

## CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2020

### Media Information #2/20, 3 March 2020

Festival Opening with Oscar Winner Costa-Gavras and Jubilarian VALIE EXPORT,

Festival Trailer 2020 – MOTH,

Second Edition of Cinema Next Europe Club &

Golden Bag Display Window Campaign

### Experiencing Europe

In seven weeks the **seventeenth edition** of CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz will take place from **21 to 26 April 2020**. Once more, we will present **157** hand-picked feature and documentary film, in order to give audiences the possibility of cinematically exploring Europe – with **cinophile** positions that give us an **image of Europe that is open to world and well reflected**, and makes people excited for contemporary European cinema. While the festival office is still buzzing, fixating the last films and booking the travel arrangements for around **150** national and international festival guests (preferably by train), the festival is already establishing more and more of a **presence in the cityscape of Linz**. Over the next few weeks our **GOLDEN BAG Display Window Campaign** (in cooperation with our long-standing bag sponsor Europack), will kick off, and we are already very much looking forward to seeing a great number of creatively designed display windows.

For the new **festival trailer** we were able to win over the music video director and producer **Karol Kensy** from Linz. In **MOTH** (AT 2020), he takes a poetic yet chilled out look at the environmental topic of light pollution. Already for the sixth time the **program section Cinema Next Europe** – in collaboration with Cinema Next – invites you to explore a world filled with fresh voices in European art house cinema. This year's program **focus is on comedy**, the motto being FUN TIME!. Also, up until 15 March it is still possible to sign up for the **Cinema Next Europe Club**, a three-day **practical module** for ten young filmmakers that will take place for the second time this year.

As always – and again this year – CROSSING EUROPE will open the festival with **multiple films** that are intend to showcase the **diversity of contemporary European film**, and additionally provide an overview of this year's program.

### Opening Films 2020

This year's opening film extravaganza is spearheaded by the current feature film **ADULTS IN THE ROOM** by the legendary director Costa-Gavras on **21 April**. The world premiere of **SURVIVING GUSEN** commemorates three survivors of the Nazi extermination camp in Gusen, near Linz, and the opener for the Night Sight will be the psychodrama **PELIKAN BLOOD** with a star-studded cast including Nina Hoss. The Tribute to VALIE EXPORT will be opened with her feature film **THE PRACTICE OF LOVE**, and with the film **AUTOBAHN** the section Architecture and Society will cast light on the topic of mobility in today's society.

**ADULTS IN THE ROOM** (FR/GR 2019) – Austrian premiere

Director: Costa-Gavras

Program section: European Panorama Fiction; Length 127 min. | feature-length fiction film

Guests: *Costa-Gavras, Michèle Ray Gavras (Producer), Cornelius Obonya (Actor)*

As is fitting for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Austrian membership of the European Union, CROSSING EUROPE will present the current work of the legendary director Costa-Gavras, who has been awarded a slew of prizes particularly for his politically engaged films throughout his career spanning over sixty years (Academy Awards, BAFTAs, Césars, Golden Bears, Golden Palms, among others). ADULTS IN THE ROOM celebrated its world premiere at the international film festival in Venice and brings one of the harshest phases of more recent EU-history onto the silver screen. In a mix of satire and Greek tragedy, the film shows the Greek government debt crisis, and the highly questionable “rescue” of the country by various partners in the Eurozone, based on the eponymous book by Yanis Varoufakis. The film deals with the nerve-racking negotiations that Varoufakis led with representatives of the European Central Bank and ministers of the Eurogroup after prime minister Alexis Tsipras led the SYRIZA party to victory in 2015. Costa-Gavras clearly shows the dilemma the Greek government found itself in during that time, and the drastic results that followed for the country in his claustrophobic chamber play.

**SURVIVING GUSEN** (AT 2020) – world premiere

Directors: Gerald Harringer, Johannes Pröll

Program section: Local Artists; Length: 70 min. | documentary

Guests: *Gerald Harringer, Johannes Pröll*

Ever since the beginning of the festival, the program section Local Artists has always presented works that deal with (Upper) Austrian contemporary history. 75 years after the end of the Nazi terror regime, the essayist documentary SURVIVING GUSEN honors three survivors of the extermination camp in Gusen, today a settlement of single-family homes stands on the site. 71,000 people were deported to the camp during the national socialist terror regime, and more than half of the people there died due to the catastrophic conditions, abuse and torture, or during their work on the nearby tunnel systems – up until the last days of the war. The seemingly idyllic landscape stands in stark contrast to the memories of the three men, and the sobering book passages, police protocols, and expert reports read by Maria Hofstätter and Peter Simonischek.

