



## CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2019

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Opening Films, Closing Film, First Program Highlights, Nightline & VoD-Collection

### Onward Towards Europe!

In four weeks the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the CROSSING EUROPE film festival will take place in Linz from **April 25 to 30**. After months of intensive preparation, the entire film program for CROSSING EUROPE is now fixed, and will once again offer the audiences a cinematographic journey through Europe. Without giving too much away, the virtual trip through Europe will contain **around 150 feature films and documentaries**, from Iceland through **more than 40 countries** all across the continent to the Black Sea.

Thus the festival stays true to its creed and stands for a hand-picked film program that does justice to the variety of Europe and intends to show **a differentiated way of looking at the European state of affairs** – with cinephile positions that offer an image of Europe that is open to the world and looks toward the future, and intends to inspire to take a closer look at contemporary European cinema.

Before giving a compact preview of the coming festival edition, we want to call attention to the following **dates and events relevant to the festival**: both **program press conferences** will take place on Wednesday, April 10 – in Linz at 9:30 am (OÖ Presseclub) and in Vienna at 4 pm (Austrian Filmmuseum). One day later, April 11, the **ticket sale** will start (details [HERE](#)). As was the case last year, **May 1** will be the unofficial audience day of the festival. From 2 pm onward the City-Kino in Linz will show award winners and audience favorites in the “**Best-Of CROSSING EUROPE**” program. Besides that, a number of festival cooperation partners will offer **follow-up screenings** outside of Linz: among others, the Programm kino Wels, the /slasheinhalb at the Filmcasino in Vienna, and for the first time the Votiv Kino where CROSSING EUROPE will be a guest on seven evenings in May.

### Opening Films 2019

As is tradition, CROSSING EUROPE will open with **multiple films** this year that stand for the **great variety of contemporary European cinema**, and also offer a cross section of this year’s program.

The openings on April 25 are spearheaded by the Berlinale award winner (**SYSTEMSPRENGER**), will show a radicalized Denmark shaken by dystopia and political unrest (**DANMARKS SØNNER**), will be dedicated to the Upper Austrian photographer Elfie Semotan (**ELFIE SEMOTAN, PHOTOGRAPHER** – Preview), and will show two women fighting for their right to their own story and personal good fortune (**PETRA and BOTA**). A number of guests have already announced their attendance – see film list below.



**SYSTEMSPRENGER / SYSTEM CRASHER (DE 2019) – Austrian premiere**

Director: Nora Fingscheidt

Program section: European Panorama Fiction; Length: 119 min. | Feature Film

Distributor in Austria: [Filmladen](#); Cinema release in Austria: September 2019

Guest: *Nora Fingscheidt*

At an age of nine Benni has already experienced a lot. Her hyper-activity paired with a not so negligible propensity for violence hopelessly overburdens her mother, while constantly changing foster parents, child psychologists, and anti-aggression training does the rest. Despite eager social workers there is still the danger that Benni falls through the net of youth welfare. – Nora Fingscheidt's film debut is an intense drama about a girl who does not seem to fit into the system, yet only yearns – as would be expected at that age – for safety and love.

**DANMARKS SØNNER / SONS OF DENMARK (DK 2019) – Austrian Premiere | Night Sight-Opener**

Director: Ulaa Salim

Program section: Night Sight; Length: 119 min. | Feature Film

The future of Denmark that is presented in this film is shaped by racism and nationalist politics. In a charged and toxic climate, the slowly radicalized nineteen year old Zakaria is recruited for a terror mission. - An intelligent, dystopian political Thriller.

**ELFIE SEMOTAN, PHOTOGRAPHER – Preview (AT 2019)**

Director: Joerg Burger

Program section: Local Artists; Length: 80 min. | Documentary

Production: [Navigator Film](#) | Details [HERE](#)

Guests: *Joerg Burger, Elfie Semotan and film producers*

One of this year's opening films is dedicated to the renowned Austrian photographer Elfie Semotan. The director Joerg Burger created a multi-layered cinematic homage that has its preview on the opening evening of CROSSING EUROPE on April 25. Additionally, the exhibition STANDING, WAITING (2007/2019) with works by the artist will be opened in the OK in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter.

