

CROSSING EUROPE Filmfestival Linz / 24 – 29 April 2007 / www.crossingEurope.at

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CROSSING EUROPE 2007 with a light increase in the number of visitors

Despite the summerly weather during the last days CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz managed to meet last year's excellent result again and to even increase the number of festival visitors lightly: The festival team counted a **total of 13,000 visitors** (2006: 12,000) in the cinemas, at the Nightline, at the events of the supporting programme as well as at the exhibition of of OK Artist in Residence Sejla Kameric. Again, festival director and her team welcomed 450 national and international accredited festival guests. Thanks to more staff at the telephone hotline and the new ticketing system CROSSING EUROPE managed to meet the multiplicity of information and ticket requests.

For the first time the festival provided the CROSSING EUROPE hotel boat M.P.S. Florentina as an inventive lodging which proved to be very popular with the guests. Along with a branded tram, x-large posters and city lights produced by Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture on the occasion of the festival, festival flags along the central shopping mile, the ship contributed to a visibly stronger presence of CROSSING EUROPE in the inner city of Linz.

As the OK - the festival's central location - is currently being rebuilt, the next edition of CROSSING EUROPE will take place in an extended infrastructure including a new cinema hall next year.

Prize money amounting to 26,000 Euro

The last but one festival evening was dedicated to the award ceremony. **Pia Marais** was awarded the CROSSING EUROPE 2007 Award European Competition powered by Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture, endowed with 10,000 euro, for *Die Unerzogenen/The Unpolished* (Germany 2007). The moviegoers' favourite in the competition was *Avril/April in Love* (France 2006) by **Gérald Hustache-Mathieu**, which received the ray Audience Award with a total value of 5,000 euro. The CROSSING EUROPE 2007 Award Local Artist, donated by the Federal Province of Upper Austria, Muhr TV.Film Produktion and Synchro Film- und Videobearbeitung with a total value of 6,000 euro, went to **Libertad Hackl** for *Wir Bleiben will ich, wo ich nie gewesen bin* (Austria 2007). Special Mentions by the Local Artists Jury went to *Nach der Eishöhle* (Austria 2007) by **Lukas Marxt** and **Michael Petri** and to *Fatsy* (Austria 2007) by **Oliver Stangl** and **Christian Tod**.

OK Artist in Residence **Sejla Kameric** was awarded the **OK friends Art Prize** amounting to 5,000 euro.

And remember: The fifth edition of CROSSING EUROPE will take place from 22 to 27 April 2008.