



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 24 – 29 April 2012 // www.crossingEurope.at

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Media Information – Linz, 29 April 2012

CROSSING EUROPE 2012: A New Record Number of Visitors

Media Information for the festival review discussion on 29 April 2012, 12:00 noon

*Today the ninth edition of the **CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz comes to a successful conclusion**, and Festival Director Christine Dollhofer has much to report that is positive. Once again, the number of visitors surpassed the record from the previous year; the festival is thus even more strongly positioned as a **dynamic contemporary cultural event** in Linz and Upper Austria.*

Bright skies and the bright face of the festival director marked the review discussion about the ninth CROSSING EUROPE year. Even the hot summer temperatures in the second half of the festival week could not keep the Linz cinema audience and the nearly 750 professional guests from Austria and abroad from storming the cinema theaters. From the opening on Tuesday, 25 April, to the Award Ceremony on Saturday evening with Federal Minister Claudia Schmied, about **21,000 festival guests and film and music enthusiasts** attended the film screenings, exhibitions, talks and the Nightline of the festival. This means that CROSSING EUROPE can register **the most successful festival year in its existence**. The numbers in comparison: 2010: 17,000, 2011: 19,000 visitors.

One reason for the audience growth is certainly the **new festival venue** – the only recently inaugurated **Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter**. This means that the problems of a lack of space now belong to the past, and the strategy of setting up two program slots in the hall, which seats nearly 400 people, worked out perfectly. In addition, with the completion of the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter, the festival district around the OK "Offenes Kulturhaus", Movimento, City Kino and Kapu is now even more attractive. Once again, it provided a **festival atmosphere that is invigorating and relaxed at the same time**.

Particularly **the interest of the young audience** was tremendous; due to cooperations with universities and academies in Austria and abroad, a huge number of film students were drawn to Linz.

The official program presented the festival community with a **total of 146 selected feature films, documentaries and short films from 43 different countries** – of which there were **96 Austrian premieres** (including 22 world premieres). The festival year 2012 thus comprised a total of **160 program slots**.

RESUME & OUTLOOK

Despite the tremendous interest on the part of the audience and consistently positive media reports, Christine Dollhofer emphasizes that the festival is still **under-financed**. The successful resume and the high quality program cannot disguise the fact that an **increase in budget funds is urgently needed**, in order to secure the future of the festival, on the one hand, and on the other to undertake **necessary structural improvements**. Negotiations with funders and sponsors will continue in this direction for 2013.

In summary: this year's budget, which was under 500,000 Euro, is by no means sufficient to meet to the demands of an international film festival in the future.

AWARD CEREMONY 2012

This year's Awards Presentation of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz took place this evening in the newly inaugurated Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter. The CROSSING EUROPE AWARDS were presented with numerous international film guests, industry representatives and the film press present, along with representatives of the patrons, sponsors and from politics – including City Council member Erika Rockenschaub, Provincial Parliament representative Eva Maria Gatringer, and Federal Minister Claudia Schmied. Federal Minister of Culture Claudia Schmied stressed the standing and the qualities of the festival: "CROSSING EUROPE, the annual celebration of European film in Linz, provides us again in 2012 with a multifaceted and interesting foray through European filmmaking. For the first time, a jury of the European critics' association FEDEORA takes part in the festival. This highlights the festival's strong position in the pan-European context and demonstrates what Crossing Europe stands for: for cinephile and border-crossing diversity! With CROSSING EUROPE Linz has once again strengthened its profile as a place of innovative and lively creativity."

The **CROSSING EUROPE Award European Competition** (prize money: 10.000,- Euro) was presented to [Z DALEKA WIDOK JEST PIEKNY / IT LOOKS PRETTY FROM A DISTANCE](#) (PL 2011) by Wilhelm Sasnal & Anka Sasnal. The international festival jury – Lluís Galter (ES), Roman Gutek (PL), Camille Rousselet (FR) – praised the winning film as being "very courageous, unconventional and, in a certain sense, daring. This film stimulates reflection about what cinema really is and about the relationship between cinema and all the other forms of art."

The **NEW VISION AWARD powered by Silhouette** (5.000,- Euro), which was awarded this year for the second time, was presented to Joao Canijo (PT) for [SANGUE DO MEU SANGUE / BLOOD OF MY BLOOD](#) (PT 2011). The jury – Birgit Gudjonsdottir (IS/DE), Oleg Novkovic (RS), Stella Rollig (AT) – stressed "the authentic approach chosen by the director for this theme. With his virtuosity, coupled with outstanding actors, he leads us into a special social milieu with elements of tragedy and the opposite."

