

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Media Information #7/21, 8 June 2021

Finally back at the Festival!

Crossing Europe draws a positive balance

After one year of a forced break due to the pandemic, the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival in Linz was able to realize its goal of **presenting ambitious European film** and offering the possibility enter into a direct exchange with the attending film guests. For six days the inner city of Linz transformed into the **pulsating heart** of the festival, in the traditional festival district around the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter, complete with the ticket container on the OK Platz and the festival venues Movimiento and City Kino. The **OK Platz** acted as a **meeting place** for the audiences and the film guests, and was able to act out its full potential over the first four festival days due to the weather. The implementation of the Central as a **new venue** also proved itself.

CROSSING EUROPE 2021 was one of the **first festivals in Europe** that was able to take place as an in-person film event in June – it goes without saying that all activities at the festival took place while adhering to the rules and regulations implemented to **contain the Covid-19 pandemic**, as the safety and well-being of our team and audiences were the highest priority. This festival edition saw multiple adjustments. Because of the necessary **temporal “equalization” of the program**, the number of films and screenings had to be slightly reduced, as the late night screenings had to be canceled due to the legal closing time being 10 PM. Additionally, a part of the established framework program could not take place this year (e.g. the Nightline), or took place **online** (talk events such as the “Tribute Talk: Ivan Ostrochovský” and the “YAAAS! Close-Up”), as well as the popular YAAAS! School Screenings only being offered to closed school classes. The implementation of the Covid-19 prevention concept also meant a **higher number of personnel** and extensive **investments in digital solutions** (for instance in the ticketing system and the website). Added to this, we were only able to offer **67% of the previous seating capacity** in comparison to the festival edition in 2019 – seating had to be arranged according to a chess board pattern, which meant a loss of **half the seats available** in the cinemas, but the addition of the Central as a new venue was able to compensate for the loss of seating somewhat.

We were very happy to see that the festival audiences were not deterred by the necessary **access rules due to Corona** (the check of the mandatory security measures, wearing an FFP2 mask in the cinema, and keeping at least two meters apart from other people), nor by the summer weather. Particularly **young cinephiles** engaged both **online and in-person**. A total of **90 film guests** from both in and outside the country were in attendance and were available for Q&As with the audiences – with a mask and keeping their distance. For a great number of the directors this was the very first opportunity they had to present their new works to a live audience. Around **five hundred accredited industry guests** (industry, press, and film students) were able to experience an exciting festival week in the Upper Austrian capital.

The **high point** of the bustling festival week was the **award ceremony** on 5 June 2021 during which money and material prizes worth 30 500 € were awarded. Details on the award winning films can be found [HERE](#).

The program during the festival week encompassed a total of **123** feature films and documentaries from 40 different countries – this included **95** premieres (**24** world premieres, and **71** Austrian premieres). In keeping with a well-balanced gender programming, 50% of the films shown in the competition section and 41% of all films shown were (co-)directed by women.

2021: Around 10 000 visitors

Of course this year's audience numbers have to be viewed in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact. The adjustments described above naturally lead to a reduction of attendees in comparison to 2019 where we had 24.000 visitors. The festival edition 2020 had to be canceled due to the pandemic.

We were very happy to see that the festival audiences accepted our invitation to join us on a journey all across Europe on the silver screen, despite the prevailing exceptional state of the world. Over the past few days we were able to hold a festival for around 10 000 festival visitors.

Added to this, it is important to mention that part of the festival, namely the [Crossing Europe VOD-Premieres](#) are available until 6 July, for these we will not have any figures until later (details below).

Looking towards 2022

All in all, we can say that despite the constraints due to the Covid-19 virus, we nonetheless had an **enthusiastic audience**, and both the media reports and the feedback by guests, partners, and funders were almost exclusively positive, which can be seen as a **great affirmation for the work** of the CROSSING EUROPE team over the past 18 years.

In 2022 CROSSING EUROPE will see a personnel change, as the festival director Christine Dollhofer who founded CROSSING EUROPE together with Wolfgang Steininger in 2003 will relocate and head the Filmfonds Wien and will therefore hand over all of her CROSSING EUROPE agendas after eighteen years of successful work in autumn.

The new personnel course will be set by the principle shareholders of the Crossing Europe Filmfestival gem. GmbH in accordance with the CROSSING EUROPE team, the Movimiento gem. GmbH and their legal representatives. The appointment of the **new festival director** will be announced in a timely fashion in **autumn 2021**.

The 19th edition of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz will take place from 27 April to 2 May 2022.

After the Festival is before the Festival

Yesterday did **not see the end** of CROSSING EUROPE 2021. The streaming offer "[Crossing Europe VOD Premieres 2021](#)" is still available on the KINO VOD CLUB until 6 July. In addition to this, multiple films shown at CROSSING EUROPE will be shown in the coming weeks and months all across Austria. – Details below.

Our **online events** 2021 (Tribute Talk – Ivan Ostrochovský, YAAAS! Close-Up and the award ceremony, as well as the press conference 2021) are available on our [website](#).

