

# Press Release



## CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Press Release #8/22, 15 December 2022

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### Save the Date: 20<sup>th</sup> CROSSING EUROPE from April 26 – May 1, 2023

The success of 2022's festival edition, also the first under the leadership of Sabine Gebetsroither and Katharina Riedler, makes the entire festival team optimistic in their outlook for the anniversary year 2023.

In April 2022, nearly **15,000 visitors** were offered unconventional, courageous and at times controversial cinematic perspectives on European realities of life in **155 film screenings**. Numerous Q&As and side events (talks, workshops, Nightline, etc.) gave the audience the opportunity to directly engage in a dialog with around **120 film guests** from Austria and abroad. After what had felt like a very long phase of pandemic-related festival abstinence, 2022 also brought the long-desired **comeback of the CROSSING EUROPE spirit** in the city center of Linz, fueling the motivation for the coming year to bring back even more people to the social space that is cinema and to fill them with enthusiasm for contemporary European film. Invigorated by the positive feedback on the part of the audience, press, and festival partners, it is now full steam ahead into the "hot" phase of the 2023 festival preparations.

In **April 2023**, there will be reason to celebrate: From **April 26 to May 1**, CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz will be taking place for the 20<sup>th</sup> time, once again positioning Linz as a cinephile meeting place for European cinema with special attention to the young generation of European filmmakers.

For 19 years now, the vibrant film event that is CROSSING EUROPE has been providing insights into a continent with a complex history, conflict-laden present and yet hopeful future. Likewise, the festival program of the 20<sup>th</sup> edition will be dedicated to this approach under the motto **"Europe, we need to talk!"**. Even though there are plans for special highlights on the occasion of the anniversary, cinematic experience and direct exchange in a relaxed atmosphere will, as always, be paramount. The adequate framework will once again be provided by the well-tried festival district revolving around the OÖ Kulturquartier and the festival cinemas Movimiento, City-Kino, and Central.

Hundreds of films from all over Europe have already been submitted for the upcoming edition of **CROSSING EUROPE**. As in the years before, the programming focus in 2023 will, among other things, be on diversity in all its varieties (e.g. geographically, artistically, genre-specifically), a balanced gender programming and, thematically, on pressing European topics. Regard will also be given to films from countries with an economically underdeveloped film industry or productions that, despite international success at festivals, can find no place in the regular programs of Austrian cinemas. This much can already be revealed: The audience can look forward to an utterly rich cinephile selection of

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around **140 fiction, documentary, and short films**, including quite a few world premieres as well as the first Austrian presentations of internationally acclaimed films. Part of the festival DNA, along with the works of filmmakers from all over Europe, has always been the representation of local filmmaking, and it will also be in 2023 again, within **the Local Artists** competition section. The **YAAAS! Youth Program** continues the effort to fill youths with enthusiasm for cinema and the film medium through a holistic offering of film education, acquisition of media literacy, and DIY video production. The YAAAS! Competition, one of four CROSSING EUROPE competition sections, features six recent European feature film productions selected by the **YAAAS! Young Programmers 2023 (Anna Maria Ahamer, Katrin Dobetsberger, Charlotte Fiedermutz, Laura Marceta, Lilia Obermüller, and Raphael Trimmel)**. The six HBLA für künstlerische Gestaltung Linz students were given an introduction to film curating this autumn and are currently already tasked with viewing and selecting the six competition entries.

**The first film and festival highlights from the 2023 anniversary program will be announced in January.**

## **Festival Anniversary 2023: 19 Successful Years in Figures**

**2,948 films, 321,080 visitors, and 10,675 professional guests** from all over Europe: These are some of the impressive figures that account for the success of 19 editions of CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz. It was in September 2003 that long-time festival director Christine Dollhofer presented her vision of a European film festival in the Upper Austrian provincial capital together with Wolfgang Steininger, festival initiator and former Moviemento/City-Kino manager. In autumn 2021, after 18 successful years, Dollhofer handed over the reins to Sabine Gebetsroither and Katharina Riedler, who at that time were already experienced essential contributors to the festival. CROSSING EUROPE will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023 as the **second-biggest international film festival in Austria** (behind Viennale). Over the years, it has become a fixture in the European festival circuit, establishing itself with both filmmakers and the specialized press at home and abroad as a hot spot of European cinema because of its quality and atmosphere. The constantly growing number of regular guests from all over Europe can be seen as evidence of this. Over the past 19 years, CROSSING EUROPE repeatedly succeeded in bringing to Linz "new" voices of European auteur cinema at the start of their careers who now rank among the "big names" of European cinema (Ursula Meier, Teona S. Mitevska, Ruben Östlund, Matteo Garrone, Nicoals Winding Refn, and Andrea Arnold, among others). The Tribute section, in addition, has hosted numerous relevant directors resp. filmmakers and a representative cross-section of their oeuvres (Sergei Loznitsa, Joanna Hogg, Helena Třeščíková, Nanouk Leopold, and Jaime Rosales, among others). Since 2004, a total of **421,000 €** in prize money has been awarded in the context of the film competitions, thus giving direct support to the young generation of European filmmakers. More than **11,000 nights booked at hotels** are further proof of the contribution to the presentation of Linz as a city of culture and tourism that the festival has made since its inception.

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## **Film Entries Open Until January 9**

The submission period for CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz ends on **January 9, 2023**. For the European program sections, entry is open for feature-length fiction and documentary films (above 60 min) from the production year 2022 or 2023. For submission to the section Local Artists, which provides recent works by the domestic Upper Austrian film scene with an international platform, films and videos of all genres, formats, lengths, and music videos are welcome. All further information on rules & regulations can be found at: <https://crossingeurope.at/submission>

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**Festival dates:** [April 26 to May 1, 2023](#) | **Press conference 2023:** Thursday, [April 13, 10:00 a.m.](#), Linz

**Logo & new festival motif for 2023:** <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/downloads>

**Festival impressions:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/>

**Regular updates and current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2023 can, as always, be found on our website <http://www.crossingeurope.at/en> and on our social media channels [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).