

Press Release



CROSSING EUROPE Filmfestival Linz

Press Release #7/23, 2 May 2023

FESTIVAL RÉSUMÉ

20th Crossing Europe: Positive Résumé of the Festival Anniversary

The 20th Crossing Europe Film Festival can be considered a **complete success**, with the **vibrant festival atmosphere** of the anniversary year being felt in fully booked theaters as well as the entire city center of Linz. From April 26 to May 1, Austria's third-largest film festival enabled the audience to take a cinematic journey from Greenland to the Black Sea in **139 feature, documentary and short films** from **45 countries**. It was a presentation of unconventional, sociocritical and artistically ambitious perspectives from a young generation of European filmmakers that included **18 world premieres** and **77 Austrian premieres**.

At this year's awards ceremony, cash and material prizes with a combined value of around **€ 26,500** were presented by the international high-profile **juries**, and so was the **MIOB New Vision Award (€ 3,000)** of the European festival network **Moving Images – Open Borders**. The **award winners** list can be found [here](#).

In their second year as festival directors, **Sabine Gebetsroither** and **Katharina Riedler** pointed out during the opening that the goal to take a look at Europe's condition and to also look where it hurts has now been pursued by Crossing Europe for twenty editions. The fact that there is once again an ongoing war on European soil, roughly 600 km from the festival action, was reflected both in the film program and in numerous talks and Q&As with the festival guests. In addition, particular emphasis on the efforts to provide room for discussion and dialog was placed with the festival motto **"Europe, we need to talk!"**

Almost 16,000 Visitors

An audience of almost **16,000 festival visitors** in **153 film screenings** and **18 events** within the supporting program amounts to an increase of 1,000 on the previous year, which was noticeable most of all in the theaters, part of which were filled to capacity. But there was also great interest in the supporting program with its talks and numerous other highlights, with the festival motto, dedicated to dialog, proving extremely successful. The audience and around **600 accredited guests** were given a low-threshold opportunity of engaging with almost **120 film guests** from Austria and abroad, who included this year's Tribute guest, the Greek actor and theater director **Angeliki Papoulia**, and the Ukrainian-born and Lithuania-based documentary film director **Vitaly Mansky**, who not only provided one of the opening films, **SHIDNIY FRONT | EASTERN FRONT** (LV/UA/CZ/US 2023, co-directed by Yevhen Titarenko), but was also part of the Competition Documentary jury.

Like in the years before, one emphasis in the film selection process was on diversity and a balanced **gender programming**, with approx. **53 %** of the overall program's films (co-)directed by women. In addition to the **four competition sections** (Competition Fiction, Competition Documentary, YAAAS! Competition, and Competition Local Artists), the program structure also included the established sections **Working Worlds** ("Art Is but a Job"), **European Panorama Fiction & Documentary** (highlights from the past festival season), and **Night Sight** (dedicated to Fantastic Film). This year's title of the series **Architecture and Society** was *Pretty Ugly*.

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Before the start of the festival, in order to mark the anniversary, the very first opening film, **ABOUT A STREET** (AT 2004, d: Edith Stauber, Michaela Mair), was once again shown on the big screen as an open-air film event at Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz on April 21. The great number of Linzers attending gave particular reason to be joyful, as the planned open-air screening back in 2004 that, unfortunately, had to be canceled for weather reasons could be carried through 19 years later.

An essential component of the festival was once again the **systematic promotion of young film talent**, with the attractive and extensive offer for youths in the context of the **YAAAS!** youth section (approx. 1100 participants), on the one hand, and **Cinema Next Europe Club**, on the other, which for the fourth time offered a multi-day film campus to a group of young filmmakers from Austria and abroad. Moreover, Crossing Europe was able to build on numerous **valued partnerships**, like the one with **Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz**, which created an attractive part of the side event program with the exhibition Lentos Featured Artist | VALIE EXPORT, Katharina Gruzei, Ann Oren, Ulrike Ottinger, Apolonia Sokol.

Likewise, the intensive international collaboration with our partner festivals in the **European festival network "Moving Images Open Borders (MIOB)"** was successfully continued.

Despite the general feeling of uncertainty with regard to the continent's future, the 20th Crossing Europe will be remembered most of all for the audience's unbroken and revitalized joy of European cinema. After three years of complicated conditions due to the pandemic, **the positive atmosphere** in the often-packed theaters of the festival cinemas **Movimiento, City-Kino and Central** and in the traditional festival quarters around **OK Linz and Ursulinenhof** indicated the return for good of the desired **festival feeling**. The **Nightline** on the OK Deck was also well frequented and provided the nightly party atmosphere with live acts and DJs.

Looking to 2024

The audience followed the invitation to the 20th Crossing Europe in pleasantly high numbers, and media coverage as well as the feedback of guests, partners, and sponsors has been unanimously **positive**, which should be seen as an affirmation of the CROSSING EUROPE team's work. In order to go ahead with this work in the year to come, a continued solid financial foundation is needed.

Just like in the year before, it was possible to realize **relatively solid financial resources for the festival in 2023**. It has to be stressed, however, that **further festival work** on the present level **will prove to be very difficult without a continued value adjustment of the amount of support**. Not only the hard-to-foretell development of **general inflation** is a cause of concern, but also the handling of future challenges (in particular in the context of **"Fair Pay"** and **"green festival work"**). Apart from that, every year brings increasing costs for all organizational units.

