



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, 28 April 2012

// Holdback period: 10:00 pm //

AWARDS CEREMONY - CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2012

*This year's Awards Presentation of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz took place this evening in the newly inaugurated Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter. The CROSSING EUROPE AWARDS were presented with **numerous international film guests, industry representatives and the film press present, along with representatives of the patrons, sponsors and from politics – including City Council member Erika Rockenschaub, Provincial Parliament representative Eva Maria Gattringer, and Federal Minister Claudia Schmied. Federal Minister of Culture Claudia Schmied stressed the standing and the qualities of the festival:** "CROSSING EUROPE, the annual celebration of European film in Linz, provides us again in 2012 with a multifaceted and interesting foray through European filmmaking. For the first time, a jury of the European critics' association FEDEORA takes part in the festival. This highlights the festival's strong position in the pan-European context and demonstrates what Crossing Europe stands for: for cinephile and border-crossing diversity! With CROSSING EUROPE Linz has once again strengthened its profile as a place of innovative and lively creativity."*

The **CROSSING EUROPE Award European Competition** (prize money: 10.000,- Euro) was presented to **Z DALEKA WIDOK JEST PIĘKNY / IT LOOKS PRETTY FROM A DISTANCE** (PL 2011) by Wilhelm Sasnal & Anka Sasnal. The international festival jury – Lluís Galter (ES), Roman Gutek (PL), Camille Rousselet (FR) – praised the winning film as being "very courageous, unconventional and, in a certain sense, daring. This film stimulates reflection about what cinema really is and about the relationship between cinema and all the other forms of art."

The **NEW VISION AWARD powered by Silhouette** (5.000,- Euro), which was awarded this year for the second time, was presented to Joao Canijo (PT) for **SANGUE DO MEU SANGUE / BLOOD OF MY BLOOD** (PT 2011). The jury – Birgit Gudjonsdottir (IS/DE), Oleg Novkovic (RS), Stella Rollig (AT) – stressed "the authentic approach chosen by the director for this theme. With his virtuosity, coupled with outstanding actors, he leads us into a special social milieu with elements of tragedy and the opposite.

Highest in the favor of the audience was **WEEKEND** (GB 2011) by Andrew Haigh, who received the **AUDIENCE AWARD** (1.000,- Euro powered by CROSSING EUROPE & 1 hotel voucher powered by PARK

INN by Radisson Linz). There was also a drawing for one hotel voucher (powered by PARK INN by Radisson Linz) among all the audience jury members.

//[WEEKEND](#) is screened on Sunday, 29 April, at 8:30 pm in Movie 2. //

Two FEDEORA juries, each consisting of three film critics from the FEDEORA critics' association (Federation of Film Critics of Europe and the Mediterranean, www.fedeora.eu), presented the FEDEORA Award for the first time in 2012 to one of the selected documentary films from the section PANORAMA. The two juries awarded the prize for the category *documentary films by directors under the age of 33* to [EIN BRIEF AUS DEUTSCHLAND / A LETTER FROM GERMANY](#) (DE 2011; D: Sebastian Mez) and a **Special Mention** to [HAUPTFRIEDHOF / CEMETARY](#) (DE 2011; D: Melanie Jilg) and the prize for the category *documentary films by directors over the age of 33* to [VOL SPÉCIAL / SPECIAL FLIGHT](#) (CH 2011; D: Fernand Melgar) and a **Special Mention** to [ENTRÉE DU PERSONNEL / STAFF ENTRANCE](#) (FR 2011; D: Manuela Frésil). The jury – Dean Kotiga (HR), Simone Boria (GB/AT), Jeton Budima (Kosovo) – describe [EIN BRIEF AUS DEUTSCHLAND / A LETTER FROM GERMANY](#) as follows: "In a very original way, the director portrays the hatred, contempt and resignation of women trapped in sexual exploitation and trafficking." About [HAUPTFRIEDHOF / CEMETERY](#) the jury statement says: "The strength of the film is found in its almost ruthless views and long camera shots that evince a forensic quality."

// [EIN BRIEF AUS DEUTSCHLAND / A LETTER FROM GERMANY](#) is shown on Sunday, 29 April, at 11:00 am in Movie 2. //

The award for the category documentary filmsss *by directors over the age of 33* was presented to [VOL SPÉCIAL / SPECIAL FLIGHT](#) (CH 2011; D: Fernand Melgar), and [ENTRÉE DU PERSONNEL / STAFF ENTRANCE](#) (FR 2011; D: Manuela Frésil) received a **Special Mention**.

The jury – Eva af Geijerstam (SE), Bernhard Lichtenberger (AT), Oscar Peyrou (ES) – describe [VOL SPÉCIAL / SPECIAL FLIGHT](#) thus: "Fernand Melgar's view into a Swiss deportation prison has the flow, the intimacy, the force and the emotion to open eyes and minds for the consequences of increasingly restrictive migration policies in Europe." With [ENTRÉE DU PERSONNEL / STAFF ENTRANCE](#) the jury especially emphasized "the intelligent construction and the originality".

// [ENTRÉE DU PERSONNEL / STAFF ENTRANCE](#) is shown on Sunday, 29 April, at 2:00 pm in Movie 3.//

The **CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist** was again divided into a money prize and a material prize: the **money prize** of 4.000,- Euro, donated by the Province of Upper Austria/Culture, was awarded to Katharina Gruzei for [DIE ARBEITERINNEN VERLASSEN DIE FABRIK](#) (AT 2012). The jury – Jürgen Hagler (AT) and Ella Raidel (AT) – explained their decision with the following statement: "In reference to the first images of film history, this re-interpretation of workers leaving the factory marks the end of the factory. The composition of architecture, flickering neon light and sound successfully transposes a temporary light installation into the medium of film."

Edith Stauber received the **2.000,- Euro voucher**, donated by Synchron Film, Video and Audio Bearbeitungs GmbH, Vienna, for **NACHBEHANDLUNG** (AT 2012). The jury's statement about their decision: "Without imposing a coherent story on us, the film invites us to take an acoustic and visual journey of discovery."

//**DIE ARBEITERINNEN VERLASSEN DIE FABRIK** is shown on Sunday, 29 April at 4:00 pm in Movie 2 (Local Artists Program 4 – Relations). //

The winner of the **CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist 2012 Atelier Prize powered by Atelierhaus Salzamt** is Susanna Flock for **TRYING TO BUILD A SENTENCE** (AT 2011).

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