

Press Release

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Media information #4/22, 31 March 2022

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In less than four weeks the **nineteenth edition of CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz** will take place from **27 April to 2 May** as an in-person event. In this media information we will present the **four opening films** and this year's **closing film**, as well as a number of film highlights that are sociopolitically relevant. Also, we can announce our first time cooperation with the Video-On-Demand platform for libraries and universities **filmfriend** and the **city library of Linz**, where a collection of films from past CROSSING EUROPE festival editions will be available online from **31 March** onward.

Details on this year's **YAAAS! Close-Up, Workshop Rally and Youth Jury** will deliver updates on the YAAAS! Youth Program, and we are very happy to announce the **comeback of the Nightline** as part of the supporting program of the festival that will offer **live acts and DJs**. The **GOLDEN BAG Window Display Contest** will also enter into its next round, businesses from Linz can apply until **1 April**.

Before delving into the preview it is important to announce a number of dates: Friday **1 April** is the deadline for accreditation, our program conference will take place on Wednesday **13 April** in Movimento and will be available as a live stream on our festival website. This year's festival magazine can be pre-ordered [online](#) until **4 April**.

Opening Films on 27 April 2022

In 2022 CROSSING EUROPE will once again open with multiple films that represent a **cross section** of this year's **festival program** and show **the great variety of contemporary European film**.

With her competition contribution at the Berlinale, Nicolette Krebitz is scratching at societal taboos in **A E I O U – DAS SCHNELLE ALPHABET DER LIEBE**, in which **Sophie Rois** delivers a brilliant performance as the female lead. The Portuguese documentary **VIAGEM AO SOL | JOURNEY TO THE SUN** by Susana de Sousa Dias and Ansgar Schaefer shines a light on the traumatic impacts of war and displacement through the lens of the fate of the children that were "sent away" from bombed out post-war Vienna to Portugal. The Belgian **Tribute guest Fabrice du Welz** will present the Austrian premiere of his current thriller **INEXORABLE**, with actor Benoît Poelvoorde as a neurotic author suffering from writer's block, and the **Night Sight program** will open with the impressive and eerie debut film **PAHANHAUTOJA | HATCHING** by Finnish director **Hanna Bergholm**.

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A E I O U – DAS SCHNELLE ALPHABET DER LIEBE | A E I O U – A QUICK ALPHABET OF LOVE

(DE/FR 2022) – Austrian Premiere

Directed by Nicolette Krebitz

Program Section: European Panorama Fiction; Length: 104 min. | Feature Film

Distributor in Austria: Filmladen; Cinema opening in Austria: 17 June 2022

Guests: Nicolette Krebitz & Sophie Rois (both requested)

Anna is 60 and her acting heyday is now behind her. Reluctantly, she accepts a job as a language coach for 17-year-old Adrian who has a speech impediment and is something of a misfit. She recognizes him as the boy who recently snatched her handbag in the street... "Irresistible" is the term that springs to mind when describing this light-footed and humorous story of an impossible love affair between a thief and a lady. Director Nicolette Krebitz handles the fragile balance between the dictates of society and the heart with great care. The fresh breath of freedom blows through a narrative that makes room for a nod to old West Berlin, some gentle teasing of Germany's French neighbors, and even a ghost that is chased away to make way for new possibilities. But most of all, A E I O U is a passionate love letter to Sophie Rois and, perhaps through her, all the brilliant actors neglected by an industry all too fond of young blood. (Berlinale)

VIAGEM AO SOL | JOURNEY TO THE SUN (PT 2021) – Austrian Premiere

Directed by Susana de Sousa Dias, Ansgar Schaefer

Program Section: European Panorama Documentary; Length: 109 min. | Documentary

Guests: Susana de Sousa Dias, Ansgar Schaefer (both requested)