It is therefore without question that, in order to do justice to the demands that project partners, as well as the audience, have on a cultural event of this order as regards service in return, and in order to retain the quality of the program and the festival organization, **2024 will be a walk on a tightrope financially**.

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CROSSING EUROPE goes on!

Crossing Europe 2023 is over, but in the weeks and months to come, there are numerous chances to experience films from this year's festival program and from prior editions at home or in the cinema.

Selected Festival Films 2023 on KINO VOD CLUB | 1 – 31 May

Until 31 May five festival films from the program of this year's CROSSING EUROPE edition are available on the domestic streaming platform [KINO VOD CLUB](#) for Austrian audiences. The VOD selection sees itself as an "inclusive" offer for all those cinephiles who could not attend the festival this year and offers the possibility to engage in the festival online.

Price per film: 6,90€ | note: when renting a film from KINO VOD CLUB a third of the price goes to an elected independent cinema. Through this you can directly support our festival cinemas Movimiento/City-Kino.

BACHENNYA METELYKA / BUTTERFLY VISION

Maksym Nakonechnyi, UA/CZ/HR/SE 2022, 107 min – Fiction

ELAHA

Milena Aboyan, DE 2023, 110 min – Fiction

LE FAVOLOSE / THE FABULOUS ONES

Roberta Torre, IT 2022, 75 min – Documentary

NAJSREĆNIOT ČOVEK NA SVETOT – NAJSRETNJI ČOVJEK / THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD

Teona Strugar Mitevska, MK/BE/SI/DK/HR/BA 2022, 85 min – Fiction

UNE MÈRE / ONE MOTHER

Mickaël Bandela, FR 2022, 87 min – Documentary

Price per film: 6,90€ | note: when renting a film from KINO VOD CLUB a third of the price goes to an elected independent cinema. Through this you can directly support our festival cinemas Movimiento/City-Kino.

EVENTS VOD CLUB: 20 years CROSSING EUROPE & VIENNA SHORTS

In addition to Crossing Europe, the International Short Film Festival VIENNA SHORTS is also celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. To mark this occasion, in addition to the five festival films in 2023, there will be an [anniversary special](#) of the two festivals on KINO VOD CLUB: the 20th anniversary will also be celebrated on EVENTS VOD CLUB with one short and one feature film by three European directors.

CROSSING EUROPE Collection on filmfriend.at

filmfriend.at (VOD platform for libraries and universities) presents a selection of **films from previous festival editions** in co-operation with the [City Library of Linz](#). The anniversary collection curated by filmfriend is dedicated to guests of the Tribute section like Angeliki Papoulia, Sergei Loznitsa, Nanouk Leopold & Stienette Bosklopper and includes more than 20 additional feature and documentary films. With **BROWNIAN MOVEMENT** (NL/DE/BE 2010; CE11) & **UNDER**

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THE SKIN (GB/US 2013; CE14) and others. From April 4 on <https://www.filmfriend.at/collections/crossing-europe> (free of charge for members of affiliated libraries).

CROSSING EUROPE-Collection on Flimmit

Flimmit presents handpicked films from 19 years of festival history. The selection includes feature and documentary films, audience favorites, and award-winning works. From 26 April on flimmit.at/crossing-europe/collections/26

YAAAS! Videoprojekt & YAAAS! Teaser

In cooperation with HBLA für künstlerische Gestaltung and HTL 1 Bau und Design Linz

Various video works that were made during the YAAAS! Video Project as well as films made in the framework of our cooperation with our partner school. crossingeurope.at | youtube.com/crossingeurope

Our recordings of 2023 festival events (Tribute Talk - Angeliki Papoulia, YAAAS! Close-Up, TALK: Challenges in the Film Business: Sustainability and Fairness and the Awards Ceremony as well as the 2023 Program Press Conference) will be available on our website soon.

CROSSING EUROPE GOES ... | FOLLOW-UP SCREENINGS

SPIELBODEN DORNBIRN

MURINA 4.5., 19:30

spielboden.at

AUSTRIAN FILM MUSEUM

MY NE ZGASNEMO, 18:00

SHIDNIY FRONT, 20:30

3.5., filmmuseum.at

SLASH 1/2

Films of the „Night Sight 2023“

4. – 6.5., Filmcasino Vienna

slashfilmfestival.com

KINO EBENSEE

SHE CHEF, 11.5., 18:00

MURINA, 11.5. & 12.5., 20:00

IRGENDWANN WIRST DU VERSTEHEN, 12.5., 18:00

kino-ebensee.at

AK Film of the month May

SHE CHEF, 12.5., 20:30, Movimiento Linz

moviemento.at

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INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL INNSBRUCK

BACHENNYA METELYKA

6. – 11.6.

iffi.at

KINO WIE NOCH NIE – FILMARCHIV AUSTRIA

Crossing Europe Local Artists 2023

Summer 2023, Augartenspitz, Vienna

filmarchiv.at

FESTIVAL DER NEUE HEIMATFILM

IRGENDWANN WIRST DU VERSTEHEN

23. – 27.8., Kino Freistadt

filmfestivalfreistadt.at

DAS KINO Salzburg

Selected festival films 2023

e.g. MURINA

Fall 2023

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