



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 20 – 25 April 2016 // <http://www.crossingeurope.at/EN>

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## CROSSING EUROPE 2016 – First Program Preview

*It has become a tradition that the name of the TRIBUTE Guest for the coming year is announced shortly before Christmas – in 2016 the TRIBUTE section of the festival is devoted to the renowned documentary film director Helena Třeštková from the Czech Republic. In addition to presenting current works as well as older cinema and TV films from the last 40 years, she will also hold a masterclass.*

*Work on the film program for April is already well under way. Several hundred film entries have meanwhile reached the festival office, thus ushering in the intensive phase of viewing and arranging the program. Festival Director Christine Dollhofer and her team remain true to their program and continue to rely on the presentation of unconventional, European auteur cinema – the program is planned to include around 160 hand-picked feature films and documentaries from all over Europe as Austrian premieres. It is still possible to submit films – for the European sections as well as for the LOCAL ARTISTS section – until 5 January 2016.*

*The call for the CROSSING EUROPE | Art Prize of the Energie AG is open until 17 January 2016.*

### SAVE THE DATE: 20 to 25 April 2016

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz takes place from **Wednesday, 20 to Monday, 25 April 2016**. Encouraged by the success of the last festival, Festival Director Christine Dollhofer's team is already working with intense concentration on the festival program and the program cooperations for CROSSING EUROPE 2016. Several hundred film entries from all over Europe have already reached the festival office, thus signaling the start for the intensive phase of **viewing and arranging the program**. In the coming year, as the second largest international film festival in Austria, CROSSING EUROPE, will again be entirely devoted to European auteur cinema. With a selection of **around 160 hand-picked, current socio-political films**, CROSSING EUROPE again seeks to arouse enthusiasm for unconventional films from Europe and to present them for the first time in Austria.

### TRIBUTE 2016: Helena Třeštková (CZ)

Following the extremely successful show of work by Sergei Loznitsa last year (his most recent work, the documentary film SOBYTIE / THE EVENT (NL, BE 2015), which premiered in Venice, will be shown as a "follow-up" in April), CROSSING EUROPE devotes the next Tribute to the **renowned, award-winning and tremendously productive Czech documentary film director Helena Třeštková**, who has already been a guest at CROSSING EUROPE with three works in the past.

Helena Třeštíková (\*1949) **studied** at the famous Prague film academy **FAMU** (Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts) and graduated with a degree in documentary film. Since 1974 she has worked as a professional documentary film director and has made **around 50 documentary works of different lengths and in various formats** (for television and cinema). Thematically, her films deal with **interpersonal relationships**, follow biographies, and revolve around **social and socio-political issues** – always against the backdrop of Czech society in transformation. Later, she then turned purposely to so-called “time-lapse” documentaries – the filmic **long-term observation** of life stories and struggles; in this, she owes much to the tradition of Cinéma vérité.

Helena Třeštíková worked for many years for Czech television, for which she made the documentary series **MARRIAGE STORIES** in 1987 – a hit with the audience at the time. In this series, which was followed 20 years later by a second “season”, she portrayed six married couples during the period of 1987 to 2006. With this series Třeštíková became famous over night in the Czech Republic, and her artistic “signature” or trademark is already clearly recognizable here: long-term portraits eye to eye with the protagonists in conjunction with a contemporary history, demographic, and social sciences “view”. During her time with Czech television, she also began her intense interest in **women’s biographies**, such as portraits of women harmed by the totalitarian ideologies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1991, together with colleagues from the film branch and sociologists, Helena Třeštíková founded the “Film and Sociology Foundation” with the goal of gaining new insights into societies following major social upheavals and then finding a way to depict them as well. What followed were five long-term film studies of **juvenile delinquents** with the title **ŘEKNI MI NĚCO O SOBĚ / TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF**; from 1994 to 1996 she created film portraits of famous personalities from her country. Since 2002 she teaches in the department of documentary film at the FAMU. In 2007 there was a political intermezzo – for a brief period she was part of the Czech government as Minister for Culture and Art.

