

15 Years! CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

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Opening Films & Closing Film

SEVEN WEEKS TO GO!

2018 marks a small anniversary: with 245,000 visitors, 1,500 film guests and 415 world premieres since 2004, the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz presents itself for the **15th festival edition** as a cinematic showcase of Europe and relies again on the radiance and diversity of European filmmaking. CROSSING EUROPE 2018 **starts** in exactly seven weeks with **six selected film premieres** with numerous film guests present. This year's opening films take us from a suburb of **Bucharest** (SOLDATII. POVESTE DIN FERENTARI) to dystopic **Hungary** (JUPITER HOLDJA) and into the contemporary rap scene of **Sweden** (SILVANA), but also to **southern Italy** during World War II (PIZZICATA) and into the life worlds of **nine grandmothers** reviewing European history of the twentieth century (THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT). The opening films are rounded out with a leap into a parallel world, where a society is slowly recovering from a **zombie invasion** (THE CURED).

Between the multifaceted opening day and this year's closing event are about **170 films** from roughly **30 countries**, film discussions with 140 film guests, talks, master classes, exhibitions and six Nightline nights. The 15th festival edition closes with a **final highlight**: the festival audience can look forward to a wholly "fresh" **Berlinale** title – TRANSIT, the current work by the "doyen" of the Berlin School, Christian Petzold.

Festival Opening 2018

The festival already starts this year in the morning of the opening day (25 April) with the **start of films from all program sections**. The opening of CROSSING EUROPE is then celebrated in the evening with **six selected film premieres**, presenting a representative cross section of this year's festival program and the program sections – with numerous film guests present. In the OK Offenes Kulturhaus the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter presents the installation WESTERN UNION: SMALL BOATS (THE LEOPARD), 2007 by the renowned British artist **Isaac Julien**, and the kulturtankstelle is represented with the projects **ORAL HISTORIES: Alenka Maly** and **VERORTUNGEN: Fiona Ruckschio**.

Starting at 10 pm, the **Nightline** in the OK Deck features the protagonist of one of the opening films, the Swedish rapper Silvana Imam, who is supported by the Austrian acts Selbstlaut and Kapazunda.

SOLDATII. POVESTE DIN FERENTARI / SOLDIERS. A STORY FROM FERENTARI (RO 2017) –

Austrian Premiere

Director: Ivana Mladenovic

Program Sections: Competition Fiction & Spotlight; length: 119 min. | feature film

Ada Solomon (*1968) from Romania has been working extremely successfully as a producer for more than twenty years, and that throughout Europe. Her seemingly infallible sense of talent has already catalyzed several careers, and her versatility has been proven by short films as well as feature films and feature-length documentaries. (Detailed information on Spotlight [HERE](#))

For SOLDATII. POVESTE DIN FERENTARI Ada Solomon has again successfully collaborated with a “film talent”: with her semi-documentary feature film debut Ivana Mladenovic has been invited to the renowned festivals in San Sebastián and Toronto. She tells a modern gay Romeo-and-Juliet story between an anthropologist and an ex-convict, set in the surroundings of the Roma community in the eponymous quarter of Bucharest.

The film will be presented during the festival opening on 25 April with director Ivana Mladenovic (invited) and Spotlight guest Ada Solomon present.

During a Producer's Talk on 28 April, Ada Solomon will offer insights into her way of working and her wealth of experience as an internationally successful film producer.

SPOTLIGHT 2018 is presented with generous support from the Romanian Cultural Institute Vienna.

JUPITER HOLDJA / JUPITER'S MOON (HU, DE 2017) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Kornél Mundruczó

Program Section: European Panorama Fiction; length: 123 min. | feature film

Distribution in Austria: [Thimfilm](#); cinema release in Austria: 27 April 2018

Like numerous other director's in this year's program, the well-known Hungarian film and theater star **Kornél Mundruczó** has already been represented in **earlier years** with films at CROSSING EUROPE. This year he kicks off in Linz with a **competition entry from Cannes**.

JUPITER HOLDJA starts as a **thriller**, but in the course of the story set in **stunning imagery**, it also borrows from **fantastic film and science fiction**. A young Syrian refugee is on his way with his father from Serbia to Hungary, but at the border he is shot by a corrupt policeman. Instead of dying, though, or in a metaphorical sense capitulating before a cruel state power and cynical police power, the dead boy develops a super power, floating through the air like an angel, which brings unimagined consequences.

JUPITER HOLDJA can thus be read as an **up-to-date response to Hungary's omnipresent isolationist policies** and refugee paranoia.

The film will be presented during the festival opening on 25 April with director Kornél Mundruczó and lead actor Merab Ninidze present.

SILVANA (SE 2017) - Austrian Premiere

Directors: Mika Gustafson, Olivia Kastebring, Christina Tsiobanelis

Program Section: European Panorama Documentary; length: 90 min. | documentary film

"Let's smash patriarchy!" shouts the **Swedish rapper Silvana Imam** to her audience. Her raps are raw and **autobiographically** influenced, often revolving around sexual identity. Having come to Sweden as a child – Syrian father, Lithuanian mother – she addresses her background as an immigrant as well as the **socio-political state of Sweden**. The documentary portrait begins in 2014, the year of her musical breakthrough, accompanies her rapid rise as a lesbian, feminist and anti-racist "punk rapper" with no inhibitions about speaking her mind, but also the course of her relationship with the Swedish pop artist Beatrice Eli. SILVANA is a **political music documentary** that appeals not only to dedicated fans. A strong film about a courageous protagonist, who fights for a better world with her powerful music.

The film is presented during the festival opening on 25 April with the protagonist Silvana Imam present, who will perform a live concert on the opening evening, starting at 11 pm in the OK Deck (admission free).