**PELIKANBLUT / PELICAN BLOOD** (DE/BG 2019) – Austrian premiere

Director: Katrin Gebbe

Program section: Night Sight; Length: 121 min. | feature-length fiction film

Distributor in Austria: Panda Lichtspiele Filmverleih; cinema release in Austria: tba

Guest: *Katrin Gebbe (invited)*

This year’s Night Sight opener that celebrated its world premiere as the opening film in the section Orizzonti in Venice, is by the young German director Katrin Gebbe (TORE TANZT, world premiere in Cannes in 2013). PELICAN BLOOD is a film about a woman whose maternal instincts break every boundary imaginable. Wiebke, portrayed by the stunning Nina Hoss, works as a horse trainer, and is the single mother of her nine-year-old adopted daughter. When she adopts a second girl, the five-year-old Raya from Bulgaria, she is initially overjoyed. Yet it soon becomes apparent that Raya has a serious psychological disorder, and her quick-tempered and aggressive behavior throws her entire surroundings off balance. Katrin Gebbe’s second feature film is a parents’ nightmare come to life as a dark psychodrama.

## **DIE PRAXIS DER LIEBE / THE PRACTICE OF LOVE (AT/DE 1984)**

Director: VALIE EXPORT

Program section: Tribute VALIE EXPORT; Length: 90 min. | feature-length fiction film

Distributor in Austria: sixpack

Guest: VALIE EXPORT

This year's *Tribute* section is dedicated to one of the most important representatives of international media, film, and performance art, VALIE EXPORT. On the occasion of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday CROSSING EUROPE will show a selection of feature and experimental films from the multi-faceted oeuvre of the artist born in Linz. The [Tribute 2020](#) will be opened by the feature film *DIE PRAXIS DER LIEBE / THE PRACTICE OF LOVE* (world premiere at the *Berlinale competition 1985*). The artist implements the aesthetic practices from her video art in a thriller centered around sexual dependence and political corruption. Mediocrity, lies, and violence are the main focal points and are put into practice on the thematic levels of privacy, society, and media with carefully executed stylistic methods from avant-garde video art.

## **AUTOBAHN (DE 2019) – Austrian premiere**

Director: Daniel Abma

Program section: Architecture and Society; Length: 85 min. | documentary

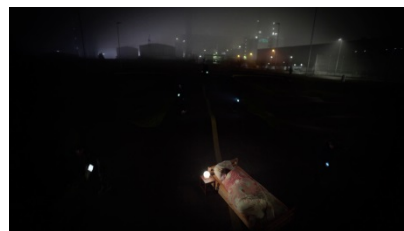
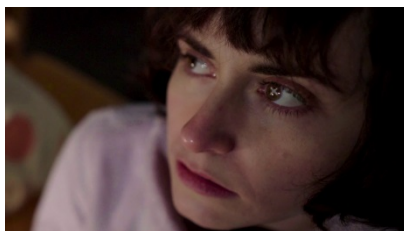
Guest: Daniel Abma

The program section [Architecture and Society](#) is centered around the topic of mobility, and the implications it has on society and our surroundings in this year's edition. As an opener, the German director Daniel Abma will shed light on the concrete results increased transit can have on process and inclusion and exclusion in his documentary long-term observation. Over the span of eight years, he accompanied residents of Bad Oeynhausen during the lengthy process of the completion of a section of high-way, and the consequences that had for the people living there.

## **Festival Trailer 2020: MOTH – online HERE**

directed by Karol Kensity, color, 1 min.

For this year's festival trailer CROSSING EUROPE could win over **Karol Kensity**. Born in 1988 in Suzbin/Poland, he was raised near Linz and studied time based and interactive media at the **Art University in Linz**. The **beatmaker and music video director/producer** has had **multiple works** shown in the CROSSING EUROPE program over the past few years: DREAMING – FLIP FT. AG (2013, short CE'14), FEELINGS (2014, short CE'15), MOVING MOUNTAINS FT. ABU GABI. KATHARSIS, THE UNUSED WORD (2016, short, CE'17), SCENE NEIE WÖD (2016, short, CE'17)



In times of the climate crisis artificial light seems to be but another disruptive element for our nature. Our phones transform us into fireflies from afar, a bizarre mirror of the natural world. Like moths we are drawn to the light, from displays, illuminations, or cinema screens. How long will we still feel comfortable in this dream world of light, before we notice that the ground beneath our feet is becoming all too hot?