**International fame** and acclaim came finally with her cinema works created in the **late 2000s**: the portrait trilogy **MARCELA** (2006), **RENÉ** (2008) and **KATKA** (2010) successfully toured from festival to festival around the world and received several awards (e.g. in 2009 RENÉ was awarded with the European Film Award). All three films deal with social outcasts, whom the director accompanied for nearly two decades – she approaches her protagonists patiently and unobtrusively, carefully opening up their lives for the audience, but without crossing the boundary to voyeurism. In addition, Třeštíková often manages to playfully establish **references to the respective political events** in the Czech Republic, e.g. through televised speeches by high-ranking representatives of the state, inaugurations, or excerpts from the upheaval phase of the “Velvet Revolution”, such as in the family portrait from 2012, **SOUKROMÝ VESMÍR / PRIVATE UNIVERSE**, which covers a period of no less than 37 (!) years, depicting not only the life of an ordinary family, but also four decades of changes in Czech society.

We are especially happy that all of two current works by the Tribute guest will celebrate their Austrian premiere in Linz: in **MALLORY** (2015), world premiere at Karlovy Vary Int. Film Festival 2015, Třeštíková accompanies the eponymous protagonist and her **hard struggle for existence in keeping with human dignity** for more than ten years. The two women became acquainted during the filming of a cycle with the title “Women and Drugs” in 2002. Mallory left a lasting impression at the time – despite all obstacles, she managed to overcome drug addiction, homelessness, and bureaucratic harassment and finally establish herself as a social worker.

Here as well, Třeštíková's **fundamental humanist attitude** and her reserved way of dealing with her protagonist, marked by **respect and trust**, are omnipresent – as Třeštíková said: "With this film it was extremely difficult to decide how far the material might be allowed for the eyes of the audience. There is no manual where you can read what you may show as a filmmaker, and at which point the privacy of the protagonists is violated. It is different from one case to the next, always dependent on the person and the context – as well as on one's own conscience." (Quoted from the official press kit for MALLORY, published by negativ film in 2015).

The second current Austrian premiere is entitled **LÍDA BAAROVÁ - ZKÁZA KRÁSOU / LÍDA BAAROVÁ - DOOMED BEAUTY (2015)**, which will be presented to the public for the first time in January 2016 in the Czech Republic. In 1995 Helena Třeštíková already devoted a 30-minute TV portrait to the meanwhile almost forgotten UFA diva. As with other projects, here too the director made use of **earlier material to make it into a new full-length documentary film** (in this case the audience can especially look forward to archive material never shown before from numerous European film archives). Lída Baarová was considered one of the biggest stars of the 1930s; circulating at that time in Czechoslovakia, she finally followed the call from Germany and quickly advanced to become one of the stars of National Socialist films. There were also rumors of an affair with Joseph Goebbels, the end of which marked the downfall of her conflicting career – because of her indifferent statements about this phase of her life, she could never entirely free herself from the shadows of the past, especially in Czechoslovakia, where she was arrested after the war as an "enemy of the state". Over the course of several days in 1995, Třeštíková conducted an interview with Baarová, who had meanwhile settled in Salzburg and died there in 2000.

A total of **14 films** by Helena Třeštíková are planned to be shown as part of the Tribute 2016 – with kind support from the Czech Center in Vienna (<http://wien.czechcentres.cz/>). Tribute guest Helena Třeštíková will be present in person for the film discussions, and a **masterclass** is also planned during her stay.

#### **Provisional Film Selection for the TRIBUTE 2016:**

// MANŽELSKÉ ETUDY - IVANA A PAVEL / MARRIAGE STORIES - IVANA and PAVEL (CSSR, CZ 1987/2005; 90 min.) – *Austrian premiere*

// MANŽELSKÉ ETUDY - MIRKA A ANTONÍN / MARRIAGE STORIES - MIRKA and ANTONÍN (CSSR, CZ 1987/2005; 91 min.) – *Austrian premiere*

// MANŽELSKÉ ETUDY - ZUZANA A STANISLAV / MARRIAGE STORIES - ZUZANA and STANISLAV (CSSR, CZ 1987/2005; 92 min.) – *Austrian premiere*

// MANŽELSKÉ ETUDY - IVANA A VÁCLAV / MARRIAGE STORIES - IVANA and VÁCLAV (CSSR, CZ 1987/2006; 92 min.) – *Austrian premiere*

// ŘEKNI MI NĚCO O SOBĚ – PAVLÍNA / TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF – PAVLÍNA (CZ 1992; 44 min.) – *Austrian premiere*

// ŘEKNI MI NĚCO O SOBĚ – LÁĎA / TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF- LÁĎA (CZ 1994; 60 min.)

