



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 23 – 28 April 2015 // www.crossingEurope.at/EN

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CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2015

Tribute Guest Sergei Loznitsa (UA), UniCredit Bank Austria as new bank sponsor for the festival, new additional festival award, and invitation to enter films.

SAVE THE DATE: 23 to 28 April 2015

For the **12th time**, the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz takes place from **Thursday, the 23rd, to Tuesday, the 28th April 2015**. Encouraged by the success of the last festival, the team around the festival director Christine Dollhofer is already working with the greatest concentration on the festival program and the program cooperations for CROSSING EUROPE 2015. Several hundred film entries from all over Europe have already reached the festival office, which means that the signal for the intensive **viewing and program arrangement phase** has already sounded.

In the coming year, CROSSING EUROPE, as the second largest international film festival in Austria, will again be entirely devoted to European auteur cinema. With a selection of around **180 hand-picked current socio-political films**, CROSSING EUROPE again seeks to arouse enthusiasm for unconventional cinema in Europe and to present these films for the first time in Austria.

As has meanwhile become a tradition, the **TRIBUTE Guest** is announced shortly before Christmas – in 2015 the festival devotes the TRIBUTE section to the Ukrainian-born and internationally celebrated director **Sergei Loznitsa**, who will personally present all of his 18 feature films and documentaries (1996-2015) in Linz. This means that his entire oeuvre will be screened for the first time as a whole in Austria.

There is also good news to report on partnerships: the **UniCredit Bank Austria** has agreed to become a **new bank sponsor** of the festival, and a **new award sponsor** for the LOCAL ARTISTS Competition has been found with the Tabakfabrik Linz.

The opportunity to **submit films** – for the European sections as well as for the LOCAL ARTISTS – is still open until 5 January 2015.

Here are all the updates on CROSSING EUROPE 2015 in detail:

Tribute 2015: Sergei Loznitsa

CROSSING EUROPE devotes the Tribute 2015 to the Ukrainian-born and internationally acclaimed director **Sergei Loznitsa** (*1964). His oeuvre comprises **18 feature films and documentaries** so far, which will be screened at CROSSING EUROPE in an **overview show in Austria** for the first time. Loznitsa, who was born in Belarus and grew up in Kiev, studied applied mathematics at the Polytechnic Institute Kiev, then worked as a scientist in the field of cybernetics and artificial intelligence. On the side, he also worked as a translator for Japanese. In 1991 he applied to

the renowned Russian state film academy VGIK in Moscow, and graduated from the academy with honors in 1997 in the fields of production and directing.

Loznitsa is considered an extremely multifaceted and productive director, who was already awarded prizes right from the beginning of his career and whose work was shown internationally at leading film festivals at a very early stage. His work includes short films, mid-length films and full-length films – all of them visually stunning and promising a cinematic experience of a very unusual kind. Loznitsa is also hard to categorize in terms of film concept as well: he has presented numerous documentaries – wholly in the tradition of Russian avant-garde documentaries – as well as exemplary feature films. The content of his work ranges from contemporary history themes (including the Second World War, the Soviet era) all the way to everyday observations and portrayals of life in Russia today.

The beginning of his (international) career that started in 1996 was marked by documentary-essayist works in black and white, largely dealing with the Russian province and its inhabitants. These include the seemingly somewhat random construction of a house in **SEGODNYA MY POSTROIM DOM / TODAY WE ARE GOING TO BUILD A HOUSE** (RU 1996; co-directed by Marat Magambetov; 28 min; short doc), the life of an aging village community near Smolensk in **ZHIZN, OSIN / LIFE, AUTUMN** (RU, DE: 1998; co-directed by Marat Magambetov; 34 min; short doc), the observation of people waiting/sleeping in a small train station in **POLUSTANOK / THE TRAIN STOP** (RU 2000; 25 min; short doc), and his first long documentary film **POSELENIJE / SETTLEMENT** (RU 2001; 80 min; doc), documenting a community of mentally ill people. In **PORTRET / PORTRAIT** (RU 2002; 28 min; short doc) he portrays people from the countryside. Two more documentary works could be considered as belonging to this thematic complex, both in color: **PEYZAZH / LANDSCAPE** (DE 2003; 60 min; doc) about a bus stop in a small Russian town, and **FABRIKA / FACTORY** (RU 2004; 30 min; short doc), describing a day in a factory.

