



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 25 – 30 April 2014 // www.crossingEurope.at/EN

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 +43.664.245 77 60

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CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2014

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz **opens on 25 April** in the Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter and in the established festival cinemas Movimiento and City Kino with all of four outstanding Austrian premieres and two world premieres: the visually breathtaking, dark science fiction live action film **UNDER THE SKIN** by Jonathan Glazer (with Scarlett Johansson in the leading role), the charming tragicomedy **UN CHÂTEAU EN ITALIE / A CASTLE IN ITALY** by the director/actress Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, the powerful documentary film **L'ESCALE / STOP-OVER** Swiss director of Iranian origin Kaveh Bakhtiari, and two world premieres from the LOCAL ARTISTS section: the documentary about the replica of Hallstatt built in China, **DOUBLE HAPPINESS**, by the two-time winner of the LOCAL ARTIST Award Ella Raidel, and Dieter Strauch's **TEXTA In & Out**, a film portrait of the legendary Linz hip hop formation Texta. Opener for the Night Sight section is the Spanish horror-comedy **LAS BRUJAS DE ZUGARRAMURDI / WITCHING AND BITCHING** by no less than Álex de la Iglesia.

The musical high point of the evening and start of the focus on music at CROSSING EUROPE 2014 at the same time is a live performance by **TIRZAH & MICACHU** at the **Nightline** – Mica Levi, one half of the duo, is responsible for the tremendously atmospheric film music of the opening film **UNDER THE SKIN**.

A preview of this year's festival program reveals the first highlights of **the eleventh edition** of the CROSSING EUROPE FILM FESTIVAL LINZ // 25 – 30 April 2014: the **new festival trailer** and a couple of **world premieres**, e.g. **CHINA REVERSE** (AT 2014; D: Judith Benedikt), **GLOBAL SHOPPING VILLAGE** (AT, HR 2014; D: Ulli Gladik), **PRIVATE REVOLUTIONS** (AT 2014; D: Alexandra Schneider), **100% DAKAR – MORE THAN ART** (AT 2014; D: Sandra Krampelhuber) and this year's closing film **KAFKA, KIFFER UND CHAOTEN** (AT 2014; R: Kurt Palm).

The Festival Opening 2014

As usual, CROSSING EUROPE opens again with selected positions of European auteur cinema, presenting a representative cross-section of this year's festival program and especially illustrating the incredibly rich multifacetedness of European filmmaking. All of **six outstanding films** were selected for this year's **opening evening on 25 April**, which will be presented to the festival audience with numerous film guests present.

UNDER THE SKIN (GB, US 2013) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Jonathan Glazer, 107 min

A lonely mysterious heroine (Scarlett Johansson), an alien in the skin of a femme fatale in search of a place in this world. Visually breathtaking, this hallucinatory sci-fi live-action film can also be interpreted as a parable of being alien/different, as questioning conventional codes and gender relations. The intense, mysterious score is also compelling. With sharp tones and atmospheric rumbling, the young British musician Mica Levi (who can be heard live with her formation TIRZAH & MICACHU during the Nightline on the opening evening) created a sonic cosmos that spellbinds the audience. **UNDER THE SKIN** is based on the award-winning novel of the same title by

Michel Faber, and it is the third feature film by Jonathan Glazer (SEXY BEAST [UK, ES 2000], BIRTH [US, UK, DE 2004]), who is also internationally successful as a music video director.

// With Mica Levi (film music) present //

UN CHÂTEAU EN ITALIE / A CASTLE IN ITALY (FR 2012) – Austrian Premiere

Director: Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, 103 min

Distributor in Austria: Thimfilm

As with her first film IL EST PLUS FACILE POUR UN CHATEAU... (FR, IT 2003), the multi-talented Valeria Bruni Tedeschi again proves daring enough to draw from her own life and family history for a film project. Charmingly and self-ironically she plays the main protagonist Louise in allusion to her own biography – a woman in her mid-forties from a prosperous family wishing for a baby, with an indecisive (younger) partner, played by Louis Garrel (who was also her partner in real life for some time), and in the midst of family troubles. French-Italian flair marks this successful tragicomedy, which is compelling in its lightness and was also shown in the competition in Cannes.

// Cinema start in Austria: 9 May // The film will also be shown on 30 April in the Austrian Film Museum as Viennese premiere. //

L'ESCALE / STOP-OVER (CH, FR 2013) – Austrian premiere

Director: Kaveh Bakhtiari, 100 min

The Swiss-based director Kaveh Bakhtiari, originally from Iran, sets out for Athens to meet his cousin, who left his home in Iran in the hope of a better future in the “West”. His journey already came to a halt, however, in Greece; now he is stuck here together with other migrants with no valid documents in a small flat. Constant fear of being discovered by the authorities, an uncertain future, and untenable living conditions mark the everyday life of this involuntary community, a life that mostly consists of waiting – for papers, for new contacts and information, and for the smuggler, in whose hands they may lay their fate. With L'ESCALE / STOP-OVER the director Bakhtiari has succeeded in creating a powerful documentary film that gives the theme of migration a face, but without making use of dominant clichés or turning the protagonists into victims. The film premiered at the film festival in Cannes and has been awarded prizes at Dok Leipzig and the Solothurner Filmtagen.

