

# Press Release

## CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Press Release #7/22, 3 May 2022

### CINEMA WITHOUT BORDERS – Crossing Europe draws positive balance!

For six days, Austria's third-largest film festival - after the Viennale and Diagonale festivals - presented cinemagoers with new perspectives from all over Europe. The program offered **148** hand-picked feature films and documentaries from more than **30** countries, with current socio-political but also artistic and eccentric works, highlights of the festival season and regional filmmaking.

Since its very beginning, CROSSING EUROPE has defined itself as a cultural event for European auteur cinema and for independent, critical thinking. This year's festival - for the first time under the responsibility of Sabine Gebetsroither and Katharina Riedler, who took over as festival directors in October 2021 - provided current insights into European realities, negotiated topics that concern Europe and highlighted problems that need to be tackled and overcome. The aim of this year's festival was to reflect on Europe as a democratic, diverse, open and solidary place, also far beyond the EU borders - with the hope that the European peace project can regain momentum and, in particular, that the war in Ukraine will come to an end.

After what felt like a very long Corona winter, the comeback of the Crossing Europe festival spirit was felt throughout the inner city of Linz. The social space of cinema was bustling, as was all too rarely the case in the past months. In addition to emotional cinematic experiences, the presence of numerous film guests from Austria and abroad ensured that the exchange between audiences and filmmakers was at the heart of the festival - both in the cinema and after the screenings in the relaxed ambience of the festival district around OK-Platz. Fortunately, the festival audience accepted the invitation to travel across Europe on the cinema screen in large numbers. In the past six days, almost **15,000 festival visitors** were counted at **155 film screenings** and numerous supporting programs (talks, workshops, Nightline, etc.). Compared to 2021 ("Corona edition" of Crossing Europe), this means an **increase of 5,000 visitors**, which is likely due to the appealing and diverse festival program as well as the relaxation of the overall pandemic situation - the cinemas were particularly stormed last Friday and Saturday. It should also be noted that ten selected films from the 2022 festival program will be available on the domestic streaming platform [Kino VOD Club](#) until June 2; figures will only be available after the end of the program (for details, see p. 4).

The **increase** can be seen both in the number of **cinema screenings** and in the **supporting program**, the YAAAS! Youth Program and the YAAAS! school screenings were especially well received. During this year's Awards Ceremony, the **juries** awarded cash and non-cash prizes with a total value of around € 26,500, the list of award winners can be found [HERE](#).

About **120** film guests from all over Europe visited CROSSING EUROPE for film talks and numerous premieres, talks, Crossover projects at the crossroads of film and media art and the YAAAS! Youth Program with workshops completed the line-up. In addition to the physical and collective film experience, the value of which deserves special emphasis at this time, [CROSSING EUROPE@HOME](#) once again offered festival elements to enjoy at

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home, including live streams of talks and ten hand-picked festival films on the domestic streaming platform [KINO VOD CLUB](#) (until June 2, see p. 4 for details). For the first time this year, there was also a collection of films from previous festival editions on [filmfriend.at](#), in cooperation with the Linz City Library, which will also be online after the festival.

With the **Cinema Next Europe Club**, a film campus over several days for a group of young filmmakers from Austria was offered for the third time. After the festival, there is also the opportunity to experience selected festival films again on the big screen in Vienna, Dornbirn, Ebensee, Innsbruck and Freistadt.

In addition to the **four competition sections** (Competition Fiction, Competition Documentary, Competition Local Artists and YAAAS! Competition), the established program sections **Working Worlds** ("Care"), **European Panorama Fiction & Documentary** (highlights of the current festival season) and **Night Sight** (again dedicated to Fantastic Film) were also part of the program structure. This year's **Architecture & Society** series was titled LAND FOR US ALL!, and this year's **Tribute** guest was Belgian filmmaker **Fabrice du Welz**. The **YAAAS! Youth Program** included a holistic offering of film education, media literacy acquisition, and DIY video production for youth ages 15 to 20, which again brought hundreds of young people to the festival.