Just after the Second World War, 5,000 young children were sent from Austria to stay with host families in Portugal, where they could recover from the violence of war. The contrast with their living conditions at home, and the huge difference between the lives of rich and poor in Portugal in this period, made a deep impression on the young Austrians. After about ten months, they were shipped back to Austria—with labels hanging from their necks like postal packages. Filmmakers Susana de Sousa Dias and Ansgar Schaefer assembled a huge quantity of images from this time, in countless photo albums and archives. Carefully composed sound effects enhance the immersive atmosphere of this little-known story, while off-screen the former "guest children" recall this extraordinary, sometimes deliriously happy period. (IDFA)

INEXORABLE (BE/FR 2021) – Austrian Premiere

Directed by Fabrice du Welz

Program Section: Tribute; Length: 99 min. | Feature Film

Guest: Fabrice du Welz

Marcel Bellmer (Benoît Poelvoorde) moves into the colossal old country manor belonging to the family of his wife and publisher Jeanne. Marcel hopes to overcome a spell of writer's block and compose a worthy follow-up to his beloved hit novel "Inexorable". Distraction arrives in the form of Gloria, a shy, awkward young woman with no home or family of her own who connects with Marcel and Jeanne's daughter Lucie. Gloria confesses to Marcel that reading his work saved her life during its darkest moments. But as Gloria becomes increasingly involved in the family's affairs, a whole new darkness threatens to consume the lot of them. INEXORABLE touches on a number of juicy themes – nepotism, marital longevity, the myth of the literary genius, Belgium's fascist legacy – while steadily building toward a series of confrontations as shocking as they are, in hindsight, inevitable. (Toronto International Film Festival)

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PAHANHAUTOJA | HATCHING (FI/SE 2022) – Austrian Premiere

Directed by Hanna Bergholm

Program Section: Nightsight; Length: 86 min. | Feature Film

Guest: *Hanna Bergholm (requested)*

Hanna Bergholm's coming-of-age film HATCHING is a visceral combination of supernatural horror and grim satire that dissects emotional manipulation and mother-daughter dynamics. Tween gymnast Tinja spends most of her time training for an upcoming competition, fighting with her obnoxious little brother, and desperately trying to please her image-obsessed mother. After Tinja discovers a dying bird in the woods, she brings its strange egg home and nurtures it until it hatches. The supernatural creature that emerges, christened "Alli", becomes Tinja's only friend and surrogate child. Tinja becomes more and more aware of her own emotions and repression while Alli grows more and more aggressive and grotesque. Before long, Tinja must contend with the disconnect between her newfound maternal instincts and the demands of her own overbearing mother. (Katie Small, Sundance Film Festival)

Closing Film on 2 May 2022

ALLE REDEN ÜBERS WETTER | TALKING ABOUT THE WEATHER (DE 2022) – Austrian Premiere

Directed by Annika Pinske

Program Section: European Panorama Fiction; Length: 89 min. | Feature Film

Distributor in Austria: Filmgarten; Cinema Opening in Austria: tba

Guest: *Annika Pinske (requested)*

Clara is 39 and is taking a PhD in philosophy. She lives in a Kreuzberg flat share while her teenage daughter lives with her ex. When Clara visits her home in provincial Mecklenburg-Vorpommern for her mother's birthday, she finds herself struggling with the pride and expectations but also with the rejection of her family and former companions. She begins to realise just how far she has moved away from her roots in her search for a self-determined life. Annika Pinske's quiet drama is a study in familiarity and distance, liberty and compulsion, the countryside and the city. Sensitive, nuanced performances from an outstanding cast with an assured command of the local dialects allow the audience to experience the atmospheres of both Berlin's university milieu and the rural family get-together. (Berlinale)

Films of Sociopolitical Relevance

Within the nineteenth edition of CROSSING EUROPE many films that will celebrate their Austrian premieres also deal with topics of sociopolitical relevance, such as displacement as a direct result of war, the way Europe deals with issues of migration and the oppression of the individual in totalitarian regimes, but also films that insist on a strengthening of a European community of solidarity. As a cross section for this, we would like to present three works from the program sections Competition Fiction, Competition Documentary, and European Panorama.

