



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz Media Information #2/21, 24 February 2021 Tribute 2021: Ivan Ostrochovský | YAAAS Competition Films & School Screenings

CROSSING EUROPE 2021: First Program Highlights

As was announced in January, the **eighteenth edition** of CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz will take place from **1 to 6 June 2021** this year. By moving the date, we hope to be able to carry out the festival as an in-person event, while adhering to the guidelines concerning Covid-19. In addition to the festival, an online collection of selected European feature films and documentaries will be available on the Austrian VoD platform [KINO.VOD CLUB](#). It is our expressed goal to be able to present **ambitious European cinema** in an accessible manner and to offer the possibility of entering into a **direct exchange with hopefully present filmmakers**. It goes without saying that adhering to all the **rules and regulations concerning the containment of the Covid-19-pandemic** stands above all sections of the program and the CROSSING EUROPE festival activities.

Next to the many organizational challenges we are faced with this year due to Corona, the work on this year's CROSSING EUROPE festival program is already heavily underway. At the present moment in the festival office everyone is currently dealing with the **final selection of the films**. After months of watching around **900** European productions – including **160 works** by local filmmakers from Upper Austria – we are in the process of setting the programmatic direction. What we can already say at this point is that this year's program will take the festival audience on a highly promising **journey all over Europe** – with current productions that can be best described as "open to world, linguistically varied, creative and diverse".

In this context we are happy to announce that we are able to present the first **program highlights** of the 18th edition of CROSSING EUROPE: The **Tribute** this year will be dedicated to the Slovakian director and producer **Ivan Ostrochovský**, and our YAAAS! Young Programmers have already come to their final selection for the **YAAAS! Competition** – out of the six feature films, three of the productions will be shown as **special school screenings** (adapted to the current Covid-19 rules and regulations). And now for a detailed presentation of the first program elements:

Tribute 2021: Ivan Ostrochovský (SK)

Being a producer is the only possibility for me to make films the way I want to make them. In truth, it is a necessity. I do not believe that it would be possible to find a producer who still has their wits about them who would approve of the way I make films. That means that I shoot the entire film in a "raw version" first, and then I shoot the entire film a second time.

Ivan Ostrochovský, www.aic.sk, February 2020



This year the CROSSING EUROPE tribute section is dedicated to the Slovakian **director and producer** Ivan Ostrochovský (*1972). Over the course of the festival we will show **seven films** (in six different programs) in which he was involved as either a director and/or producer on the silver screen. Ivan Ostrochovský will be present himself at the festival (so long as the rules and regulation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic allow for travel from neighboring countries). He will be accompanied by his long-standing colleague and co-producer Katarina Tomkova (Punkchart Films).

Already in 2013 the feature film **Ž DO MESTA AŠ / MADE IN ASH** (directed by Iveta Grófová) that he produced was shown in the competition section of CROSSING EUROPE. His **latest production SERVANTS / SLUŽOBNÍCI**, that had its world premiere at the Berlinale 2020, will be celebrating its Austrian premiere in Linz. Here is a list of the films of this year's tribute:

AS A DIRECTOR

- ❖ **SLUŽOBNÍCI / SERVANTS** (SK, RO, CZ, IE 2020), directed by Ivan Ostrochovský, 80 min – Austrian Premiere
- ❖ **KOZA** (SK, CZ 2015), directed by Ivan Ostrochovský, 75 min – Upper Austrian Premiere
- ❖ **ZAMATOVÍ TERORISTI / VELVET TERRORISTS** (SK, CZ, HR 2013), directed by Pavol Pekarčík, Ivan Ostrochovský, Peter Kerekes, 87 min – Upper Austrian Premiere
- ❖ **ILJA** (SK 2010), directed by Ivan Ostrochovský, 35 min – Austrian Premiere

AS A PRODUCER

- ❖ **PUNK JE HNED! / PUNK NEVER ENDS!** (SK, CZ 2019), directed by Juraj Šlauka, 70 min – Austrian Premiere
- ❖ **5. OKTÓBER / 5 OCTOBER** (SK, CZ 2016), directed by Martin Kollar, 52 min – Austrian Premiere
- ❖ **AŽ DO MESTA AŠ / MADE IN ASH** (SK, CZ 2012), directed by Iveta Grófová, 80 min – Austrian Premiere at CROSSING EUROPE 2013

Ivan Ostrochovský was born in **1972 in Žilina**, Slovakia. After completing his studies in documentary filmmaking at the Academy for Performing Arts Bratislava and a postgraduate degree at the Academy of Arts Basnká Bystrica, he has been active as a **director, producer, screen writer, and camera person in the field of film and television for over ten years**. He is co-owner and producer of the two production companies *sentimentalfilm* (2004) and *Punkchart Films* (2009).

