

15 Years! CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Tribute 2018 & A First Opening Film

Film selection finale! Festival Director Christine Dollhofer and her team are currently setting the **course for the program** for the **anniversary edition** of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz, which goes into the **15th round** from **25 to 30 April 2018**. This year the festival still holds true to its festival credo as an independent contemporary cultural event: since 2004 CROSSING EUROPE has been devoted to the idea of a low-threshold presentation of a hand-picked selection of **sophisticated European filmmaking**, consisting of about **160** feature films and documentaries, and of offering the audience an opportunity for a direct exchange with the filmmakers present from all over Europe.

Now that the intensive viewing phase for the coming **anniversary edition** – 15 Years! CROSSING EUROPE – is almost finished, it is time for the **concrete arrangement of the program** in accord with all our cooperation partners and the invited filmmakers.

Over the last months, roughly **900 European productions** have been viewed, of which about **150** film works are from local filmmakers alone, who followed the invitation to submit their work for the section LOCAL ARTISTS. In total we are delighted to state that this year's submissions are impressive, not only in terms of quality but also quantity. The CROSSING EUROPE audience can look forward to strong festival edition as well as to numerous exciting new works by past festival guests. Once again, CROSSING EUROPE sees itself as a forum for socio-politically aware, artistic and eccentric filmmaking.

Following the announcement in December of this year's **Spotlight** – devoted to the internationally acclaimed producer [Ada Solomon](#) from Romania – and the education program [SCHOOL @ CROSSING EUROPE](#), today we announce further **program highlights** for the 15th edition of CROSSING EUROPE: this year's Tribute guest is the Italian director [Edoardo Winspeare](#), and with [THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT](#) one of the five opening premieres for the Festival Opening 2018 is already fixed.

Tribute 2018: Edoardo Winspeare (IT)

The decade at the beginning of the 1980s must be regarded as a significant break in Italian film. Dubbing trimmed to standard language increasingly gave way to direct sound. Viewers were suddenly confronted with a multitude of language variations, and marginalized regions became interesting for the screen. Sicily and Naples started the trend, Apulia followed in the 90s. While Sergio Rubini immortalized the region around Bari in film, Edoardo Winspeare shot his first feature film in 1996 in the micro-region of Salento in the extreme south-east. Since then he has located almost all his films in the vicinity of Lecce. (Markus Vorauer, film scholar)

CROSSING EUROPE devotes this year's **TRIBUTE** to the Italian director **Edoardo Winspeare**, an **auteur filmmaker** par excellence. Through decades of intense engagement with his home region, the social, political and economic changes and the cultural shifts in Apulia, he is an important representative of so-called **"neo neo-realism"** cinema.

Edoardo Winspeare was born in **1965** in Klagenfurt, Austria, but since his earliest childhood he has lived in Salento in the south of Italy. He began his career in film as an assistant editor in New York; in 1988 he was accepted at the University of Film and Television in Munich, which also co-produced his feature film debut **PIZZICATA**. In the course of his nearly 30-year career, Winspeare has created **about 40 works**. In addition to the six feature films, these also include documentaries, short films and advertising films. In 1992 he co-founded the band **Officina Zoé**, which has been influential in reanimating the traditional rhythms and dances (like Pizzica and Tarantella) of Salento and has also provided music for Winspeare's films. He also organizes cultural festivals in his home region and is actively involved in the protection of the regional landscape.

For the coming festival edition, a **presentation of his six feature films** is planned in conjunction with the TRIBUTE section, including his current film LA VITA IN COMUNE, which celebrated its world premiere at the Venice International Film Festival in 2017. Edoardo Winspeare will present his films in Linz **in person** – accompanied by the leading actress from his last two films, Celeste Casciaro – and will also offer insights into his mode of working and his creative output during a **"Director's Talk"**.

PIZZICATA (IT, DE 1996), 91 min.

Edoardo Winspeare's debut film **PIZZICATA** is a love story between an Italo-American pilot from the US army, who crashes in Salento in 1943, and one of the three daughters of a farmer who gives him shelter. It received numerous awards and was shown in cinemas internationally.

SANGUE VIVO / LIVE BLOOD (IT 2000), 95 min.

His second feature film, **SANGUE VIVO**, also garnered numerous awards at international festivals and tells of the love-hate relationship between two brothers with a fatal end. Here again, the director locates the plot in the region around Lecce. His individual artistic signature (such as the real setting and the use of amateur actors speaking the local dialect) is also clearly evident here.

IL MIRACOLO / THE MIRACLE (IT 2003), 93 min.

IL MIRACOLO celebrated its world premiere at the Venice International Film Festival and was distinguished with two awards. The film centers around a 12-year-old boy, whose alleged abilities as miraculous healer are commercially exploited by his own parents.

