



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Media Information #3/21, 9 April 2021

Festival Trailer 2021, First Documentary Highlights, Presentation of the Program Bars “Architecture and Society” and “Working Worlds”, YAAAS! Close-Up & Call for Applications for the Cinema Next Europe Club

As was announced in January, the **eighteenth edition** of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz will take place from **1 to 6 June** this year. By postponing the festival until June, we sincerely hope that we will be in a position to host an in-person film event while adhering to the Corona rules and regulations. In addition, after the festival there will be an offer for an online collection of selected feature films and documentaries on the Austrian VoD platform KINO VOD CLUB.

In today's press release we will be presenting **this year's festival trailer** entitled GRÜN IN, by the young media artist Laurien Bachmann. We will also shine a light on the first highlights from the documentary sections, including the Oscar nominated Romanian documentary film COLLECTIVE, the newest film by the CROSSING EUROPE award winner Vitaly Mansky GORBACHEV. HEAVEN, a cinematographic portrayal of the Belarusian protest movement COURAGE, and the current film by the Tribute guest 2016 Helena Třeštková, ANNY.

This year, the section **Architecture and Society** deals with the topic of “community” and is entitled TOGETHER!, under the name CHANGES this year's **Working Worlds** deals with the phenomenon of “structural change”.

Additionally, we can announce the two guests of our **discussion format** in our youth program, the **YAAAS! Close-Up**, Nicola von Leffern and Gregor Schmidinger, and until 23 April young filmmakers from Austria can still apply for the **four day practical module Cinema Next Europe Club** at CROSSING EUROPE 2021.

Festival Trailer 2021: GRÜN IN – Online today [HERE](#)

Directed and cinematography by: Laurien Bachmann

Sound: Sebastian Six

1 Minute, AT 2021

For this year's festival trailer CROSSING EUROPE could win over the Linz-based **visual artist Laurien Bachmann** (*1992). In her work she deals with topics such as the **perception of public space and rural topographies** through the medium of film, photography, and installation. For the most part she presents her observations in the form of still or moving images and in doing so often transcends the boundary of fiction and reality. In 2020 she presented her work PERSISTENT DISTURBANCE (PE/CL/AR/AT 2019) at CROSSING EUROPE EXTRACTS.

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Her video work **GRÜN IN** shows a seemingly **undisturbed natural landscape** in lush green. At first glance the idyllic nature looks untouched, complete with a steady stream from a waterfall, and yet there is a digital traffic light across from it. **In red letters you see it continuously counting down** the seconds: *Green in 3, 2, 1 ...* This absurd scene is expanded by a soundscape that consists entirely of digital synthesizers: sounds that could seem natural, booming bass tones, and far away mechanical noises carry the statically filmed scenery, and underline a sense of unease that is created by the unvarying countdown.



The festival trailer 2021, GRÜN IN (AT 2021, 1 minute), will be shown as **promotion** for the festival on the internet and in selected Austrian art house cinemas, as soon as these are able to re-open once more. **From today** on the new festival trailer is available on <https://crossingeurope.at/en/festivaltrailer2021>

First Highlights: COLLECTIVE, COURAGE, GORBACHEV. HEAVEN and ANNY

Once again, CROSSING EUROPE devotes itself particularly to contemporary sociopolitical auteur cinema from Europe. Today we would like to present **four documentaries** that deal with current political topics, reflect social and cultural contexts, and invite audiences to delve into topics of our more recent history and the current state of Europe.

The Romanian director **Alexander Nanau** has already been represented at CROSSING EUROPE with his earlier film [LUMEA VĂZUTĂ DE ION B. / THE WORLD ACCORDING TO ION B.](#) (RO 2009). This year he has returned with his explosive documentary **COLECTIV / COLLECTIVE** (RO/LU 2019) that takes an unrelenting look at the **unparalleled political and corruption scandal in Romania** on par with any media thriller. The film has been numerously nominated for such prizes as the LUX-Prize, EE British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) in the category *Documentary* and for the Academy Awards (Oscar) in the categories *Documentary* and *Best Foreign Film*. In it, Nanau tells the harrowing story of a fire in a club in Bucharest that killed 27 young people due to a lack of security measures, and another 37 people later on succumbed to their injuries because of miserable medical treatment and structural failures.



