

## 15 Years! CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz The First Program Preview

Despite the turbulence in cultural policies this fall, which has caused an uproar in the entire art & culture scene in the province of Upper Austria, including CROSSING EUROPE, in the festival office the program is progressing rapidly: several hundred film entries have already been received and kicked off the intensive viewing phase, established program partnerships are being continued, and new cooperations are being initiated at the same time. Christine Dollhofer and her team are currently setting the **programmatic course for the anniversary edition** of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz, which goes into the **15th round from 25 to 30 April 2018**. As ever, the festival remains true to its festival credo and will present itself next April again as an independent contemporary culture event: since 2004 CROSSING EUROPE has been dedicated to the idea of a low-threshold presentation of **sophisticated European filmmaking** with a hand-picked selection of **160** feature films & documentaries, offering the audience an opportunity for a direct exchange with filmmakers present from all over Europe. About 23,000 visitors took advantage of this offer in 2017, and Festival Director Christine Dollhofer goes into the next season with the hope that the **enthusiasm of the audience** will remain unbroken for the 15th edition of the festival as well.

Today we present the first details of the program and call attention to the deadline for film submissions and to the announcement for an atelier in conjunction with PICTUREyourSOUNDyourPICTURE 2018: two program tracks successfully established with the last edition of the festival will also be part of the CROSSING EUROPE program plan for 2018 as well. The section **SPOTLIGHT** is dedicated this year to one of the most fascinating personalities of the European producer scene, namely the very active, award-winning producer Ada Solomon from Romania. The **film education track SCHOOL @ CROSSING EUROPE** will also be included in the program again this year. A total of three film programs will be offered during the festival in the morning for pupils of upper grades and vocational schools. Last but not least – **8 January 2018** marks the end of this year's call for film submission, and a submission to the project call PICTUREyourSOUNDyourPICTURE 2018 is possible until **15 April 2018**.

### Spotlight 2018: Ada Solomon (RO)

*"Ada Solomon is currently one of the most important film producers in Romania, if not THE most important. She has succeeded with the feat of bringing numerous directors into the spotlight of A-festivals, while developing a unique artistic signature with them at the same time. She is also known for her extremely professional way of working and is not afraid to take on 'difficult' material that catalyzes careers, sweeps up festival awards, and contributes substantially to the standing of the 'New Romanian Cinema'."* (Andrei Tănăsescu, Programmer Toronto Int. FF)

Ada Solomon (\*1968) from Romania has been working as a producer for **over 20 years extremely successfully**, and that all over Europe. Her apparently **infallible sense of talent** has already catalyzed a number of careers.

For instance, she has produced the feature film debuts by Radu Jude (CEA MAI FERICITA FATA DIN LUME / THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD), Melissa de Raaf and Razvan Radulescu (FELICIA INAINTE DE TOATE / FIRST OF ALL FELICIA), and Paul Negoescu (O LUNA IN THAILANDIA / A MONTH IN THAILAND). In addition, she is also known for her versatility, so that short films, feature films AND documentaries are listed in her filmography. Ada Solomon also co-founded the NextT Int. Film Festival Bucharest.

Productions from her companies [HiFilm Productions](#) (founded 2004) or [Parada Film](#) are invited to the **most prestigious festivals** in the world, whether it is Berlin, Cannes, Locarno or Venice, and are also **distinguished with awards**: e.g. DIN DRAGOSTE CU CELE MAI BUNE INTENTII / BEST INTENTIONS (RO, HU, FR 2011; D: Adrian Sitaru) in Locarno, POZITIA COPILULUI / CHILD'S POSE (RO 2012; D: Călin Peter Netzer) with the Golden Bear, and AFERIM! (RO, GB, CZ 2015; D: Radu Jude) with the Silver Bear at the Berlinale. At the European Film Awards in 2013, Ada Solomon was awarded the **PRIX EURIMAGES – European Co-Production Prize** for her "decisive role in the field of European co-productions". It is therefore hardly surprising that she was also involved as executive producer in one of the prime examples of European co-productions in recent years: TONI ERDMANN (DE, AT, CH, RO 2016; D: Maren Ade). Further **ties to Austria** in her work are found with Katharina Copony's documentary film OCEANUL MARE (AT, DE, RO 2009) and the new documentary film by Johannes Holzhausen, THE ROYAL TRAIN (AT, RO 2018).

Films produced by Ada Solomon have already been shown at past editions of CROSSING EUROPE, such as in 2011 the two feature films PRINCIPII DE VIATA / PRINCIPLES OF LIFE (RO 2010; D: Constantin Popescu) and CEA MAI FERICITA FATA DIN LUME / THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD (RO, NL 2009; D: Radu Jude). In the SPOTLIGHT section of the coming festival, a **presentation of seven feature-length films and a short film program** is planned, including two current works (a feature film and a documentary in the competition sections). Ada Solomon will present her productions in Linz **in person**, and during a **"Producer's Talk"** and a **"Case Study"** she will offer insights into her way of working and her wealth of experience as an internationally successful film producer.

