

Resume

*crossing
europe*



**crossing
europe
film festival**

linz //

20—

25 april

2016



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 20 – 25 April 2016 // www.crossingEurope.at
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RÉSUMÉ – CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2016

Yesterday the 13th CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival came to a highly successful conclusion. Festival Director Christine Dollhofer is again delighted by how tremendously well the festival was received by visitors: 22,000 festival guests stormed the film screenings, exhibitions, talks and nightline.

22,000 Visitors in 6 Days

For almost 13 years now CROSSING EUROPE has been dedicated to the idea of accessibly presenting **sophisticated European filmmaking** in Linz and offering an opportunity for direct exchange with the filmmakers present from all over Europe – as it was again this year. For six days the city center of Linz, with the established festival district around the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter and the festival cinemas, was transformed into the throbbing heart of the festival.

Following the motto “Europe, what is your Destiny?” CROSSING EUROPE sought to spotlight the various nuances of the (film) continent of Europe – as an invitation to directly engage with – often complex – European life worlds. It is a fact that the grand project “Europe” is faltering, that the “European idea” is increasingly sacrificed on the altar of populism. Yet despite the uncertainty that currently predominates, there is also something positive to be told about Europe, for example stories of overcoming fences, working through the wounds left from war, solidarity in civil society, or living humanity. This contradictoriness with regard to our current state in Europe, wound its way through this year’s program like a red thread.

22,000 festival guests and film and music enthusiasts accepted this invitation and visited film screenings, exhibitions, talks and the nightline of the festival. This means that last year’s record high was reached again, which may be taken as an affirmation of the orientation of the festival program – much to the satisfaction of the entire CROSSING EUROPE team. A further increase in the number of visitors cannot be imagined with the existing conception of the festival, since an expansion is not possible due to the spatial capacities and the duration of the festival.

The positive trend was already evident on the first day of the festival, and there was no lull in the enthusiasm of the Linz festival audience for contemporary auteur cinema from Europe. The festival opening on 20 April was already marked by the orientation of the festival program – which was represented by six hand-picked opening films this year, which were presented by numerous film guests, some of whom had traveled some distance to get to Linz, including Jasmila Žbanić, Mirjana Karanović and Tribute guest Helena Třeštíková.

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A total of **162** selected feature films, documentaries and short films from **35** different countries (including a total of 123 premiers) were presented in the cinemas that were largely sold out, while around 700 branch guests from Austria and abroad – including about 140 film guests – were counted. Along with the **three competition sections** (*Competition Fiction*, *Competition Documentary* and *Competition Local Artists*), the long established sections **Working Worlds** (this year on the theme of education/job training), **European Panorama Fiction & Documentary** (with selected highlights from the past festival season) and **Night Sight** (devoted again to the “fantastic”) were also part of the program structure. The series “Architecture & Society” dealt this year with “**European Communities**”, and the section **CINEMA NEXT EUROPE**, presented this year for the second time, was promisingly titled “Heimatland/Wonderland” and focused on the search for identity and the definition of homeland. Not to be forgotten – this year’s **Tribute**, which was devoted to the grande dame of Czech documentary film, Helena Třeštíková, and her oeuvre marked by humanist aspirations. Her masterclass last Saturday was veritably stormed by guests.

The program was rounded out by an extensive **supporting program** with discussion events, the music Nightline, and the consistently high quality exhibition program at the intersection of film and fine art. All of this again made CROSSING EUROPE a vibrant event for the presentation and discussion of contemporary, sometimes also uncomfortable or artistically eccentric, socio-political cinema from Europe.

Outlook

Again in 2016 Festival Director Christine Dollhofer and her team strove to bring together the demands of a professional audience and the local cinema audience to offer six lively and inspiring festival days in the Upper Austrian capital. CROSSING EUROPE depends on the financial, organizational and ideal support of its funders, sponsors and partners, in order to reach this goal. Following nearly 13 years marked by concern about the future of CROSSING EUROPE, the financial situation of the festival has become stable, and the commitment of the funders from Austria has happily remained at nearly the same level.

For the future it would be desirable to at least have funding contracts for multiple years and a gentle adaptation of the funding due to rising costs in all areas. It remains to be hoped that CROSSING EUROPE will be able to rely on the commitment of funders, financial and event partners and sponsors in 2017 as well.

The program orientation will remain the same in any case: for the **14th festival (25 to 30 April 2017)** CROSSING EUROPE will continue to seek to arouse enthusiasm for unconventional cinema from Europe with hand-picked socio-political films and numerous film guests and pleasure in an artistic – sometimes also radical or sensuous – engagement with the (life) world that surrounds us.

