

*Crossing
Europe*

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 20 – 26 April 2009
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crossing europe film festival linz 2009
THE PROGRAMME



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CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2009

The coming sixth edition of the **CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz** takes place in the exceptional year of 2009: for one year Linz is in the spotlight as European Capital of Culture, and CROSSING EUROPE ensures a festive mood with outstanding, willful, socio-political auteur cinema from Europe.

From **Monday, the 20th to Sunday, the 26th of April** CROSSING EUROPE presents to international branch and press guests and the local cinema audience **177 hand-picked feature films, documentaries and short films** (mostly Austrian premieres) **from 33 countries**, with numerous directors present – in the established venues of the OK "Offenes Kulturhaus" Upper Austria (festival center), Movimiento, City Kino, and the Kapu.

The cooperation with Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture should be especially noted, which has made possible the production of the festival trailer **repetition** by Barbara Musil and supported the EXTRA EUROPE focal point program (from the countries of Turkey, Switzerland & Norway) – including YOUNG TURKISH CINEMA, TRIBUTE Ursula Meier and Lionel Baier, OK Artist in Residence Inger Lise Hansen – and, not least of all, sponsored the prize money of 10,000.- Euro for the CROSSING EUROPE Award European Competition, with which the winner of the **European Competition** will be distinguished.

Represented among the **11 films** in the competition are the former CROSSING EUROPE guests **Jan Krüger** (UNTERWEGS, 2004 in the competition) with his second film RÜCKENWIND/LIGHT GRADIENT (D, 2009 – world premiere Berlinale 2009) and the Bosnian producer (competition jury member 2005) **Elma Tataragic** with SNIJEG/SNOW (Bosnia/D/F/Iran, 2008 – world premiere Cannes 2008) by the director **Aida Begic**. Opening film director Maren Ade (who took part in CROSSING EUROPE 2005 with DER WALD VOR LAUTER BÄUMEN) is also connected as co-producer (Komplizen Film) with one of this year's competition entries DU BRUIT DANS LA TÊTE/ THE NOISE IN MY HEAD (CH/D, 2008) by **Vincent Pluss**.

The program track **European Panorama** presents such outstanding directors as the Polish master **Jerzy Skolimowski** with CZTERY NOCE Z ANNA/ FOUR NIGHTS WITH ANNA (F/PL, 2008 – world premiere Cannes 2008) and **Claire Denis** with her most recent feature film 35 RHUMS/35 SHOTS OF RUM (F/D, 2008 – world premiere Venice 2008). In addition to highlights from the past festival season, this program section also presents documentary works on current socio-political topics.

In addition, Panorama includes again this year films from music and youth culture, among others the Spanish music documentary **INTROSPECTIVE** by Aram Garriga (E, 2007) and Janek Romero's capitalism-critical **SUPERHELDEN** (D, 2008).

As in past years, the established series **Working Worlds** was put together in cooperation with Kinoreal and with support from the Upper Austrian Chamber of Labor/Dept. of Culture. DIE WUNDERSAME WELT DER WASCHKRAFT/THE WONDROUS WORLD OF LAUNDRY (D, 2009) by **Hans-Christian Schmid** is another Berlinale highlight to be seen at the festival.

Now for the second time, **Night Sight** lures the festival audience into a suspenseful world full of horror, action, thrills and chills, presenting current positions on **European genre cinema** late in the evening.

At CROSSING EUROPE 2009 **prizes with a total value of 21,000.- Euro** will be awarded. The **CROSSING EUROPE Award European Competition**, powered by Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture is endowed with 10,000.- Euro. Festival visitors choose the film for the **RAY Audience Award** with a value of 5,000.- Euro. The **CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist** with a value of 6,000.- Euro goes to an outstanding work from the program section with the same title.

The **Awards Presentation** takes place on Saturday, 25 April 2009 at 9:00 pm at the OK Mediendeck.

THE FESTIVAL OPENING

This year **CROSSING EUROPE** opens on **Monday**, 20 April, with four outstanding films exemplifying the multifacetedness of filmmaking in Europe:

HOME (Switzerland/France/Belgium, 2008 – Austrian premiere) by **Tribute director Ursula Meier** is a modern social farce about the anarchic life of a family by the side of a motorway. With a minimum of dialogue, Meier entrusts this surreal parable of progress, which premiered in Cannes, entirely to the tableau-like power of the images. HOME was chosen this spring as the Best Swiss Film of 2009.

MUEZZIN (Austria, 2009 – world premiere) is the first full-length film by the Upper Austrian **Sebastian Brameshuber** as director and co-producer. The documentary centers around several Muezzins in Istanbul, accompanying their preparations and participation in the national Turkish muezzin competition.

