

Press Release

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

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Tribute 2022: Fabrice du Welz | Local Artists Special: Dietmar Brehm

CROSSING EUROPE 2022: First Program Highlights

In just under three months Linz will once again become the central hub for European cinema: The **nineteenth edition** of CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival will take place between **27 April and 2 May 2022**. Currently the festival team – under the new leadership of Sabine Gebetsroither and Katharina Riedler – is in the **final phase of compiling the program**, hundreds of submissions from various countries around the continent have been sighted over the past weeks and months. What can already be said is that festival audiences can once more look forward to **ambitious and contemporary film** that will bring the many facets of Europe to the silver screen. Aside from around 130 feature films and documentaries from all across Europe, we once again offer the chance for a direct and transnational **exchange with attending filmmakers**. Based on the current situation we are planning on holding the festival as an in-person event. The safety of the audiences and the team are our highest priority, and so it goes without saying that all sections of the program will take place in adherence to the **safety measures concerning the Covid-19 pandemic** in place at the time. The experience of organizing last year's Corona-edition gives us a good basis for the realization of the festival this year.

The festival venues will consist of the **established venues** of the Movimiento & City-Kino, the OÖ Kulturquartier with the Ursulinensaal, and for the second time the Central will also be a festival location. **Talk events, the YAAAS! Youth Program and a musical nightline** on the OK Square and on the OK Deck will be possible again, depending on the current situation. Last year the supporting program had to take place in a modified version due to the ongoing pandemic.

Besides the experience of collectively watching a film in person – a fact that deserves highlighting during this extraordinary time – CROSSING EUROPE @ HOME will also offer online elements of the festival at home. This includes **live streams of the talks** and a hand-picked selection of films as **VOD**.

Next to a cinematographic journey through Europe, CROSSING EUROPE also puts a particular focus on regional filmmaking: The competition program **Local Artists** will screen around **fifty submissions** that have a connection to Upper Austria. We are happy to be able to announce a program highlight in this regard: The renowned artist from Linz, **Dietmar Brehm**, will present two hand-picked programs of short films as a Local Artists Special. Another highlight has also already been fixed, the **Tribute** section this year is dedicated to the Belgian filmmaker **Fabrice du Welz**, who is known for his films that move freely between the genres of horror, drama, and thriller.

Press Release

Tribute 2022: Fabrice du Welz (BE)

I hate the digital world. I'm not very interested in realism, there's enough realism on TV, and it infiltrates everyone and everything. I tried to act against that. You don't have to love the movie, but the film acts like a bad dream or a stain you can't get out but with a lot of light. I work more like a painter. I work with materials, textures. I try to be open and develop my sensibility. I prepare a lot before shooting and then try to push boundaries. (Fabrice du Welz about his film ADORATION, screenanarchy.com, October 2019)

CROSSING EUROPE will dedicate its Tribute program to the Belgian director and screenwriter **Fabrice du Welz**, who will also **attend the festival in Linz** for multiple days as the situation currently stands. The festival will screen **five feature films of his**, including Welz' most recent production INEXORABLE (2021). Additionally a curated **selection of short films** will be shown.

- ❖ **CALVAIRE** (BE, FR, LU 2004), 88 min – *Austrian premiere*
- ❖ **VINYAN** (FR, BE, UK, AU 2008), 96 min – *Austrian premiere*
- ❖ **ALLÉLUIA** (BE, FR 2014), 90 min – *Upper Austrian premiere*
- ❖ **ADORATION** (FR, BE 2019), 98 min – *Upper Austrian premiere*
- ❖ **INEXORABLE** (BE, FR 2021), 98 min – *Austrian premiere*
- ❖ **Short film program** – tba

Welz (*1972) spent his education as a dramaturgy student first at the Royal Conservatoire of Liège and then at the INSAS, the Belgian Institute for Film and Drama in Brussels. In the 1990s he worked for French and Belgian television and filmed his first short films. His film QUAND ON EST AMOUREUX, C'EST MERVEILLEUX (1999) was awarded a **short film prize** at the Festival international du film fantastique de Gérardmer in France in 2001. Finally in 2004, his **debut feature film CALVAIRE** was released and was selected among others things for the *Semaine de la Critique* at the film festival in Cannes, and was awarded multiple times. Already in his debut du Welz combines **elements from the genres of thriller, drama, and horror** in a unique manner, yet simultaneously manages to evade any one genre definition. His follow-up VINYAN (2008) consisted of an international cast (Emmanuelle Béart, Rufus Sewell) and was shot in Thailand. Together with CALVAIRE, his later films ALLÉLUIA (2014) and ADORATION (2019) make up the **Ardennes trilogy**, named after a part of the Belgian Walloon region. In his **current feature film INEXORABLE** (2021), Fabrice du Welz uses the motif of the intruder who threatens a sheltered family, to weave a finely disturbing, erotic Welz creation.

There are few filmmakers whose movies so effectively create a sense of claustrophobia, of suffocation, of being closed in or shut down despite being frequently set in vast open spaces than Fabrice Du Welz.

(Alexandra Heller-Nicholas, filmint.nu, September 2021)

Raw landscapes, thick forests and oppressive interiors become the representation of the states of mind of Welz' characters, which the audience accompanies over the threshold of reality into **nightmares and the surreal**. In doing so the filmmaker is less interested in superficial shock-moments, but rather in the psychological changes that take place within the characters. With grainy images, and billowing, distorted sounds the films by the Belgian director develop an **eerie enrapturing pull** that does not leave audiences all too quickly.

Press Release

Local Artists Special: Dietmar Brehm

Brehm's films are a Rorschach test with a direct line to the subconscious. (Stefan Grisseemann, film critic and culture journalist)

This year, CROSSING EUROPE will dedicate a special within the Local Artists program to the renowned **film artist, painter, and photographer Dietmar Brehm**. Brehm (*1947) studied painting at the art school in Linz and was a professor at the art university in Linz until 2012. In his work, the resourceful artist deals with painting, drawings, photography and since the 1970s with film – between 1974 and today, he made **over 200 films and videos** in Super8, 16mm, and digital formats. His works have been **shown and honored both in Austria and internationally**, from Paris and London to Madrid, São Paulo, and New York. Brehm has been the recipient of multiple awards, and in 2020 he was honored with the **highly prestigious Alfred-Kubin-prize by the federal state of Upper Austria for his life's work**.

Brehm's experimental works have been a long-standing companion at CROSSING EUROPE. Already in the fifth edition of CROSSING EUROPE a special was dedicated to the "Bildforscher" ["image researcher"] from Linz, and he also contributed the festival trailer [FLIEGE](#) that year. We are very happy to be able to honor the **long-standing connection between Dietmar Brehm and CROSSING EUROPE** once more at the nineteenth edition of the festival with two multifaceted **programs of short films**. More information on this will be announced in the coming weeks.

In addition, Dietmar Brehm will present further works as this year's „Lentos Featured Artist“ at Lentos Art Museum Linz, continuing the long standing cooperation between [LENTOS](#) and CROSSING EUROPE.

Festival date: [27 April to 2 May 2022](#) | **Press conference 2022:** [Wednesday, 13 April, 10 am](#)

Images: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/presse/fotos>

Logo and Festival motif: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos>

Regular **updates** and **current information** on Crossing Europe 2022, as well as our efforts in regards to Covid-19 prevention can be found as always on our website www.crossingeurope.at and on our social media channels [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).