// With Kaveh Bakhtiari (director) present. //

DOUBLE HAPPINESS (AT, CN 2014) – world premiere

Director: Ella Raidel, 70 min

The two-time LOCAL ARTIST Award-winner Ella Raidel sets out in her first feature-length, artistic documentary DOUBLE HAPPINESS on a filmic journey to China, where a clone of the Upper Austrian town of Hallstatt has been realized as a real estate project. The film tells of the copy planned in secret and of its discovery, of the motivation and the background for the construction of the fairy-tale-like replica in a region with a population of millions as a consequence of globalization. In Chinese, Double Happiness stands for marrying and the associated happiness for both sides. The duplicated happiness unfolds in parallel worlds of original and copy, real life and fiction, dream and reality.

// With Ella Raidel (director) and protagonists from the film present. //

TEXTA In & Out (AT 2014) – world premiere
Director: Dieter Strauch, 82 min

Director Dieter Strauch, energetic protagonist of the independent video and film scene of Linz, accompanied the renowned Linz hip hop formation TEXTA throughout 2013, which also marked the band's twentieth anniversary. Along with individual interviews, recording sessions and live recordings, the five artists also reveal their own mental states and private lives: crises within the band and male vanity, as well as taking a stand on socio-political issues or the band member Skero leaving. The texts performed by the musicians demonstrate what TEXTA – as a band from Linz, rapping in German – has stood for artistically and in content for more than two decades. TEXTA In & Out is a congenial film portrait of mature musicians, who continue to believe in the power of their rhymes and are not afraid of a realistic representation of musicians' lives.

The music documentary TEXTA In & Out is the third feature-length film that CROSSING EUROPE has presented by the director Dieter Strauch. The documentary LEBEN OHNE FASSADE (AT 2009) was shown in 2009 and the feature film LOVE SIGNS (AT 2010) in 2011 during the festival.

// With Dieter Strauch (director) and protagonists from the film present. // TEXTA will perform live on 30 April at the Nightline in the OK | Mediendeck. //

LAS BRUJAS DE ZUGARRAMURDI / WITCHING AND BITCHING (ES, FR 2013) – Austrian premiere
Director: Álex de la Iglesia, 112 min

The Spanish enfant terrible director, Álex de la Iglesia, brings his own personal view of the perpetual battle of the sexes to the screen in this dark horror comedy, which was awarded with eight Goyas. In this thoroughly amusing and fast-paced film, neither side comes out well: in the motherland of machos, the men have nothing left to grin about – dominant wives, unfair child custody decisions and economic crisis have left their traces. The robbery intended as a solution to problems goes badly wrong, so the two robbers José and Antonio flee for the border – taking with them the child in question and the kidnapped taxi driver along with his guest. Due to an unfortunate coincidence, they end up in the border town of Zugarramurdi, thus ending up in the clutches of a magnificent Carmen Maura and her circle of witches – the prophesy begins to take its course.

// With Markus Keuschnigg (curator) present. // The film will subsequently be shown during /slash " from 1 to 3 May in the Filmcasino Vienna. //

FIRST PROGRAM PREVIEW

Over the six days of the festival from 25 to 30 April 2014, Festival Director Christine Dollhofer presents a total of **184** hand-picked European **feature films, documentaries and short films** from **37 countries** in roughly **160 programs** – largely Austrian or world premieres. This year's festival program brings together film highlights from the past festival season; most of the films in the program sections Competition European Cinema, European Panorama Fiction & Documentary, and the Tribute celebrated their world premieres at the major festival in Cannes, Locarno, Venice, San Sebastián or Berlin, where many of them have already been distinguished with awards. Here is a first preview of the festival program 2014:

WORKING WORLDS (in cooperation with the Upper Austrian Chamber of Labor/Department of Culture)

Now for the eleventh time, this section spotlights European working worlds and realities in times of globalization and economic crises. The film selection is as critical and topical as ever: curator Lina Dinkla (Dok Leipzig) decided on five documentaries – including four feature-length films and one short film – between the poles of **migration and labor**. This is a hot topic that is used and abused by populist politicians, the subject of countless parliamentary debates, and one which forces many people to leave their own home countries in the hope of earning money in a new place – such as in **CHINA REVERSE** (AT 2014; D: Judith Benedikt), which celebrates its world premiere in Linz. The film accompanies Chinese people who ended up in Vienna to seek a better future. In the meantime they have achieved quite a bit, as they keep emphasizing, but they are still looking for the future, although more for their children today. Now they are enticed by promises of even greater success in the new boom cities of China, and some are considering daring a step back to the “old” homeland.