Maren Ade's relationship study **ALLE ANDEREN/EVERYONE ELSE** (Germany, 2009 – Austrian premiere) was distinguished at the Berlinale with two Silver Bears – *Grand Prize of the Jury* and *Best Actress* Birgit Minichmayr. The film tells the story of Gitti and Chris, an odd couple fighting their way through a holiday in isolated togetherness.

Late in the evening, the action satire and homage to the Belgian martial arts icon Jean-Claude van Damme **JCVD** (France/Belgium/Luxembourg, 2008) kicks off the festival track **NIGHT SIGHT** established last year.

COMPETITION EUROPEAN CINEMA

This year there are eleven debut films and second films by young European directors, which represent positions on society and film in the CROSSING EUROPE Competition European Cinema.

The **Competition Jury** consists of five members: **Ludmila Cvikova** (cultural events organizer & program designer for the International Film Festival Rotterdam), **Tudor Giurgiu** (producer, director and distributor), whose most recent production, KATALIN VARGA (RU/GB/HU, 2009 – Berlinale Competition 2009), is shown this year at CROSSING EUROPE in Panorama Europa; the founder of the film magazine "Schnitt", **Nikolai Nikitin** (also

Foreign Delegate for the Berlinale); **Alexandra Seitz** (independent film critic); **Seyfi Teoman** brings along his prize-winning director debut film to Linz: **TATIL KITABI/SUMMER BOOK** (TR, 2008).

Eugenie Jansen set out on a tour through the camp grounds of the Netherlands: Dicky touchingly cares for Timo, the son of her deceased sister. When Timo is supposed to be sent to a boarding school, away from the broken-down traveling circus of the family, Dicky is more than upset. - Every one of the actors in **CALIMUCHO** (NL, 2008) are the artistes that Jansen accompanied.

In **DU BRUIT DANS LA TÊTE/THE NOISE IN MY HEAD** (CH/D, 2008), **Vincent Pluss** tells of a woman and her inner conflicts. She acts them out by entangling her ex-boyfriend and the street boy, whom she has taken in, in power games.

With her feature film debut **LES GRANDES PERSONNES/GROWN UPS** (F/S, 2008) **Anna Novion** was immediately invited to Cannes to *Semaine de la Critique*: all their plans are upset when a father and daughter want to move into their holiday home on a Swedish island – and find two women already living there.

A person's gradual loss of control over his life is the theme that **Esther Rots** deals with in **KAN DOOR HUI HEEN/CAN GO THROUGH SKIN** (NL, 2009 – Berlinale Forum 2009).

DE OFRIVILLIGA/INVOLUNTARY (S, 2008), **Ruben Ostlund's** episodic experimental arrangement dealing with the group behavior of very different people, made it into the prestigious track *Un certain regard* in Cannes.

Gianni di Gregorio, who frequently joins forces with Matteo Garrone (**GOMORRA**), plays the leading role himself in his director debut **PRANZO DI FERRAGOSTO/MID-AUGUST LUNCH** (I, 2008). As an impoverished aristocrat still living with his mother, he is given an unexpected opportunity to reduced his rent debts. To do so, Gianni "only" has to take in the landlord's mother and aunt as lodgers.

In the very first edition of **CROSSING EUROPE** in 2004, **Jan Krüger** took part in the Competition with **UNTERWEGS**. Now he presents his second full-length film, **RÜCKENWIND/LIGHT GRADIENT** (D, 2009 – Berlinale Panorama 2009). It is the story of Johann and Robin, two men who want to take an excursion to the countryside.

In her multifaceted drama **SNIJEG/SNOW** (BIH/D/F/Iran, 2008), **Aida Begić** focuses on an isolated village seeking to maintain its existence following the Bosnian war. In the uncertainty of never having found the bodies of their loved ones, family members keep their life going. Then a man appears, who wants to buy the village from them as building property.

In **Alexis Dos Santos' UNMADE BEDS** (GB, 2008), the London East End serves as the point where the paths of two young foreigners cross: inspired by the colorful, vibrant surroundings, the Spaniard Axl and the Belgian Vera seek their roots and feelings.

The locations, where **Mahmut Fazil Coşkun** captures the cultural and religious diversity of Istanbul in **UZAK**

ÝHTIMAL/WRONG ROSARY (TR, 2009), are unmistakable. The destinies of three people are interwoven in the city district of Galata: the newly appointed muezzin Musa, the Catholic nurse Clara, whom he falls in love with, and the erudite Yakup.

