



**CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz** // 23 – 28 April 2013 // [www.crossingEurope.at](http://www.crossingEurope.at)

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## CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2013 – 10 Years!

*CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz opens on 23 April in the Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter and the established festival cinemas Movimiento and City-Kino with three outstanding Austrian premieres, one international premiere and one world premiere: the Swiss-French drama **L'ENFANT D'EN HAUT / SISTER / WINTERDIEB** by the 2009 Tribute director Ursula Meier, **SEKRET / SECRET** by this year's Tribute guest Przemysław Wojcieszek, a representative of young independent Polish cinema, the 26-part episode film, opening the NIGHT SIGHT section, **THE ABCs OF DEATH**, the thriller **LAYLA FOURIE**, set in South Africa, by Pia Marais, winner of two CROSSING EUROPE awards, and the world premiere of the unconventional artistic Upper Austrian documentary film **INNERE BLUTUNGEN**. The Nightline on the opening evening, starting at 10:00 pm, features the pop heroes **SHY** from Linz and the Berlin DJs Sarah Farina & Mr. Chix.*

*A preview of this year's festival program reveals the first highlights of the **anniversary edition** of the **CROSSING EUROPE FILM FESTIVAL LINZ // 23 – 28 April 2013**.*

### The OPENING FILMS 2013

On **Tuesday, 23 April**, CROSSING EUROPE opens with **five outstanding films**, which traditionally provide a **representative cross-section from the festival program**, illustrating once again the many rich facets of European filmmaking. Among them are two directors, who have already been featured by CROSSING EUROPE in previous years, and whose films have also been distinguished at the Berlinale.

**// L'ENFANT D'EN HAUT / SISTER / WINTERDIEB**, Austrian premiere // CH, FR 2012; 97 min; **D: Ursula Meier** // Austrian distributor: Thimfilm //

A director already introduced to CROSSING EUROPE returns this year with the **Swiss-French drama L'ENFANT D'EN HAUT / SISTER / WINTERDIEB**. Ursula Meier's first feature film, **DES ÉPAULES SOLIDES / STRONG SHOULDERS**, was already shown in 2004 in the Competition European Cinema, and then in 2009, the festival devoted the TRIBUTE section to Ursula Meier and her Swiss director colleague Lionel Baier.

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 “Best Foreign Language Film”.

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

**// LAYLA FOURIE**, international premiere // DE, ZA, FR, NL 2013; 105 min; **D: Pia Marais //**

Pia Marais has already twice won the main prize, the CROSSING EUROPE Award European Competition: in 2007 for DIE UNERZOGENEN / THE UNPOLISHED (DE 2007) and in 2011 (ex aequo) for IM ALTER VON ELLEN / AT ELLEN’S AGE (DE 2010). This year she returns to Linz not only as a jury member, but also brings along her new feature film, which most recently received a “Special Mention” at the Berlinale, LAYLA FOURIE.

The film tells of a **single mother**, who gets by in Johannesburg with odd jobs. Then on the way to a new job and thus to a better future, she is caught up in an accident, through which she suddenly becomes entangled in a net of lies and deceptions. LAYLA FOURIE is an **atmospherically dense thriller**, set in post-Apartheid South Africa marked by paranoia.

*// Pia Marais (Director) is present //*

**// SEKRET / SECRET**, Austrian premiere // PL 2012; 82 min; **D: Przemysław Wojcieszek //**

CROSSING EUROPE devotes this year’s TRIBUTE to the young, multi-talented Polish film & theater director/author Przemysław Wojcieszek, who calls himself a **representative of an independent post-dramatic cinema** in Poland and sees himself as part of the DIY tradition of the punk movement, although this does not prevent him from naming Rainer Werner Fassbinder, among others, as a role model. All of his films – mostly with a small ensemble and low budget – evince a strong sense for guiding actors and for striking visual design, such as in the opening film **SEKRET / SECRET**. Here the director takes on the theme of **coming to terms with the past among the “grandfather generation”**. The unorthodox film traces the attempt of a young performance artist – together with his Jewish agent – to confront his grandfather with family secrets in World War Two. What is remarkable about this film are the almost “performance-like” inserts, indicative of the director’s theater experience as well as the earlier work of the two young actors with René Pollesch – Tomasz Tyndyk and Agnieszka Podsiadlik, who could already be seen in Linz in 2012 in the prize-winning Polish film IT LOOKS PRETTY FROM A DISTANCE (D: Anka & Wilhelm Sasnal).