// Judith Benedikt (director) and protagonists from the film are present. //

SHAPING THE WORLD (in cooperation with afo Architecture Forum Upper Austria)

Now for the fifth time, the program section “Architecture and Society”, curated by Lotte Schreiber and entitled this year SHAPING THE WORLD – Production of Space in the Mirror of Society, presents four remarkable documentary films and one short film. These works deal with different approaches to the contemporary production of space, focusing attention on current planning strategies and visions. For instance, the Austrian documentary **GLOBAL SHOPPING VILLAGE** (AT, HR 2014; D: Ulli Gladik), which celebrates its world premiere in Linz, spotlights the practices of European shopping center developers.

// Ulli Gladik (director) is present //

LOCAL ARTISTS

The section **LOCAL ARTISTS** shows **68** selected film and video productions (including numerous world premieres) from Upper Austria. As previously announced, there is a focus on music this year, which is also evident in this program section: a total of **16 music videos** from Upper Austria compete for the two coveted festival awards CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO AWARD and CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO AWARD – RESIDENCY.

Something special this year is the fact that all of five **Local Artists feature-length films** will celebrate their **world premieres** during CROSSING EUROPE. In addition to the works by Ella Raidel and Dieter Strauch already mentioned in the section on the opening films, these are **PRIVATE REVOLUTIONS** (AT 2014; D: Alexandra Schneider), **100% DAKAR – MORE THAN ART** (AT 2014; D: Sandra Krampelhuber) and this year’s closing film **KAFKA, KIFFER UND CHAOTEN** (AT 2014; D: Kurt Palm).

PRIVATE REVOLUTIONS (AT 2014; D: Alexandra Schneider) takes a close look at four young women’s struggle for change in post-revolutionary Egypt. They come from different life worlds, pursue different goals – but all four struggle with the same hurdles. With their engagement they run into the limitations of a male-dominated world, but they will not let themselves be defeated.

// The preview screening takes place with Alexandra Schneider (director), Sandra Merseburger (camera) and Daniela Praher (producer) present. //

100% DAKAR – MORE THAN ART (AT 2014; D: Sandra Krampelhuber) is a portrait of the young, urban art and culture scene in the capital of Senegal. The film shows a city that is distinguished, apart from its economic and political problems, by tremendous creative energy that is hardly to be found in Europe, and focuses on the passion and strength of young artists and cultural producers as the “cultural warriors” of their generation.

// The world premiere takes place with Sandra Krampelhuber (director) present. //

CLOSING FILM CROSSING EUROPE 2014: Kafka, Kiffer und Chaoten

KAFKA, KIFFER UND CHAOTEN (AT 2014; D: Kurt Palm; Producer: Fischer Film; Austrian distribution: Filmladen; press: Susanne Auzinger PR) is the most recent coup by the Upper Austrian “universal artist” Kurt Palm. The kaleidoscopically colorful road movie is based on motifs from the story “Franz Kafka Makes a Film of his Country Doctor” by the German author and satirist Eckhard Henscheid. Five completely different students share a love of alcohol and grass, a seedy flat, and an admiration for Franz Kafka, leading to an absurd film project in Sicily. Guest appearances by Margarethe Tiesel, Franz Schuh, Karl Ferdinand Kratzl, Hermes Phettberg, and many more, as well as music numbers from Chrono Popp to Texta “elevate” this quirky comedy.

// The world premiere takes place on Wednesday, 30 April, at 8:30 pm with Kurt Palm (director), Markus Fischer (producer), his film crew and numerous protagonists from the film present. //

The New Festival Trailer: COLORS OF NOISE, PT. III

CROSSING EUROPE is pleased to announce that the new festival trailer was made by the young Berlin-based, Upper Austrian **video artist and media designer** Rainer Kohlberger (*1982). Rainer Kohlberger (www.kohlberger.net) studied at the University of Applied Studies/Salzburg and was represented in 2013 with two works in the CROSSING EUROPE program. For **HUMMING, FAST AND SLOW** (AT/DE 2012) he received the **CROSSING EUROPE Award Local Artist**. Kohlberger has already exhibited and performed live in different countries. His art is based on abstract generated images that algorithmically adapt to a noise aesthetic. For **COLORS OF NOISE, PT. III** the artist was inspired by “white noise”; as he says, “White noise has always fascinated me. ‘Something’ is always out there somewhere. No state exists without white noise, there is no silence around us. Machines brought a new quality of white noise into our world. They are ‘always on’, and so are we. My images are also simply ‘on’, could always linger in their movement. My work is visual music, in which white noise and its two-dimensionality are expressed in a generated form that deals with the idea like this, because it has become detached from the transmitting medium and seeks its own materiality.”