In two further full-length documentaries Loznitsa works with found-footage in a virtuoso montage, including original archive material: with no voice-over or explanatory subtitles or intertitles, **BLOKADA / BLOCKADE** (RU 2005; 52min; doc) tells of the nearly 900-day blockade of Leningrad (today St. Petersburg) during the Second World War. For **PREDSTAVLENYE / REVUE** (DE, UA, RU 2009; 83 min; doc) he made use of Soviet (propaganda) newsreels from the 1950s and 1960s.

The director ends up in the cold – from a thematic perspective – with the two works **ARTEL** (RU 2006; 30 min; short doc) and **SEVERNY SVET / NORTHERN LIGHT** (FR, RU 2008; 52 min; doc), both dealing with everyday life in the arctic cold of the White Sea.

The year 2010 marked an artistic turning point for Sergei Loznitsa, as his first full-length feature film **SCHASTE MOE / MY JOY** (DE, UA, NL 2010; 127min; fic) – a dark horror trip of a truck driver through today's Russia – was immediately invited to the official competition of the Cannes International Film Festival. His second feature film, **V TUMANE / IN THE FOG** (DE, RU, LV, NL, BY 2012; 127min; fic), was shown in the competition in Cannes, where it was also awarded the film critics' prize by the FIPRESCI jury. **CROSSING EUROPE** presented the war drama set in the Second World War in 2013 in Linz.

Three shorter works followed until the next festival success: **O MILAGRE DE SANTO ANTÓNIO / THE MIRACLE OF SAINT ANTHONY** (PT 2012; 40min; short doc), **PISMO / THE LETTER** (RU, NL 2012; 20min; short doc) and **REFLECTIONS** (FR, BH, CH, IT, PT, DE 2014; 17min [directors cut]; short doc), part of the omnibus film **LES PONTS DE SARAJEVO / THE BRIDGES OF SARAJEVO**, produced for the memorial year 2014.

Immediately after Loznitsa's current documentary film **MAIDAN** (NL, UA 2014; 130min; doc) premiered in Cannes 2014 in the section "Official Selection Special Screenings", critics called it a definitive contemporary document of the political upheavals in the Ukraine in the winter of 2013/14. Loznitsa's experience in the fields of both documentary

and fiction, as well as the formal stringency of his work, were especially emphasized by film critics.

The director is bringing a completely new work to Linz as an Austrian premiere: **THE OLD JEWISH CEMETERY** (LV/NL 2014; 20min; short doc), about the old Jewish cemetery in Riga, which is used as a park today.

All 18 films listed will be shown in Linz as part of the Tribute 2015. Sergei Loznitsa will be present in person for the film discussions, and he will also hold a masterclass in the course of his stay. Further information on the Tribute guest can be found at: <http://loznitsa.com/>.

New Festival Sponsor for CROSSING EUROPE

Just in time for Christmas, Festival Director Christine Dollhofer is pleased to announce the new bank sponsor for CROSSING EUROPE: starting immediately, **UniCredit Bank Austria** will be supporting the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz.

New Additional Festival Prize for the LOCAL ARTISTS Competition

There is also a new cooperation at the local level to be announced: the Tabakfabrik Linz (<http://tabakfabrik-linz.at/>) has become a new prize sponsor for the competition in the program section LOCAL ARTISTS. The non-cash prize **CROSSING EUROPE Award – Local Artist Film Location Tabakfabrik powered by Tabakfabrik Linz** will be awarded for the first time in 2015. The prize-winner will be determined by the Local ARTISTS jury.

With this new festival prize the winner receives the opportunity to use the facilities in the Tabakfabrik Linz for a maximum of five days as a **location for shooting a film or video**. The Tabakfabrik Linz, the former tobacco factory constructed between 1929 and 1935 according to plans by Peter Behrens and Alexander Popp, is an industrial area protected as a historical monument with a high architectural quality. The fascinating location is an unusual film location in the middle of Linz and has become an established hot spot of the creative industries. Over three hundred creative producers on site and a well developed infrastructure form an ideal atmosphere for ambitious film projects.

// A list of all the festival awards can be found here: [//](http://www.crossingeurope.at/festival/awards.html?L=1)

CALL FOR FILMS

Once again, film- and video-makers are invited to enter their current work for the coming edition of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz. Deadline for entry for all program sections (European feature films, documentaries, and Local Artists) is, without exception, **5 January 2015**.

Conditions, regulations, information on the festival awards, and the **entry form** can be found on the festival website: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/program/film-entry-2015.html?L=1>.

IMAGE MATERIAL & UPDATES

Photos & Film Stills: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/index.php?id=30&L=1>

Festival Impressions: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/collections/>

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

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2015 is available, as always, on our website www.crossingEurope.at/EN and through our social media channels [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#) and [Twitter](#).