



**CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 24 – 29 April 2012 // [www.crossingEurope.at](http://www.crossingEurope.at)**

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## CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2012

*CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz opens on 24 April in the new hall Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter that has just opened and in the established festival cinemas Movimiento and City-Kino with four high quality Austrian premieres: the Israeli-German-Austrian documentary **SIX MILLION AND ONE** (D: David Fisher), the film adaptation of the classic novel **WUTHERING HEIGHTS** by the British Oscar winner Andrea Arnold, **CRULIC – DRUMUL SPRE DINCOLO / CRULIC – THE PATH TO BEYOND** by the Romanian Tribute guest Anca Damian, as as the opener for the program section **NIGHT SIGHT – HELL**, an apocalyptic thriller by the Swiss director Tim Fehlbaum. The Nightline on the opening evening starting at 10 pm features **CANDELILLA** (DE) and DJ-Team **MISCHGESCHICK** (AT).*

*A first preview of this year's festival program reveals several highlights of **the ninth edition of the CROSSING EUROPE FILM FESTIVAL LINZ // 24 – 29 April 2012.***

### The OPENING FILMS 2012

On **Tuesday, 24 April**, CROSSING EUROPE opens with **four outstanding films** that traditionally offer a **representative cross-section of the festival program**, once again underscoring the many rich facets of European filmmaking.

A central opening film is **SIX MILLION AND ONE** (IL/DE/AT 2011; D: David Fisher – Austrian premiere // Distribution in Austria: Thimfilm), which inaugurates the new hall Ursulinensaal as a festival location in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter newly opened in March. The **documentary relating to Upper Austrian contemporary history** celebrated its premiere at the Int. Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam. Following the stations of his father's concentration camp imprisonment in Upper Austria, the director David Fisher takes his siblings along on a journey to Austria (Mauthausen, Gusen and Gunskirchen). Together they follow the traces of their father's past, whereby what is unspoken and unspeakable comes to light. Humorous and very personal, **SIX MILLION AND ONE** is no "typical" film about the Holocaust. The film was made with support from the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria, Land of Culture Upper Austria, National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, and others.

*// David Fisher (Director & Producer), Irit Shimrat (Producer), Estee Fisher-Heim, Gideon Fisher and Ronel Fisher (protagonists) are present // Cinema start in Austria: 11 May 2012 //*

With the realistically raw screen adaptation **WUTHERING HEIGHTS** (GB 2011 – Austrian premiere // Austrian distribution: Filmladen) the British Oscar winner Andrea Arnold presents anything but a classical adaptation of the classic Brontë novel **WUTHERING HEIGHTS**. Shot in 1.33 format and premiered at the Venice Film Festival, Arnold's reticent vision of this bestselling novel is convincing as a "punk" realism experiment. The story of a desperate love in

the high moors of Yorkshire between the impoverished aristocrat Catherine and the founding Heathcliff has never been set in such overwhelming images before.

*// Andrea Arnold's (Director) presence is not confirmed yet // cinema start in Austria: summer 2012 //*

The opening film of NIGHT SIGHT, devoted to European genre cinema and curated by Markus Keuschnigg, is the apocalyptic thriller celebrated in Locarno, **HELL** (DE/CH 2011 – Austrian premiere // World Sales: Beta Cinema). In the prominently cast feature film debut by the Swiss director Tim Fehlbaum, Hannah Herzsprung, Angela Winkler, Lars Eidinger, Stipe Erceg and others battle to survive in a post-apocalyptic society in the midst of the German province.

*// Tim Fehlbaum (Director) and Markus Keuschnigg (Curator) are present //*

The idea of the festival is also manifest in the fourth opening film, because **CRULIC – DRUMUL SPRE DINCOLO / CRULIC – THE PATH TO BEYOND** (RO/PL 2011; D: Anca Damian – Austrian premiere // World Sales: Wide Management) as a so-called Animated Documentary skillfully conjoins the depiction of socio-political hot topics with artistic craft. This award-winning Animated Documentary tells the story of the Romanian Claudiu Crulic, who was wrongfully imprisoned in Poland in 2007. Numerous animation techniques are masterfully employed to depict Crulic's struggle with misguided authorities, and whose hunger strike ended tragically.

