



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 20 – 25 April 2016 // www.crossingEurope.at

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CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 20 to 25 April 2016

The festival opening 2016 with six hand-picked film premieres and the facade projection in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter of CROSSING EUROPE | Art prize of the Energie AG prize-winner, selected film highlights from all program sections, an overview of this year's festival awards, and the start of the CROSSING EUROPE Schau.Fenster.Aktion and the GOLDEN BAG – display window competition.

Europe, what is your Destiny?

This year's CROSSING EUROPE festival trailer by the filmmaker Jola Wieczorek with the simple title [RENATE P.](#) ends with a question from off-camera: "Renate P., what is your destiny?" – Applied to the programmatic orientation of the festival, the question could also be: "Europe, what is your destiny?"

In recent months the "**Fortress Europe**" has been casting long shadows on our everyday life and posing ever greater challenges to civil society and political actors, which is mirrored thematically in numerous works of the film year 2015/16. In addition, the **economic constraints** that are increasing around the world are more clearly evident than ever in current filmmaking, as the pressure on individuals is growing throughout Europe in direct proportion to the gradual **disappearance of social solidarity**.

This year's festival program attempts again to spotlight **various nuances** of the (film) continent of Europe, with a broad thematic spectrum characterized by very different artistic styles and approaches – all in all a **highly varied film program** as an invitation to engage directly with European life worlds.

Festival Director Christine Dollhofer and her team thus present **160 outstanding, hand-picked feature films, documentaries and short films** from all over Europe – including several world premieres and internationally distinguished films presented for the first time in Austria. The program includes numerous film **highlights** from the past festival season (from A-festivals in Berlin, Cannes, Locarno, Venice or San Sebastian), cinephile delights, and selected local film work.

In 2016, now already for the **13th time**, the film festival **CROSSING EUROPE** shifts the provincial capital city of Linz to the center of the European festival map, arousing **enthusiasm for unconventional cinema** from Europe with hand-picked **current socio-political films** and numerous film guests present.

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The Festival Opening 2016

The festival begins this year in the afternoon of the opening day (20 April) with the **start of films from all program sections**. In the evening then, the opening of CROSSING EUROPE will be celebrated with **six selected premieres** showing a representative cross-section from this year's festival program and clearly illustrating the rich multifacetedness of European filmmaking. The hand-picked positions cinematically probe the current state of Europe and treat it in artistically different ways. Numerous film guests are expected for the festival opening in the Ursulinensaal, who will provide further information.

Outside, the premiere of the **outdoor installation CAPTIVE HORIZON** by Lukas Marxt (winner of the CROSSING EUROPE | Art Prize of the Energie AG 2016) can be experienced on the facade of the OK building in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter. The **Nightline** on the opening evening, starting at 10:00 pm in the OK | Mediendeck, features local forces: LIME CRUSH with Lo-Fi-Indie-Punk in the spirit of the north-western American underground and queer culture, and the DJ duo BAUER & FRAU from Linz.

The Opening Films 2016

DOBRA ŽENA / A GOOD WIFE (RS, BA, HR 2016) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Mirjana Karanović, 94 min, world sales: Films Boutique

Program Section: European Panorama Fiction; world premiere: Sundance Film Festival 2016

In her highly political feature film debut, in which she plays the leading role at the same time, a Balkan star shows an idyllic family situation on the outskirts of Belgrade crumbling in the face of two fateful discoveries. The protagonist leaves her familiar comfort zone, not entirely voluntarily, as wife, mother, and lover; to take responsibility, she has to make a serious decision.

