

## PRESS RELEASE

## Crossing Europe Film Festival Linz

Press Release #7/24, 6 May 2024

## FESTIVAL RÉSUMÉ

**Snapshots of Europe: Crossing Europe sees positive outcome of its 21<sup>st</sup> edition!**

After six successful festival days (4/30 – 5/5) with **144 feature, documentary and short films** from **41 countries**, the 21st Crossing Europe Film Festival Linz closed its doors on 5 May. The early summer temperatures throughout the first half of the festival had a particularly positive effect on the festival atmosphere around the festival center (Ursulinenhof, OK Linz), while the ensuing rainy movie weather resulted in well-packed theaters in the venues Movimiento, City-Kino, and Central.

Crossing Europe once again offered a more than adequate platform to young, courageous and unconventional European film and its players and provided its audience with the opportunity to rediscover the continent. The film side of the program included **14 world premieres**, **2 international premieres**, and **71 Austrian premieres**.

Referring to this year's festival motto "Snapshots of Europe", festival directors Sabine Gebetsroither and Katharina Riedler stressed at the opening on 30 April that the selected films were snapshots of a constantly transforming continent. They were an invitation to see the world through the eyes of their filmmakers or their protagonists and to thereby gain new perspectives.

During this year's awards ceremony, cash and material prizes totaling **€ 28,500** were given out by the international **juries**, as well as the **MIOB New Vision Award (€ 3,000)** of the European festival network **Moving Images – Open Borders**. A list of the **award winners** can be found **HERE**. A first-time addition to the awards ceremony was the **CROSSING EUROPE Innovation Award – Local Artist**, given to a work from the field of **animation art** in the Competition Local Artists.

**14,500 visitors despite reduced supporting program**

With **14,500 visitors**, the previous year's level was almost maintained, which can still be considered a great success in view of a somewhat reduced supporting program and summer temperatures at the start of the festival. The number of visitors to the cinema remained almost stable. The audience and around **550 accredited professional guests** used the opportunity for low-threshold engagement with around **100 film guests** from Austria and abroad, who included this year's **Tribute guest**, the Dutch documentary filmmaker **Aliona van der Horst**, as well as the Romanian actress and BAFTA winner **Anamaria Marinca**, who presented one of this year's opening films, **DOMAĀINSTVO ZA POČETNICI / HOUSEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS**.

In the spirit of a balanced gender programming, the directing quota of the films was the following: around **47 % female**, around **38 % male**, and around **14 % female/male and gender-diverse**. In addition to the four competition sections (**Competition Fiction**, **Competition Documentary**, **YAAAS! Competition** and **Competition Local**

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[Artists](#)), the program structure also included the established sections [Working Worlds](#) ("Vocation: Change!"), [Architecture and Society](#) ("Transformation"), [European Panorama Fiction](#) & [Documentary](#) (highlights of the present festival season), and [Night Sight](#) (devoted to Fantastic Film). Focusing on filmmaking that has a relation to Upper Austria, this year's Local Artists section dedicated a [Special](#) to the media and video artist **Dagmar Schürer**.

The **YAAAS! Youth Program**, which has long become an essential component of Crossing Europe, had its well-attended sixth edition. For the fifth time, the **Cinema Next Europe Club** offered a multi-day film campus for a group of young filmmakers from Austria and abroad. The festival program was complemented with **talk events** and other highlights, including the **Nightline** with DJ sets and **crossover projects** with "anton bruckner 2024", the University of Art and Design Linz, and the artist association MAERZ.

2024 has also been another year of concrete steps towards a sustainable, climate-friendly festival work, with Crossing Europe once again carrying the label "GreenEvent OÖ". The close international co-operation with our partner festivals in the European festival network "Moving Images – Open Borders ([MIOB](#))" was continued with, among others, a jointly conceived Europe-wide [audience survey](#) that was carried out during the festival and that can also be filled out over the coming days.

Though 2024 may have posed some great challenges for Crossing Europe in 2024, especially with regard to its financing, the 21<sup>st</sup> festival edition has been yet more proof of the unwavering enthusiasm for European film and the social space that is cinema. A great number of filmmakers expressed their joy over the active interest of the audience and the resulting conversations.

## Looking to 2025

Media coverage as well as the feedback of guests, partners, and funding bodies regarding Crossing Europe 2024 have been unanimously positive, which can be seen as an affirmation of the Crossing Europe team's work. Still, 2024 has not been an easy year for the festival.

There is a very good understanding in principle with the long-term funding bodies, which is also illustrated in part by the (moderate) increase of subsidies this year. Moreover, Crossing Europe has been able to count on long-term partnerships with various event and sponsoring partners. Unfortunately, however, there have also been cuts and financial losses that could not be easily compensated, as for instance, it has become a near-impossible task to attract new partners as money sponsors in the field of culture.

It has to be pointed out here that **without a continued value adjustment of the amount of subsidies, further festival work** on the present level and **in the current scope will no longer be possible in the future**. Not only the hard-to-foretell development of **general inflation** is a cause of concern, but also the handling of future challenges (in particular in the context of "Fair Pay" and "green festival work"). Apart from that, every year brings increasing costs for all organizational units.

It is therefore without question – should the outlined trend continue – that **Crossing Europe will have to tighten its belt considerably in 2025** in order to do justice to the standards set for a cultural event of this size as regards service in return both with respect to its project partners and the audience, and in order to be able to retain the quality of the program and the festival organization.

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## Crossing Europe goes on!

The 21st edition of Crossing Europe is history, but in the coming weeks and months there will still be numerous opportunities to experience selected films from the 2024 festival program in cinemas throughout Austria. There is also the chance to experience films from previous festival years at home.