*// Anca Damian (Director) is present //*

## TRIBUTE & IT'S ANIMATED!

**CRULIC – DRUMUL SPRE DINCOLO / CRULIC – THE PATH TO BEYOND** (RO/PL 2011) is the third feature-length film by the Romanian director **Anca Damian**, to whom this year's **TRIBUTE** is dedicated, with three feature-length films and one short film. At the same time, this award-winning film that has already been successfully presented at numerous international festivals is also part of the new **focal point on European animated film** with the title **"IT'S ANIMATED!"**, presented this year for the first time. The program Special – curated by Wiktoria Pelzer – comprises three feature-length films and two short film programs, demonstrating the potential that animated film has for portraying and representing reality, thus also expanding the possibilities of documentation. Two "genres" are foregrounded here: "Animated Documentaries" (or "AniDoc") and "Animated Realities". The techniques are completely different in both genres, ranging from cartoon animation and stop-motion, all the way to rotoscoping.

## FIRST PROGRAM PREVIEW

Over the six days of the festival, from 24 to 29 April 2012, Festival Director Christine Dollhofer presents a total of **146** hand-picked European **feature films, documentaries and short films** from **43 countries** in **160 programs** – most of them Austrian premieres or even world premieres:

## COMPETITION EUROPEAN CINEMA

Again in 2012, the Competition European Cinema with **nine first or second feature films** brings remarkable **female figures** to the screen. Two of these memorable women struggle for survival in a world marked by social coldness and egotism, whereby the eponymous heroine in **LOUISE WIMMER** (FR 2011; D: Cyril Mennegun // world premiere:

Venice 2011) is saved in the end by the social network in France, whereas her Georgian counterpart in **MARILIVIT TETRI / SALT WHITE** (GE 2011; D: Ketí Machavariani) remains alone to the end – yet still strong and self-confident.

## **PANORAMA EUROPA**

In Panorama Europa **CROSSING EUROPE** shows numerous feature film and documentary highlights of the past festival season.

The feature films in the section **PANORAMA FICTION** compete in 2012 for the second time for the **NEW VISION AWARD powered by Silhouette**. All ten selected feature films are visually compelling. Especially outstanding are the current works by two eccentric directors: with **A TORINÓI LÓ/ THE TURIN HORSE** (HU/FR/CH/DE 2011) the Hungarian master Béla Tarr – with co-director Ágnes Hranitzky – presents an epic father-daughter story in black and white and purportedly also his final film at the same time. The images are no less impressive in the most recent directing work by the **CROSSING EUROPE** regular guest Bruno Dumont: **HORS SATAN / OUTSIDE SATAN** (FR 2011). The **PANORAMA DOCUMENTARY** brings together the most diverse surveys from Europe, which have one thing in common – the youthful urge to change one's own (life) world and not to resign oneself to situations that seem immutable at first glance. The protagonists of these documentaries could not be more different, urban skaters in the German Democratic Republic in **THIS AIN'T CALIFORNIA** (DE 2012; D: Marten Persiel) as well as today – **PUSHED** (DE 2011; D: Florian Schneider), young fierce Libyans in **LIBYA HURRA/FREE LYBIA** (AT 2012; D: Fritz Ofner – world premiere), who bring down a dictatorial regime, freedom-loving Estonians in their independent city-state in **UUS MAAILM / THE NEW WORLD** (EE 2011; D: Jaan Tootsen), or a young hearing-impaired German woman in **LOUISA** (DE 2011; D: Katharina Pethke), who takes up a battle against a society that ignores "otherness".

## **WORKING WORLDS (in cooperation with the Upper Austrian Chamber of Labor/Culture)**

As critical as ever is the title of this program section curated by Lina Dinkla: **LIVING OR STRIVING**. The five positions assembled here carry the audience away into the **world of mass workplaces of the 21st century**. Regardless of whether work is done literally at a conveyor belt or in front of a computer screen, our working world is dominated by a striving for optimization, efficiency and productivity. In the documentary **WORK HARD – PLAY HARD** (DE 2011) the director Carmen Losmann focuses on the completely abstract maximization of profit in corporations in her observation of interior architecture in large companies, where employees are stimulated in assessment centers to more "performance" and software is used for the surveillance of "human capital".

## **TRANSITION SPACES – NOWHERE PLACES (in cooperation with AFO-Upper Austrian Architecture Forum)**

Now for the third time, the curator Lotte Schreiber has put together a thematic program focusing on architecture, urbanism and the associated social structures. The four selected documentaries deal with **transitional spaces, waiting zones and ephemeral places**, telling of transit spaces of a special kind. These are places conceived exclusively for a temporary stay, which function, in the sense of the Foucaultian concept of heterotopia, according to their own rules. One of these places is the deportation prison Frambois in Geneva, into which the documentary **VOL SPÉCIAL / SPECIAL FLIGHT** (CH 2011) by Fernand Melgar provides a chilling insight.