In **VERSAILLES (F, 2008)** Guillaume Depardieu, who died much too young, is brilliant as the hermit Damien, who suddenly has to become a father to the complete stranger Enzo; the mother could no longer care for the boy and abandoned him over night. Here the director **Pierre Schoeller** describes the fate of an individual in a sea of need.

EUROPEAN PANORAMA

Descriptions of minor and major states of life, sensitive, sometimes aggressive images of society, remarkable directing work, in short: films that have received and should receive international attention. The **European Panorama** brings these films together and shows almost all of them for the first time in Austria.

One of them is even a world premiere: the first full-length film by the filmmaker **Sebastian Brameshuber** from Gmunden, **MUEZZIN** (A, 2009), about a muezzin competition held every year in Turkey. The documentary kicks off an extensive focus on the country of Turkey and its filmmaking in the festival this year. In addition to the focal point in the Special EXTRA EUROPA, there is also another relevant film in the Panorama: **PAZAR - BIR TICARET MASALI/THE MARKET - A TALE OF TRADE** (D/KAZ/GB/TR, 2008), the new feature film by the British filmmaker **Ben Hopkins**.

One focal point of the European Panorama this year is on civil societies and civil movements against often far-ranging injustices. Before the gates of Lisbon, a battle is taken up against the construction of an access road to a shopping center. **Nathalie Mansouxs VIA DE ACESSO/ACCESS ROAD** (P, 2008) describes the resistance of the residents, some of whom cannot even expect compensation due to the complex legal situation.

Whereas Pierre Schoeller's competition film **VERSAILLES** deals with the same theme fictionally, **ENFANTS DE DON QUICHOTTE (ACTE1)/CHILDEN OF DON QUIXOTE** (F, 2008) documents an initiative that invited residents of Paris to spend a night with the homeless in the streets in fall 2006, to call attention to their inhumane living conditions and to compel politicians to take action. Then **Jonathan le Fourns** and **Andrei Schtakleff's L'EXIL ET LE ROYAUME/NORTH COAST** (F, 2008) takes us to the French coast of the channel, to Calais, to look at what everyday life can be like at this bottleneck for travelers, refugees and the locals.

Czech filmmaking is represented with two very different works: **Helena Třeštková** with **RENÉ** (CZ, 2008) and Bohdan Slama with **VENKOVSKÝ UČITEL/A COUNTRY TEACHER** (CZ/D/F, 2008).

In **STELLA** (F, 2008 – distribution in Austria: Stadtkino) by **Sylvie Verheyde**, the eleven-year-old protagonist starts her first year at a prestigious college preparatory school in Paris in the seventies.

There are two comedy highlights this year in the European Panorama: one is the new youth film by the director of **THIS IS ENGLAND Shane Meadows, SOMERS TOWN** (GB, 2008), in which Thomas Turgoose plays the main role again. The other is the road movie **ELDORADO** (B/F, 2008) by **Bouli Lanners**.

Panorama Special EXTRA EUROPA @ CROSSING EUROPE

One of the core interests of the Capital of Culture city Linz09 is an engagement with Europe, whereby the project **EXTRA EUROPA** addresses the question of what the division into "EU Europe" and "non-EU Europe" means for a country. Is there a shared European identity and culture? Or is diversity specifically one of Europe's strengths? Three countries have been chosen to exemplify this: **Norway, Switzerland** and **Turkey**. **CROSSING EUROPE** contributes a program section to the art and cultural program of **EXTRA EUROPA**, which runs from 19 March to 2 May:

Norway is represented not only by this year's **OK Artist in Residence**, Inger Lise Hansen (more details below), but also by the **Tromsø International Film Festival**, which shows three of its program highlights, and the **Nordic Youth Film Festival - NUFF**, which presents its youth work.

Switzerland is at the center of this year's **Tribute** at **CROSSING EUROPE**, which is devoted to **Ursula Meier** and **Lionel Baier**. Under the title **FANTOCHE @ HOME** the International Festival Fantoche from Baden in Switzerland offers insights into current animation filmmaking.

The vitality of a new generation of Turkish filmmakers is to be discovered in **YOUNG TURKISH CINEMA**. This survey of most recent productions was brought together in cooperation with the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the film magazine *Altyazi* and the Festival on Wheels that travels through Turkey. To be seen are: **Semih Kaplanoglu's** most recent film **SÜT/MILK** (TR/F/D, 2008), **Atalay Taşdiken's** **MOMMO/THE BOGEYMAN** (TR, 2009), **Yİ KI ÇIZGI/TWO LINES** (TR, 2008) by **Selim Evci**, **Yeşim Ustaoglu's** **PANDORAN'NIN KUTUSU/PANDORA'S BOX** (TR/F/D, 2008), **TATIL KITABI/SUMMER BOOK** (TR, 2008) by **Seyfi Teoman** and **Özcan Alper's** first feature film **SONBAHAR/AUTUMN** (TR/D, 2008).

