

Press Release



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Press Release #1/23, 1 February 2023

Tribute 2023: Angeliki Papoulia | MIOB: Festival Work on a European Level

Three months to go until the 20th edition of **CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz**. From **April 26 to May 1**, Linz will once again become the cinephilic **meeting place of European cinema**, with a rich and diverse film program, young auteur cinema, and numerous **film guests from Austria and abroad**. Around 750 submissions have reached the CROSSING EUROPE office for this year's festival edition, 600 of which are from all over Europe and 150 are entries with a connection to Upper Austria. The final phase of program selection is currently ongoing, around **140 feature, documentary and short films** from all corners of Europe will await the audience. In today's press release, we are delighted to announce one of the first festival highlights: In connection with the **Tribute section**, dedicated each year to an outstanding individual of European cinema, the Greek actor and theater director **Angeliki Papoulia** will be our guest in Linz in 2023. We will also provide an insight into our festival work on a European level in the context of the festival network **MIOB | Moving Images – Open Borders**.

Tribute 2023: Angeliki Papoulia (GR)

I'm trying to do things that excite me because otherwise there is no point. I am always trying to find a way to work in theatre or film that is challenging for me. That's what I'm looking for. (Angeliki Papoulia, interviewed at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2019)

At its 20th edition, CROSSING EUROPE devotes its Tribute program section to one of the **most uncompromising and powerful actors** of contemporary European auteur cinema, the Greek actor and theater director **Angeliki Papoulia**. At the festival, she **is going to personally present a selection of her films** and provide insights into her work at the **Tribute Talk**. The following feature films starring her will be part of the 2023 festival program:

| Announcement of the first films starring Angeliki Papoulia in the festival program 2023 |

- ❖ **KYNODONTAS | DOGTOOTH** (GR 2009), 96 min, directed by: Yorgos Lanthimos – *CROSSING EUROPE 2010 & 2013*
- ❖ **A BLAST** (GR, DE, NL 2014), 83 min, directed by: Syllas Tzoumerkas – *CROSSING EUROPE 2015*
- ❖ **THÁVMA TIS THÁLASSAS TON SARGASSÓN | THE MIRACLE OF THE SARGASSO SEA** (GR, DE, NL, SE 2019), 121 min, directed by: Syllas Tzoumerkas – *CROSSING EUROPE 2019*
- ❖ **HUMAN FLOWERS OF FLESH** (DE, FR 2022), 106 min, directed by: Helena Wittmann
- ❖ **ISIHIA 6-9 | SILENCE 6-9** (GR 2022), 81 min, directed by: Christos Passalis – *Austrian premiere*

The full program of the Tribute section will be announced at a later date.

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A striking performance by Angeliki Papoulia is the jittery, beating heart of A BLAST, with her Maria a passionate and open soul who embraces life and love, but finds that passion beaten out of her by a variety of circumstances. (Mark Adams, screendaily.com)

Papoulia was born in Athens in 1975 and is a **key protagonist of Greek cinema and theater**. Over the years, there have been several opportunities when her work could be seen on the screens of CROSSING EUROPE, which is why the festival team is especially delighted to be able to welcome her to Linz for the anniversary edition and give the audience the opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with her multifaceted work.

Papoulia completed her education at the Department of Theatre Studies at the *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens* and at the *Empros Theatre Drama School*, also in Athens. She is a co-founder of *blitz theatre group*. Her **engagements** as an actor, writer, and co-director have not been limited to Greece, but include **numerous prestigious theaters throughout Europe**. In addition to her own artistic work, she has been a **jury member at several European film festivals**, including the Locarno Film Festival and Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

As an actress, Angeliki Papoulia has left a mark on numerous works by exponents of the younger generation of Greek directors, who use unconventional and subversive narratives to deal with the socio-political and economic problems of Greece and Europe. She has **repeatedly portrayed leading roles** in the internationally multi-award-winning works of director **Yorgos Lanthimos** (DOGTOOTH, ALPS, THE LOBSTER) that, with their whimsical plot elements and disturbing humor, are rated as major contributions to the so-called "Greek Weird Wave". For her portrayal of the older daughter in **DOGTOOTH**, where a parental couple educates their three grown-up children in isolation from the world outside according to bizarre rules, she received the **Award for Best Actress** at the 2009 Sarajevo Film Festival. The film was also awarded a prize at the Cannes Film Festival in the same year and was nominated for an Academy Award in the "Best Foreign Language Film" category in 2011. Another longstanding collaboration connects the actress to **Syllas Tzoumerkas**, a frequent guest at CROSSING EUROPE (A BLAST, THE MIRACLE OF THE SARGASSO SEA, THE CITY AND THE CITY). In 2020, Papoulia was awarded **Best Actress** at the Hellenic Film Academy Awards (Greek national film prize) for her role as the cursing, drinking police chief of a coastal town in **THE MIRACLE OF SARGASSO SEA**.