The festival trailer 2020, MOTH (AT 2020, 1 min) will be shown for the sake of **festival promotion** and in Austrian art house cinemas. **From today on** the festival trailer can be viewed online:

[www.crossingeurope.at/festivaltrailer2020](http://www.crossingeurope.at/festivaltrailer2020).

## Cinema Next Europe & 2. Cinema Next Europe Club

In 2015, CROSSING EUROPE, in cooperation with the initiative [Cinema Next](#), placed a **focus** on the “**next generation**” of European filmmakers for the first time, in the program section Cinema Next Europe. The platform that intends to further the exchange and the network will have its sixth edition this year, curated by Wiktorija Pelzer and Dominik Tschütscher. Once again, **discovering fresh voices** and the **support of young European cinema** will be placed in the foreground. Under the title **FUN TIME!**, this year the program of Cinema Next Europe will shift the focus onto **comedies**, and will show four humorous debut or second feature films by young, aspiring filmmaker from Europe, who all present us with introductions to remember.

- **AURORA** (FI 2019, director: Miia Tervo, 105 min., feature film) – Austrian premiere
- **CHATA NA PRODEJ / BEAR WITH US** (CZ 2018, director: Tomáš Pavlíček, 77 min., feature film)
- **SAWAH** (LU/BE/EG 2019, director: Adolf El Assal, 86 min., feature film) – Austrian premiere
- **VANAMEHE FILM / OLD MAN CARTOON MOVIE** (EE 2019, director: Mikk Mägi, Oskar Lehemaa, 88 min., animated feature film) – Austrian premiere

SAWAH is probably the most classic comedy of the selection. The other three films in the program combine other genres with humor: things like tragicomedy – such as in BEAR WITH US. Or romantic comedy – in AURORA. Humor or absurdity can also often be found in action, horror, or animated films – OLD MAN CARTOON MOVIE has elements of all those things.

The **Cinema Next Europe Club** is a three-day practical module for ten interested young filmmakers that will take place for the second time this year. The club gives young filmmakers the possibility to visit the film festival and gain inputs in the context of this year’s **Cinema Next Europe program focus**, as well as connecting and entering into an exchange with other filmmakers from in and outside of the country. This offer is directed at young filmmakers from Austria who are currently working on, or have already realized a project with a focus on comedy and humor, and stand in a position to profit from the content of this year’s program section.

| Details on Cinema Next Club [HERE](#) | Applications can be sent to: [info@cinemanext.at](mailto:info@cinemanext.at) | Deadline: 15 March 2020 |

## Golden Bag Display Window Campaign 2020

Again the CROSSING EUROPE team is looking forward to seeing **many creatively decorated display windows** that will make the cityscape of Linz even prettier and get people excited for this year’s festival edition. Following the motto “Seeing Europe through different eyes”, there are no limits to the design when it comes to creativity and originality. The displays designed in the “festival look”, intend to invite both the local population as well as the international festival visitors on a journey of exploration through the inner city of Linz.





# CROSSING EUROPE

filmfestival linz // 21–26 april 2020

Once more, this year we will provide CROSSING EUROPE promotional materials for the decoration of the display windows. **Every participating business** – that fulfills certain requirements concerning the decoration of the display windows – can **win** material prizes. For the festival audience and the customers of the participating businesses there is also an **audience raffle**. Details on the participation and the prizes can be found at [www.crossingeurope.at/goldenbag](http://www.crossingeurope.at/goldenbag)

| Supported by our long-standing bag sponsor [Europack](#) and the [Linzer City Ring](#) |

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## Dates and Deadlines

Program press conference: **8 April 2020 – Linz, 10 am, City-Kino**

Festival dates: **21 to 26 April 2020**

Screening award winning films ("Bonus day"): **27 April 2020, City-Kino**

## Photos & Updates

Filmstills & Photo materials: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos.html>

Logo & Festivalsujet: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos>

Festival impressions: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/collections/>

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2020 can be found on our website at [www.crossingeurope.at](http://www.crossingeurope.at) as well as on our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).