// SPOTLIGHT 2018 is presented with kind support from the [Romanian Cultural Institute Vienna](#). //

## School @ Crossing Europe 2018

Following the successful pilot project last April, in 2018 CROSSING EUROPE again offers a specially conceived **film education program** under the title SCHOOL @ CROSSING EUROPE. **Classes of higher level pupils and apprentices** can experience especially assembled film screenings of **current European cinema films**. The focus here is on direct communication with the filmmakers and an engagement with the medium of film. Specially prepared school materials support teachers in preparing for and later reflecting on the films. A total of **three film programs** will be shown during the festival the end of April, all of them in German or with German subtitles (each with an introduction and a discussion with the film guests afterward) on the following mornings:

- ❖ **Wednesday, 25 April – 10:30 am (Movimiento)**  
DRÖM VIDARE / BEYOND DREAMS / TRÄUM WEITER (SE 2017, D: Rojda Sekersöz, original version with German subtitles) – feature film
  
- ❖ **Thursday, 26. April – 10:30 am (Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter)**  
BLIND & HÄSSLICH / UGLY & BLIND (DE 2017, D: Tom Lass, original German version) – feature film



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- ❖ **Friday, 27 April – 10:30 am (Ursulinensaal in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter)**  
SMART UP YOUR LIFE (AT 2017/18, various directors, original German version) – short film program by young people from Upper Austria on the theme of “Approaching One Another: Fleeing – Interculture – Living Together”

The so-called “Social Climate Day” takes place now for the fifth time on 27 April 2018. Numerous associations and institutions dedicate this day to the **improvement of the social climate in Austria**. In keeping with this, the short film program “Smart Up Your Life” presents video works created during video workshops and school projects since fall 2017. Starting from the paperback book “I’m not going along with that ... Arguments for Living Together Well”, young people used their smartphones to shoot short films on the theme “Approaching One Another: Fleeing – Interculture – Living Together”. They were then invited to enter these for the “Smart Up Your Life” short film competition (until 16 February 2018) – as an offer for young people to become artistically active in the fields of storytelling, new media and global learning, because media skills today also increasingly mean political skills. **Selected contributions** from this competition will be shown during CROSSING EUROPE in conjunction with “School @ Crossing Europe”. – “[Smart Up Your Life](#)” is a cooperation project of Welthaus Linz, the department of development policies of the Diocese of Linz, “Land der Menschen – Aufeinander zugehen OÖ” and the Federal Province of Upper Austria.

// Further information and school material available from [www.crossingEurope.at/schule](http://www.crossingEurope.at/schule) // Admission: € 7,- for pupils – free admission for accompanying teachers. //

## Film Entries for 2018 – Deadline: 8 January 2018

For the **European program sections**, only films with a minimum length of 60 minutes will be accepted. For the program selection, new narrative forms or innovate artistic design play a significant role, as well as current socio-political themes and an engagement with European (life) reality, in short: filmic positions that do justice to the variety (and thus also the multilinguality) of European cinema – and the continent of Europe.

The **LOCAL ARTISTS section** in the festival program of CROSSING EUROPE shows current film and video works from the years 2017/2018 from Linz and Upper Austria and offers the local film scene and young filmmakers an international platform. Once again, **Upper Austria’s film- and video-makers** are warmly invited to enter their works for the Local Artists section. Films and videos of all genres, formats and lengths are welcome; a special category is devoted to music videos. Entries are accepted from artists who were born, live, work or study in Upper Austria, as well as productions co-financed by an Upper Austria funding body.

Deadline for entries for all program sections is **8 January 2018**. Conditions for entry, regulations, information on the festival awards and the **entry form** can be found at [www.crossingEurope.at/en/program/film-entry-2018](http://www.crossingEurope.at/en/program/film-entry-2018). Details on the festival awards can be found [HERE](#) on our website.

## PICTUREyourSOUNDyourPICTURE 2018

**CALL: Atelier Gmunden (Art Collection of the Federal Province of Upper Austria)**

The [OÖKB-Upper Austrian Composers' Association](#) in cooperation with the [Austrian Composers' Association \(ÖKB\)](#) and CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz announces, now for the second time, a competition of a **one-month atelier stay** at the Villa Stonborough-Wittgenstein in Gmunden – made available by the [Art Collection of the Federal Province of Upper Austria](#) – for November 2018.



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The announcement is addressed to filmmakers and musicians/composers from Upper Austria. The jury will look for **artistic projects** or proposals (of all lengths and formats) by two-person teams, which are devoted to **linking music/sound and film** in a special way. This includes the equal integration of visual and auditive art. The work can/should be completed during the one-month atelier stay. In addition, the selected project will be shown in the program of CROSSING EUROPE 2019.

**Prerequisites** for participation: at least one partner should be from Upper Austria or the focus of their work should be in Upper Austria. The submission of project ideas must also include a current CV and information about referential works. The **atelier** in the Villa Stonborough-Wittgenstein, provided by the Upper Austrian provincial government/Department of Culture, has a living area with two bedrooms and an atelier space, in which preliminary work on the film can be presented. In addition, each person will receive a **grant** from the Federal Province of Upper Austria for travel and residency costs amounting to EUR 500.

At the end of April 2018 a **jury of experts** will select the winning project from the submissions. Represented in the jury are: [Tanja Brüggemann](#) (composer and musician, member of the specialized section of the Austrian Composers' Association for film and media music), [Małgorzata Sady](#), [Alexander Kukelka](#) (composer and president of the Austrian Composers' Association, head of the specialized section of the Austrian Composers' Association for film and media music). – **Questions & Entries until 15 April 2018** may be addressed directly to Tanja Brüggemann ([tanja.brueggemann@me.com](mailto:tanja.brueggemann@me.com)).

## Happy X-mas

The CROSSING EUROPE festival team wishes you happy holidays and a good start into the new year! We look forward to seeing you at the anniversary edition in April!

## Upcoming Dates

Deadline for film submissions: **8 January 2018**

Program press conferences Linz & Vienna: **11 April 2018**

Festival dates 2018: **Wednesday, 25 to Monday, 30 April 2018**

## Image material & Updates

Filmstills & pictures: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/xe-presse/pressefotos.html>

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 2018 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](#).