



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 25 – 30 April 2014 // www.crossingEurope.at

Festival Office: Graben 30, 4020 Linz, Austria, T +43.732.785 700, F +43.732.785 700 40

Media Service: Sabine Gebetsroither, gebetsroither@crossingEurope.at, T +43.732.785 700 10, M +43.664.245 77 60

Media Information – Linz, 3 February 2014

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2014

Announcing the first two of a total of five opening films (UNDER THE SKIN and TEXTA In & Out), presentation of the music focus (including the call for the networking event PICTURE your SOUND your PICTURE) and the new festival awards (SOCIAL AWARENESS Awards).

Record number of film entries

Work is progressing at high speed on the festival program for this year's CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz, which takes place from **Friday, 25 April** to **Wednesday, 30 April**. Now for the eleventh time already, the festival devotes its program to **contemporary, eccentric and socio-political auteur cinema from Europe**, focusing especially on the work by a young generation of directors, who will be awarded money and material prizes. During the six days of the festival, Festival Director Christine Dollhofer and her team present around **160 current European feature films, documentaries and short films**, largely Austrian premieres. This year a record-breaking number of films were entered for the festival – never before have so many films been entered for the European film sections as well as for the Local Artists program section. Over **1,000** productions have already been viewed, **200** of them film works by local filmmakers (2013: 150). It is especially gratifying that more than 40 music videos have been counted, which speaks for the attractiveness of the newly initiated music video awards.

The First Two Opening Films for 2014

As ever, CROSSING EUROPE opens again with five selected positions of European auteur cinema, presenting a representative cross-section of this year's festival program. Two opening films, which will be presented on Friday, 25 April, during the opening evening, have already been decided.

In the competition of the Venice Film Festival 2013, the British director **Jonathan Glazer** presented his long-awaited new film: **UNDER THE SKIN** (GB, US 2013), a dark science fiction road movie with the Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson in the leading role, celebrates its Austrian premiere in Linz on the opening evening.

Following ATTWENGER ADVENTURE (AT 2007) and ES MUSS WAS GEBEN (AT 2010), now for the third time an **Upper Austrian** music documentary premieres as opening film at CROSSING EUROPE. With **TEXTA In & Out** (AT 2014) the film and video-maker **Dieter Strauch** from Linz portrays one of the most successful Austrian hip hop formations on the occasion of their twentieth anniversary.

UNDER THE SKIN (GB, US 2013) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Jonathan Glazer, 107 min, program section: European Panorama Fiction

A lonely mysterious heroine (Scarlett Johansson), an alien in the skin of a femme fatale in search of a place in this world. Visually breathtaking, this hallucinatory sci-fi live-action film can also be interpreted as a parable of being alien/different, as questioning conventional codes and gender relations. The intense, mysterious score is also compelling. With sharp tones and atmospheric rumbling, the young British musician Mica Levi (who can be heard live with her formation TIRZAH & MICACHU during the Nightline on the opening evening) created a sonic cosmos that spellbinds the audience. UNDER THE SKIN is based on the award-winning novel of the same title by Michel Faber, and it is the third feature film by Jonathan Glazer (SEXY BEAST [UK, ES 2000], BIRTH [US, UK, DE 2004]), who is also internationally successful as a music video director.

// With Jonathan Glazer (director; invited) and Mica Levi (film music) present; Mica Levi will perform with her formation TIRZAH & MICACHU at the Nightline on the opening evening. //

TEXTA In & Out (AT 2014) – World Premiere

Director: Dieter Strauch, 77 min, program section: Local Artists

Director Dieter Strauch, energetic protagonist of the independent video and film scene of Linz, accompanied the renowned Linz hip hop formation TEXTA throughout 2013, which also marked the band's twentieth anniversary. Along with individual interviews, recording sessions and live recordings, the five artists also reveal their own mental states and private lives: crises within the band and male vanity, as well as taking a stand on socio-political issues or the band member Skero leaving. The texts performed by the musicians demonstrate what TEXTA – as a band from Linz, rapping in German – has stood for artistically and in content for more than two decades. TEXTA In & Out is a congenial film portrait of mature musicians, who continue to believe in the power of their rhymes and are not afraid of a realistic representation of musicians' lives.

The music documentary TEXTA In & Out is the third feature-length film that CROSSING EUROPE has presented by the director Dieter Strauch. The documentary LEBEN OHNE FASSADE (AT 2009) was shown in 2009 and the feature film LOVE SIGNS (AT 2010) in 2011 during the festival.

// With Dieter Strauch (director) and protagonists from the film present. //

MUSIC FOCUS at Crossing Europe

Music Video Award & Residency, Matinee TRAVERSING THE BALKANS, Music Documentaries and the Networking Event "PICTURE your SOUND your PICTURE"

In 2014 the festival is marked by the poles "film and music". As ever, **current European music documentaries** will be presented, as well as a number of European and Upper Austrian music videos. The last media information release [December 2013] included detailed information about the collaboration between CROSSING EUROPE and the CREATIVE REGION Linz & Upper Austria (www.creativeregion.org), which began in Spring 2013. This resulted in the two festival awards **CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO AWARD** and **CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO AWARD – RESIDENCY** (details in the following section). The **host institution** for the residency is the internationally renowned production company **COLONEL BLIMP** (www.colonelblimp.com) with headquarters in London. Representing the company, Nathan James Tettey (Head of Music Video) will be in Linz to present a selection of the company's work in a **music video program** and to take part in a **discussion event**.

