# Press Release

## CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz
### Media Information #2/22, 24 February 2022
### First Preview: Working Worlds | YAAAS! Competition & School Screenings

The **nineteenth edition of CROSSING EUROPE** film festival Linz will take place from **27 April to 2 May 2022**, in this media information we will give a **preview of some of the elements and highlights of the festival**. Under the title *Care,* the **program Working Worlds** will be dedicated to self-determination spanning from the beginning to the end of life and focuses on people who take on a responsibility for the lives of others in their daily life. In addition the **YAAAS! Young Programmers** have selected six **feature films** that stand out in terms of choice of topic but also in artistic approach **for the competition section YAAAS! Competition**, three of which will also be offered as special **school screenings**. Here you can find details on the program elements:

## Working Worlds 2022: Care

For the nineteenth time, the **film program *Working Worlds*** is a fixed part of CROSSING EUROPE film festival. Every year a different topic is chosen, but always in relation to working conditions in Europe. The films offer various **accounts of the professional world** in the twenty first century. **In 2022, the program *Care*** will take a close look at self-determination from the beginning to the end of life in four documentaries. The focus is on people who take on responsibilities for the lives of others. Even when the goal is a self-determined life, they are often left with the difficult question if they should keep fighting or if the time has come to let go.

A very clear example of this is the film **SHEROES** (FR 2021, Aude Pépin) that shows the challenging **daily life of an experienced midwife in Paris**. Chantal Birman is almost seventy, has been working as a midwife for about forty years, and has dedicated her life to the struggle of women's liberation. The film documents both the painful and the beautiful moments in Birman's daily life, in which she visits young mothers to be at their side with care and council.

In **DIDA** (CH 2021), the directing duo Nikola Ilić and Corina Schwingruber Ilić documents **an upheaval in their own family**. While Nikola emigrated to Switzerland years ago, his mother Dida lives in Belgrade together with Nikola's grandmother Dobrila, on whose care Dida depends due to a learning disability. Yet Dobrila is getting older, Nikola gradually has to take over her tasks and now has the responsibility to honor the wishes of self-determination of his mother, without neglecting his own.

The **other two films** in the section Working Worlds will be presented in an upcoming press release. The program is curated by **Lina Dinkla** and **Thérèse Athony** of the [DOK Lepizig](#), the International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film.

**| Announcement of the first two films in the program section Working Worlds |**

❖ **À LA VIE** / SHEROES (FR 2021), directed by Aude Pépin, 71 min. – Austrian premiere
❖ **DIDA** (CH 2021), directed by Nikola Ilić, Corina Schwingruber Ilić, 78 min. – Austrian premiere

Supported by the [AK Oberösterreich/Kultur](#)

## YAAAS! Competition & School Screenings

In 2022, CROSSING EUROPE is once more dedicated to the aim of getting **the next generation excited about film**. Since 2019, the **YAAAS! Youth Program** offers a holistic program for film education, the acquisition of media competency and DIY video production. **Youths between the ages of fifteen and twenty** get the opportunity at YAAAS! to enter into a direct exchange with **industry professionals**, to learn new skills during practice orientated **workshops**, to see and discuss films, but also to present their **own work** in the framework of a professional film festival. Details on YAAAS! can be found [here](#).

A central part of the youth program is the **YAAAS! Competition,** one of four competition sections in CROSSING EUROPE. **Six contemporary European feature films** (Austrian premieres) were selected by the YAAAS! Young Programmers Andrea Reininger, Julia Stöckl, Marco Barthofer, Marie-Louise Schmidinger, Marlene Frostel, and Oliver Parsch. These **six youths** all attend the HBLA für künstlerische Gestaltung Linz, and have taken part in an introductory course on the process of curating films and leading Q&A sessions at the YAAAS! screenings, in addition to being responsible for the participants of the various YAAAS!-modules.

The films selected by the YAAAS! Young Programmers all stand out due to their topical choices as well as their artistic diversity, and all deal with the different **lived realities of European youths and young adults**. One of the six YAAAS! Competition films will be awarded the *CROSSING EUROPE Award – Youth Jury* (€ 3000,- powered by [VdFS](#)) by the YAAAS! Youth Jury.

The following three films from the YAAAS! Competition will also be shown as special **school screenings**:

❖ **NINJABABY** (NO 2021, directed by Yngvild Sve Flikke, 103 min, with German subtitles) – feature film | *Austrian premiere, distributor in Austria: [Filmladen](#); Cinema opening: September 2022 |*

*An astronaut, a forester, or a cartoonist – these are some of the professional paths the twenty three year old Rakel can think of. The student spends a lot of her time drawing, drinking, and getting high. But her plans for the future all collapse when she finds out that she is pregnant. And Rakel is not even certain of who the father is! She had planned for everything, except for becoming a mother. When her baby then manifests itself as a masked cartoon character that asks her uncomfortable questions, she is at her wits ends. (Julia Stöckl, YAAAS! Young Programmer)*

❖ **UNE HISTOIRE D'AMOUR ET DE DÉSIR** / A TALE OF LOVE AND DESIRE
   (FR 2021, directed by Leyla Bouzid, 102 min, with German subtitles) – feature film
   | *Austrian premiere |*

*Ahmed, an introverted student gets to know Farah, a Tunisian literature enthusiast at the university in Paris. When the course on literature leads the two into the world of erotic poetry, Ahmed begins his sexual and cultural awakening. The eighteen year old finds new aspects of his Algerian background, and is simultaneously attracted by Farah and her openness. Searching for identity and intimacy, Ahmed must navigate through a maze of resisting, understanding, and longing, and questions that always return to the same answer: Farah, Farah, Farah … (Oliver Parsch, YAAAS! Young Programmer)*

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❖ **YOUTH TOPIA** (CH, DE 2021, directed by Dennis Stormer, 85 min, German OV) – feature film
| *Austrian premiere* |

*In an alternative reality the so-called "Algorithm" decides when a person is deemed to be an adult, and the calculated perfect dream job is part of the deal. Wanja does not really care about that, as she lives her life defined by what is fun with her crew of professional youths away from the meritocracy – free from responsibilities and goals, full of likes on social media. But when she is deemed to be an adult from one day to the next, she is not only catapulted into professional life, but also finds herself trying to navigate the tension between privileges and duties, performance and aimlessness, adulthood and youth.*

You can register for the YAAAS! school screenings from **3 March** onward at yaaas@crossingeurope.at. Details, film descriptions, trailers, as well as school materials to prepare for and follow-up on the school screenings can also be found after 3 March on our website. All details of the YAAAS! Youth Program can be found at www.crossingeurope.at/en/program/yaaas_youth_program.

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**Festival date:** 27 April to 2 May 2022 | **Press conference 2022:** Wednesday, 13 April, 10 am
**Start of online ticket sales**: 14 April 2022
**Film stills and Images:** https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/photos
**Logo and Festival Motif:** https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/xe-presse/logos
Regular **updates** and **current information** on Crossing Europe 2022, as well as our efforts in regards to Covid-19 prevention can be found as always on our website www.crossingeurope.at and on our social media channels Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.