

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Press Release #9/21, 22 December 2021

Festival preparations are fully underway, YAAAS! Young Programmers 2022 & Film submissions still possible until 7 January

Hello CROSSING EUROPE 2022!

After 18 years of successful foundational work, Christine Dollhofer handed over the directorial agendas to Sabine Gebetsroither and Katharina Riedler. Also under this new leadership, CROSSING EUROPE is aiming to bring together the expectations of **professional**, as well as **international and local audiences**. The festival program 2022 is focused on sociopolitically aware, and artistic, eccentric filmmaking – this and the attendance of multiple film guests intend to get everyone excited about unconventional European film. In order to be able to reach this goal in the coming April, one of the main issues we are facing this year is to create **incentives for those interested in film to return to the cinema** and to make the live cinema experience (including the possibility of entering into a direct exchange with the filmmakers) attractive again, while still taking care of the health and safety of the audience.

In exactly 18 weeks, on Wednesday **27 April**, the **19th edition** of CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz will begin. Over the course of six days, the festival will give a differentiated point of view on European lived realities through circa **130 shorts, feature films, and documentaries**. Besides the presentation of ambitious European filmmaking, one of the central focal points of the festival is the direct exchange between cinema audiences and **120 filmmakers from all over Europe** (according to the current state of planning). Once more, the Upper Austrian capital and UNESCO City of Media Arts will become the cinephile hotspot of Europe over the course of six days.

According to the current state of affairs, CROSSING EUROPE 2022 will take place as a **physical event from 27 April to 2 May**, with a complimentary online program that will once more include a selection of current festival films on the Austrian streaming platform KINO VOD CLUB. The festival planning process for CROSSING EUROPE 2022 entails **considering every eventuality** that the Covid-19 pandemic could mean (e.g. restructuring the festival itself, or re-sizing the events surrounding the festival). On an **organizational level** we are able to draw from the experiences of the years 2020 (cancellation of the festival and the implementation of the alternative program EXTRACTS) and 2021 (festival as a physical event with Covid-19 restrictions).

In the festival office the programming work is well underway: Hundreds of **film submissions** have already reached us and so we have begun an intense phase of viewing the films ([deadline for film submissions: 7 January 2022](#)), established **program partnerships** will be continued, but also new cooperations have been born. As has been the case in the previous years, the selection process takes place in consideration of a balanced **gender programming**. In addition to this, efforts in terms of sustainable and climate friendly festival work ("Green Event") will continue to be a central point, as well as the further **circulation of selected films** from the festival program 2022 **outside the week of the festival** together with partners all over Austria, and intensifying the international collaboration with our partner festivals in the **European festival network "MIOB | Moving Images Open Borders"** that is supported by the EU through their CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA program.

In **January 2022** the **first program highlights** will be presented in more detail.

YAAAS! Young Programmers 2022

The YAAAS! Youth Program presents a holistic program of **film education, acquisition of media competency, and DIY video production** for youths for the first time. The youth program YAAAS! is directed at young people between the ages of **15 and 20**, and offers them the chance to enter into a direct exchange with international media professionals, learn new skills, see and discuss films, as well as being able to present their own works.

The YAAAS! Competition is one of four **CROSSING EUROPE competition programs**. In this section, the YAAAS! Youth Jury awards the **festival prize CROSSING EUROPE Award – Youth Jury**, that will be supported by the [VdFS Verwertungsgesellschaft der Filmschaffenden](#) for the second time, and is endowed with 3,000 €.

The YAAAS! Competition will show six current European film productions that were selected by the **YAAAS! Young Programmers**. The Young Programmers for 2022 have already been selected: *Andrea Reininger, Julia Stöckl, Marco Barthofer, Marie-Louise Schmidinger, Marlene Frostel* und *Oliver Parsch* all attend our partner school, the HBLA for artistic design in Linz, and have been taking part in an **introductory** program into the **curation process** of a film festival.

The six youths will watch around 15 films until end of January, and will announce their final film selection then. In addition, three of the six selected feature films will be shown in **special school screenings** within the framework of the festival. The exact dates, details (including Covid-19 regulations), film descriptions, and trailer links, as well as **school material** for preparation and follow-up of the festival attendance will be announced in March 2022, from then on registration for the school screenings will also be possible. Additionally, the Young Programmers will be responsible for the Q&A sessions during the YAAAS! film screenings, and will take care of the participants of the YAAAS! Workshop program.

| All details on the YAAAS! Youth Program, as well as updates and dates for the various YAAAS! modules can be found [HERE](#) |

Film Submission Deadline: 7 January 2022

Until **7 January 2022**, filmmakers are invited to submit their current productions for the upcoming edition of the festival. [Here](#) you can find the submission terms, the rules and regulations, as well as the **submission form**. Details regarding the festival awards can be found [HERE](#) on our website.

For the **European program sections** only current productions (production year 2021 or 2022), with a minimum length of sixty minutes may be submitted. The selection will be based on **new forms of story-telling** or an **innovative artistic design**, as well as a discussion of contemporary sociopolitical topics and European (lived) realities, in short: Cinematographic positions that do justice to the vast variety of form (and thus also the linguistic variety) of European cinema and the European continent as a whole.

The **Local Artists section** of the festival program shows current film and video productions from the years 2021 and 2022 from Linz or Upper Austria, and offers the local film scene and young filmmakers an international platform to present their works. **Upper Austrian filmmakers** are invited to submit their works for the Local Artists program. We welcome **films and videos of all genres, formats and lengths**. Submission by artists born, living, studying, or working in Upper Austria will be considered, as well as works that have been co-financed by an Upper Austrian funding agency and would be shown in Upper Austria for the first time.

| [Details on the online submission and the submission form](#) can be found at [HERE](#) |

Happy X-Mas & Stay Safe!

The CROSSING EUROPE festival team would like to thank all our partners, funders, and sponsors as well as our audience for their continued support during this extraordinary year, and wishes everyone happy holidays and a good start into the new year! We are already looking forward to seeing everyone again for the nineteenth CROSSING EUROPE edition in April! Stay safe!

Covid-19 Updates

Unfortunately, the pandemic still has us firmly in its grip. This is why we are also working under the assumption that special rules and regulations for film screenings and events of CROSSING EUROPE 2022 concerning hygiene, security, and entry will be in effect. These rules will be communicated at the various venues. Additionally, we are keeping a close eye on the current developments regarding Covid-19, and take the responsibility for the health and well-being of our audiences and team very seriously. Should there be any changes regarding our program, or the festival event itself, we will communicate these in a timely manner on our website and on our social media channels.

Deadline Film Submissions: [7 January 2022](#)

Press Conference: [13 April 2022](#)

Festival Date 2022: [27 April to 2 May 2022](#)

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

Logo and Festival Sujet: www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/logo_sujet_laurels

Regular **updates** and **current information** on Crossing Europe can be found as always on our website www.crossingeurope.at and on our social media channels [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).