TRIBUTE URSULA MEIER AND LIONEL BAIER

In cooperation with the Linz09 Special Extra Europa, **CROSSING EUROPE** devotes attention to the successful filmmaking of French-speaking West Switzerland and two of its leading figures, who have attracted attention with unique documentary and feature films: **Ursula Meier** (* 1971) and **Lionel Baier** (*1975). A total of 14 films present the work of the two filmmakers, whose friendship reaches into their work: as a kind of collegial signature, Meier appears again and again in Baier's films.

SPECIAL WORKING WORLDS

In light of a global economic crisis, this year the **Special Working Worlds** is even more directly topical than ever before. **BEFORE A CRISIS, THE ONLY WARNING IS UNEASE** is the title of this year's edition. The films: **SOLLBRUCHSTELLE/DEVIL HIDES IN DOUBT** (D, 2008) by **Eva Stotz**, **LEBEN - BRD/HOW TO LIVE IN THE FRG** (D, 1990) by **Harun Farocki**, **WAS DU WILLST** (D, 2008) by **Bettina Braun**, **Hans-Christian Schmid's** **DIE WUNDERSAME WELT DER WASCHKRAFT/THE WONDROUS WORLD OF LAUNDRY** (D, 2009 – world premiere Berlinale Forum 2009) and the documentary **PERESTROIKA - UMBAU EINER WOHNUNG/PERESTROIKA - RECONSTRUCTION OF A FLAT** (D, 2008) by **Christiane Büchner**.

OK ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: INGER LISE HANSEN

Again in 2009 the OK "Offenes Kulturhaus" Upper Austria welcomes an artist from the crossover field of film/visual art at CROSSING EUROPE: OK Artist in Residence this year is the Norwegian artist Inger Lise Hansen (* 1963).

PARALLAX (A/N 2009), her new film, commissioned by the **OK Center for Contemporary Art** and shot above the roofs of Linz, celebrates its premiere at CROSSING EUROPE. This work can then be seen as an installation as part of the OK exhibition **HÖHENRAUSCH / Thrill of the Heights – Art Above the Roofs of Linz** (opening: 28 May).

NACHTSICHT/NIGHT SIGHT

Following its overwhelming success at its premiere last year, the program track Night Sight on European genre cinema now goes into its second round:

JCVD (F/B/LUX, 2008) by **Mabrouk El Mechri**, the complete "Mother" trilogy by the Italian horror godfather **Dario Argento** with **SUSPIRIA** (I, 1977), its successor **INFERNO** (I, 1980) and the recent **LA TERZA MADRE** (I, 2007), **EDEN LAKE** (GB/Cayman Islands 2008) by James Watkins, **DÖD SNÖ/DEAD SNOW** (N, 2009) by director **Tommy Wirkola**,

Nacho Vigalondo's LOS CRONOCRIMENES/TIMECRIMES (E, 2007) and **Nicolas Winding Refn's BRONSON** (GB/Cayman Islands, 2008).

LOCAL ARTISTS

Current works by filmmakers and video artists in and from Upper Austria, selected by Christine Dollhofer, are assembled this year in a total of 12 programs. The Festival again awards the **CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist** with a total value of 6.000,- Euro to an outstanding innovative work. The prize is donated by the Federal Province of Upper Austria (4.000,- Euro) and Synchro Film- and Video Processing (2.000,- Euro).

Jury member **Barbara Musil** has also provided the CROSSING EUROPE TRAILER 2009, the production of which was made possible through the cooperation between the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz and Linz 2009 – European Capital of Culture: the one-minute **repetition** is an homage to repetition in word and deed. In Local Artists there is also new work by the renowned avant-garde artist **Dietmar Brehm**, who created last year's trailer. These film and video works are collected in the program **DIETMAR BREHM. NEW FILMS 2008/2009**.

Among the **56 works with a tie to Upper Austria** there are seven mid-length or full-length documentary films. Altogether, this program track enables a re-encounter with filmmakers and video artists, whose works have been shown many times in this section, and an opportunity to be present for several world premieres.

Crossing Europe Film Festival Linz is an event of the CROSSING EUROPE Filmfestival gemeinnützige GesmbH and member of CentEast – The Alliance of Central and Eastern European Film Festivals

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