



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 23 – 28 April 2013 // www.crossingEurope.at

Festival Office: Graben 30, 4020 Linz, Austria, T +43.732.785 700, F +43.732.785 700 40

Media Service: Sabine Gebetsroither, gebetsroither@crossingEurope.at, T +43.732.785 700 10, M +43.664.245 77 60

Media Information – Linz, 6 February 2013

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2013

The first two of a total of four opening films, the presentation of the festival audience's choice of five favorite films for the program section PLAY IT AGAIN for the anniversary edition and the new Festival Trailer CINEMA ISN'T I SEE, IT'S I FLY.

Final Round for the Program Selection

In 2013, now for the 10th time, the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz is programmatically dedicated to contemporary and socio-political auteur cinema from Europe, devoting particular attention to a young generation of directors, who will be awarded with money prizes and material prizes. On the six days of the anniversary festival week from **23 to 28 April 2013**, Festival Director Christine Dollhofer presents around **150 current European feature films, documentaries and short films**, most of them Austrian premieres.

Again this year, what is impressive about the film entries is not only the quality, but also the quantity. **More than 750 productions** were submitted from all over Europe, including 150 film works just from local filmmakers. The films have meanwhile all been viewed, and confirmations of acceptance have been sent to the directors or production companies. (Please note! With the exception of Local Artists submissions, due to limited resources it is no longer possible to send notice of non-acceptance.)

The Opening Films 2013

As has already become a tradition, CROSSING EUROPE opens on Tuesday, 23 April, with **four outstanding films** that again provide a **representative cross-section from the festival program**, illustrating the diversity of European auteur cinema. Two of these remarkable films have already been determined, the other two will be announced in March.

A director already introduced to CROSSING EUROPE returns this year with the **French-Swiss drama L'ENFANT D'EN HAUT / SISTER / WINTERDIEB** (Austrian premiere // FR/CH 2012; 97 min; D: Ursula Meier // Austrian distributor: Thimfilm). Ursula Meier's first feature film, DES ÉPAULES SOLIDES / STRONG SHOULDERS, was already shown in 2004 in the Competition European Cinema, then in 2009, the festival devoted the TRIBUTE section to Ursula Meier and her Swiss director colleague Lionel Baier – there is more information below on the opening film HOME from that year in conjunction with

the revival section PLAY IT AGAIN. Now, in 2013, the exceptional director again proves her flair for sensitively drawn figures and powerful images.

The film tells of a **boy who wants to get to the top in the “truest” sense**: in order to provide for himself and his sister, he regularly leaves the economically depressed valley to relieve rich tourists of their skiing equipment up high in the picturesque Swiss mountains. The film centers around the **complex relationship between the child thief and the adult sister** (the young woman hungry for life is convincingly portrayed by Léa Seydoux), marked by **precarious living conditions** and the **desperate yearning for love and family happiness**. An unsentimental film about above and below in our world. L'ENFANT D'EN HAUT / SISTER / WINTERDIEB was distinguished in 2012 at the Berlinale with the **“Special Prize – Silver Bear”** and was among the nine films nominated in this year's **Oscar shortlist** in the category “Foreign Language Film”.

// Ursula Meier (director) is present // Cinema start in Austria: 26 April 2013 //

The second opening film, **INNERE BLUTUNGEN** (world premiere // AT 2013; D: Anatol Bogendorfer & Florian Sedmak; 79 min) is an **unconventional documentary film** that provides a multifaceted **panorama of local (Upper) Austrian contemporary history** and casts a look back into the middle of the society of the Salzkammergut of the **1960s and 1970s**. Everyday stories are juxtaposed like episodes, superficially giving an account of the life of the rural population. The off-camera commentary is taken from the regional newspaper, and the **associative montage of images** takes recourse to **private amateur films and photos** from the relevant period as a visual vocabulary. This film collage is accentuated by the film music – ranging from classical, non-commercial folk music, rare Austrian beat recordings, all the way to digitally manipulated ambient sounds.

With a minimal budget, the two directors have succeeded in creating a moving documentary film about **the state of Austrian society between 1965 and 1975**. A film about life in a rural region, the peculiarities of local journalism, themes from that era, like modernization and technology, the significance of tourism, real violence in the family, especially against women, the constant fear of the “stranger”, and the first gentle upheavals in the conservative post-war society.

// Anatol Bogendorfer & Florian Sedmak (directors) are present //

New Festival Trailer CINEMA ISN'T I SEE, IT'S I FLY online now

As previously announced, CROSSING EUROPE is pleased to have been able to engage the Taiwan-based Upper Austrian video artist and filmmaker **Ella Raidel** for the **Festival Trailer 2013**. She has created a playful interpretation of a **Dziga Vertov quotation**: “*CINEMA ISN'T I SEE, IT'S I FLY*”, stated Dziga Vertov with regard to the flexibility of camera lenses, which create a different perception of the world. In the CROSSING EUROPE trailer 2013, the ringtone of a missed call in a shop for household goods catapults us from reality into the airy perspective of a parachute jumper.”

CINEMA ISN'T I SEE, IT'S I FLY was created in cooperation with OK “Offenes Kulturhaus” Upper Austria and Silhouette International Schmied AG, and it will be used for festival promotion and in

Austrian program cinemas. Starting today, the new festival trailer can be seen here:

www.crossingeurope.at/trailer2013.