// With Mirjana Karanović (director) and Jasmila Žbanić (producer) present. //

HEIMATLAND / WONDERLAND (CH,DE 2015) – Austrian premiere & CINEMA NEXT EUROPE-Opener

Directors: Lisa Blatter, Gregor Frei, Jan Gassmann, Benny Jaberg, Carmen Jaquier, Michael Krummenacher, Jonas Meier, Tobias Nölle, Lionel Rupp, Mike Scheiwiller, 99 min, world sales: Wide Management

Program sections: Competition Fiction & CINEMA NEXT EUROPE; world premiere: Int. Film Festival Locarno 2015

In this acclaimed collective film from Switzerland, an ominous cloud of energy suddenly appears and threatens our peaceful neighboring country. Step by step, everyday life breaks down and the otherwise calm Swiss people lose their nerve, resulting in a brutal collapse of the society of solidarity. The end of this science fiction film brings a reminder of the disreputable history of Switzerland during the NS era – a warning for the development in the direction of a country marked by isolationism and xenophobia.

// With Stefan Eichenberger (producer), Jan Gassmann (director), Ivan Madeo (producer) and Lionel Rupp (director) present. //

JEDAN DAN U SARAJEVU / ONE DAY IN SARAJEVO (BA, AT 2015) – Austrian premiere

Director: Jasmila Žbanić, 60 min, film rights for Austria: www.nk-projects.com

Program section: European Panorama Documentary; world premiere: Sarajevo Film Festival 2015

The day the heir to the throne died. 100 years later the world looks again to Sarajevo, and the Berlinale award-winner Jasmila Žbanić invites film professionals among her friends to join her in making a film documentation of the large-scale memorial celebrations surrounding the assassination of the Austrian heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand. The result is a critically ironic patchwork documentary film, in which contemporary European history is given just as much space as life in Bosnia, still marked by the last war.

// With Jasmila Žbanić (director & producer) and Nina Kusturica (producer) present. //

KRIGEN / A WAR (DK 2015) – Austrian premiere

Director: Tobias Lindholm, 115 min, distributor in Austria: Constantin Film Österreich

Program section: European Panorama Fiction; world premiere: Int. Film Festival Venice 2015

Nominated for this year's Academy Award (popularly known as Oscar) in the category "Best Foreign Language Film" and featuring the Danish TV star Pilou Asbaek, this anti-war film from Denmark meticulously probes the narrow line between heroism and war crimes. War cries are not to be heard in the film, but it is all the more about the meaningfulness of the military interventions of European countries in geopolitical crisis regions and the question of the value of a human life.

// Tobias Lindholm (director) invited. // Cinema release in Austria: 22 April 2016 //

MALLORY (CZ 2015) – Austrian premiere & Tribute-Opener

Director: Helena Třeštíková, 101 min, world sales: negativ film

Program section: Tribute; world premiere: Karlovy Vary Int. Film Festival 2015

From welfare case to street worker – in this documentary long-term study on a successful battle against bureaucracy and fate, Třeštíková accompanies the eponymous protagonist and her struggle to achieve a life in dignity for over ten years. The two women became acquainted during filming a cycle with the title "Women and Drugs" in 2002. Mallory left a lasting impression at the time – despite all the hurdles, she managed to overcome drug addiction, homelessness, and harassment from bureaucracy and ultimately found her feet as a social worker.

// With Helena Třeštíková (director) present. // Details on this year's Tribute can be found [HERE](#). //

MEIN NAME IST. ICH BIN. (AT 2016) – world premiere

Directors: Claudia Dworschak, die.fisch.die, Leonie Reese, Sarah Schnauer, 51 min

Program section: Local Artists

MEIN NAME IST. ICH BIN. is a joint documentary film made by seven asylum-seekers living in Neuhofen/Krems together with the production team. This is an honest and unsentimental portrait of a new start in a foreign land that is not always simple. Everything revolves around the stories recorded by Karim, Krishan, Mahdi, Mohammad Shah, Naqibullah, Reka and Sadat – in other words, the stories that carry the film.

// With Claudia Dworschak, die.fisch.die, Leonie Reese, Sarah Schnauer (all directors), Karim, Krishan, Mahdi, Mohammad Shah, Naqibullah, Reka, Sadat (protagonists) present //

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First Program Preview

On six festival days, from **20 to 25 April 2016**, festival director Christine Dollhofer presents **160** hand-picked European feature films, documentaries and short films from **34** countries in roughly **180** programs – including a number of world premieres and internationally distinguished films presented for the first time in Austria.

