

Media Information – Linz, March 2009

CROSSING EUROPE 2009: OPENING and PROGRAM PREVIEW

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz opens on 20 April with **HOME** by the Swiss Tribute director Ursula Meier, the world premiere of **MUEZZIN** by the Upper Austrian filmmaker Sebastian Brameshuber, and the prize-winning film of the German Berlinale **ALLE ANDEREN / EVERYONE ELSE** by Maren Ade, and kicks off the program track **NIGHT SIGHT** on European genre cinema with **JCVD**.

A first look at this year's festival program reveals some of the highlights of the **sixth edition of the CROSSING EUROPE FILM FESTIVAL LINZ // 20 – 26 April 2009**– extended with **an additional day** for the Capital of Culture 2009.

THE OPENING

Starting on **Monday**, 20 April, **CROSSING EUROPE** opens with four outstanding films that exemplify the diversity of filmmaking in Europe:

HOME (Switzerland/France/Belgium 2008 – Austrian premiere) by the **Tribute director Ursula Meier** is a modern social farce of an anarchic family living by the side of a motorway. Since its construction a decade ago, it has been abandoned and is slowly being reclaimed by nature. Only a few meters away from it, a family of five has been living exuberantly and happily (Isabelle Huppert and Olivier Gourmet are perfectly cast as the parents), when suddenly operations are resumed. First the construction equipment, then the traffic tip the family eco-system. With a minimum of dialogue, Meier entrusts this surreal parable of progress, which premiered in Cannes, entirely to the tableau-like power of colorful imagery.

// The director will be present // *Distribution in Austria: polyfilm, cinema start: late summer 2009* //

MUEZZIN (Austria 2009 - world premiere) is the first feature length film by the Upper Austrian filmmaker **Sebastian Brameshuber** as director and producer. The documentary centers around several young muezzins in Istanbul preparing for the preliminary rounds of the national Turkish muezzin competition. Brameshuber accompanies the men to their "singing lessons", listens to their teachers and the judges, and portrays the families sharing their nervous excitement.

// The director and the film crew are present // *Production: KGP Kranzelbinder Gabriele Production* //

Maren Ade's brilliant relationship study **ALLE ANDEREN/EVERYONE ELSE** (Germany 2009 - Austrian premiere) was distinguished at the Berlinale with two Silver Bears – *Grand Prize of the Jury* and *Best Actress* Birgit Minichmayr. The film tells the story of Gitti and Chris, an odd pair, fighting their way through a holiday in isolated togetherness. Triggered by a seemingly unimportant event – an encounter with another couple – the relationship becomes shaky. With subtle humor and cruel accuracy Ade, who also wrote the screenplay, tells of the conflicting desires of a couple in search of their own identity.

// *The director will be present // Press & interview requests made directly to Alessandra Thiele (thiele@polyfilm.at) // Distribution in Austria: polyfilm, release date: 26 June 2009* //

Late in the evening, the festival track **NIGHT SIGHT** that was established last year kicks off with the action-satire and homage to the Belgian martial arts icon Jean-Claude Van Damme **JCVD** (France/Belgium/Luxembourg 2008).

Director **Mabrouk El Mechri** has created an original treatment of fame and its transience, to self-portrayal and its

implosion: Van Damme is falling into professional and private despair and is finally taken hostage during a bank robbery. El Mechri skillfully dismantles the "Muscles from Bruxelles" and lets him reinvent himself.

// Distribution for Austria & Germany: Koch Media //

The daily **Nightline** in the Festival Center (OK Center for Contemporary Art Upper Austria) opens with **BUNNY LAKE** (A) and **DJ CLUB** (A).

FIRST PROGRAM PREVIEW

For seven days CROSSING EUROPE offers international guests from the industry and the press and the local cinema audience **177 hand-picked feature films, documentaries and short films from all over Europe** with many directors present.

EUROPEAN COMPETITION

Among the **eleven films** in the competition, former CROSSING EUROPE guests **Jan Krüger** (UNTERWEGS, 2004 in competition) returns with his second film, RÜCKENWIND/LIGHT GRADIENT (D 2009; world premiere Berlinale 2009), along with the Bosnian producer (jury member 2005) **Elma Tataragic** with SNIJEG/SNOW (Bosnia/D/F/Iran 2008; world premiere Cannes 2008) by director **Aida Begic**.

Opening film director Maren Ade (at CROSSING EUROPE 2005 with DER WALD VOR LAUTER BÄUMEN) is also connected as co-producer with one of the entries in this year's competition DU BRUIT DANS LA TÊTE/THE NOISE IN MY HEAD (CH/D 2008) by **Vincent Pluss**.

