

Press Release



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Press Release #2/23, 1 March 2023

First Look: Working Worlds | YAAAS! Competition & School Screenings | Cinema Next Europe Club

The 20th edition of CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz will take place from April 26 to May 1, once again offering a platform for young and unconventional auteur cinema from all over Europe. In today's press release, we present a few highlights from the 2023 festival program: This year, the **Working Worlds** program section focuses on the work life of artists, taking the audience from the studio all the way to the world of luxury dining. For the **YAAAS! Competition**, the YAAAS! Young Programmers have selected seven feature films that are highly diverse with regard to content and artistry, three of which are presented in this circular. In addition, emerging filmmakers from Austria have until March 12 to apply for the four-day Cinema Next Europe Club festival campus at CROSSING EUROPE.

Working Worlds: Art Is but a Job

With its 20 editions, the program section **Working Worlds**, dedicated to actual working conditions in 21st-century Europe, is a fixed component of the CROSSING EUROPE film program. Each year sees a different thematic focus examined from various cinematic perspectives. In 2023, entitled *Art Is but a Job*, the series draws a great line from the art scene to award-winning cuisine, immersing itself into the ordinary everyday lives of artists between the canvas and the brush, knife and plate. Four documentaries provide insights into the difficulties of the beginnings between entrance exams and self-doubts, capture the sometimes disenchantingly monotonous daily studio routine of someone who has succeeded, and accompany a future starred chef on her way to her own creations.

| Announcement of the first films from the Working Worlds section |

- ❖ **DANIEL RICHTER** (DE 2022), directed by: Pepe Danquart, 118 min. – Austrian premiere
Austrian distributor: [Filmladen](#) | scheduled release date: May 12, 2023

Once a punk in the squatter scene, now a star on the international art scene: Daniel Richter's works are in great demand across the globe, but the painter remains a rebel at heart. Over a period of three years, Pepe Danquart captures the artist's professional daily life as well as private moments, follows him to exhibitions and the studio and asks him how a political mind can be reconciled with the capitalism of the art market.

- ❖ **SHE CHEF** (DE/AT 2022), directed by: Melanie Liebheit, Gereon Wetzel, 105 min. – Austrian premiere
Austrian distributor: [filmdelights](#) | scheduled release date: May 18, 2023

In SHE CHEF, directing duo Melanie Liebheit and Gereon Wetzel portray the rocky road of young Austrian cook and newly-named Culinary World Cup champion, Agnes Karrasch, who in her years of training and journeying in the European high-end gastronomy seeks not only for her own culinary style, but also questions prevalent traditions, gender norms, and hierarchies.

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The other two Working Worlds section films will be announced at the press conference on 13 April and online on crossingeurope.at on 14 April. The program section was curated by Lina Dinkla of [DOK Leipzig](#), the International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film. With the kind support of [AK Oberösterreich/Kultur](#).

YAAAS! Competition & School Screenings

In 2023, CROSSING EUROPE once again plans to actively fill a young audience with enthusiasm for cinema, offering an attractive holistic program of film education, acquisition of media literacy, and DIY video production for the fourth time in the form of the YAAAS! Youth Program. In the course of the festival, participants will have the opportunity to acquire new skills in workshops, engage with filmmakers, or present their own works on the big screen.

At the heart of the Youth Program is the YAAAS! Competition, one of CROSSING EUROPE's four competition sections. It offers seven recent European feature films (Austrian premieres) selected by the [YAAAS! Young Programmers](#) (Anna Ahamer, Katrin Dobetsberger, Charlotte Fiedermutz, Laura Marceta, Lilia Obermüller, Raphael Trimmel), six students at the HBLA für künstlerische Gestaltung Linz. They have chosen a number of courageous, thematically diverse and artistically quite different films that mirror the life realities of European youths and young adults in all their complexity and, not least, present an impressive plea for a younger generation that scrutinizes and breaches the thinking patterns and social norms of yesterday. The festival prize *CROSSING EUROPE Award – YAAAS! Youth Jury* (€ 3000, powered by [VdFS](#)) is awarded among the six YAAAS! competition titles.

| Announcement of the first films from the YAAAS! Competition |

- ❖ [9-TAS ŽINGSNIS / THE 9TH STEP](#) (LT 2022), directed by: Irma Pužauskaitė, 93 min, feature film, OV with English subtitles | Austrian premiere

Linus, a dry alcoholic, barely manages to keep his own life under control. But then his teenage daughter Eve, who finds refuge from her angst in her passion for music, moves in with him, bringing along her friend Maya, who projects her desire for a first big love story onto Linus. A powerful coming-of-age debut feature on the complex relationship of three people whose problems catch up with them.

- ❖ [LE LYCÉEN / WINTER BOY / DER GYMNASIAST](#) (FR 2022), directed by: Christophe Honoré, 122 min, feature film, OV with German subtitles | Austrian premiere | *will also be shown as a **school screening***

Leave the French backcountry, and head off to Paris – that's 17-year-old Lucas's dream when his world is suddenly shattered by a tragic loss. Caught in a confusing range of emotions between grief and longing, he leaves behind his boyfriend and mother and accepts the invitation of his older brother Quentin, an artist living in the big city, to come and spend some time with him in Paris.

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❖ **METRONOM** (RO/FR 2022), directed by: Alexandru Belc, 102 min, feature film, OV with English subtitles –
| Austrian premiere

Director Alexandru Belc's initial idea of a documentary about young people in 1970s Romania turned into a fictional coming-of-age story in the era of neo-Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu. 17-year-old Ana is in love, yearns for freedom, and listens to American rock music on the banned cult show "Metronom" on Radio Free Europe with her friends when her life suddenly takes a drastic turn.

Registration for the YAAAS! School Screenings is open from March 9 via yaaas@crossingeurope.at. Details, film descriptions, trailers, and educational materials to prepare for and follow up on the festival visit can also be found on www.crossingeurope.at/yaaas from March 9. The other three titles of the YAAAS! Competition will be announced at the press conference on 13 April and online on crossingeurope.at on 14 April. All details about the YAAAS! Youth Program can be found on www.crossingeurope.at/yaaas

Cinema Next Europe Club 2023: Apply Until March 12!

The Austrian emerging talent initiative [Cinema Next](#) invites eight young creative film minds to the 4th Cinema Next Europe Club at CROSSING EUROPE. It is also the first time that three filmmakers from other European countries will participate in the four-day practical module that takes place from April 26 to 29, in the course of the festival. The Club is intended to give emerging filmmakers the opportunity to visit CROSSING EUROPE, draw input from the festival programs and to exchange with other young filmmakers on their respective planned projects. Discussion and presentation rounds will be held in English. The offer is directed at young filmmakers from Austria who are currently working on a feature-length film project and can therefore benefit from the content offered in 2023. Cinema Next Europe Club is supported by [VdFS – Verwertungsgesellschaft der Filmschaffenden](#).

| Information on Cinema Next Europe Club and application details can be found [HERE](#) | Application deadline: March 12 2023 (midnight) |

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

Logo & Festival Motif 2023: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/downloads>

Film Stills & Festival Impressions: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/photos>

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](#).