Details and the first film info for the program sections **TRIBUTE 2016** – which is devoted to the renowned Czech documentary film director Helena Třeštíková – and the young talents section **CINEMA NEXT EUROPE** have already been published and can be found [HERE](#) on our website. The following is now a **first compilation** of selected film highlights:

Competition Fiction

Eleven film discoveries are offered this year in this section, ten feature film debuts and a second feature film. They all deal with European realities of life of mostly young people.

Coming of age the hard way is the experience of the protagonist in **KEEPER** (BE, CH, FR 2015; D: Guillaume Senez). In this debut film, which premiered in Locarno in 2015, an unplanned pregnancy puts passionate teenage love to the test. One of the main roles is brilliantly played by Berlinale Shooting Star 2016 Kacey Mottet Klein, who is already familiar to the festival audience in Linz from the films by the Swiss star director Ursula Meier. Another competition film is the opening film **HEIMATLAND / WONDERLAND** (CH, DE 2015) – see the section on the festival opening.

// With Kacey Mottet Klein (actor) and Gregor Frei (director), Jan Gassmann (director), Ivan Madeo (producer) and Lionel Rupp (director) present. //

Competition Documentary

A total of **ten documentary works** comprise this competition section, which spans a thematically and geographically broad range all through Europe.

Fleeing, currently the number 1 topic, is treated in **LES SAUTEURS / THOSE WHO JUMP** (DK 2016; D: Moritz Siebert, Estephan Wagner, Abou Bakar Sidibé; world premiere: Berlinale Forum 2016) from the perspective of a “victim”; the protagonist of the film documents his grueling reality of life in the Spanish enclave Melilla at the edge of an isolated EU.

EUROPE, SHE LOVES (CH, DE 2016; world premiere: Berlinale Panorama 2016) is a semi-documentary approach to the sensibilities of the generation between 20 and 30 and interweaves the story of four couples in four cities in Europe. Director Jan Gassmann is also a member of the directors' collective of the opening film **HEIMATLAND / WONDERLAND**.

// With Moritz Siebert and Estephan Wagner (both directors), Jan Gassmann (director) present. //

European Panorama Fiction

This section **brings together current feature films** from all over Europe. The multifacetedness of European filmmaking is fully evident in the **16** film positions of this section – including names that are by no means unfamiliar in Linz, such as the **CROSSING EUROPE** award-winner 2006, Isabelle Stever, who focuses in her film **DAS WETTER IN GESCHLOSSENEN RÄUMEN / THE WEATHER INSIDE** (DE 2015), which premiered at the Zürich Int. Film Festival, on the activities of the aid and non-profit organizations in war zone, with a brilliant Maria Furtwängler as a disillusioned UNHCR fund-raiser.

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Another German regular is Jan Krüger, who was represented in the festival program with UNTERWEGS / EN ROUTE in 2004 and in 2009 with RÜCKENWIND / LIGHT GRADIENT. This year he returns to Linz with the world premiere of his current film, the triangular relationship story **DIE GESCHWISTER / BROTHER AND SISTER** (DE 2016).

Lucile Hadžihalilović was represented in Linz in 2006 with the Wedekind adaptation INNOCENCE, in **EVOLUTION** (FR, ES, BE 2015; world premiere: San Sebastián 2015) she whisks the audience away to a mysterious island colony populated only by women and boys.

A strong female figure fighting against fate is also found in the film by the director duo Tomáš Weinreb and Petr Kazda: here the eponymous leading figure in **JÁ, OLGA HEPNAROVÁ / I, OLGA HEPNAROVA** (CZ, PL, SK, FR 2016; world premiere: Berlinale Panorama 2016) strikes out with a deadly liberating blow.