Highest in the favor of the audience was [WEEKEND](#) (GB 2011) by Andrew Haigh, who received the **AUDIENCE AWARD** (1.000,- Euro powered by CROSSING EUROPE & 1 hotel voucher powered by PARK INN by Radisson Linz). There was also a drawing for one hotel voucher (powered by PARK INN by Radisson Linz) among all the audience jury members.

//[WEEKEND](#) is screened on Sunday, 29 April, at 8:30 pm in Movie 2. //

Two FEDEORA juries, each consisting of three film critics from the FEDEORA critics' association (Federation of Film Critics of Europe and the Mediterranean, www.fedeora.eu), presented the FEDEORA Award for the first time in 2012 to one of the selected documentary films from the section PANORAMA. The two juries awarded the prize for the category *documentary films by directors under the age of 33* to [EIN BRIEF AUS DEUTSCHLAND / A LETTER FROM GERMANY](#) (DE 2011; D: Sebastian Mez) and a **Special Mention** to [HAUPTFRIEDHOF / CEMETARY](#) (DE 2011; D: Melanie Jilg) and the prize for the category *documentary films by directors over the age of 33* to [VOL SPÉCIAL / SPECIAL FLIGHT](#) (CH 2011; D: Fernand Melgar) and a **Special Mention** to [ENTRÉE DU PERSONNEL / STAFF ENTRANCE](#) (FR 2011; D: Manuela Frésil). The jury – Dean Kotiga (HR), Simone Boria (GB/AT), Jeton Budima (Kosovo) – describe **EIN BRIEF AUS DEUTSCHLAND / A LETTER FROM GERMANY** as follows: "In a very original way, the director portrays the hatred, contempt and resignation of women trapped in sexual exploitation and trafficking." About **HAUPTFRIEDHOF / CEMETARY** the jury statement says: "The strength of the film is found in its almost ruthless views and long camera shots that evince a forensic quality."

// [EIN BRIEF AUS DEUTSCHLAND / A LETTER FROM GERMANY](#) is shown on Sunday, 29 April, at 11:00 am in Movie 2. //

The award for the category documentary films *by directors over the age of 33* was presented to [VOL SPÉCIAL / SPECIAL FLIGHT](#) (CH 2011; D: Fernand Melgar), and [ENTRÉE DU PERSONNEL / STAFF ENTRANCE](#) (FR 2011; D: Manuela Frésil) received a **Special Mention**.

The jury – Eva af Geijerstam (SE), Bernhard Lichtenberger (AT), Oscar Peyrou (ES) – describe **VOL SPÉCIAL / SPECIAL FLIGHT** thus: "Fernand Melgar's view into a Swiss deportation prison has the flow, the intimacy, the force and the emotion to open eyes and minds for the consequences of increasingly restrictive migration policies in Europe." With **ENTRÉE DU PERSONNEL / STAFF ENTRANCE** the jury especially emphasized "the intelligent construction and the originality".

// [ENTRÉE DU PERSONNEL / STAFF ENTRANCE](#) is shown on Sunday, 29 April, at 2:00 pm in Movie 3. //

The **CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist** was again divided into a money prize and a material prize: the **money prize** of 4.000,- Euro, donated by the Province of Upper Austria/Culture, was awarded to Katharina Gruzei for [DIE ARBEITERINNEN VERLASSEN DIE FABRIK](#) (AT 2012). The jury – Jürgen Hagler (AT) and Ella Raidel (AT) – explained their decision with the following statement: "In reference to the first images of film history, this re-interpretation of workers leaving the factory marks the end of the factory.

The composition of architecture, flickering neon light and sound successfully transposes a temporary light installation into the medium of film.”

Edith Stauber received the **2.000,- Euro voucher**, donated by Synchro Film, Video and Audio Bearbeitungs GmbH, Vienna, for [NACHBEHANDLUNG](#) (AT 2012). The jury’s statement about their decision: “Without imposing a coherent story on us, the film invites us to take an acoustic and visual journey of discovery.”

//[DIE ARBEITERINNEN VERLASSEN DIE FABRIK](#) is shown on Sunday, 29 April at 4:00 pm in Movie 2 (Local Artists Program 4 – Relations). //

The winner of the **CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist 2012 Atelier Prize powered by Atelierhaus Salzamt** is Susanna Flock for [TRYING TO BUILD A SENTENCE](#) (AT 2011).

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2013

The tenth – and the anniversary edition – of the festival will take place from 23 to 28 April 2013.

Ticket reservations from 10:00 am to 11:00 pm via the info hotline 0680 506 1 506.

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