Our recordings of 2024 festival events (Tribute Talk - Aliona van der Horst, YAAAS! Close-Up, TALK: Action! Work-life balance and resilience as central elements for the (future of the) industry and the Awards Ceremony as well as the 2024 Program Press Conference) will be available on our website shortly.

### Crossing Europe Collection on filmfriend.at

On the occasion of the 21st festival edition, **filmfriend**, the **streaming platform for libraries**, presents eight works by **Helena Třeštková**, the renowned **Czech documentary filmmaker** and winner of numerous international awards. The director, who in 2016 was the focus of the Tribute program section at Crossing Europe, gained international recognition through, among others, her multiple award-winning portrait trilogy [MARCELA](#) (CZ 2006; CE16), [RENÉ](#) (CZ 2008; CE09/CE16/CE22), and [KATKA](#) (CZ 2010; CE16).

Moreover, the **Crossing Europe Collection**, featuring films from previous festival years, has been augmented yet again and now comprises **more than 40 feature and documentary films** – jointly curated by **filmfriend** and Crossing Europe and in co-operation with the **City Library of Linz**.

New additions to the Crossing Europe Collection include: [filmfriend.at/de/collections/crossing-europe](https://filmfriend.at/de/collections/crossing-europe)

- [HEIMAT IST EIN RAUM AUS ZEIT / HEIMAT IS A SPACE IN TIME](#) (DE/AT 2019; CE19)
- [OBČAN HAVEL / CITIZEN HAVEL](#) (CZ/US 2008; CE08)
- [STOP-ZEMLIA](#) (UA 2021; CE22)
- [SYSTEMSPRENGER / SYSTEM CRASHER](#) (DE 2019; CE19)
- [THIS RAIN WILL NEVER STOP](#) (UA/LV/DE/QA 2020; CE21)
- [UNSER TÄGLICH BROT / OUR DAILY BREAD](#) (AT 2005; CE06)
- [VALHALLA RISING](#) (DK/GB 2009; CE10/CE13)
- [WEM GEHÖRT MEIN DORF? / WHO OWNS MY VILLAGE?](#) (DE 2021; CE21)

Members of numerous participating libraries throughout the German-speaking area can use filmfriend free of charge with their respective library cards. Apart from the Crossing Europe Collection, users are offered a selection of more than 2,200 feature films, documentaries, children's films, as well as 120 series.

### Crossing Europe Extended on KINO VOD CLUB

Upper Austrian filmmaking in the spotlight: A selection of works from the Competition Local Artists of previous Crossing Europe editions, whose directors again presented films at the festival in 2024, is available on the domestic streaming platform KINO VOD CLUB until 30 May. As a bonus, one of the four Crossing Europe opening films of 2022, the documentary [VIAGEM AO SOL / JOURNEY TO THE SUN](#) (PT 2021; Susana de Sousa Dias, Ansgar Schaefer), is also part of the collection.

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- [VIAGEM AO SOL / JOURNEY TO THE SUN](#) (PT 2021; CE22)
- [INNERE BLUTUNGEN](#) (AT 2013; CE13)
- [SICHERHEIT123 / SAFETY123](#) (AT/IT 2019; CE20)
- [BRENNERO/BRENNER](#) (AT/IT 2016; CE16)
- [MUTO](#) (AT 2018; CE19)
- [IMMER WIEDER GEHT DIE SONNE AUF / AGAIN AND AGAIN THE SUN RISES](#) (AT 2017; CE18)
- [ZUHAUSE BEI MEINEN MÜTTERN / AT HOME WITH MY MOMS](#) (AT/BR 2021; CE21)
- [EIN TEIL VON MIR](#) (AT 2023; CE23)
- [GEH VAU / SEXUAL INTERCOURSE](#) (AT 2018; CE19)
- [MEIN HOSENSCHLITZ IST OFFEN. WIE MEIN HERZ. / THE ZIP OF MY PANTS IS OPEN. LIKE MY HEART.](#) (AT 2022; CE22)
- [KAUGUMMIZIGARETTEN / CANDY CIGARETTES](#) (AT 2016; CE17)

All films of the VOD selection on [vodclub.online](#) (available in Austria only).

## CROSSING EUROPE GOES ... | FOLLOW-UP SCREENINGS

### SPIELBODEN DORNBIRN

#### [ELBOW](#)

15.5. & 30.5.  
spielboden.at

### AUSTRIAN FILM MUSEUM

#### [GERLACH](#)

[LOVE IS POTATOES](#)  
8.5., filmmuseum.at

### SLASH 1/2

Films of the „Night Sight 2024“

9. – 11.5., Filmcasino Vienna  
slashfilmfestival.com

### AK FILM OF THE MONTH MAY

#### [WHAT REMAINS - JOURNALISTS IN CRISIS AREAS](#)

17.5., 20:30, Movimiento Linz  
moviemento.at

### INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL INNSBRUCK

#### [INTERCEPTED](#)

28.5. – 2.6.  
iffi.at

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## **KINO WIE NOCH NIE – FILMARCHIV AUSTRIA**

Crossing Europe Local Artists 2024 – Selected Shorts

**Summer 2024, Augartenspitz, Vienna**

filmarchiv.at

## **DAS KINO Salzburg**

Selected Festival Films 2024

**September 2024**

daskino.at

## **SALZKAMMERGUT 2024: Let's Live Together – Communities and Culture on Screen**

Film screenings & video project for young people

**16. – 21.9., Kino Ebensee**

kino-ebensee.at; salzkammergut-2024.at

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Film stills & impressions: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/photos>

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

As always, regular updates and current information about Crossing Europe can be found on our **website** [crossingeurope.at](https://www.crossingeurope.at), [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#).