



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz Media Information #9/20, 17 December 2020 Résumé 2020, Festival Preview 2021, YAAAS! Youth Program in its Third Year & Film Submissions 2021

Résumé – Festival Edition 2020

Many things are different this year. Usually such a résumé would focus on the week of the festival, and present numbers, stats, and impressions of six lively Crossing Europe festival days. Looking back at this year's edition is going to be different for obvious reasons, and will list all the various stages of this exceptional festival year, that was shaped by very special circumstances that will stay with us until 2021.

After the **official cancellation of the festival due to the Corona virus** on 18 March, the first thing to happen internally was to consolidate – on an organizational, financial, and mental level. After this moment of shock had passed, an **alternative program** was developed. The goal of **Crossing Europe EXTRACTS** was to give a substantial number **filmmakers and their works** that were selected for the canceled festival edition in 2020 a forum. Additionally to this, the alternative program **EXTRACTS** considered itself to be a contributing factor to the preservation of cinematographic culture in Austria and invited audiences on a journey all over the film continent Europe, both digitally and physically from April to November 2020 – originally this had been planned to last until December, yet unfortunately the second lockdown in Austria forced a premature end to the EXTRACTS program.

True to the festival spirit, the program did justice not only to the great variety of European auteur cinema, but also to the many program cooperations that have shaped and enriched the festival since its beginning. During the first lockdown in Austria, on 21 April, the day the official Crossing Europe festival opening had been planned to take place, the first two parts of the alternative program were successfully launched: Under the title "**Crossing Europe EXTRACTS**", a modified festival opening ("[An Opening](#)") took place online, and from 21 April to 20 Mai, ten selected works from the program 2020 were made available on the local streaming platforms KINO VOD CLUB and Flimmit for one month ("[VoD Selection](#)"). We are happy to announce that these two segments of the EXTRACTS program were well very received by audiences.

After single film screenings during the summer, in **autumn 2020** Crossing Europe started the third segment of **Crossing Europe EXTRACTS**, a series of physical film events, in which the focus was put on the collective experience of going to the cinema, including an active exchange with the filmmakers – all in adherence to the current rules and regulations surrounding the Corona virus. "Festival Feeling in Stages" was the leitmotif of the extensive autumn program, that took place in **Linz, Vienna, Salzburg, Dornbirn, and Ebensee** from September onward. These new conditions called for new formats that allow for audiences to continue to enjoy European cinema, without disregarding the **hygiene and security rules and regulations**.

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Canceled but active! - Numbers and Stats for the Festival Edition 2020

The **official program of the festival 2020** would have presented **157** selected feature and short films, and documentaries from **47** different countries to our international guests, and the local audiences – all in all, this would have included **97** premieres (**13** world premieres, **2** international premieres, and **82** Austrian premieres). Of these – in regards to a well-balanced gender programming – **slightly over half** the films (55,41%) were (co-) produced by **women**. The festival program 2020, the seventeenth edition of the festival, would have been comprised of 178 screenings and 23 framework program points. All of **50** works would have been shown again in follow-up screenings in the program “Crossing Europe goes...” all over Austria throughout May and June.

We are happy to announce that the **alternative program EXTRACTS** allowed us to show **around 100 feature films and documentaries** from the planned program of the 2020 edition (including a great number of premieres). Including the **possibility of streaming** (ten festival films were **available for VoD**) and the **three part alternative opening ceremony** on DORF TV (“**An Opening**”), the EXTRACTS program during summer and autumn consisted of **69 physical film events** that took place on the one hand in Linz (Moviemento Sommerkino, Tribute VALIE EXPORT @ Ars Electronica 2020, Local Artist Shorts @ Upper Austrian Culture Quarter, festival premieres at the City-Kino from September to November), and on the other with our partners all over Austria (Sommerkino Murinsel Graz, Festival Der Neue Heimatfilm Freistadt, /slash filmfestival Vienna, Spielboden Dornbirn, Spotlight MARK JENKIN (GB) in the Austrian filmmuseum, DAS Kino Salzburg – additional screenings at the Stadtkino Wien, and at the International Film Festival Innsbruck unfortunately fell victim to the second lockdown).

The **awards** “CROSSING EUROPE Innovative Award – Local Artist” and the “CREATIVE REGION Music Video Award” were awarded during the three-day “mini festival” **Local Artists Shorts in the Upper Austrian Culture Quarter** in October 2020 to the **works of local filmmakers**: The collective TOTAL REFUSAL for their film HOW TO DISAPPEAR (AT 2020), Anna Spanlang for the music video AUTO – KLITCLIQUE (AT 2019), as well as Michael Heindl for STONES (BO/PE/CL/JAT 2019), and HARD-HEADED HARMONY (GB/AT 2019).