// With Isabelle Stever (director), Jan Krüger (director) & film team, Tomáš Weinreb and Petr Kazda (directors) present. //

European Panorama Documentary

11 feature-length documentary films were selected for this section; what is remarkable here is the **tremendous scope** – thematic, geographical and artistic. In addition to Jasmila Žbanić, who has already been mentioned, there are more names to discover, which are not unknown in Linz: The acclaimed French director Claire Simon was already represented with two films at CROSSING EUROPE in 2014, and now she presents her film **LE BOIS DONT LES RÊVES SONT FAITS / THE WOODS DREAMS ARE MADE OF** (FR, CH 2015), which premiered in Locarno in 2015, that is devoted to the Bois de Vincennes, an island in the urban jungle, a place where cares can be forgotten for a moment, where people can rest and enjoy themselves, play and dream.

Erik Gandini is a further CROSSING EUROPE award-winner, who was distinguished in 2010 in Linz for his documentary film VIDEOCRACY; now he returns with **THE SWEDISH THEORY OF LOVE** (SE, NO, DK 2015; world premiere: CPH:DOX 2015), a multi-layered analysis of the Swedish model society and its dark sides.

// Claire Simon (director) and Erik Gandini (director) invited as guests. //

Working Worlds

Now for the 13th time, this section illuminates European working worlds – in cooperation with the Upper Austrian Chamber of Labor/Culture – and realities in the era of globalization and economic crises. This year the series, curated for the first time by Katharina Riedler, revolves around **life goals and (job) training**. The five selected works (four documentary films and a short film) thus take a look at the (professional) future perspectives of young people in Europe.

One of these is the documentary **DRIFTER** (HU, DE 2014; D: Gábor Hörcher), in which the 18-year-old Ricsi risks everything for his dream of becoming a rally driver – and even gives up mechanic school.

// Gábor Hörcher (director) invited as guest //

Architecture & Society: European Communities – Village Communes in the Mirror of Europe

Now for the seventh time, CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz, in cooperation with afo Architecture Forum Upper Austria, presents the program section “Architecture and Society”, curated by Lotte Schreiber. This year the program explores **fundamental issues of living together in Europe**. In the mirror of current socio-political realities, the four selected works provide insights into very different European small communities.

Mika Taanila, who is not only well known as a director from the field of classical documentary films, from also from the avant-garde and visual arts field, and Jussi Eerola follow the life of a Finnish village community that is confronted with the constantly growing construction of the first nuclear power plant in Europe since Chernobyl in their documentary long-term study **ATOMIN PALUU / RETURN OF THE ATOM** (FI, DE 2015; world premiere: Toronto Int. Film Festival 2015).

Night Sight

Now for the ninth time, the film journalist and festival organizer Markus Keuschnigg curates the NIGHT SIGHT at CROSSING EUROPE, and presents again this year four extraordinary feature films and a mini-series – all of them from the genre of the “**fantastic film**”. The curator wholeheartedly promises the audience: “When the world comes unhinged, when old ghosts are at large, when borders are built up and not torn down, in other words when all of that is present at the beginning of the 21st century as ultima ratio, then it is good to give in to madness.”

And who else could fulfill the aspirations of this NIGHT SIGHT, if not the Spanish enfant terrible director Alex de la Iglesia, who already delighted the Linz audience in 2014 with LAS BRUJAS DE ZUGARRAMURDI / WITCHING & BITCHING: **MI GRAN NOCHE / MY BIG NIGHT** (ES 2015) – which premiered last September at the Toronto Int. Film Festival, is an unusually gaudy and simultaneously bitter satire of the Spanish entertainment industry.

A further highlight is sure to be the Austrian premiere of **CÓRKI DANCINGU / THE LURE** (PL 2015; international premiere: Sundance Film Festival 2016) by Agnieszka Smoczyńska: In this garish retro-disco-horror-musical from Poland, two mermaids hungry for life shake up the Warsaw night life of the 1980s. Almost overnight, the two become the stars in a night club, but the situation intensifies with the appearance of a love interest in the form of the bassist of the in-house band. As with Hans Christian Andersen’s little mermaid, in the end the question arises – but bloody this time – of which price must be paid for “becoming human”.