In addition to entries from each of her collaborations with Lanthimos and Tzoumerkas, Angeliki Papoulia will also present two of her latest films at CROSSING EUROPE 2023. **SILENCE 6-9** (world premiere: Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2022) stands for the continuation of another artistic synergy, namely with director and co-star Christos Passalis. Not only did Papoulia star with him in **DOGTOOTH**, but at CROSSING EUROPE 2022 she could also be seen in **THE CITY AND THE CITY** (GR, 2022), a work co-directed by Passalis and Syllas Tzoumerkas. In **SILENCE 6-9**, Anna (Papoulia) and Aris (Passalis) meet as strangers in a futuristic-barren city, where every evening countless antennas receive fragmentary messages from the city dwellers' missing relatives. A fascinatingly cryptic and stylistically impressive film screened in Austria for the first time, not only as part of the Tribute program but also of the **Competition Fiction** section.

Helena Wittmann's **HUMAN FLOWERS OF FLESH** (world premiere: Locarno Film Festival 2022) presents Papoulia's character Ida and her crew of four in hypnotic images on a sailing trip in the Mediterranean and can certainly be interpreted as a reference to Claire Denis's masterpiece **BEAU TRAVAIL**. CROSSING EUROPE will present the Upper Austrian premiere of the film. It can be seen at select art house cinemas in other provinces from February 3 (distributor: Filmgarten).

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MIOB | Moving Images – Open Borders: Festival Work on a European Level

CROSSING EUROPE strives to promote the cultural and solidary **European idea** not just with audiences and film guests in Linz, but in addition, is also substantially involved in the **collaboration of film festivals throughout Europe**. In 2017, the festival network **MIOB | Moving Images – Open Borders** was initiated for this purpose by CROSSING EUROPE, and with the Festival de Sevilla (ES), European Film Festival Palić (RS), Les Arcs European Film Festival (FR), Scanorama European Film Forum (LT), Trieste Film Festival (IT), and FilmFestival Cottbus (DE), it now comprises seven film festivals with a European program orientation. Collaboration takes place on many different levels, on the artistic as well as on the organizational and technological one, with the long-term goal being the establishment of a best practice model for European networking. As a result of various factors like the (after-)effects of the COVID pandemic, organizers throughout Europe are currently faced with the challenge of bringing audiences back to the cinema. **Audience building** is therefore one of the most significant issues that are discussed and initiate joint projects in the framework of MIOB, as are **digitalization** or **gender and diversity programming**. The co-operation of several festivals enables the thinking of ideas not only on a larger scale on a conceptual level but also to drive forward lobbying work in a concentrated way, which has an absolutely positive effect on the realization of joint projects. One example in the field of **environmental and climate protection** is the realization of the “**Green Charter For Film Festivals**”, a free-of-charge tool for film festivals for the standardized recording of their resource consumption in the areas of food, waste, energy, and transportation in order to derive reduction potentials. The underlying idea is based on workshops at the Les Arcs European Film Festival (2019) and the International Film Festival Rotterdam (2020), with the further development for shared usability as a MIOB project only made possible through financing by the CREATIVE EUROPE program of the EU.

Another example of the festival network's activities is the **organization of two international competitions** for recent European short and feature-length films. Last November, the online audience award **MIOB IN SHORTS 2022** (€ 1000), held and awarded by FilmFestival Cottbus, went to Maria Hatzakou's short film **AMYGDALA** (GR, 2021). The **MIOB NEW VISION AWARD** (€ 3000) honors the first or second production of a European feature film or documentary. In 2022, the prize was organized and implemented by CROSSING EUROPE, going to **MURINA** (HR, BR, US, SI 2021) by Antoneta Alamat Kusijanović and awarded in July during the European European Film Festival Palić (RS). The film will be shown as part of the **CROSSING EUROPE 2023 festival program**. You can find more information on MIOB | Moving Images – Open Borders at: <https://miob.info/>

Festival dates: April 26 to May 1, 2023 | **Press conference 2023:** Thursday, April 13, 10:00 a.m., Linz

Logo & Festival Motif 2023: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/downloads>

Film Stills & Festival Impressions: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/photos>

Regular updates and current information on CROSSING EUROPE 2023 can, as always, be found on our website <http://www.crossingeurope.at/en> and on our social media channels [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).