Not only the opening film VIAGEM AO SOL | JOURNEY TO THE SUN deals with the brutal consequences of war. In the documentary NASIM (DE 2021) Ole Jacobs and Arne Büttner accompany Nasim, a woman from Afghanistan,

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and her family for eight months at the refugee camp Moria on the Greek island of Lesbos. With this film they create an impressive portrayal of the day-to-day life in the untenable extreme situation. Two feature films in this year's program deal with the totalitarian past in the repressive communist regimes in Hungary and Poland in the 1980s. Gábor Fabricius tells the story of the charismatic singer of a forbidden Punk band, whom the totalitarian state is trying to silence in this debut film **ELTÖRÖLNI FRANKOT** | ERASING FRANK (HU 2021). **ŻEBY NIE BYŁO ŚLADÓW** | LEAVE NO TRACES (PL/FR/CZ 2021) by Jan P. Matuszyński is based on a true story of the murder of a young student by the military police, and the attempts to cover it up by the state, as well as the intimidation of the only witness and his family by the powers that be.

- ❖ **NASIM** (DE 2021), 120 min, Directed by Ole Jacobs, Arne Büttner
Competition Documentary, *Guests: Ole Jacobs, Arne Büttner (both requested)*
- ❖ **ELTÖRÖLNI FRANKOT** | ERASING FRANK (HU 2021), 103 min, Directed by Gábor Fabricius
Competition Fiction, *Guest: Wanda Kiss, Editing (requested)*
- ❖ **ŻEBY NIE BYŁO ŚLADÓW** | LEAVE NO TRACES (PL/FR/CZ 2021), 160 min, Directed by Jan P. Matuszyński, European Panorama Fiction

CROSSING EUROPE on filmfriend.at from 31 March

For the first time, in 2022 a **collection of films** from previous festival editions of CROSSING EUROPE will be presented on **filmfriend.at**, a **Video-on-Demand platform for libraries and universities**. The selection includes **seventeen** European feature films and documentaries that were hand-picked by [filmfriend](#) and CROSSING EUROPE, in cooperation with the [city library of Linz](#). Filmfriend is available for members of numerous libraries in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and can be accessed using the respective library ID, without additional charge. Besides the CROSSING EUROPE selection, users have access to over 3.500 feature films, documentaries, children's films, and series. More information on filmfriend can be found [HERE](#).

The Films of the CROSSING EUROPE Collection on filmfriend.at (excerpt)

- ❖ [B-MOVIE: LUST & SOUND IN WEST-BERLIN](#) (DE 2015; CE15), 92 min, directed by: Jörg A. Hoppe, Klaus Maeck, Heiko Lange
- ❖ [DIE UNERZOGENEN](#) | THE UNPOLISHED (DE 2007; CE07), 95 min, directed by: Pia Marais
- ❖ [GOSPOD POSTOI, IMETO I' E PETRUNIJA](#) | GOD EXISTS, HER NAME IS PETRUNYA (MK/BE/SI/HR/FR 2019; closing film CE19), 100 min, directed by: Teona Strugar Mitevska
- ❖ [MARSEILLE](#) (DE 2014; CE15), 95 min, directed by: Angela Schanelec
- ❖ [PARIS CALLIGRAMMES](#) (DE/FR 2019; CE21), 129 min, directed by: Ulrike Ottinger
- ❖ [THIS IS ENGLAND](#) (GB 2006; CE08), 97 min, directed by: Shane Meadows

In addition to this, on 30 April 2022 (7:30 pm) the city library of Linz will screen **GOD EXISTS, HER NAME IS PETRUNYA** (MK/BE/SI/HR/FR 2019; CE19) within the framework of the **Lange Nacht der BiblioÖtheken**. More information can be found [HERE](#).

