

# CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Press Release #6/23, 30 April 2023

## FESTIVAL AWARDS 2023

The Awards Ceremony of the 20th edition of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz took place today in the Ursulinensaal of the OK Linz, the atmospheric evening was hosted by Miriam Hie.

In the presence of jury members, numerous film guests, industry representatives and the trade press from Austria and abroad, as well as representatives of funding partners, sponsors and representatives of cultural policy – a.o. *Elisabeth Manhal*, State deputy, on behalf of the Governor of the Federal Province of Upper Austria *Thomas Stelzer*, *Dietmar Prammer*, City Councilor, on behalf of Mayor Klaus Luger, *Mario Hofer*, Municipal Councilor, on behalf of City Councilor Doris Lang-Mayerhofer, *Petra Schmekal*, Gutenberg-Werbering, *Liliana Nelska*, VdFS, *Kathrin Weiß*, Creative Region Linz & Upper Austria, *Marco Zinz*, Managing Director The Grand Post – Audio & Picture Post Production, *Joshua Jádi*, FilmFestival Cottbus, Germany – on behalf of MIOB – Festival Network Moving Images Open Borders – the CROSSING EUROPE AWARDS (cash & non-cash prizes worth € 26,500) and the MIOB New Vision Award 2023 (€ 3000) were presented, festival directors Sabine Gebetsroither and Katharina Riedler drew a very positive balance in the anniversary year.

## CROSSING EUROPE Competition – Fiction

### CROSSING EUROPE Award - Best Fiction Film

€5.000,- powered by [Linz Kultur](#)

#### [CHLEB I SÓL / BREAD AND SALT](#)

Damian Kocur, PL 2022, 100 min

*The JURY COMPETITION – Fiction (Nicoletta Romeo, Dennis Ruh und Norika Sefa) explained their decision with the words:*

*„For his precise choices in terms of visual approach, his work with non-professional actors, his seamless narrative structure, and his human representation of a small Polish town which becomes a magnifying lens on current xenophobic drifts in today’s Europe.“*

#### **Special Mention:**

#### [DISCO BOY](#)

Giacomo Abbruzzese, FR/IT/BE/PL 2023, 91 min

Distribution in Austria: [Filmladen](#) | Cinematic release: Fall 2023

*„For his innovative, magnetic and sensual visual language through which the film director portrays a tragic story of redemption and spiritual displacement through ancient rituals, contemporary choreographies and hypnotising music.“*

**CROSSING EUROPE Audience Award - Best Fiction Film**

€ 5.000,- powered by [Land Oberösterreich Kultur](#)

**[SIGURNO MJESTO / SAFE PLACE](#)**

Juraj Lerotić, HR/SI 2022, 102 min

| The film will be screened again tomorrow, May 1, 2023, at 8:00 pm at City Kino. |

**CROSSING EUROPE Competition – Documentary****CROSSING EUROPE Social Awareness Award - Best Documentary**

€ 5.000,- powered by [Gutenberg-Werbering](#) and **CROSSING EUROPE**

Shared prize at € 2.500,- each

**[SILENT LOVE](#)**

Marek Kozakiewicz, DE/PL 2022, 72 min

**[MY NE ZGASNEMO / WE WILL NOT FADE AWAY](#)**

Alisa Kovalenko, UA/FR/PL/US 2023, 99 min

*The JURY COMPETITION – Documentary (Mariam Chutkerashvili, Vitaly Mansky & Serpil Turhan) explained their decision with the words:*

*„The jury has come to a conclusion to grant the main prize of the documentary competition to two films out of 11. For an optimism (of a better future) manifested through the protagonists of these two creative documentary films, one that shows the war and daily reality from the perspective of the people whose lives have been halted and fallen into a routine where nothing happens and not much can be done, while the other one reflects the expression of tenderness and constant proving of unconditional love.*

*If the rest of the world was full of love and free, alike the protagonists of these both films, we would not have had this ongoing war in Ukraine.“*

**YAAAS! Competition****CROSSING EUROPE Award – YAAAS! Youth Jury**

€ 3.000,- powered by [VdFS – Verwertungsgesellschaft der Filmschaffenden](#)

**[PETITES / LITTLE ONES](#)**

Julie Lerat-Gersant, FR 2022, 90 min

| The film will be screened again tomorrow, May 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Movimiento. |

*The Youth Jury (Alena Decker, Yvonne Horvath, Emelie Lindtner, Mimi Pondi & Katharina Zehetner) said in their statement:*

*„It has been a challenging task to select one winning film from among the great entries in the YAAAS! Competition. This film is about very young mothers who are cared for together in a house. This serious topic has been depicted in a very realistic way. Everyday life has many facets, there is room for all kinds of emotions. It is an important film for young people – not just young women. This film cracks open to some extent the taboo of talking about sex. Our final decision was to award the prize to PETITES | LITTLE ONES by Julie Lerat-Gersant.“*