As in previous years, the film selection process focused on balanced **gender programming**, with 53% of films in the overall program (co)directed by women (excluding Local Artists Special and Tribute). In 2022, concrete steps were again taken for **sustainable, climate-friendly festival work** (keyword "Green Event"), CROSSING EUROPE again carried the label "KlimaKultur-GreenEvent OÖ". The intensive international cooperation with our partner festivals in the European **festival network "Moving Images Open Borders (MIOB)"** was also successfully continued.

## Looking towards 2023

To sum up, it can be said that for six days the festival was **very well received** by the public, and the media coverage and feedback from guests, partners and sponsors was almost exclusively positive, which can be seen as a testament to the work of the CROSSING EUROPE team under the new festival directors Sabine Gebetsroither and Katharina Riedler. In order to be able to continue this work successfully in the coming year, a solid financial foundation is still needed.

As was the case last year, it was again possible to establish a reasonably **solid financial basis for the festival in 2022**. However, Corona-related additional costs in the area of event organization (especially in the areas of personnel, infrastructure and digital development) arose this year as well. In addition, it should not go unmentioned that a **continuous valorization of the funding amounts is absolutely necessary** - due to annually increasing costs in all organizational units (especially related to "fair-pay", digital development and "green" festival work) - in order to be able to meet the demands of a cultural event of this magnitude in terms of the services provided to the project partners as well as to the audience and to maintain the quality of the program and festival organization.

For 2023 an **anniversary** is coming up, the audience can look forward to the **20th edition** of CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz at the **end of April 2023**.

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## CROSSING EUROPE goes on!

Crossing Europe 2022 is history, but in the weeks and months to come, there are numerous chances to experience films from this year's festival program and from prior editions at home or in the cinema.

Ten films from the CROSSING EUROPE program 2022 are available on the streaming-platform [KINO VOD CLUB](#) (details on p. 4) within Austria. Furthermore, there are around twenty opportunities to see selected films from this year's festival program in cinemas all around Austria.

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, a.o. B-MOVIE: LUST & SOUND IN WEST-BERLIN (DE 2015; CE15), BROWNIAN MOVEMENT (NL/BE/DE 2010; CE11), MARSEILLE (DE 2014; CE15) und PARIS CALLIGRAMMES (DE/FR 2019; CE21). In cooperation with the [city library of Linz](#).

Two audience highlights from the festival years 2014 and 2018 on the ÖBB Railnet transform the ride on the ÖBB Railjet into a mobile film-experience: LOVE STEAKS (DE 2013, directed by: Jakob Lass, 89 min) tells the authentic and uncompromising love story of two hotel workers and the documentary DREAM BOAT (DE 2017, directed by: Tristan Ferland Milewski, 92 min) will transport you directly to the ocean, on Europe's only gay cruise.

The recorded live streams of several festival events (Tribute Talk – Fabrice du Welz, YAAAS! Close-Up, TALK: Action! Durchstarten im Filmbusiness, the awards ceremony as well as the the press conference 2022) will soon be available on our [website](#). Various video works that were made during the YAAAS! Video Project as well as films made in the framework of our cooperation with our partner schools HBLA für künstlerische Gestaltung and HTL 1 Bau und Design Linz will also be available soon at [youtube.com/crossingeurope](https://youtube.com/crossingeurope).

On **May 8**, Crossing Europe and Movimiento will present the three nominated films of the [Lux Audience Award](#) of the **European Parliament** starting at Movimiento Linz: FLEE (DK/FR/NO/SE 2021, directed by Jonas Poher Rasmussen), 3:30 pm, QUO VADIS, AIDA? (AT/BH/RO/PL/FR/NL/DE 2020, directed by Jasmila Žbanić), 5:30 pm, GROSSE FREIHEIT (AT/DE 2021, directed by Sebastian Meise), 8 pm. **Admission is free.**

## Selected festival films of 2022 on KINO VOD CLUB | 2 May – 2 June (only available in Austria)

From 2 May to 2 June ten festival films from the program of this year's CROSSING EUROPE edition will be available on the local streaming platform [KINO VOD CLUB](#) for Austrian audiences. This year's festival edition will present itself as lively, open to the world, multi-lingual, and diverse – representative of this are ten selected films from ten different countries that invite audience on a cinematographic journey all over the continent. The VOD selection sees itself as an "inclusive" offer for all those cinephiles who cannot attend the festival this year due to various reasons and offers the possibility to engage in the festival online.