// Agnieszka Smoczyńska (director) invited. //

Local Artists

In this section there are **64 selected film and video productions** from Upper Austria or with a connection to Upper Austria to be experienced. This includes a music video program again, in which **15 local music videos** can be seen, which are competing for the coveted CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO Audience Award. It is especially gratifying this year that there are many **world premieres** again in the LOCAL ARTISTS section. One of them – along with the opening film MEIN NAME IST. ICH BIN. – is the debut film **UNTEN** (AT 2016; D: Djordje Čenić and Hermann Peseckas). Starting from Čenić’s own biography as a “Yugo-kid” in Austria, he sets out on a filmic journey through time, which begins in the mid-seventies in the Yugoslavian “guest worker milieu” in Linz and leads him to his original home town, which was destroyed by war, in today’s Croatia. Family photos, old video

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recordings and interviews illustrate inner turmoil of those forced to leave their homeland in search of a better life. The balancing act between "above" (Austria) and "below" (ex-Yugoslavia) exemplifies generations of guest workers.

// With Djordje Čenić and Hermann Peseckas (directors) present. //

Festival Awards 2016

During this year's **CROSSING EUROPE Awards Presentation**, which takes place on Sunday, **24 April 2016**, numerous money and material prizes will be awarded. The total of the **money prizes** amounts to the proud sum of **€ 26.500,-**, in addition to which there are also further material prizes. As a new prize donor for 2016 we welcome the [gfk – Gesellschaft für Kulturpolitik OÖ](#), which will cover the **CROSSING EUROPE Social Awareness Award - Best Documentary**.

CROSSING EUROPE Competition - Fiction

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Best Fiction Film
€ 10.000,- powered by [Linz Kultur & Land Oberösterreich / Kultur](#)

CROSSING EUROPE Audience Award - Best Fiction Film
€ 1.000,- powered by [Crossing Europe](#)
& material prizes, donated by [ray film magazine](#) & [PARK INN](#) by [Radisson Linz – First Hotel](#) Partner

CROSSING EUROPE Competition - Documentary

CROSSING EUROPE Social Awareness Award - Best Documentary
- AWARD for the social relevance of a European documentary film –
€ 5.000,- powered by [gfk-Gesellschaft für Kulturpolitik OÖ](#)

CROSSING EUROPE Competition – Local Artist

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Local Artist
€ 5.000,- powered by [Land Oberösterreich / Kultur](#)

CROSSING EUROPE Social Awareness Award - Local Artist
€ 4.000,- powered by [Kinder- und Jugendhilfe OÖ](#)

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

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Local Artist Atelierpreis
powered by [Atelierhaus Salzamt der Stadt Linz](#)

CROSSING EUROPE Schau.Fenster.Aktion & GOLDEN BAG Competition 2016

CROSSING EUROPE invites all Linz business in 2016 to take part in the **CROSSING EUROPE Schau.Fenster.Aktion**. The third **GOLDEN BAG** competition takes place during this action under

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the motto “**CROSSING EUROPE - Schau.Fenster.Europa**”. No limits are set to the creativity and originality of how this motto is presented. All CROSSING EUROPE promotional material is made available for decorating display windows. Numerous material prizes await all the participating businesses and everyone who takes part in voting.

Registration deadline is 16 March 2016! All **details & prizes, participation rules** and **registration forms** are available from www.crossingEurope.at/goldenbag2016. Lisa Brandstötter will be happy to answer any questions: 0732/785700-0 or brandstoetter@crossingeurope.at.

UPCOMING DATES

Accreditation deadline: **18 March 2016** (*please address accreditation requests to guests@crossingEurope.at*)
Program press conferences Linz & Vienna: **6 April 2016**
Program release party Linz: **7 April 2016**
Festival dates: Wednesday, **20** to Monday, **25 April 2016**

IMAGE MATERIAL & UPDATES

Photos & film stills: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos/>
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 2016 can be found as always on our website www.crossingEurope.at and our social media channels [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).