**PETRA (ES/FR/DK 2018) – Austrian Premiere | [Tribute-Opener](#)**

Director: Jaime Rosales

Program section: Tribute; Length: 107 min. | Feature Film

Guest: *Jaime Rosales*

The title-giving protagonist decides to go on a search for her biological father after the death of her mother, who she then finds out to be the self-centered artist Jaume. Subsequently she then also meets his wife, and their son – like in a Greek tragedy – she unveils family secrets, satisfies needs, and the web of relationships that underscores the film draws together in a deadly manner to make the newest production by this year's Tribute guest Jaime Rosales become a spirited Melodrama.



**BOTA** (AL/IT/KO 2014) – [Spotlight](#)-Opener

Directors: Iris Elezi, Thomas Logoreci

Program section: Spotlight; Length: 100 min. | Feature Film

Guests: *Iris Elezi, Thomas Logoreci*

BOTA is the first feature film by this year's Spotlight guest Iris Elezi. The visually striking production celebrated its Austrian premiere at the CROSSING EUROPE 2015. - The terror of the communist regime in Albania continues to have an effect to date, people yearn for economic and political stability. As do the two sisters in the film, who take their fate into their own hands on a lonesome tract of land.

## Closing Film: GOD EXISTS, HER NAME IS PETRUNYA

CROSSING EUROPE has been connected to the Macedonian **director Teona Strugar Mitevska** since the very beginning. At the very first edition of the festival in 2004, her feature film debut [KAKO UBIV SVETEC / HOW I KILLED A SAINT](#) (MZ/SI/FR 2004) was awarded the CROSSING EUROPE Award – Competition fiction. Ever since then, all her films have been presented in Linz as Austrian premiers. For this reason, we are very happy to announce that her new feature film, which had its world premiere at the **Berlinale** and was awarded with two awards (Prize of the Ecumenical Jury and the Gilde film prize) will be this year's closing film.

**GOSPOD POSTOI, IMETO I' E PETRUNIJA / GOD EXISTS, HER NAME IS PETRUNYA / GOTT IST EINE FRAU UND HEISST PETRUNYA** (MK/BE/SI/HR/FR 2019) – **Austrian Premiere**

Director: Teona Strugar Mitevska

Program section: European Panorama Fiction; Length: 100 min. | Feature Film

Distributor in Austria: [Polyfilm](#); Cinema Release in Austria: tba

The protagonist of the feminist satire puts herself above religious and societal traditions by taking part in a ritual reserved only for men on a whim. This "scandal" does not only cause excitement within the village and the media, but is also the start of a successful process of empowerment.

*The film will be shown on April 30 in attendance of the director Teona Strugar Mitevska and the lead actress Zorica Nusheva.*

## First Program Highlights

In this year's program selection you will find many CROSSING EUROPE guests and award winners from the previous editions who will be returning to Linz with their current productions – significant films in this year's edition made by directors who have been connected to the festival for many years, thereby also shaping the festival.

**Joanna Hogg** ([Tribute guest](#) in 2014) puts the focus on a young, up-and-coming artist in **THE SOUVENIR**. Next to the shining Honor Swinton Byrne, Tom Burke and Tilda Swinton are also a part of the feature film that had its world premiere at Sundance and contains autobiographical streaks of Hogg herself.



Two previous award winners are represented this year: the Spanish director **Carlos Marques-Marcet** concludes his trilogy on love and relationships with **THE DAYS TO COME**, both previous films (10 000 KM / LONG DISTANCE and ANCHOR AND HOPE) were shown in Linz. The new documentary by **Vitaly Mansky** is familiarly political; after **RODNYE / CLOSE RELATIONS** he once again turns to the east. In his Latvian exile he compiled a piece of Russian contemporary history from his own archive material with **PUTIN'S WITNESSES** – a shockingly personal portrait of Vladimir Putin during the time of his political rise around the turn of the millennia that was awarded at the renowned film festival Karlovy Vary. Contemporary history is also the key word for the newest work by **Thomas Heise**, a director who has been as guest at **CROSSING EUROPE** multiple times. His "opus magnum" **HEIMAT IST EIN RAUM AUS ZEIT** shows a multi-layered image of Germany in the last century through his own family history. At the Berlinale the documentary was awarded the Caligari film prize.

