

## 15 Years! CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Media Information #2/18, 20 February 2018

### Festival Trailer 2018, "Architecture and Society" & Cooperation with AEC

Since 2004 the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz every year in April has devoted its program to **contemporary and socio-political auteur cinema** from Europe. Again in 2018 – within the framework of the anniversary edition (15 Years!) – CROSSING EUROPE offers about 160 hand-picked European feature films and documentaries during the six days of the festival from 25 to 30 April.

In 2018 Festival Director Christine Dollhofer and her team aspire again to accommodate the expectations of a **professional audience** and both the **transregional and local cinema audience** (2017: 23.000 visitors) and to open up a **vibrant space** for contemporary, sometimes also uncomfortable or artistically eccentric, socio-political auteur cinema from Europe.

An important pillar of the success of past festival years has been the continuously cultivated **program partnerships** at both a national and an international level. To represent them, today we present two cooperations with established Linz cultural institutions and the joint contents for 2018: the film series **Architecture and Society** – in cooperation with **afo Architecture Forum Upper Austria** – brings together a total of four film programs on the theme of SPACE, POWER, CONTROL, and now for the second time, CROSSING EUROPE visits the **AEC-Ars Electronica Center**, to present works at the intersection of film/media art.

In addition, CROSSING EUROPE is taking it up a notch in terms of **festival promotion** at this time of year. The CROSSING EUROPE tram (powered by [Linz AG](#)), affectionately known as the "CROSSING-bim", is already running, and soon our **festival trailer** – INSIDE 521, made by Michael Wirthig – will be shown in selected program cinemas throughout Austria.

### ARCHITECTURE and SOCIETY: Space, Power, Control in Cooperation with afo Architecture Forum Upper Austria

The series ARCHITECTURE AND SOCIETY returns this year, now already for the ninth time, in cooperation again with the [afo Architecture Forum Upper Austria](#). Under this year's theme SPACE, POWER, CONTROL, four documentaries and two short films illuminate the varying interplay of space and power, or more precisely, architectural spaces and pared territories, demonstrating to us different political, social and economic power relations.

The architectural self-presentation of the totalitarian regimes of National Socialism and Fascism still marks countless cities and regions in Europe today. Benito Mussolini's obsession with power, for instance, is reflected in the buildings of rationalist modernism, which can be found throughout Italy. One of them, the "Corte d'Assise", the Court of Justice in Milan, is the setting of the award-winning documentary film **LA CONVOCAZIONE** by Enrico Maisto, which allows a fascinating insight into a jury selection procedure. The short film before it in the program, **DUE** by Riccardo Giacconi, focuses on the district of "Milano Due", which was built in the 1970s and was Silvio Berlusconi's first major investment project.



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Siegfried Ressel succeeds in sensitively approaching the crime scene of the concentration camp Buchenwald with **DER MENSCH IST EIN SCHÖNER GEDANKE. VOLKHARD KNIGGE UND BUCHENWALD**. Introduced by peaceful shots of building fragments and the dry descriptions of them, the conversations with Volkhard Knigge, director of the memorial site foundation, are riveting, as he reflects on this site of remembrance.

The power of media is the theme of **LETZTES JAHR IN UTOPIA** by Jana Keuchel & Katharina Knust. The film reconstructs a media-staged group experiment on the site of events at the time, thus opening up a look at the power structures in the background.

In the midst of Siberian Taiga is the village of **BRAGUINO**, setting of the documentary film of the same name by Clément Cogitore. It poetically tells of two feuding family clans, whose properties are separated by a fence, capturing a horrifying moment of the failure of civilization. Power structures articulated through the control of space is the theme of the eponymous short film **CLEANING SCHAERBEEK** by Farah Kassem, which is shown before **BRAGUINO**.

## Overview of Films in this Section

**LA CONVOCAZIONE / THE CALL** (IT 2017), D: Enrico Maisto, 57 min.

**DUE / TWO** (IT, FR 2017), D: Riccardo Giacconi, 17 min.

**DER MENSCH IST EIN SCHÖNER GEDANKE. VOLKHARD KNIGGE UND BUCHENWALD / IT HAPPENED AND TOOK PLACE RIGHT HERE. VOLKHARD KNIGGE AND BUCHENWALD** (DE 2017), D: Siegfried Ressel, 85 min.

