

Resume

CROSSING  
EUROPE



crossing  
europe  
film festival  
linz //  
25 – 30 april  
2018



## 15 Years! CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Media Information #7/18, 1 May 2018

### Resume 2018

!!! Embargo: 12:00 noon !!!

## Anniversary Edition With Nearly 23,000 Visitors

Yesterday the anniversary edition (15 Years!) of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz came to a successful conclusion. Nearly **23,000 festival visitors** were counted over the past six days at 182 screenings and 21 supporting programs. This means that **the number of visitors remained almost the same as last year** (23.000). Although we suspected there might be fewer visitors this year - due to the warm and sunny weather - this was compensated by more offers (greater number of program positions) as well as the program element "CROSSING EUROPE +1", introduced for the first time this year, with six film screenings on 1 May for the Linz cinema audience. (The numbers for "CROSSING EUROPE +1 are projected).

Festival Director Christine Dollhofer and her team are especially happy that so many film-, art-, and music-loving festival guests chose to visit CROSSING EUROPE 2018. In the cinemas as well as at the numerous events of the supporting program and at the Nightline every evening, the enthusiasm of the audience was evident. In comparison with last year, nearly the same number of visitors was counted, which can be taken as affirmation of the work of the CROSSING EUROPE team in the past 15 years.

Over the past 15 years CROSSING EUROPE has matured into a cinephile festival, which unites filmmakers with a stance, who use diverse artistic means to bring European life worlds to the screen. CROSSING EUROPE stands for a film culture that is vibrant, open-minded, critical and diverse. And with CROSSING EUROPE 2018 another chapter in the success story of the festival has been written.

### Across Europe in Six Days

This year the cinematic map ranged from Iceland to Calabria and from the Atlantic to the Urals. With **182 handpicked feature films and documentaries** from more than 40 countries, Europe has been newly surveyed on the screen. Discoveries included current socio-political films, but also artistic-eccentric works, highlights from the past festival season and local filmmaking. About **140 film guests from all over Europe** were present for film discussions, talks and masterclasses, including many directors from past festivals, who enthusiastically contributed to the anniversary celebration with new works, turning this anniversary edition into a European family reunion of the film industry. Crossover projects at the intersection of film/media art and the musical Nightline with popular acts on six evenings supplemented and enriched the diverse line-up.

Tribute guest **Edoardo Winspeare** from Italy enchanted the audience with his neo-realist stories from the most southern region of Italy. The successful producer **Ada Solomon** – our Spotlight guest from Romania – presented highlights from her oeuvre and best practice models of border- & genre-crossing collaboration in the field of film. Political documentary films were also strongly represented this year, describing the current state of Europe.

Once again the **Upper Austrian Culture Quarter** displayed its best form as a **vibrant and open-minded festival center**. The perfect interplay of cinemas, exhibition spaces and, not least of all, the OK Platz as a meeting place enticed numerous visitors to linger.

**Summary:** CROSSING EUROPE presented itself again as a cineaste showcase of Europe, spotlighting the creative energy and the diversity of European filmmaking.

## Looking in the Direction of 2019

For almost 15 years, CROSSING EUROPE has been dedicated to the idea of **accessibly presenting sophisticated European filmmaking** in Linz and offers an opportunity to exchange directly with filmmakers present from all over Europe.

Since its founding in 2003 and the first festival edition in 2004, the festival has become established as a **fixed point on the European festival map and in the cultural calendar of the city of Linz**.

In 2019 as well, Festival Director Christine Dollhofer and her team will strive to bring together the **demands** of the professional industry audience and the local cinema audience, to offer six lively and inspiring festival days in the Upper Austrian capital. In order to reach this goal, CROSSING EUROPE is dependent on financial, organizational and ideal support from its funders, sponsors and partners.

The positive resonance on the part of the audience, the international guests and the media, however, cannot disguise the fact that the **financial situation of the festival remains continuously precarious**. A lack of valorization for years, one-year subsidy applications, and late assurances from funders confront the festival team every year with severe challenges and strain a meanwhile nationally and internationally established festival format. For this reason, stabilizing the festival funding has top priority in 2019, in order to ensure urgently needed planning security, to keep qualified festival personnel on a long-term basis, and also to maintain the conventional standards of a mid-sized cultural event.

In the hope of a reasonably solid financial foundation, we are already looking forward to the **16<sup>th</sup> festival edition** of CROSSING EUROPE and invite you now to join us in Linz from **25 to 30 April 2019!**

**!!! Embargo: 12:00 noon !!!**

## Image Material & Updates

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

Film Stills & Image Material: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/xp-presse/pressefotos.html>

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

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE are available as ever from our website [www.crossingeurope.at](http://www.crossingeurope.at) and our social media channels [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).