GALANTUOMINI / BRAVE MEN (IT 2008), 100 min.

In **GALANTUOMINI**, which premiered at the Rome Film Festival, Winspeare takes up the theme of the rise of the mafia – Sacra Corona Unita' – in Apulia in the 1980s, creating a melodrama against the background of organized crime and corruption.

IN GRAZIA DI DIO / QUIET BLISS (IT 2014), 127 min. – Austrian Premiere CROSSING EUROPE 2015

IN GRAZIA DI DIO (World Premiere: Berlinale Panorama) deals with four women who are not willing to submit to the dominant power of the global economy. Self-empowered by tolerance, solidarity, and self-reliance, they build a new existence together.

CROSSING EUROPE

filmfestival linz // 25 - 30 april 2018

LA VITA IN COMUNE / THE ARK OF DISPERATA (IT 2017), 110 min. – Austrian Premiere

With **LA VITA IN COMUNE** Winspeare was invited again to the Venice International Film Festival. This time he chooses the genre of comedy to pose the feeling of life in Southern Italy as a counter-strategy to turbo-capitalism.

// The Tribute 2018 is conducted in cooperation with the [Istituto Italiano di Cultura Vienna](#) and with kind support from [Istituto Luce Cinecittà](#). // The selected films will also be shown with Edoardo Winspeare present and in cooperation with [Stadtkino Wien](#) from **Monday, 30 April to Thursday, 3 May** in the cinema Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus for the audience in Vienna as well. //



Announcement of the First Opening Film: The European Grandma Project

In keeping with tradition, CROSSING EUROPE also opens this year with a total of five works representing the artistic and thematic diversity of the festival program and kicking off this anniversary edition with an invitation to a fascinating filmic survey of Europe. Today we are happy to announce the first of this year's opening night premieres.

THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT (AT, IL, GB, IS, IT, TR, BG, GR, RU 2018) - World premiere

Directors: Alenka Maly, Hadas Neuman, Fleur Nieddu, Anna Ólafsdóttir, Giorgia Polizzi, Berke Soyuer, Desislava Tsoneva, Maria Tzika, Ekaterina Volkova

Program Section: Local Artists; length: 80 min.; www.european-grandma-project.eu/

Alenka Maly, film director and actress from Linz, took her own intensive "conversation relationship" with her grandmother as the starting point for the realization of the European **Oral History film project** THE EUROPEAN GRANDMA PROJECT. With the motto "Grandmothers telling their versions of European history", in 2015 she launched a European-wide call and found **eight like-minded filmmakers**, who created **portraits of their grandmothers** in parallel to one another in Israel, Greece, Italy, Iceland, Bulgaria, Russia, England, Turkey and Austria. These women, born in the 20s and early 30s of the last century, tell their filmmaking granddaughters about war, political upheavals, love, and everyday life in their time in Europe. Almost all the grandmothers are over ninety years old; they recall anecdotes, love stories, and terrible tragedies as they go about their everyday activities, have their hair done, or simply rest – and all of that with captivating openness and subtle humor.

Alenka Maly and her colleagues have succeeded in capturing an **authentic panorama of European history** on film and creating a small cinematic memorial for a group of strong women, which offers an insight into the dark chapters of European history of the 20th century for the generations born later.

// The film will be presented during the festival opening on 25 April with the nine filmmakers Alenka Maly (AT), Hadas Neuman (IL), Fleur Nieddu (GB), Anna Ólafsdóttir (IS), Giorgia Polizzi (IT), Berke Soyuer (TR), Desislava Tsoneva (GB), Maria Tzika (GR), Ekaterina Volkova (RU) present. //

Director's Statement Alenka Maly, January 2018

When I asked my grandmother about her youth, like in the cinema the light dimmed, the curtain went up, and we spent hours immersed in the war and in unimaginable abysses, but also in stories of solidarity and courage.



CROSSING EUROPE

filmfestival linz // 25 - 30 april 2018

She connected me with the people of her time; some things I finally understood and drew conclusions about the circumstances today. I wanted to share my enthusiasm about this gift with someone else, who also knows what it is like when they go back and turn on their light and leave their information for posterity with such passion. "All over the world there are probably two people sitting together just like us," that was the fleeting thought that led to this project. I think I wanted to lend my grandma to the world, and I wished that other filmmakers would lend me theirs. In 2015 we started looking for them, and now, how lucky we are to have cinema time with all of nine grandmas.

Upcoming Dates

Deadline for accreditation: **22 March 2018**
Program press conferences Linz & Vienna: **11 April 2018**
Festival dates 2018: **Wednesday, 25 to Monday, 30 April 2018**

Image material & Updates

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 2018 can be found as ever on our website www.crossingEurope.at/en and through our social media channels [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).