FESTIVAL AWARDS – CROSSING EUROPE 2016

CROSSING EUROPE Competition - Fiction

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Best Fiction Film

€ 10.000,- powered by Linz Kultur & Land Oberösterreich / Kultur

Ex aequo decision, i.e. € 5.000,- each go to

[BABAI](#)

Visar Morina, DE/KO/MZ/FR 2015

and

[BADEN BADEN](#)

Rachel Lang, BE/FR 2016

The JURY COMPETITION – Fiction (Anna Fodor, Dimitris Kerkinos, Kathrin Kohlstedde) explained their decision with the statement:

„To BABAI for touching upon the complex relationship between son and father, seen through the eyes of the boy, in times of turmoil, without succumbing to sentimentality.

And to BADEN BADEN for its significant artistic signature, for taking the challenge to create a film dancing on the border of personal tragedy and comedy.“

CROSSING EUROPE Audience Award - Best Fiction Film

€ 1.000,- powered by Crossing Europe

& Sachpreise, gestiftet von [ray filmmagazin](#) & [PARK INN by Radisson Linz](#) – First Hotel Partner

[JAJDA / THIRST](#)

Svetla Tsotsorkova, BG 2015

//As in past years, the award was determined by votes from the audience. //

CROSSING EUROPE Competition - Documentary

CROSSING EUROPE Social Awareness Award - Best Documentary

€ 5.000,- powered by [gfk-Gesellschaft für Kulturpolitik OÖ](#)

[RIO CORGO](#)

Maya Kosa, Sérgio da Costa, CH/PT 2015

The JURY COMPETITION – Documentary (Cintia Gil, Mads Mikkelsen, Katharina Pethke) stated the reason for their decision with these words:

"This film assumes a difficult task in today's cinema: to build a testimony of a present by giving materiality to the human capacity to envision and to exist beyond the facts, to distinguish real from reality – the most political challenge for documentary filmmaking, – and to offer a world as a question of importance. As someone says in the film: "Here you can see the universe."

Special Mention:

[BIROBJIDJAN - LE NID EST TOMBÉ DANS LES FLAMMES / BIROBJIDJAN - THE NEST HAS FALLEN INTO THE FLAMES](#)

Guy-Marc Hinant, BE 2015

The JURY COMPETITION – Documentary (Cintia Gil, Mads Mikkelsen, Katharina Pethke) stated:

"A film for its determined ambition towards the impossible: to contain and preserve a long, troubled and largely unknown history of a place and a culture on the verge of oblivion through text, voice, language, songs, poetry, photography, and not least cinema. So a film that is as valuable and rewarding today as it will be in the time to come."

CROSSING EUROPE Competition – Local Artist

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Local Artist

€ 5.000,- powered by Land Oberösterreich / Kultur

€ 2.000,- voucher from the company [The Grand Post Audio Post Production for Film & TV](#)

€ 5.000,-:

[KORIDA](#)

Siniša Vidović, AT 2016

The JURY COMPETITION – Local Artist (Robert Hinterleitner, Katja Jäger, Jola Wiczorek) stated:

"This prize is awarded to a film that takes us into the world of a centuries-old tradition with authentic, strong characters and clear images. Especially the small gestures and respectful way of dealing with humans and animals create a bond despite ethnic and confessional differences."

€ 2.000,- voucher: **[THOSE SHOCKING SHAKING DAYS](#)**

Selma Doborac, AT/BA 2016

The JURY COMPETITION – Local Artist (Robert Hinterleitner, Katja Jäger, Jola Wiczorek) stated

"This prize is awarded to a film that raises the question of how and whether war can be depicted in film and takes us to the limits of content and form. It provokes a dialogue between the director and the audience: intense and highly intelligent, it leaves a lasting impression."

CROSSING EUROPE Social Awareness Award - Local Artist

€ 4.000,- powered by Kinder- und Jugendhilfe OÖ

UNTEN

Djordje Čenić, Hermann Peseckas, AT 2016

*The JURY COMPETITION – Local Artist (Robert Hinterleitner, Katja Jäger, Jola Wiczorek) stated:
“This prize is awarded to a film that starts from an intimate family history to set out in search of an own identity. With self-reflection and humor, it manages to open up a view of larger contexts. The directors allow us an insight into the world of guest workers and their children, which touches us and conjoins above and below.”*

CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO Audience Award

€ 1.500,- powered by [CREATIVE REGION Linz & Upper Austria](#)

WÖSSIDE - WÖS RAP REC

Leni Gruber, AT 2015

// The prize has been awarded now for the fourth time, once again the winner was chosen by votes from the audience. //

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Local Artist Atelierpreis

powered by [Atelierhaus Salzamt der Stadt Linz](#)

LAST SUPPER IV

Maria Czernohorszky, AT 2015

PICTURE your SOUND your PICTURE Atelierpreis

powered by Abteilung Kultur – Die Kunstsammlung des Landes Oberösterreich

Fatima el Kosht und Remo Rauscher

PHOTO MATERIAL & UPDATES

Photos & Film Stills: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos/>

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

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

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2016 can be found as always on our website www.crossingEurope.at and through our social media channels [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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