// MARCELA (CZ 2006; 82 min.)

// RENÉ (CZ 2008; 90 min.) – *Austrian premiere during CROSSING EUROPE 2009*

// KATKA (CZ 2010; 90 min.) – *Austrian premiere*

// SOUKROMÝ VESMÍR / PRIVATE UNIVERSE (CZ 2012; 83 min.) – *Austrian premiere during CROSSING EUROPE 2013*

// JAKUB ŠPALEK - ŽIVOT S KAŠPAREM / JAKUB ŠPALEK - LIFE WITH JESTER (CZ 2013; 85 min.) – *Austrian premiere*

// VOJTA LAVIČKA - NAHORU A DOLŮ / VOJTA LAVICKA - UPS AND DOWNS (CZ 2013; 88 min.) – *Austrian premiere during CROSSING EUROPE 2014*

// MALLORY (CZ 2015; 101 min.) – *Austrian premiere*

// LÍDA BAAROVÁ - ZKÁZA KRÁSOU / LÍDA BAAROVÁ - DOOMED BEAUTY (CZ 2016; 70 min.) – *Austrian premiere*

## CALL FOR FILMS

Once again, film and video-makers are invited to enter their **current works** (production year 2015 or 2016) for the coming CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz. **Deadline for entry** for all program sections (European feature films and documentaries and Local Artists – keyword: music videos from Upper Austria) is **5 January 2016** without exception. Films entered for the European sections must have a minimum length of 60 minutes. The **entry form** and details on conditions for entry, rules, and the festival awards can be found on our festival website at <http://www.crossingeurope.at/program/film-entry-2016.html?L=1>.

## CALL: CROSSING EUROPE | Art Prize of the Energie AG 2016

Since 2013 artistic projection works have been presented during CROSSING EUROPE on the outside facade of the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter, which is thus expanded into an art space. With the CROSSING EUROPE | Art Prize of the Energie AG the **engagement with film/light in public space** is to be further developed and strengthened. In cooperation with the Art University Linz, the Energie AG Upper Austria again announces a **project scholarship for an outdoor projection in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter** during the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival with prize money amounting to **€ 4.000,-**. The call is directed to students and graduates of the Art University Linz. As the third partner the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter provides production means and technical assistance.

In addition to Festival Director Christine Dollhofer, Franz Prieler (art commissioner for the Energie AG Upper Austria), Genoveva Rückert (curator, OK in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter), Lotte Schreiber (artist and curator), and Rainer Zendron (Art University Linz) have been nominated for the **jury**.

**Realization and presentation** of the winning project will take place at the next CROSSING EUROPE in April 2016.

The call is still open until **17 January 2016**. Further information on the criteria and regulations is available here: <http://www.ok-centrum.at/?q=content/programm/crossing-europe-ausschreibung-2016> or from Maria Pachinger ([m.pachinger@oekulturquartier.at](mailto:m.pachinger@oekulturquartier.at)).

## PREVIEW DATES

Deadline for film entry: **5 January 2016**

Deadline call CROSSING EUROPE | Art Prize of the Energie AG: **17 January 2016**

Program press conferences Linz & Vienna: **6 April 2016**

Festival dates: **Wednesday, 20 to Monday, 25 April 2016**

## IMAGE MATERIAL & UPDATES

Photos & Film Stills: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos.html?L=1>

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

Logo & Festival Motif: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos.html?L=1>

Regular updates and current information on CROSSING EUROPE 2016 can be found as ever on our website [www.crossingeurope.at](http://www.crossingeurope.at) and through our social media channels [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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