COLORS OF NOISE, PT. III was created in cooperation with the OK | “Offenes Kulturhaus” Upper Austria and the Energie AG Upper Austria. It will be used for **festival promotion** and in Austrian program cinemas. Starting today, the new festival trailer is online: www.crossingeurope.at/trailer2014.

In addition, Rainer Kohlberger also created a **multi-channel projection** as an extension of the trailer in public space. Specifically, it will be projected onto the outside facades of the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter during the festival week. An **abstract generated lightbox work** will also be shown in the exhibition AUSSENSTELLE ENERGIE AG AB_LICHT/SPIEL (see the next section).

OK | LAB in the Crossover between Film and Visual Art
OK | Artist in Residence: Fernando Sánchez Castillo
Exhibition: Satellite Venue Energie AG_LICHT/SPIEL

OK | LAB in the Crossover between Film and Fine Art

Fernando Sánchez Castillo (ES), Gabriele Edlbauer (AT), Rainer Kohlberger (AT)

From the beginning, the OK | "Offenes Kulturhaus" Upper Austria has been an important partner and provided significant impulses for CROSSING EUROPE. The festival benefits from this not only in terms of space – with the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter as the ideal location for the festival center – but also and especially from the strong cooperation in terms of content. The OK is involved again this year as an exhibition venue with its own projects from the crossover area of film/visual art: in addition to a cooperation with the Energie AG, which aligns this year's annual exhibition parallel to CROSSING EUROPE with an international focus, three solo artists will be presented in the exhibition venue itself, who deal with the themes of video/film and cinema screening space, but also with light/moving image.

Whereas Gabriele Edlbauer specially designs a film-backstage-hybrid space, which enjoyably brings everyday life into play, the major solo exhibition of Fernando Sánchez Castillo shows his entire oeuvre, in which the monument is the central motif – which is also reflected in his film work. The numerous videos and installations presented show the broad scope of media-referential works, which transpose iconic media images into monuments and videos, all the way to ironically humorous documentations.

For Rainer Kohlberger's works please see paragraph above.

// A project of Crossing Europe and the OK | "Offenes Kulturhaus" Upper Austria //

OK | Artist in Residence: Fernando Sánchez Castillo
MONUMENTS AND OTHER COINCIDENCES

Monuments and emotionally charged political relics are the consistent theme of the works by Fernando Sánchez Castillo. Especially the more recent history of his home country, the era of the dictator Franco, still a highly charged topic, provides him with material for ironic, provocative explorations. At the heart of the major solo exhibition in OK is the *Guernica Syndrome* (2012). With this work Sánchez Castillo approaches an almost forgotten and highly charged political relic: *Azor*, Franco's yacht. After Franco's death in 1975, the state took over ownership of the ship, purchasing it at a low price to get rid of this fascist symbol. In 2011 Fernando Sánchez Castillo acquired the *Azor* and then had it broken down into a rusty brown, multi-part sculpture made of over 40 metal blocks. Video works, installations and a new production for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall are also part of the extensive show in the OK and at the Energie AG.

Exhibition: Satellite Venue Energie AG_LICHT/SPIEL

In addition to the new production by Fernando Sánchez Castillo, which creates a monument to a former border guard's jump from the Berlin Wall in 1961, the exhibition is playfully devoted to the theme of light and film. It features an abstract generated lightbox work by the 2013 CROSSING EUROPE award-winner Rainer Kohlberger, but also photographed "LIGHT OBJECTS" by the film artist Siegfried A. Fruhauf from the collection of the Energie AG and illusionist light sculptures by Iván Navarro. Waltraut Cooper, the grande dame of light art, is also represented with an installation.

// Opening: 28 April, 6 pm; 29 April to 5 June, Monday to Friday (work days), 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Energie AG Tower, Böhmerwaldstraße 3, 4020 Linz //

SAVE THE DATES

DEADLINE FOR ACCREDITATION: 1 April 2014

PROGRAM PRESS CONFERENCES 2014

Linz – 10 April 2014: 10:00 am, Upper Austrian Press Club (Room A+B) in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter, 1st floor

Vienna – 10 April 2014: 4:00 pm, Austrian Film Museum

PROGRAM starting 11 APRIL 2014

Festival newspaper and website www.crossingeurope.at/EN with the complete festival program

IMAGE MATERIAL & UPDATES

Image material, film stills: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos/>

Logo & Festival motif: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos>

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2014 is available, as ever, from our website www.crossingeurope.at/EN and through our social media channels [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#) and [Twitter](#).