"With his **documentary debut** ZAMATOVÍ TERORISTI (SK, CZ, HR 2013, co directed by Péter Kerekes and Pavol Pekarčík) he made a name for himself on the international stage for the first time. As a director who can find **aspects of feature film in documentaries and documentary aspects in feature films**, he likes to experiment with genres and expectations. Added to this, his award-winning feature film debut KOZA (SK, CZ 2015) breaks with conventional story telling. His **noteworthy feature film SERVANTS** (SK, RO, CZ, IE 2020), which had its world premiere in the competition section "Encounters" of the Berlinale 2020, seems to mark Ostrochovský's arrival in the fictional genre." (Nicole Kandioler, film scholar)



YAAAS! Competition Films & School Screenings

The YAAAS! Competition is one of four competition sections and a module within the YAAAS! Youth Program at CROSSING EUROPE. Established in 2019, the goal of the program is a **holistic offer for film education and to acquire media competency and DIY video productions skills**. YAAAS! is aimed at young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty who are offered the chance to enter into a direct exchange with media professionals, learn new skills, see and discuss films, as well as being able to present their own work at a professional film festival. Besides showings of the YAAAS! competition films during the festival week and a video project spanning multiple days, the YAAAS! program also offers a series of **practical workshops** that will take place directly in the schools this year due to the pandemic. **Details** on the workshop program will be available in March.

In the YAAAS! Competition, the winner of the **festival prize CROSSING EUROPE Award – Youth Jury** will be selected by the **YAAAS! Youth Jury**. The award, endowed with a prize money of 3000 €, is powered for the first time this year by the VdFS – Verwertungsgesellschaft der Filmschaffenden. The YAAAS! Competition consists of six current European productions, selected by the **YAAAS! Young Programmers**. **The six youths** – Adrian Turkic, Fabian Wenzelhumer, Vanessa Petrusic, Lea Haslmaier, Eva Lackner und Marlene Mayrhofer – all attend our partner school, the HBLA für künstlerische Gestaltung Linz, and were given an introduction to the process of curating a film festival in late autumn, and have been viewing a great number of films since October.

Ultimately, they came to a selection of **six feature films** (all of them celebrating their Austrian premiere), that deal with the **lived realities of youths and young adults in Europe** in various different ways. Additionally to this, the Young Programmers will handle the introductions as well as the Q&A session at the YAAAS! screenings, produce film talks with the directors, and take care of the participants of the various YAAAS! modules.

The following **three YAAAS! Competition films** will also be offered as **special school screenings**, for which the registration is now possible at yaaas@crossingeurope.at. Details, film descriptions and links to the trailers, as well as **school materials** for preparation and follow-up to the time at the festival can be found [HERE](#). The other three films of the YAAAS! competition and will be announced in one of the coming press releases.

- ❖ **GAGARINE** (FR 2020, directed by Fanny Liatard, Jérémy Trouilh, 97 min, DE subtitles) – feature film | Austrian distributor: Polyfilm; cinema release: tba |

The story revolves around a run-down apartment block in Paris that is named after the first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, which was seen as being visionary during its time. Over the course of a number of years, the now dilapidated concrete complex became a safe home for a multi-cultural community. The gentle astronomy enthusiast Yuri takes care of the building together with two friends in order to try and save it from being demolished. The undertaking is made difficult by the unhappy inhabitants and the fact that Yuri is left to his own devices from one day to the next. (Fabian Wenzelhumer – Young Programmer)

- ❖ **RÄUBERHÄNDE / STAMBUL GARDEN** (DE 2020, directed by Ilker Çatak, 90 min, DE OV) – feature film

Having grown up in a quite ordered home, Janik wants to break free from the comfort zone provided by his parents. His fun-loving friend Samuel, who was practically "adopted" by Janik's parents, grew up without a father, and tries to hide his alcoholic mother from his friends.

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After having graduated, the two of them want to leave everything behind them, and decide to go to Istanbul, where Samuel intends to find his father and his roots. Yet their friendship is put to the test by an unforgivable act by Janik. (Adrian Turkic – Young Programmer)

❖ **SLALOM** (BE, FR 2020, directed by Charlène Favier, 92 min, EN subtitles) feature film

The fifteen year old Lyz is given the chance to start a career as a ski racer when she gets accepted into the professional team. Despite her talent, the beginning proves to be difficult and she has to train even harder than the others. Her trainer Fred sees her potential and is therefore very demanding of Lyz. The minutely organized, hard training regime has the two of them spending more and more time together, which in turn leaves Lyz' to face her teammates jealousy. They come ever closer, boundaries are stepped over, and the first wins counted. Will Lyz leave Fred behind her on her way to the top? (Lea Haslmaier – Young Programmer)

In this program section of the festival there will also be **adaptations due to Corona**. CROSSING EUROPE is only offering **closed screenings of the films within a class or group**. Further information, as well as the registration can be found at yaaas@crossingeurope.at. All details regarding the YAAAS! Youth Program can be found at www.crossingeurope.at/yaaas

New festival date: 1 to 6 June 2021 (you can find details and additional information concerning the new festival date on our website under the [section FAQ](#) on the rescheduling of the festival)

Press conference 2021: Wednesday, 12 May 10 AM (City-Kino Linz, in addition a live stream will be offered at www.crossingeurope.at)

Filmstills and Images: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos.html>

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

Regular **updates** and **current information** on Crossing Europe 2021, 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](#).