniel Rossellat was brilliantly elected to the office of mayor (*syndic*) of Nyon on 30th November 2008. Re-elected in March 2011, in February 2016 then again in February 2021, he divides his time between managing the town of Nyon and directing the affairs of Paléo Festival, delegating a certain number of responsibilities to other colleagues.

A hedonist by nature, Daniel Rossellat has developed a real passion for gastronomy and fine wines. In order to stay fit, this health-conscious epicurean makes sure he engages in regular sporting activity. Curious by nature and attracted by the call of wide-open spaces, he often travels to the other side of the Atlantic, to Quebec, where man-made constructions vie with the immensity of the natural surroundings.