**Special Mention:****ELAHA**

Milena Aboyan, DE 2023, 110 min

*„ELAHA addresses issues that society as a whole should think about.“*

**CROSSING EUROPE Competition – Local Artist****CROSSING EUROPE Award - Local Artist**

€ 5.000,- powered by [Land Oberösterreich Kultur](#)

€ 2.000,- voucher by [The Grand Post - Audio & Picture Post Production](#)

€ 1.500,- powered by [Creative Region Linz & Upper Austria](#)

**Money prize € 5.000,-:****CLOUDY MEMORIES**

Isabella Friedl, IT 2022, 50 min

*The JURY COMPETITION – Local Artist (Nicola von Leffern, Markus Reindl & Anna Spanlang) explained their decision with the words:*

*The private is political! In unadorned, intimate images the filmmaker tells a family story, which is the story of the women in her family. When grandma says: "Well, you have some guts / Na du traust' da" she puts quite a few things in a nutshell, because: We are not used to a historiography from a female perspective.*

*"How was it back then, with an unwanted pregnancy, to get an abortion? What kind of mother was grandmother to you? Who takes care of grandma at home, when she is suffering from dementia – she of course already took care of her own mother back in the time – and: who will, in case it is necessary, be responsible for taking care of my mother? Why are my memories so different, from yours, the filmmaker asks."*

*In a very touching way, the film successfully shapes tabooed stories of women from different generations into a sensitive narrative, without causing them embarrassment. We see and hear the voice of a directress, who, with great kindness and her open heart is breaking the familiar silence. With this film, she is encouraging us, the audience, to finally negotiate these highly emotional questions within our own families. 101-year-old Betty Rid Soskin says: "The questions are important, the answers are only temporary."*

**Material prize €2.000,- voucher:****DE FACTO**

Selma Doborac, AT/DE 2023, 130 min

*„Layer upon layer of abstraction is cast over the research, yet the film is stripped down to its core. Carefully orchestrated details in image and sound contrast the brute force of the spoken word. Performed in breathless rhythm, the film gets into the heads of perpetrators and war criminals, presenting an inside view - without judging and without dramatizing. The maelstrom that develops is painful and lingering. While scene after scene the light leaves the set in the forest, the cinema in our heads remains brightly lit. Those images bear witness to atrocities that are sadly all too present – even in this very moment. The director has succeeded in creating a masterpiece about the question of morality and the unleashing of violence.“*

## Special Mention:

### CAVE PAINTING

Siegfried A. Fruhauf, AT 2023, 15 min

*„Crossing Europe is an important platform for Upper Austrian experimental film. When experimental films succeed in leaving their niche because of their visual power, and they create upsetting emotions with their precise arrangement of frames and sound, this usually throws closed doors wide open and builds bridges. We would like to give a Special Mention to a most elaborately executed film that convincingly continues the Austrian experimental film tradition.“*

## **CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO Award**

€ 1.500,- powered by [CREATIVE REGION Linz & Upper Austria](#)

### CRUEL HEARTED / MAYBE SOMEDAY – MILE & FLIP

Clemens Niel, AT 2022, 5 min

*„The music history of Linz since the 1990s and, furthermore, the history of music videos at Crossing Europe is inseparably linked to the hip-hop genre. If one of the O.G.s of Austrian hip-hop and an exceptional talent from the new generation team up for new approach to the theme, its video version will also have to tell new stories. That is why in the video, inner monologues entertainingly become dialogues and the conquest and appropriation of spaces becomes a principle. The pompous, stereotype-loaded room that holds hip-hop and pop culture hostage is not there to flex, but in a convincing one-take sequence, its opulent model is instead blown open with the help of one's own head and then torched.“*

## **MIOB New Vision Award 2023**

€ 3.000,- powered by [MIOB | Moving Images – Open Borders](#)

The members of the festival network Moving Images – Open Borders award the prize annually to an innovative European first or second feature-length film.

### BERDREYMI / BEAUTIFUL BEINGS

Guðmundur Arnar Guðmundsson, IS/DK/SE/NL/CZ 2022, 123 min

| The film will be screened tomorrow, May 1, 2023, at 8:15 pm at Movimiento. |

## **| Photo Material |**

Photos & Filmstills: [HERE](#) | Festival Impressions: [HERE](#) | Logo & Festival Motif & Laurels: [HERE](#)

## **| Updates |**

Current information on CROSSING EUROPE 2023 is available on our website [crossingeurope.at/en](http://crossingeurope.at/en) and on our social media channels [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).