Verdict: During the months of April to November 2020, the festival director Christine Dollhofer and the festival team managed to create the Crossing Europe festival atmosphere on multiple occasions, even if only during single events and in an unconventional form. The fact that parts of the planned program of the festival 2020 were still able to be shown, as well as the amount of positive feedback from the audiences, our partners, and the media have left us feeling strengthened and optimistic in regards to the festival edition 2021, that will undoubtedly present itself as a challenge once more.

Save the Date! - Preview 2021

In eighteen weeks, on **Wednesday 21 April 2021**, the **eighteenth edition** of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz will begin. Over the course of six festival days, a hand-packed selection of **around 140 feature and short films, and documentaries** will present a differentiated way of looking at lived realities all over Europe.

Besides the presentation of ambitious European filmmaking, the exchange between the audiences and the **attendant film guests** (depending on travel possibilities), stands in the focus of the festival, to make the Upper Austrian capital (and UNESCO City of Media Arts) the cinephile center of European film once again, if only for a short time.

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We are proud to present the **official festival motif 2021**. In accordance to the graphic design of CROSSING EUROPE, the new sujet shows another facet of the “faces of Europe”. We would like to thank our collaboration with the agency [d.signwerk](#), as well as the photographer [Gerhard Wasserbauer](#).

In the festival office, the work on the program is already heavily underway: Hundreds of **film submissions** have already arrived, and have rung in an intense phase of sighting (submission deadline is 4 January 2021), established **program partnerships** will be continued, and also new co-operations will be taking place for the first time. As has been the case in the previous years, the selection process underlies a well-balanced **gender programming**. We also intend to continue our efforts in regards to sustainable, climate friendly festival work (the key word being “Green Event”), as well as the **further circulation of selected films** from the program 2021, **outside of the festival week**, together with our partners all over Austria (under the label “Crossing Europe goes...”), and intensifying our international collaboration with our partner festivals within the **European festival network “MIOB | Moving Images Open Borders”**, that we are happy to say has gained the support of the European Union within the framework of their CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA program in the autumn of 2020.

Preliminary Setting of the Festival Edition 2021 – Under the Sign of Corona

No question, the Corona virus has cast its shadow into the future, and will prove to pose unprecedented challenges to all the actors within the Austrian cultural industry. It goes without saying that adherence to whatever **rules and regulations are effective at the time in order to contain the Covid-19 pandemic**, stand above all program parts and planned festival activities of CROSSING EUROPE. Planning for the festival in 2021, already **includes alternative measures for any possible eventualities**, including adjustments of the festival structure, or measures in regards to the size of events, in addition to this, the work in regards to **developing a comprehensive Covid-19 prevention concept** has already begun. In principle we are operating under the assumption that the CROSSING EUROPE festival 2021 will take place as an **in-person/physical event from 21 to 26 April 2021**. Necessary adjustments will be affecting the following areas: expansion of online ticketing, temporal equalization of the program (i.e. larger time-slots in between the films), live-streamed inclusion of international guests and selected festival events, the possibility of streaming selected festival films after the festival (similar to the VoD-offer of 2020), the development of a concept for the OK square as an “open-air meeting place” in adherence to the given possibilities, and considerations of an additional screening venue (currently in negotiation).

Despite these new framework conditions the CROSSING EUROPE festival audiences can look forward to a rich and multi-faceted program in April 2021. It is our goal to present **ambitious European film** as accessibly as possible once again in the spring of 2021, and to offer the possibility of **direct exchange with attending filmmakers from all over Europe**. In January 2021 we will present the first program highlights in detail.

The YAAAS! Youth Program will enter its third round

In 2019, CROSSING EUROPE presented a holistic program of **film education, acquisition of media competency, and DIY video production** for youths for the first time. The youth program YAAAS! is directed at young people between the ages of **15 and 20**, and offers them the chance to enter into a direct exchange with international media professionals, learn new skills, see and discuss films, as well as being able to present their own works.

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Next to the six Young Programmers, who curate the **competition section YAAAS! Competition** (3,000 €, powered by [VdFS](#)) and **film screenings**, a **youth jury** and a **video-project spanning multiple days**, YAAAS! offers **practical workshops and accessible events** in order to get to know the film industry. More than **900 young people** took part in the first edition of YAAAS! in April 2019, a program that sees itself as being complimentary to the media education in secondary school, and intends to further media competency through practical work with the medium of film and its reception.