Two audience favorites from the festival program 2017 invite guests on the ÖBB Railjet on a cinematic Europe tour from Vienna to Madrid. The program includes **EL BAR – FRÜHSTÜCK MIT LEICHE** (Álex De La Iglesia, ES 2017, 102 min) and **DIE MIGRANTIGEN** (Arman T. Riahi, AT 2017, 98 min) – in cooperation with [ÖBB](#).

In the coming months, Oktoskop with present **selected films from the previous festival editions** as well as new discoveries. Additionally to this, you can view interviews with directors who presented their latest work at CROSSING EUROPE 2021 – including Tribute guest Ivan Ostrochovský ([KOZA](#) will be shown on 20 and 27 June), and the CROSSING EUROPE award winner Visar Morina ([BABAI](#) will be shown on 13 and 20 June).

In cooperation with our festival network "Moving Images Open Borders – MIOB", 15 current European short films can be viewed and voted for on www.miob.info in four blocks that change monthly. The winning film of **MIOB IN SHORTS** (1 000€) will be honored at the FilmFestival Cottbus in November.

Numerous video works (including the YAAAS! Teasers), that were made during the **YAAAS! Video project 2021**, as well as within the framework of our cooperation with our partner school, will be made available soon at www.youtube.com/crossingeurope.

CROSSING EUROPE VOD Premieres 2021 | 6 June to 6 July

From 6 June to 6 July, ten festival films from the CROSSING EUROPE program 2021 can be viewed on the local streaming platform [KINO VOD CLUB](#) by Austrian audiences. This year's festival can be best described as lively, open to the world, and multi-lingual – representative of this are the ten selected films from ten different countries that invited you to go on a cinematic journey all over Europe. Onward to Europe!

The VOD selection sees itself as an "inclusive" offer for all those film fans, who were not able to attend the festival for one reason or the other, and thereby gives the chance to take part in the festival and dive into the program online.

Films and details crossingeurope.at | price per film: 6,90€ | Note: A third of the ticket price for any film rented from KINO VOD CLUB goes to a selected art house cinema. So you get the chance to support our festival cinemas Movimiento/City-Kino.

[ALLTID AMBER / ALWAYS AMBER](#)

Lia Hietala, Hannah Reinikainen, SE 2020, 76 min

[AUTOMOTIVE](#)

Jonas Heldt, DE 2020, 80 min

[DASATSKISI / BEGINNING](#)

Dea Kulumbegashvili, GE/FR 2020, 125 min – Award Winner 2021: Competition Fiction

[DEALING WITH DEATH](#)

Paul Sin Nam Rigter, NL 2020, 74 min

[HAYALETLER / GHOSTS](#)

Azra Deniz Okyay, TR/FR/QA 2020, 87 min

[MARE](#)

Andrea Štaka, CH/HR 2020, 84 min

[MOTVINIEREBA / TAMING THE GARDEN](#)

Salomé Jashi, GE/DE/CH 2021, 92 min

[SWEAT](#)

Magnus von Horn, PL/SE 2020, 106 min

[SLUŽOBNÍCI / SERVANTS](#)

Ivan Ostrochovský, SK/RO/CZ/IE 2020, 80 min

[LA ÚLTIMA PRIMAVERA / LAST DAYS OF SPRING](#)

Isabel Lamberti, NL/ES 2020, 77 min

CROSSING EUROPE goes ... | Follow-Up Screenings all over Austria

ÖSTERREICHISCHES FILMMUSEUM Wien

Film Tour: Ulrike Ottinger – PARIS CALLIGRAMMES (DE/FR 2019), 8 June
// www.filmmuseum.at //

DIAGONALE Graz

Film Tour: Ulrike Ottinger – PARIS CALLIGRAMMES (DE/FR 2019), 9 June
// www.diagonale.at //

DAS KINO Salzburg

MADRE (ES/FR 2019), 8 June
ICH BIN DEIN MENSCH (DE 2021), 10 June
// www.daskino.at //

KINO EBENSEE

WEM GEHÖRT MEIN DORF? / WHO OWNS MY VILLAGE? (DE 2021), 8 & 10 June, 8 PM
DER ALBTRAUM DER SCHAMANEN (AT 2021), 11 & 12 June, 8 PM
// www.kino-ebensee.at //

VOTIVKINO Vienna

ICH BIN DEIN MENSCH (DE 2021), 10 June, 8 PM
MILA / APPLES (GR/PL/SI 2020), 11 June, 8:15 PM
MANDIBULES / MANDIBLES (FR/BE 2020), 18 June, 8:30 PM
// www.votivkino.at //

FILMARCHIV / METRO KINO Vienna: „Frühlingskino Open Air im Augarten“

LOCAL ARTISTS Kurzfilmprogramm, 16 June, 8 PM Augarten; 17 June, 7:30 PM Metro Kino
// <https://www.filmarchiv.at/news/fruehlingskino-2021/> //

SLASH EINHALB Vienna

Films from the Night Sight, 17 to 20 June, Filmcasino, Vienna
// www.slashfilmfestival.com //

FESTIVAL DES NEUEN HEIMATFILM Freistadt

25. to 29. August 2021; PUNTASACRA / PUNTA SACRA (IT 2020), additional titles tba
// www.filmfestivalfreistadt.at/2021/ //

Festival impressions: www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/collections/

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](#).