In the center of the newest feature films by the Swiss director **Simon Jaquemet** (2015: [CHRIEG](#)) and the Greek **Syllas Tzoumerkas** (2015: [A BLAST](#)) are women on the brink. Jaquemet's protagonist in **DER UNSCHULDIGE** meanders through her day-to-day life characterized by religion, family, and trust in technology. A crime puts two women on the crossroads to the test in Tzoumerkas' **THE MIRACLE OF THE SARGASSO SEA**.

**ELS DIES QUE VINDRAN / THE DAYS TO COME** (ES 2019) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Carlos Marques-Marcet

Program section: European Panorama Fiction; Length: 97 min. | Feature Film

Guest: *Sergi Moreno (Producer)*

**THE SOUVENIR** (UK 2019) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Joanna Hogg

Program section: European Panorama Fiction; Length: 115 min. | Feature Film

Guest: *Joanna Hogg (to be confirmed)*

**TO THÁVMA TIS THÁLASSAS TON SARGASSÓN / THE MIRACLE OF THE SARGASSO SEA**

(GR/DE/NL/SE 2019) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Syllas Tzoumerkas

Program section: European Panorama Fiction; Length: 121 min. | Feature Film

Guest: *Syllas Tzoumerkas*

**DER UNSCHULDIGE / THE INNOCENT** (CH/DE 2018) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Simon Jaquemet

Program section: Competition Fiction; Length: 114 min. | Feature Film

Guest: *Simon Jaquemet*

**HEIMAT IST EIN RAUM AUS ZEIT / HEIMAT IS A SPACE IN TIME** (DE/AT 2019) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Thomas Heise

Program section: Competition Documentary; Length: 218 min. | Documentary

Production: [Navigator Film](#); Distributor in Austria: [Filmgarten](#); Cinema Release in Austria: November 8, 2019

Guest: *Thomas Heise*

**SVIDETELI PUTINA / PUTIN'S WITNESSES** (LV/CH/CZ 2018) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Vitaly Mansky

Program section: Competition Documentary; Length: 102 min. | Documentary

Guest: *Vitaly Mansky*



## YAAAS! Competition: Complete Line-Up

The YAAAS! Competition is a part of the new [YAAAS! Youth Program](#) at CROSSING EUROPE, that offers a holistic program of film education, acquisition of media competencies and DIY-video production. Taking place for the first time this year, the YAAAS! Competition is the fourth competition section, in which the winner of the CROSSING EUROPE Award – Youth Jury, endowed with 2000€ is selected. This section consists of contemporary European productions that were selected by the [YAAAS! Young Programmers](#). After a rigorous sighting process they decided on six feature films that deal with the living realities of youths and young adults in Europe in different ways.

**DANMARK / DENMARK** (DK 2017) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Kasper Rune Larsen; Length: 90 min

Guest: Kasper Rune Larsen

**KHRUSTAL / CRYSTAL SWAN** (BY/DE/US/RU 2018) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Darya Zhuk; Length: 95 min

**POSLEDICE / CONSEQUENCES** (SI/AT 2018) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Darko Štante; Length: 95 min

Guest: Darko Štante

**SCHWIMMEN / SWIMMING** (DE 2018) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Luzie Loose; Length: 102 min

Guests: Luzie Loose and the producers Lennart Lenzing, Philipp Maurice Raube

**SEULE À MON MARIAGE / ALONE AT MY WEDDING** (BE/FR/RO 2018) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Marta Bergman; Length: 121 min

Guest: Alina Serban (actress)