PIZZICATA (IT, DE 1996)

Director: Edoardo Winspeare

Program Section: Tribute; length: 91 min. | feature film

This year's TRIBUTE section is devoted to the Italian director Edoardo Winspeare, an **auteur filmmaker par excellence**. Through decades of intense engagement with his home region, the social, political and economic changes and the cultural shifts in Apulia, he is considered an important representative of **Italian "neo neo-realism"**. (Detailed information about the Tribute [HERE](#)).

In 1988 Winspeare was accepted at the University of Film and Television in Munich, which also co-produced his feature film debut **PIZZICATA**. This debut film is a love story between an Italo-American pilot of the US Army, who crashes in Salento in 1943, and one of the three daughters of a farmer who gives him shelter. PIZZICATA won numerous awards and was shown internationally in cinemas.

The film is presented during the festival opening on 25 April with Edoardo Winspeare present.

All the films of this year's TRIBUTE will also be shown with Edoardo Winspeare present and in cooperation with the cinema [Stadtkino Wien](#) from Monday, 30 April, to Thursday, 3 May in the Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus for the audience in Vienna.

CROSSING EUROPE TRIBUTE 2018 – in cooperation with [Istituto Italiano di Cultura Vienna](#) and [Istituto Luce Cinecittà](#)

THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT (AT, IL, GB, IS, IT, TR, BG, GR, RU 2018) – **World Premiere**

Directors: Alenka Maly, Hadas Neuman, Fleur Nieddu, Anna Ólafsdóttir, Giorgia Polizzi, Berke Soyuer, Desislava Tsoneva, Maria Tzika, Ekaterina Volkova

Program Section: Local Artists; length: 80 min.; www.european-grandma-project.eu/ | documentary film

Alenka Maly, film director and actress from Linz, took her own intensive “conversation relationship” with her grandmother as the starting point for the realization of the European **Oral History film project** THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT. With the motto “Grandmothers telling their versions of European history”, in 2015 she launched a European-wide call and found **eight like-minded filmmakers**, who created **portraits of their grandmothers** in parallel to one another in Israel, Greece, Italy, Iceland, Bulgaria, Russia, England, Turkey and Austria. These women, born in the 20s and early 30s of the last century, tell their filmmaking granddaughters about war, political upheavals, love, and everyday life in their time in Europe. Alenka Maly and her colleagues have succeeded in capturing an **authentic panorama of European history** on film and creating a small cinematic memorial for a group of strong women, which offers an insight into the dark chapters of European history of the 20th century for the generations born later.

The film will be presented during the festival opening on 25 April with the nine filmmakers present.

Alenka Maly will be a guest at [Kepler Salon Linz](#) on Monday, 23 April to talk about the origins and the development of the project.

*The nine Grandma Portraits can be seen in full length as part of the exhibition **ORAL HISTORIES: ALENKA MALY** from 25 to 30 April in the [kulturtankstelle](#) in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter.*

THE CURED (IE 2017) – **Austrian Premiere**

Director: David Freyne

Program Section: Night Sight; length: 95 min. | feature film

After a virus has turned those infected with it into **blood-thirsty zombies** for years, the world finds new hope with the discovery of a cure. But **rebuilding society** turns out to be difficult, as reintegrating those formerly infected becomes a special challenge. It is one of these, specifically her brother-in-law, that a young widow (embodied by the indie icon Ellen Page) takes into her home, which does not remain without dramatic consequences.

Everything revolves around the question of how a society should deal with taking those presumably responsible – now made “innocuous” – back into their midst. With his **splatter-horror debut**, Irish director David Freyne succeeds in creating an exciting combination of zombie horror and social drama, creating a space for **current social-critical commentaries** – 28 DAYS LATER and CHILDREN OF MEN send their regards.

The film will also be shown during [/slasheinhalt](#) in [Filmcasino](#) from 3 to 5 May in Vienna.

Closing Film 2018 – TRANSIT

TRANSIT (DE, FR 2018) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Christian Petzold

Program Section: European Panorama Fiction; length: 102 min. | feature film

Distribution in Austria: [Stadtkino Filmverleih](#); cinema release in Austria: 4 May 2018

The final highlight of the coming festival edition is a competition entry in this year's Berlinale: TRANSIT by Christian Petzold, a representative of the first generation of the Berlin School, whose new feature film deals with what is currently Europe's most acute question: displacement, flight and migration. The film is based on the **novel by Anna Seghers** of the same name, which was written between 1941 and 1942 in Marseilles and published in English and Spanish in 1944. In the 1970s and 1980s TRANSIT was received particularly as a masterpiece of German exile literature.

A young man manages to flee to Marseilles just before the German troops invade Paris. There he assumes a false identity to obtain the life-saving documents that will allow him to emigrate from Europe. Petzold sets the timeless story in Marseilles of today. The figures from the past move there and meet the refugees of the present. History thus merges with the present and "all stories conjoin into an eternal transit space." (Berlinale 2018).

A main role is brilliantly performed by **Franz Rogowski**, who is well remembered by the CROSSING EUROPE audience as the shy masseur in Jakob Lass's love story LOVE STEAKS (CE 2014) and for the fiction film WE ARE FINE (CE 2015) and has now been nominated for the *Berlinale Shooting Stars 2018*.

The screening of the film will be preceded by a prologue by the actress and theater director Verena Koch.

Upcoming Dates

Deadline for accreditation: **22 March 2018**

Program press conferences Linz & Vienna: **11 April 2018**

Festival dates 2018: **Wednesday, 25 to Monday, 30 April 2018**

Picture material & Updates

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

Film stills & picture material: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos.html>

Logo & Festival motif: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos>

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2018 can be found as ever on our website www.crossingEurope.at and through our social media channels [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).