In 2021, the YAAAS! Youth Program will enter into its **third round**, and intends to continue its success from 2019. This program section will also see **adjustments due to the Corona virus**, and so considerations of how to achieve this are already part of the planning process, e.g. during the planning of the YAAAS! Workshop Rally (workshops will take place in the schools themselves - "We come to you!") and the school screenings (an offer of special screening for entire school classes). In addition, selected discussion events will be offered as a live-stream. The plan to **internationalize** the YAAAS! Youth Program (inviting young people from other European countries to take part in the YAAAS! Video project) will have to be moved to 2022, for the aforementioned reasons.

YAAAS! Young Programmers 2021

The YAAAS! Competition is one of four **CROSSING EUROPE competition programs**. In this section, the YAAAS! Youth Jury awards the **festival prize CROSSING EUROPE Award – Youth Jury**, that will be supported by the [VdFS Verwertungsgesellschaft der Filmschaffenden](#) for the first time in 2021, and is endowed with 3,000 €.

The YAAAS! Competition will show six current European film productions that were selected by the **YAAAS! Young Programmers**. The Young Programmers for 2021 have already been selected: Adrian Turkic, Fabian Wenzelhumer, Vanessa Petrusic, Lea Haslmaier, Eva Lackner, and Marlene Mayrhofer all attend our partner school, the HBLA for artistic design in Linz, and have been taking part in an **introductory** program into the **curation process** of a film festival. They describe the process as such: "We are excited about the possibility to see different films, to talk about them with a small group of people, and to get an insight into the personal feeling of each person and to hear different interpretations of the story."

The six youths have watched around 15 films in the past weeks, and will announce their final film selection shortly. In addition, three of the six selected feature films will be shown in **special school screenings** within the framework of the festival. The exact dates, details (including Covid-19 regulations), film descriptions, and trailer links, as well as **school material** for preparation and follow-up of the festival attendance will be announced in late January 2021, from then on registration for the school screenings will also be possible.

Additionally, the Young Programmers will be responsible for the Q&A sessions during the YAAAS! film screenings, and will take care of the participants of the YAAAS! Workshop program.

| All details on the YAAAS! Youth Program, as well as updates and dates for the various YAAAS! modules can be found on www.crossingeurope.at/yaaas |

Film Submission Deadline: 4 January 2021

Until **4 January 2021**, filmmakers are invited to submit their current productions for the upcoming edition of the festival. [Here](#) you can find the submission terms, the rules and regulations, as well as the **submission form**. Details regarding the festival awards can be found [HERE](#) on our website.

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For the **European program sections** only current productions (production year 2020 or 2021), with a minimum length of sixty minutes may be submitted. The selection will be based on **new forms of story-telling** or an **innovative artistic design**, as well as a discussion of contemporary sociopolitical topics and European (lived) realities, in short: Cinematographic positions that do justice to the vast variety of form (and thus also the linguistic variety) of European cinema and the European continent as a whole.

The **Local Artists section** of the festival program shows current film and video productions from the years 2020 and 2021 from Linz or Upper Austria, and offers the local film scene and young filmmakers an international platform to present their works. **Upper Austrian filmmakers** are invited to submit their works for the Local Artists program. We welcome **films and videos of all genres, formats and lengths**. Submission by artists born, living, studying, or working in Upper Austria will be considered, as well as works that have been co-financed by an Upper Austrian funding agency and would be shown in Upper Austria for the first time.

| [Details on the online submission and the submission form](#) can be found at [HERE](#) |

Happy X-Mas & Stay Safe!

The CROSSING EUROPE festival team would like to thank all our partners, funders, and sponsors for their continued support during this extraordinary year, and wishes everyone happy holidays and a good start into the new year! We are already looking forward to seeing everyone again for the eighteenth CROSSING EUROPE edition in April! Stay safe!

Covid-19 Updates

Ever since spring 2020 many things have changed. This is why we are also working under the assumption that special rules and regulations for film screenings and events of CROSSING EUROPE 2021 concerning hygiene, security, and entry will be in affect. These rules will be communicated at the various venues. Additionally, we are keeping a close eye on the current developments regarding Covid-19, and take the responsibility for the health and well-being of our audiences and team very seriously. Should there be any changes regarding our program, or the festival event itself, we will communicate these in a timely manner on our website and on our social media channels.

Date Preview

Submission Deadline: **4 January 2021** | [HERE](#)

Program Press Conference: **8 April 2021 – Linz, 10 AM**

Festival Dates: **21 to 26 April 2021**

Impressions from the Crossing Europe EXTRACTS 2020: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/collections/>

Filmstills and Images: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/xs-presse/pressefotos.html>

Logo and Festival Sujet: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/xs-presse/logos>

Regular **updates** and **current information** on Crossing Europe can be found as always on our website www.crossingeurope.at and on our social media channels [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).