**VŠECHNO BUDE / WINTER FLIES** (CZ/SI/PL/SK 2018) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Olmo Omerzu; Length: 85 min

Guest: Olmo Omerzu (to be confirmed)

## Europe without Borders

The CROSSING EUROPE VoD-collection on FLIMMIT ([filmmit.com](http://filmmit.com))

For two years now, the festival has been cooperating with FLIMMIT, the **Video-on-Demand** platform of the Austrian broadcasting service. Thousands of productions (mostly Austrian and European) can be viewed, including many highlights of the European film festival. This year's selection of **ten hand-picked CROSSING EUROPE films** of the past festival editions intends to "lengthen" the lifetime of the productions under the motto "EUROPE WITHOUT BORDERS", and can be viewed outside of the festival context.

The ten selected CROSSING EUROPE films from the past few festival editions include **feature films and documentaries, opening films, as well as audience favorites and award winning productions**. From TODAY on, the collection curated by Christine Dollhofer can be viewed online [HERE](#).



## Nightline 2019

Behind the scenes there has been a change at the CROSSING EUROPE Nightline. The long-standing curators Andi Mayrhofer and Anatol Bogendorfer have passed on the curating baton to **Samira Saad** and **Christian Haselmayer** who are now responsible for the booking and care for the music acts. Once again this year, the **Nighline** on the **OK Deck** offers from April 25 to 30 the possibility to cineasts, festival guests, and night owls to extend the festival day long into the night.

### Thursday, April 25, 2019

Live: **Catnapp (AR/DE)** | DJ: **Anna Leiser (AT)**

The project Catnapp is the brainchild of the Argentinian producer who lives in Berlin, drawing from electronic music, but also of Pop and Hip-Hop. Post-Internet and Post-Rap-sounds say hello. | Anna Leiser is an integral part of the Viennese DJ-Scene, a lover of House and Techno from the get-go.

### Friday, April 26, 2019

Live: **Kurt Razelli (AT)** | DJ: **Crackstreet Girls (AT)**

Kurt Razelli, the master of TV sampling, brings his show on raging citizens, political scandals, and hot dog stand philosophers onto the stage through video projection, for his live performance he synthesizers and effect devices with him. | The Crackstreet Girls transform nights into holidays with Pop hits, and everyone on the dancefloor turns into a star.

### Saturday, April 27, 2019

Live: **Ankathie Koi (DE/AT)** | DJ: **Flip (AT)**

With her expressive performances, Ankathie Koi stands for Dancepop full of 80s references, colorful and catchy and strangely elegant. Sometimes her lyrics are thought through, sometimes rather loopy, but they are always on point. | Flip, the Hip-Hop grand master from Linz, will serve the partycrowd a strictly vinyl selection.

### Sunday, April 28, 2019

DJ: **Directors' Disko (EU)**

A hand-picked gang of directors from all over the continent will trade in the director's chair for the DJ booth for one evening. Disco ball go, sound go; Directors' Disko go!

### Monday, April 29, 2019

DJ: **turn|table|tennis x Crossing Europe**

The international film festival meets the sportive "networking" squad turn|table|tennis. A comfortable atmosphere, ever-fresh DJs and a table|tennis|table! Look forward to the ttt team: andaka / abby lee tee / memet acuma / f!no.

### Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Live: **Ebow (DE)** | **sound:frame girlstars (AT)**

Ebow, to be found somewhere between Hip-Hop and oriental sounds, packs social living realities into belligerent texts that deal with topics ranging from gender roles in the Turkish community, false patriotism, to weapons trade. | The sound:frame girlstars stand for Hip-Hop, RnB, Bass music, Electronic, and everything that the dancing disco heart desires.



## Upcoming Dates

Program press conferences Linz & Vienna: **10 April 2019**

Best-of-Crossing Europe 2019 (award winning films & audience favorites): **1 May 2019**

## Picture material & Updates

Festival impressions: [www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/collections/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/collections/)

Film stills & picture material: [www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos](http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos)

Logo & Festival motif: [www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos](http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos)

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2019 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](#).