## HfG Karlsruhe @ Crossing Europe

Following the Academy of Media Arts Cologne in 2010, in 2012 another German film school presents itself in Linz. In keeping with the motto "documentary film lasts longer than the country in which it was made", the exceptional German documentarist **Thomas Heise and his students** show new documentary films. Among them, the current film by Thomas Heise celebrates its Austrian premiere: **DIE LAGE / CONDITION** (DE 2012 // world premiere: Berlinale 2012) tells of the papal visit to Thüringen in September 2011 as a social state of exception with partly absurdly comical moments.

## AUSTRIAN SCREENINGS // LOCAL ARTISTS

For international festival guests, CROSSING EUROPE again offers **AUSTRIAN SCREENINGS**. Thanks to a cooperation with the DIAGONALE, nearly all the titles from the DIAGONALE can be viewed in the CROSSING EUROPE Video Library. Two titles will be additionally projected in the cinema: Umut Dag's feature film debut **KUMA** (AT/TR 2012; Austrian distribution: Filmladen) and the documentary **OUTING** (AT 2012; Austrian distribution: Stadtkino // Cinema start in: 27 April) by Sebastian Meise and Thomas Reider.

In the section **LOCAL ARTISTS** there are **55** selected film and video productions (including numerous world premieres) from Upper Austria to be seen. Another outstanding documentary relating to Austrian contemporary history is **DER HEIMWEHTRÄGER** (AT 2012 – world premiere) – a film portrait of the exile author Fritz Kalmar (1911-2008) by the Upper Austrian writer Erich Hackl and his daughter Libertad Hackl.

## FESTIVAL AWARDS

This year's Awards Presentation takes place on Saturday, 28 April, at 9:00 pm in the hall Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter; prizes will be awarded there with a total value of 22,000.- Euro:

**CROSSING EUROPE Award European Competition** // 10,000.- Euro

**NEW VISION AWARD powered by Silhouette** // 5,000.- Euro

**AUDIENCE AWARD** // 1,000.- Euro & Hotel Voucher sponsored by Park Inn by Radisson Linz – First Hotel Partner of CROSSING EUROPE

**CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist: 6,000.- Euro** // sponsored by the Federal Province of Upper Austria (4,000.- Euro) and Synchron Film, Video & Audio Bearbeitungs GmbH, Vienna (2,000.- Euro)

**CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist – Atelierpreis** // powered by Atelierhaus SALZAMT LINZ: Use of an atelier space for 12 months

**FEDEORA Awards CROSSING EUROPE for European Documentaries** // awarded in the two categories: documentary films by directors under the age of 33 and documentary films by directors over the age of 33.

## SCHEDULE PREVIEW

### PROGRAM PRESS CONFERENCES 2012

**Linz – 12 April 2012:** 10:00 am, Press Center in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter, 1st floor

**Vienna – 12 April 2012:** 4:00 pm, Austrian Film Museum

### PROGRAM STARTING 13 APRIL 2012

Festival newspaper and website [www.crossingEurope.at](http://www.crossingEurope.at) with the complete festival program // Start of ticket pre-sales through the phone number **Info-Hotline 0680 506 1 506**

### FESTIVAL OPENING 2012

Tuesday, **24 April 2012, beginning at 6:30 pm**, Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter – reception followed by the four opening films, shown in Ursulinensaal, Movimiento and City-Kino

### **AWARDS PRESENTATION 2012**

Saturday, **28 April 2012, 9:00 pm**, Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter; Moderation: Catherine Ann Berger

### **EU XXL FORUM 2012**

The **Expert Conference EU XXL FORUM** takes place again this year from **25 to 28 April**. Location: Upper Austrian Culture Quarter, Press Center, 1st floor, OK Platz 1, 4020 Linz

### **CROSSING EUROPE FestivalTV**

As in 2011, the FestivalTV will be broadcast daily from **25 to 29 April 2012 on DORF TV at 8:00 pm**. Festival reports can also be viewed on [www.crossingEurope.at/videos](http://www.crossingEurope.at/videos).

CROSSING EUROPE FestivalTV is a project of kino5 – Platform for Independent Filmmakers – in cooperation with DORF TV, the Student Union of the Art University Linz and the Art University Linz – Institute for Media, in conjunction with CROSSING EUROPE and with support from NISI MASA.

### **IMAGE MATERIAL & UPDATES**

**Film stills** are available for downloading at <http://www.crossingeurope.at/fotos> and **Logo/Festival motif** at <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos-artwork.html>.

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2012 can be found as ever on our website [www.crossingEurope.at](http://www.crossingEurope.at) or via Web 2.0 on [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#) and [Twitter](#). Official Twitter hashtag for CROSSING EUROPE is **#CrossingEurope**.

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