*// Przemysław Wojcieszek (Director) & Katarzyna Majewska (Producer) are present //*

**// INNERE BLUTUNGEN**, world premiere // AT 2013; 79 min; **R: Anatol Bogendorfer & Florian Sedmak //**

The **unconventional artistic documentary film** 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 //*

**// THE ABCs OF DEATH**, Austrian premiere // various countries 2012; 129 min; **D: various directors //**

The opening film from the section NIGHT SIGHT, dedicated to European genre cinema and curated by Markus Keuschnigg, is this **episode film**. In analogy to the film title, renowned horror specialists created a total of 26 miniatures. Among them are names as familiar to CROSSING EUROPE as Nacho Vigalondo (LOS CRONOCRIMENES / TIMECRIMES; ES 2007), Xavier Gens (FRONTIERE(S); FR, CH 2007) or Bruno Forzani & H el ene Cattet (AMER; BE, FR 2009).

*//Markus Keuschnigg (Curator) is present //*

Also starting on the opening evening is the current film **CONTINUITY** (DE/AT 2012) by this year’s **OK Artist in Residence | Omer Fast** (IL/DE). This work, which premiered at the Documenta last year in Kassel and was co-produced by the OK, will be shown in the **OK | Extra Kino** until the end of the CROSSING EUROPE festival week.

## FIRST PROGRAM PREVIEW

On the six days of the festival, from 23 to 28 April 2013, Festival Director Christine Dollhofer presents a total of **162** hand-picked European **feature films, documentaries and short films** from **39 countries** in **about 160 programs** – largely Austrian or world premieres. Here is a brief summary of the first film highlights:

## COMPETITION EUROPEAN CINEMA

In 2013 the Competition European Cinema with **nine first or second feature films** brings the omnipresent (financial) crisis in Europe to the screen. This is exemplified by the two Greek competition entries, which center around young protagonists, who demonstrate little hope that their own living situation might improve any time soon. In his debut film **TO AGORI TROI TO FAGITO TOU POULIOU / BOY EATING THE BIRD’S FOOD** (GR 2012), **Ektoras Lygizos** describes three days in the life of a young singer drifting hungry and without perspectives through the streets of Athens. The young artist in **SYGHARITIRIA STOUS AISIODOXOUS? / A.C.A.B. ALL CATS ARE BRILLIANT?** (GR 2012, **D: Constantina Voulgari**) – also a debut film – wants to fight the dominant system as an activist, but she is continually blocked by the uncertainties of everyday life.

## EUROPEAN PANORAMA

In European Panorama CROSSING EUROPE presents numerous feature film and documentary highlights from the past festival season.

The list of films in the section **EUROPEAN PANORAMA Fiction** almost reads like a best-of from the CROSSING EUROPE program of the past nine years. Films that should be especially mentioned include **REALITY** (IT, FR 2012) by **Matteo Garrone**, to whom the TRIBUTE was devoted in 2004, and who has since then ceaselessly devoted his sharp insights to examining and questioning the state of affairs in Italy.

Another TRIBUTE guest is **Boris Khlebnikov**, whose film **KOKTEBEL / ROADS TO KOKTEBEL** (RU 2003, directed together with Alexey Popogrebsky) was a competition entry in 2004; in 2010 the focus was on the independent

Russian production company KOKTEBEL, which he co-founded. With **DOLGAYA SCHASTLIVAYA ZHIZN / A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE** (RU 2013) – Berlinale Competition 2013 – he presents a drama about a rural collective that has lost its balance in the Russian province.

**Nanouk Leopold**, to whom the TRIBUTE 2011 was devoted together with her producer Stienette Bosklopper, also presented her current film at the Berlinale this year: **BOVEN IS HET STIL / IT'S ALL SO QUIET** (NL, DE 2013) deals with a farmer in crisis – but this is not about the struggle for plain existence, but rather about inner upheavals and acknowledging one's own sexuality. The film features the exceptional Dutch actor Jeroen Willems in one of his last roles.

The **EUROPEAN PANORAMA DOCUMENTARY** assembles the most diverse surveys from Europe, bringing contemporary history as well as what is socio-politically “explosive” to the screen. Numerous “old friends” of CROSSING EUROPE are to be found in this section too – with themes that could not be more different.

**Thomas Heise**, the established German documentary film director, devotes his attention in **GEGENWART / CONSEQUENCE** (DE 2012) to the way our society deals with death, which has meanwhile become mechanical and industrial. With his usual austere images, he provides an unsentimental view of Christmas in a crematorium.

**REVISION** (DE 2012) deals with the mysterious death of two Romanian citizens, who were allegedly shot “accidentally” by hunters on the German-Polish border. The director **Philip Scheffner** subjects the legally closed criminal case to a precise film revision.