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YAAAS! Close-Up, Workshop Rally & Youth Jury

YAAAS! Close-Up: YOUKI goes YAAAS! is an event within the YAAAS! Youth Program at CROSSING EUROPE and is presented in cooperation with the [YOUKI International Youth Media Festival](#). At the event, **young filmmakers are invited** to show their first videos in comparison to their current works, and give insight to their work within the film industry within an **open discussion format**. This year's guests are **Luzia Johow** (*1995, filmmaker) and **Elena Wolff** (*1993, filmmaker, actress, comedian). The YAAAS! Close-Up will take place on **1 May 2022 at 4 pm** on the **OK Deck**, and will be **streamed live** on crossingeurope.at.

Another important part of the youth program is the **YAAAS! Workshop Rally**. On **28 April 2022**, **five practice-orientated workshops** will be offered on topics such as camera work, lighting, audio post-production, and pixilation techniques. Details on the workshops, the workshop leaders and the application can be found [HERE](#). The YAAAS! Workshoprally is supported by the ["CULTURE CONNECTED" program](#).

We are also happy to present this year's **YAAAS! Youth Jury**, who will select the winning film of the YAAAS! Youth Jury Award (3000€ powered by [VdFS](#)) from one of the six films shown within the competition section YAAAS! Competition. The five jury members all attend the AHS Kreuzschwestern Linz: **Annika Mauser** (17 years old, Alkoven), **Darius Handl** (17 years old, Linz), **Elisa Felbermayr** (18 years old, Steyr), **Pauly Mayrhuber** (19 years old, Haag am Hausruck), and **Viktorija Stojanovic** (18 years old, St. Agatha).

Nightline 2022

After a forced break due to the ongoing pandemic, we are very happy to announce the **comeback of the Nightline** at CROSSING EUROPE 2022. The festival attendees can look forward to a hand-picked **musical evening program**, with **DJ sets** on the **OK Platz** (in case of rain: OK Deck), two evenings of **live music on the OK Deck**, and a **concert evening in the cultural center KAPU**. The nightline is curated by **Samira Saad** and **Christian Haselmayr**. It goes without saying that all events will strictly adhere to the rules and regulations concerning the pandemic that are valid at the time of the event. The **entry is free of charge**, further information on the Nightline can be found [HERE](#).

Wednesday, 27.4.

@ OK Platz * / OK Deck 🎧

20:00 DJ: Matches Music DJ-Team

Thursday, 28.4.

@ OK Platz * / OK Deck 🎧

20:00 DJ: Andaka, Abby Lee Tee, Lowa & friends (SHASH Records)

@ KAPU

22:00 Live: Aze

DJ: Redlips

23:00 Live: Nnoa

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Friday, 29.4.

@ OK Platz ✳ / OK Deck 🍷

20:00 DJ: DJ Hooray

@ OK Deck

22:30 Live: Cid Rim

DJ: Wiener Planquadrat

Saturday, 30.4.

@ OK Platz ✳ / OK Deck 🍷

20:00 DJ: YAAAS! Disco | Young Programmers on the Decks

@ OK Deck

22:30 Live: LYLIT

DJ: Caorli

Sunday, 1.5.

@ OK Platz ✳ / Solaris 🍷

20:00 DJ: Curators' Disco | Egyptian Eclipse x STORCHENBEIN

Golden Bag Window Display Contest 2022

The **window display contest** by CROSSING EUROPE will enter into its next round and will give the city a creative dose of festival flair. The participating shops that decorate their display windows with CROSSING EUROPE promotional material from **13 April to 2 May**, have the chance to win **great prizes**, among which are EUROPACK bags with a custom design, a craft beer brewing course, and CROSSING EUROPE vouchers. Every participating shop will also receive an invitation to the "Golden Bag Private Screening" at the festival. A selection of the best decorations can be found with the hashtag **#goldenbagXE22**. The winning shop will be selected by a jury and announced on **28 April**. With kind support of [EUROPACK](#), [OÖNachrichten](#), and the [Linzer City Ring](#).

| Details on the **GOLDEN BAG Window Display Contest** can be found [HERE](#) | Application at: goldenbag@crossingeurope.at | Application deadline: 1 April 2022 |

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

Start of online ticket sales: 14 April 2022

Film Stills and Images: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/photos>

Logo and Festival Motif: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/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](#).