



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 24 – 29 April 2012 // www.crossingEurope.at

Festival Office: Graben 30, 4020 Linz, Austria, T +43.732.785 700, F +43.732.785 700 40

Media Service: Sabine Gebetsroither, gebetsroither@crossingEurope.at, T +43.732.785 700 10, M +43.664.24 57 760

Media Information – Linz, February 2012

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2012

The first two of a total of four opening films, Tribute guest Anca Damian (RO), the new program Special "IT'S ANIMATED!" and the new CROSSING EUROPE festival trailer SUB.

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz again dedicates its program in 2012 to **contemporary and socio-political auteur cinema** from Europe and especially devotes itself to work by a young generation of directors, who will be awarded **monetary and material prizes**. On the six days of the festival **from 24 to 29 April 2012**, Festival Director Christine Dollhofer presents around **150 hand-picked European feature films, documentaries and short films**, most of them as **Austrian premieres**.

A new record this year is the **number of film entries** – for both the European film sections and for the Local Artists program section, more films were entered than ever before. More than **900 productions** were viewed, 200 of them just from local filmmakers (2011: 150).

The OPENING FILMS 2012

On Tuesday, **24 April**, CROSSING EUROPE opens with four outstanding films, which traditionally offer a **representative cross-section through the whole festival program**, highlighting again the rich facets of European filmmaking. Two of these excellent opening films have already been determined, the other two will be announced in mid-March.

One central opening film is **SIX MILLION AND ONE** (IL/DE/AT 2011; D: David Fisher; world distribution: Cinephil-Distribution & Co Productions Tel Aviv; with support from the ZukunftsFonds of the Republic of Austria, Kulturland Oberösterreich, National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National-Socialism and others), which will open the new hall Ursulinensaal as festival location in the Upper Austrian Cultural Quarter that opens in March. The **documentary film with ties to Upper Austrian contemporary history** celebrated its European premiere at the Int. Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam; the film will be shown for the first time in Austria with this presentation. Following the stations of his father's concentration camp imprisonment in Upper Austria, the director David Fisher takes his siblings along on a trip to Austria (Mauthausen, Gusen and Gunskirchen) and to the USA. Together they trace their father's past, while the unspoken and the unspeakable come to light. Humorous and very personal, SIX MILLION AND ONE is no "typical" film about the Holocaust.

// With David Fisher (director & producer), Estee Fisher-Heim, Gideon Fisher and Ronel Fisher present //

Media Service: Sabine Gebetsroither, gebetsroither@crossingEurope.at, T +43.732.785.700 10, M +43.664.24 57 760

The second film of the opening also manifests the festival idea, since **CRULIC - THE PATH TO BEYOND** (RO/PL 2011; D: Anca Damian; world distribution: Wide Management) conjoins the depiction of socio-political hot topics with artistic creativity in a so-called Animated Documentary in a masterly way. This unusual animation film tells the true story of the Romanian Claudiu Crulic, who was unjustly imprisoned in Poland in 2007. In protest he started a hunger strike, but his appeal to the authorities remained unheard. Misguided bureaucracy and an impenetrable state apparatus are at fault for the shocking end of a human being, set in haunting images by Anca Damian. CRULIC – THE PATH TO BEYOND, also an Austrian premiere, is the third feature film by the Romanian director **Anca Damian**, to whom this year's **TRIBUTE** is also dedicated – with three feature-length films and one short film. At the same time, the film that has already been successfully shown and awarded prizes at numerous international festivals, is also part of the new **focus on European animation film** presented for the first time this year under the title **"IT'S ANIMATED!"**. This program Special (curated by Wiktorja Pelzer) comprises three feature-length films and two short film programs, demonstrating the potential of animation for presenting and portraying reality, thus also expanding the possibilities of documentation. Two "genres" are highlighted here: "Animated Documentaries" (in short "AniDoc") and "Animated Realities". The techniques are completely different in both genres and range from drawn animation to stop-motion all the way to rotoscoping.

// With Anca Damian (director) present //

New Festival Trailer SUB

As has already been announced, CROSSING EUROPE is pleased to have two graduates of the University of Applied Sciences Hagenberg create the festival trailer SUB (AT 2012). **Remo Rauscher** (*1984) – winner of the CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist-Atelierpreis 2011 for THE STREETS OF THE INVISIBLES (AT 2010) – together with the young video artist **Rafael Mayrhofer** (*1986) created the visually convincing animation work, which offers bizarre physics, rusting love and a light bulb, representing a surreal prefix in the sense of the creative apparatus of the cinema.

The festival trailer 2012 will be used for festival promotion and in Austrian arthouse cinemas. SUB (concept & animation: [Remo Rauscher](http://www.thestreetsoftheinvisibles.com/) (<http://www.thestreetsoftheinvisibles.com/>) & [Rafael Mayrhofer](http://www.motiphe.org/) (<http://www.motiphe.org/>); Sound Design: [Irad Lee](http://www.iradlee.com/) (http://www.iradlee.com)) can be viewed **starting now: <http://www.youtube.com/crossingeurope>**.

LIVE-Interview: Remo Rauscher and Rafael Mayrhofer will be available for questions and answers on the current festival trailer on Monday, **13 February 2012 at 4 pm** via video interview at <http://www.facebook.com/crossingeurope>.

IMAGE MATERIAL & UPDATES

Film stills are available for downloading at <http://www.crossingeurope.at/fotos> and **Logo/Festival Motif** at <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos-artwork.html>. Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2012 are available as always from our website www.crossingEurope.at or via Web 2.0 on **Facebook** (<http://www.facebook.com/crossingeurope>), **google+** (<https://plus.google.com/109711921792175309081/up/start/#109711921792175309081/posts>), **Flickr** (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1399436@N21/>) and **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/#!/CROSSINGEUROPE>). Official Twitter-Hashtag for CROSSING EUROPE is **#CrossingEurope**.

Media Service: Sabine Gebetsroither, gebetsroither@crossingEurope.at, T +43.732.785.700 10, M +43.664.24 57 760