The Grande Dame of Czech documentaries, **Helena Třeštíková**, provides an eerily captivating panorama of Czech and Czechoslovakian contemporary history with **SOUKROMÝ VESMÍR / PRIVATE UNIVERSE** (CZ 2012) on the basis of a long-term family portrait over the course of thirty-seven years.

## **WORKING WORLDS (in cooperation with AK OÖ/KULTUR)**

The title of this program section, curated by Lina Dinkla (Dok Leipzig), is as critical as ever and startlingly topical at the same time: **ON THE FAILURE OF STRUCTURES**. Now in its tenth edition, this program section represents a collection of spotlights on events at the periphery, on the failure of institutions, on the purportedly minor impacts from the dissolution of state and communal structures. Work, and the conditions under which it is carried out, is always depicted in the selected films as a mirror of the social constitution of an entire country at the same time. One of them is the intimate kind of situation in the award-winning documentary film **POSLEDNATA LINEIKA NA SOFIA / SOFIA'S LAST AMBULANCE** (BG, HR, DE 2012, D: Ilian Metev), which has already been shown at numerous festivals since its premiere in Cannes in 2013, where a team and its ambulance lurch over the potholes of Sofia and through the decrepit health care system.

## **PERIPHERIES – FILM SURVEYS OF PLACES ON THE OUTSKIRTS (in cooperation with AFO Architecture Forum Upper Austria)**

Now for the fourth time, curator Lotte Schreiber has assembled a thematic program dealing with architecture and society. This year's selection includes four remarkable documentary film programs, which tell of **remote villages, urban gray areas, and ghost towns**. The Danish/British documentary **VILLAGE AT THE END OF THE WORLD** (DK/GB 2012, D: Sarah Gavron) and the German documentary **FAR END OF THE MILKY WAY** (DE 2012, D: Leopold Grün & Dirk Uhlig) both tell of remote village communities – here an isolated village on the north coast of Greenland, there a settlement in eastern German no-man's-land.

*// Panel discussion on the film program: Saturday, 27 April, 12:00, Art University Linz //*

## DOCS IN CONCERT

The festival anniversary calls for dancing – not only at the traditionally popular Nightline in the OK Mediendeck, but this year for the first time also in the cinema. On two evenings the Ursulinensaal will become a late-night concert hall, one of them featuring **THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS: DON'T THINK** (GB 2012, D: Adam Smith).

## FRESH DANUBE FILMS

In Autumn 2012 the **festival cooperation** FRESH DANUBE FILMS (<http://eng.cinemacity.org/freshdanubefilms/>) was launched with the goal of **promoting debut films from the Danube region**. In addition to CROSSING EUROPE, two festivals from Serbia (CINEMA CITY from Novi Sad and FREE ZONE FILM FESTIVAL from Belgrade) and one festival from Croatia (DORF from Vinkovci) are network partners. A total of **six productions** (three feature films and three documentaries) from the FRESH DANUBE FILM LABEL will be presented during CROSSING EUROPE 2013:

// **FOREVER NOT ALONE** (AT 2013, D: Monja Art & Caroline Bobek)

// **LICE REVOLUCIJE / THE FACE OF A REVOLUTION** (RS 2012, D: Vladimir Milovanović)

// **PISMO CACI / A LETTER TO MY FATHER** (HR 2012, D: Damir Cucic)

// **SONJA I BIK / SONJA AND THE BULL** (HR 2012, D: Vlatko Vorkapic)

// **TALEA** (AT 2013, D: Katharina Mückstein)

// **USTANIČKA ULICA / REDEMPTION STREET** (RS, SI 2012, D: Miroslav Terzic)

## UPCOMING DATES

### PROGRAM PRESS CONFERENCES 2013

**Linz – 10 April 2013:** 10:00 am, Upper Austrian Press Club in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter, Room A+B 1st floor

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

### PROGRAM STARTING 11 APRIL 2013

Festival newspaper and website [www.crossingeurope.at](http://www.crossingeurope.at) with the complete festival program.

**START OF TICKET PRE-SALES 12 APRIL** via the **Info-Hotline +43 680 506 1 506**

### FESTIVAL OPENING 2013

Tuesday, **23 April 2013, starting 6:30 pm**, Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter – Reception followed by the five opening films, shown in Ursulinensaal, Movimiento and City-Kino

### AWARDS PRESENTATION 2013

Saturday, **27 April 2013, 9:00 pm**, Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter

### IMAGE MATERIAL & UPDATES

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

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