PLAY IT AGAIN – The Five Favorite Films

For the 10th edition of the festival, CROSSING EUROPE invited the **audience** to decide on the **five favorite films** from the last nine years of the festival, which will be shown on the big screen during the festival week in the **program section PLAY IT AGAIN**. To choose from, there was a **total of 1361 short and feature-length films** from all over Europe, which CROSSING EUROPE has presented over the last nine years.

Until 28 January, festival fans enthusiastically cast their votes – also becoming eligible to win 10x2 tickets for the screenings of the winning films. In the end, the results were unequivocal, and the spirit of the festival is impressively manifest in this Top 5 list.

Here are the **PLAY IT AGAIN final results** (in alphabetical order):

// ES MUSS WAS GEBEN (AT 2010; D: Oliver Stangl & Christian Tod; 104 min / Austrian distributor: Filmladen)

At CROSSING EUROPE 2010, ES MUSS WAS GEBEN was by far an audience favorite in the LOCAL ARTISTS section. The **splendid music documentary** by Christian Tod & Oliver Stangl, both originally from Upper Austria, was shown in 2010 as one of the opening films and as a world premiere. The film is based on the book by Andreas Kump with the same title, published in 2008 (publisher: Bibliothek der Provinz), and it **portrays the legendary music scene of Linz since the 1970s along with its protagonists**. From Willi Warma to Texta, from Attwenger to Fuckhead, from Punk to Hip Hop, from New Folk Music to Industrial, Linz proves to be a melting pot for the most diverse styles of music.

More details: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/index.php?id=1111&movie=809&L=1>

// HOME (CH/FR/BE 2008; D: Ursula Meier; 97 min / Austrian distributor: Polyfilm)

In 2009 CROSSING EUROPE devoted the Tribute to Ursula Meier together with Lionel Baier. HOME, one of the opening films and Best Swiss Film 2009, is a **modern social farce** about the anarchic life of a family at the edge of a motorway. Since it was built ten years earlier, it has been abandoned and is slowly being reconquered by nature. A family of five (Isabelle Huppert and Olivier Gourmet perfectly cast as the parents) has been living a carefree and contented life only a few meters off the side of it, when it is suddenly taken into use again. With a **minimum of dialogue**, in this **surreal parable of progress** that premiered in Cannes, Meier relies entirely on the **tableau-like power of the images**.

More details : <http://www.crossingeurope.at/index.php?id=34&movie=674&L=1>

// IM ALTER VON ELLEN / AT ELLEN'S AGE (DE 2010; D: Pia Marais; 95 min)

The young German director Pia Marais already won the **CROSSING EUROPE Award European Competition** in 2007 with DIE UNERZOGENEN / THE UNPOLISHED; in 2011 she received the **main award again**: IM ALTER VON ELLEN revolves around a flight attendant named Ellen, who sets out into

an uncertain future after losing her job and the feeling of security. **Jeanne Balibar** delivers a wonderful performance as the mysterious heroine. Pia Marais will present her new film, LAYLA FOURIE, in the competition of the Berlinale this year, and has already confirmed her participation as a member of the international jury for CROSSING EUROPE 2013.

More details: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/index.php?id=1436&movie=879&L=1>

// KYNODONTAS / DOGTOOTH (GR 2009; D: Yorgos Lanthimos; 96 min)

Much has been heard in recent years about the new Greek cinema, which has caused a sensation on the international festival stage. In 2010 the CROSSING EUROPE audience could see why with the **drama** KYNODONTAS / DOGTOOTH. With **disturbing humor**, Yorgos Lanthimos (who produced another festival success in 2011 with ALPS) shows the life of **an unconventional family**; the parents “protect” their three grown children with strict rules, isolated from the outside world.

More details: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/index.php?id=1111&movie=780&L=1>

// VALHALLA RISING (DK/UK 2009; D: Nicolas Winding Refn; 89 min)

Before the Danish director Nicolas Winding Refn – already represented at CROSSING EUROPE in 2009 with BRONSON – conquered Cannes and Hollywood (key word: DRIVE), he had already successfully realized several films with the European star actor **Mads Mikkelsen**. In 2010 CROSSING EUROPE presented the **bloody Viking drama** as a surprise film, which became the highlight of the genre film section NIGHT SIGHT, which is undoubtedly due to the tour de force performance by the leading actor and to the **impressive imagery**.

More details: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/index.php?id=1111&movie=873&L=1>

Further details on the audience favorites at www.crossingEurope.at/playitagain.

CROSSING EUROPE goes Mediatheque

In conjunction with the festival anniversary, there is a further offer for cineasts in Linz: the **Movimiento Mediatheque** offers a rich selection of **CROSSING EUROPE films on DVD** to watch again at home. The obliging Mediatheque staff are happy to advise those interested.

SCHEDULE PREVIEW

PROGRAM PRESS CONFERENCES 2013

Linz – 10 April 2013: 10:00 am, Press Center in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter, 1st floor

Vienna – 10 April 2013: 4:00 pm, Austrian Film Museum

PROGRAM STARTING 11 APRIL 2013

Festival newspaper and website www.crossingEurope.at with the complete festival program

IMAGE MATERIAL & UPDATES

Image material, logo & festival motif are available for downloading from <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/fotos/> and <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos-artwork.html>. Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2013 are available, as always, from our website www.crossingEurope.at or via Web 2.0 on [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#) and [Twitter](#).

Media service: Sabine Gebetsroither, gebetsroither@crossingEurope.at, T +43.732.785.700 10, M +43.664.245 77 60