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The films and details can be found on our [website](#) | price per film: 6,90€ | note: when renting a film from KINO VOD CLUB a third of the price goes to a selected independent cinema. Through this you can directly support our festival cinemas Movimiento/City-Kino.

**[BONNE MÈRE / GOOD MOTHER](#)**

Hafsia Herzi, FR 2021, 99 min

**[FILM BALKONOWY / THE BALCONY MOVIE](#)**

Paweł Łoziński, PL 2021, 100 min

**[LA RESTANZA](#)**

Alessandra Coppola, BE/IT 2021, 92 min

**[MAGALUF GHOST TOWN](#)**

Miguel Ángel Blanca, ES/FR 2021, 93 min

**[NË KËRKIM TË VENERËS / LOOKING FOR VENERA](#)**

Norika Sefa, XK/MK 2021, 111 min

**[NELLY & NADINE](#)**

Magnus Gertten, SE/BE/NO 2022, 92 min

**[NIEMAND IST BEI DEN KÄLBERN / NO ONE'S WITH THE CALVES](#)**

Sabrina Sarabi, DE 2021, 116 min

**[POSLIJE ZIME / AFTER THE WINTER](#)**

Ivan Bakrač, ME/RS/HR 2021, 101 min

**[THE SCARS OF ALI BOULALA](#)**

Max Eriksson, SE/NO 2021, 106 min

**[YOUNG PLATO](#)**

Neasa Ní Chianáin, Declan McGrath, IE/GB/FR/BE 2021, 102 min

## **CROSSING EUROPE GOES ... | Follow-up screenings around Austria**

**SPIELBODEN DORNBIRN**

NINJABABY, 3 May, 7:30 pm

[spielboden.at](http://spielboden.at)

**FILMARCHIV AUSTRIA – METRO KINOKULTUR HAUS**

Bernhard Sallmann - Retrospective: 30 April – 11 May

[filmarchiv.at](http://filmarchiv.at)

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**ÖSTERREICHISCHES FILMUSEUM**

PARA:DIES, 4 May, 6 pm

ULTRAVIOLETTE ET LE GANG DES CRACHEUSES DE SANG, 4 May, 8:30 pm

ANSWERING THE SUN, 5 May, 6 pm

EARWIG, 5 May, 8:30 pm

[filmmuseum.at](http://filmmuseum.at)

**SLASH 1/2**

Films of the „Night Sight 2022“

5. – 7 May, Filmcasino Vienna

[slashfilmfestival.com](http://slashfilmfestival.com)

**KINO EBENSEE**

NINJABABY

STORIES FROM THE SEA

from 17 May

[kino-ebensee.at](http://kino-ebensee.at)

**INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL INNSBRUCK**

CROSSING EUROPE and IFFI present:

STOP-ZEMLIA

24 – 29 May

[iffi.at](http://iffi.at)

**FESTIVAL DER NEUE HEIMATFILM**

CROSSING EUROPE and DER NEUE HEIMATFILM present:

PICCOLO CORPO

24 – 28 August, Kino Freistadt

[filmfestivalfreistadt.at](http://filmfestivalfreistadt.at)

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

Picture Material: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/presse/fotos>

Logo & Festivalsujet: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/xp-presse/logos>

Regular updates and the latest information on Crossing Europe can be found on our website [www.crossingeurope.at](http://www.crossingeurope.at) and on our social media channels [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).