

**CROSSING EUROPE Filmfestival Linz / 22 – 27 April 2008 / [www.crossingEurope.at](http://www.crossingEurope.at)**

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## **CROSSING EUROPE FILM FESTIVAL AGAIN WITH AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VISITORS**

Media information for the final press conference at the OK Media Deck on 27 April 2008, 12.00

On the last day of CROSSING EUROPE 2008, festival director Christine Dollhofer was again able to announce a success: Since the opening of the fifth festival edition on Tuesday 22 April by the Austrian Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer, Provincial Governor Josef Pühringer and Vice-Mayor of Linz Erich Watzl, nearly 16,000 festival guests, film and music fans (2007: 13,000) have attended the screenings and the Festival Nightline as well as the exhibition of OK Artist in Residence Lida Abdul (i.e., this corresponds to an increase of 20%). With more than 500 accredited international and national festival guests CROSSING EUROPE received unprecedented interest on the part of the film industry and the media.

The anniversary edition 2008 presented 150 films from 32 countries shown in 132 programmes, with about 100 directors being present at the respective Q&A sessions. The increased interest by the audience is directly linked to the entirely redesigned and extended infrastructure at the OK Festival Centre, which saw vibrant activity during the whole week of the festival, and the additional new and cinema hall with state-of-the-art equipment. Due to the experience gained by the festival team which has been working together nearly unchanged during the past five years, the festival has taken place in a relaxed, intense and vivacious atmosphere.

Festival director Christine Dollhofer looks ahead optimistically: Next year the film festival is going to continue its close cooperation with Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture; all politicians present at the Festival Opening declared their intention to continuously support the further development of the festival in the year 2009 and beyond.

Next year's festival edition, which will last one day longer than usual, will take place from 20 to 26 April 2009.

At the award ceremony on Saturday 26 April, prizes with a total value of 21,000 euro were awarded.

The CROSSING EUROPE European Competition powered by Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture, endowed with 10,000 euro, was awarded to the French director and actor Isild Le Besco for CHARLY (F, 2007), who won the European Competition for the second time after 2005 (for DEMI-TARIF/HALF PRICE).

A special mention went to the Greek director Thanos Anastopoulos for DIORTHOSI/CORRECTION (GR, 2007). Stefan Arsenijevic received the ray Audience Award with a total value of 5,000 euro for LJUBAV I DRUGI ZLOCINI/LOVE AND OTHER CRIMES (Serbia/D/A/SLO, 2008). The CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist, donated by the Federal Province of Upper Austria and Synchro Film- und Videobearbeitung and endowed with 6,000 euro, was awarded to Barbara Musil for MARKET SENTIMENTS (A, 2007). Two special mentions by the Local Artists Jury went to Ernst Spießberger for BRACHLAND (A, 2008) and Edith Stauber for EINTRITT ZUM PARADIES UM 3 EURO 20 (A, 2008).

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