**LETZTES JAHR IN UTOPIA / LAST YEAR IN UTOPIA** (DE 2017), D: Jana Keuchel and Katharina Knust, 74 min.

**BRAGUINO** (FR, FI 2017), D: Clément Cogitore, 49 min.

**CLEANING SCHAERBEEK** (Lebanon, BE 2017), D: Farah Kassem, 19 min.

*// Several of the filmmakers will be present in person and will be available for audience discussions. //*

## CROSSING EUROPE @ AEC

With **two film screenings** CROSSING EUROPE is welcomed again this year by the renowned [AEC Ars Electronica Center](#), thus continuing the **successful collaboration** from last year in both space and content.

The World Wide Web has meanwhile lost its aura of being a catalyst for a radical renewal of our democracy. Instead, we find ourselves confronted with a development in the direction of a surveillance tool antithetical to democracy. The German director Sandra Trostel starts at exactly this point and places Europe's largest hacker association, the Chaos Computer Club (CCC) – winner of the Golden Nica of the Prix Ars Electronica in 2010 – at the center of her **documentary film ALL CREATURES WELCOME** (DE 2018), which celebrates its world premiere during CROSSING EUROPE @ AEC. In this film designed as an "adventure game" Trostel succeeds in getting rid of conventional hacker clichés and exploring "Planet Nerd". At the same time, it becomes clear how hacker culture faces the challenges of our times and can be an inspiration for possible social upheavals.

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In addition, DEEP SPACE 8K works again as a festival venue, thus enriching CROSSING EUROPE with a further 3D-capable screening venue. This means that selected experimental films – **DEEP SPACE EXPERIMENTAL LOCAL ARTISTS** – from the current Local Artists program can be presented again this year with wall and floor projections, promising physical cinema in the truest sense of the word.

## Dates CROSSING EUROPE @AEC

// **Saturday, 28 April, 3:00 pm:** Film screening, discussion & guided tour in the AEC – documentary film ALL CREATURES WELCOME (91 min.), seminar room

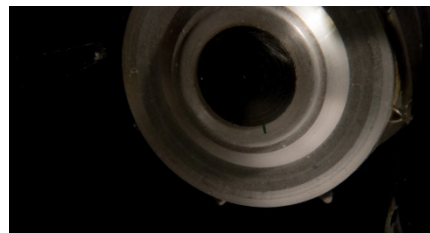
// **Sunday, 29 April, 3:00 pm:** Film screening: Deep Space Experimental Local Artists (50 min.), Deep Space 8K

## **Festival Trailer 2018: INSIDE 521** – online starting today [HERE](#)

Trailer by Michael Wirthig  
Sounddesign by Mathias Burghofer  
Support by Verena\* Henetmayr

CROSSING EUROPE is delighted to announce that the **new festival trailer** this year is by the Linz-based artist [Michael Wirthig](#), who has already presented numerous films over the years at CROSSING EUROPE (including Headcrash / CE 2017, Inside R-3 / CE 2012, Sunrich Orange / CE 2012 or Inside The Bag / CE 2013, Inside The Head / CE2016). Michael Wirthig (\*1978) studied **media design** at the Art University Linz and has dealt intensively since 2000 with artistic **photography and experimental film**. In this context he is especially interested in **deconstructing** objects, devices and plant structures and also in the **relationships between the inside and the outside world**, which is particularly evident in his current work INSIDE 521.

INSIDE 521 is a **study on the inside and the outside of an analog 16mm projector**. The external form of a Bolex 521 projector was dissolved to reveal its inner life. The content thus gains a new space and individual components are made visible. Photographing these details as single frames turns them into new cinematic moving images. At the sound level the focus is also on the relationship between inside and outside. For this, Mathias Burghofer composed an **experimental sound collage** on the strings of an open grand piano. The former analog film projector is thus shifted into focus and so becomes a digital cinema copy itself, in keeping with the 15th anniversary of CROSSING EUROPE.



The festival trailer 2018, INSIDE 521 (AT 2018, 1 min), will be used for **festival promotion** and shown in Austrian program cinemas. **Starting today** the new festival trailer can be seen online:

[www.crossingeurope.at/trailer2018](http://www.crossingeurope.at/trailer2018).





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## 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](http://www.crossingEurope.at) and through our social media channels [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).