A further highlight of this year's festival program is the **Matinee on Sunday, 27 April. TRAVERSING THE BALKANS** is a historical road movie with **silent film treasures**, created during a journey from Vienna to Belgrade. It is newly composed at each station with live music by the **experimental music duo "Rdeča Raketa"**. The program shown comprises a series of short films enabling a fictive traversing of the Balkans in the first decades of the twentieth century. The non-fiction films (including news from the war, amateur films, advertising films) revolve around the central historical event of that era – the First World War – without giving it too prominent a position. CROSSING EUROPE presents this film program with live music in cooperation with the [Film Archive Austria](#) (Karl Wratschko) and [Rdeča Raketa](#) (Maja Osojnik, Matija Schellander).

"**PICTURE your SOUND your PICTURE : Meet the Composers – Meet the Directors**" is the title of the networking event for Upper Austrian professionals and students from the fields of film/video, sound design, music and composition, which takes place this year for the first time. The aim on Wednesday, 30 April 2014, will be to bring together the creative potential of filmmakers and music-makers from the region. Participants in the event have an opportunity to present themselves and their work and then to make initial contacts in one-to-one meetings – with the goal of developing innovative film projects together. In addition, there will be short lectures relevant to the topic by speakers including Eva Jantschitsch alias "Gustav".

"PICTURE your SOUND your PICTURE" is organized by the [CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz](#) and the composers' association [ÖÖ Komponistenbund](#) in cooperation with [SKE austromechana](#) and [WKOÖ Film & Musikindustrie](#).

For **details about the event and to register:** www.crossingEurope.at/PySyP.

FESTIVAL AWARDS 2014

New Award Categories & a Record Amount of Prize Money

At this year's **CROSSING EUROPE Awards Presentation**, which takes place on Tuesday, **29 April 2014**, numerous money and material prizes will be awarded; for the first time, the prize money for the awards amounts to a remarkable **€ 31.000**.

As previously announced in the last media information release (December 2013), in 2014 for the first time, an expert jury of three will award the **CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO AWARD – RESIDENCY** with a value of **€ 6.000,-** in addition to the existing award (CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO AWARD [€ 1.500,-], which will be determined for the first time directly by audience votes).

There are also two further new festival awards, which were initiated by the former provincial government councilor Josef Ackerl: these two **SOCIAL AWARENESS AWARDS** – for documentary films from the program sections *Panorama Europa* (prize money: € 6.000,-) and *Local Artists* (prize money: € 5.000,-) – are to be awarded to films that particularly deal artistically with socio-political/social themes. The two award-winning films will also be screened again additionally on 3 June 2014, starting at 7:00 pm at central:neu in Linz.

Overview of Festival Awards 2014:

CROSSING EUROPE AWARD European Competition

// € 10.000,- powered by Linz Kultur & Land Oberösterreich / Kultur

CROSSING EUROPE AUDIENCE AWARD

// € 1.000,-

// Hotel voucher sponsored by Park Inn by Radisson Linz – First Hotel Partner of CROSSING EUROPE

FEDEORA AWARD for European Documentaries

// awarded by a jury of film critics from the FEDEORA association

CROSSING EUROPE SOCIAL AWARENESS AWARD for European Documentaries

- AWARD for the social relevance of a European documentary film –

// € 6.000,- powered by Land Oberösterreich / Soziales

CROSSING EUROPE AWARD Local Artist

// € 5.000,- powered by Land Oberösterreich / Kultur

// € 2.000,- voucher from the company Synchro Film, Video & Audio Bearbeitungs GmbH, Vienna

CROSSING EUROPE SOCIAL AWARENESS AWARD Local Artist

// € 5.000,- powered by Land Oberösterreich / Soziales

CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO AWARD

// € 1.500,- powered by CREATIVE REGION Linz & Upper Austria

CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO AWARD - RESIDENCY

// € 6.000,- powered by CREATIVE REGION Linz & Upper Austria

CROSSING EUROPE AWARD Local Artist Atelierpreis

// powered by Atelierhaus Salzamt der Stadt Linz

Further information on the festival awards can be found on the festival website:

www.crossingeurope.at/festival/awards

SAVE THE DATES

ACCREDITATION DEADLINE: 1 April 2014

PROGRAM PRESS CONFERENCES 2014

Linz – 10 April 2014: 10:00 am, OÖ. Presseclub/Press Center in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter, 1st Floor

Vienna – 10 April 2014: 4:00 pm, Austrian Film Museum

PROGRAM starting 11 APRIL 2014

Festival newspaper and website www.crossingEurope.at with the complete festival program

IMAGE MATERIAL, TRAILER & UPDATES

Image material, film stills & trailer: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos/>

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

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2014 is available, as ever, from our website

www.crossingEurope.at and through our social media channels [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#) and [Twitter](#).