EUROPEAN PANORAMA

The program track presents leading directors such as the Polish master director **Jerzy Skolimowski** with CZTERY NOCE Z ANNA/ FOUR NIGHTS WITH ANNA (F/PL 2008; world premiere Cannes 2008) or **Claire Denis** and her current feature film 35 RHUMS/35 SHOTS OF RUM (F/D 2008; world premiere Venice 2008). In addition to highlights from the past festival season, this track also assembles documentary works on current socio-political issues.

EXTRA EUROPE AT CROSSING EUROPE

Films, festival presentations and live musical acts from Turkey, Switzerland and Norway as part of the program for EXTRA EUROPE, a project of Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture.

YOUNG TURKISH CINEMA

Selected film positions from a new generation of Turkish cinema, which drew attention and received numerous awards at international festivals in 2008/09 – among others, competition jury member **Seyfi Teoman** presents his award-winning debut film TATIL KITABI/SUMMER BOOK (TR 2008) and **Mahmut Fazil Coskun's** UZAK IHTIMAL/WRONG ROSARY (TR 2008) is a Turkish contribution to the CROSSING EUROPE competition.

SWISS TRIBUTE GUESTS // ANIMATION FILMS FROM THE FESTIVAL FANTOCHE (CH)

This year's Tribute is dedicated to the two outstanding young Swiss film auteurs **Ursula Meier** (* 1971) and **Lionel Baier** (* 1975). In addition to numerous feature-length and short films, CROSSING EUROPE also shows the latest films in the presence of the two directors as Austrian premieres: HOME (CH/F/B 2008) by Ursula Meier and UN AUTRE HOMME / ANOTHER MAN (CH 2008; world premiere Locarno 2008; Distribution in Austria: *Filmladen*) by Lionel Baier. **Fantoche** -

International Animation Film Festival brings international attractions to Linz and offers insight into **current Swiss animation filmmaking**.

FILM AND VIDEO ART FROM NORWAY

The 2009 **OK Artist in Residence** is the Norwegian film and video artist **Inger Lise Hansen** (* 1963), who also will present her new work, shot in Linz, at the invitation of the OK Center for Contemporary Art Upper Austria.

As a Norwegian festival representative, CROSSING EUROPE welcomes the **Tromsø International Film Festival** with current Norwegian short and feature-length films from the most recent edition of the festival and the **Nordic Youth Film Festival – NUFF** with examples of Norwegian film work by young people.

NIGHT SIGHT

Curator Markus Keuschnigg entices the festival audience once again into a suspenseful world of horror, action, fear and shuddering and presents current positions of **European genre film** late in the evening.

WORKING WORLDS

DIE WUNDERSAME WELT DER WASCHKRAFT / THE WONDROUS WORLD OF LAUNDRY (D 2009) by **Hans-Christian Schmid** is another highlight from the Berlinale at the festival. As in previous years, the well established series WORKING WORLDS has been put together in cooperation with Kinoreal and with Upper Austrian Chamber of Labor/Department of Culture.

AUSTRIAN SCREENINGS // LOCAL ARTISTS // TRAILER

CROSSING EUROPE offers **AUSTRIAN SCREENINGS** especially for international guests. Thanks to a new, enhanced cooperation with the DIAGONALE, all the films shown at the DIAGONALE 2009 can be viewed in the CROSSING EUROPE Video Library. Several titles are also screened in the cinema. In the section **LOCAL ARTISTS** there are again 55 selected film and video productions in and about Upper Austria. The 2009 festival trailer is from last year's LOCAL ARTIST winner **Barbara Musil**: with [repetition](#), an experiment in repetition is conducted in practice.

FESTIVAL AWARDS

The **CROSSING EUROPE European Competition Award**, powered by Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture, is endowed with 10,000,- Euro in prize money. The festival visitors determine the winner of the **RAY-Audience Award** with a value of 5.000,- Euro. The **CROSSING EUROPE Local Artist Award**, worth 6.000,- Euro, goes to an outstanding work from this program section.

PROGRAM PRESS CONFERENCES 2009

Linz - 9 April: 10 am, OK Center for Contemporary Art Upper Austria (Mediendeck)

Vienna - 9 April: 4 pm, the Film Museum Vienna

PROGRAM starting 10 April 2009

Festival newspaper and website www.crossingeurope.at with the complete festival program // start of pre-sales at the A1-Free Line +43.800.664 060

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