The current film by CROSSING EUROPE award-winner **Vitaly Mansky** (awarded for [RODNYE / CLOSE RELATIONS](#) in 2017) also deals with politics. Once more, he looks at a “politician of the century” - in 2018 it was Vladimir Putin ([SVIDETELI PUTINA / PUTIN'S WITNESSES](#)), and now he casts his eye on no other than the father of Glasnost and Perestroika, Michail Sergejewitsch Gorbatschow in **GORBACHEV. HEAVEN** (LV/CZ 2020). The film cautiously deals with the great statesman who shaped the world in the twentieth century like no other, yet is by no means undisputed. With the weight of the past on his shoulders, this lonely old man spends the last days of his life in an empty house in a suburb of Moscow.

Among other things, the collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in the independence of the various republics in the Soviet Union, one of which was Belarus in 1991. Ever since 1994, Alexander Lukaschenko is the strong man in the state, his reign is authoritarian, brutal, and repressive. The director with roots in Belarus **Aliaksei Paluyan** accompanies the members of an underground theater troupe in Minsk in his first full-length documentary **COURAGE** (DE 2021) who have taken to the streets together with hundreds of thousands of people after the presidential elections in 2020 to demonstrate against the Lukaschenko regime. The film gets very close to the events, and Paluyan manages to show a very personal approach of the demonstrators, who are often faced with grave danger and still show great courage for their right to freedom.

The Tribute guest from the year 2016 **Helena Třeštková** returns to Linz with her documentary film **ANNY** (CZ 2020). In her current work the Czech director remains loyal to her modus operandi: She accompanies “normal” people over years and decades and thereby manages to connect individual fates with a greater arch in history. Between the years 1996 and 2012, she repeatedly meets her protagonist Anny, and thereby gives audiences a look behind the scenes as a sex worker on the streets of Prague, as a lavatory attendant, and as a grandmother.

| An overview of the four films |

- ❖ [ANNY](#) (CZ 2020), directed by: Helena Třeštková, 66 min. | European Panorama Documentary – Austrian premiere
- ❖ [COLECTIV / COLLECTIVE](#) (RO, LU 2019), directed by: Alexander Nanau, 109 min. | European Panorama Documentary – Austrian premiere
- ❖ [COURAGE](#) (DE 2021), directed by: Aliaksei Paluyan, 90 min. | Competition Documentary – Austrian premiere
- ❖ [GORBACHEV. HEAVEN](#) (LV, CZ 2020), directed by: Vitaly Mansky 100 min. | European Panorama Documentary – Austrian premiere

Architecture and Society: TOGETHER! Communities, Collectives, Co-operations

For the twelfth time CROSSING EUROPE presents the program section **Architecture and Society** in cooperation with the afo architekturforum oberösterreich. This year's program was curated by Lotte Schreiber and consists of four documentaries on the topic of **community**. The films raise questions about how communities act and represent themselves in a larger social practice.

A vision of communal living and farming in a green eco-project is the focus of **JOURNEY TO UTOPIA**, a highly personal film by the Norwegian documentary filmmaker Erlend E. Mo. The idealistic plans of living a sustainable life as a commune are plagued by never ending mishaps during the planning and construction phase, and test the boundaries of the director's family of five.



The documentary **AALTO** by the Finnish director Virpi Suutari, who has already had a number of her films shown at CROSSING EUROPE, gives insight into the working and living conditions of Alvar Aalto, one of the most important figures of contemporary architecture. Aalto's work is shaped by the two women at his side: On the one hand, his first wife, the architect Aino Aalto and after her tragic death his second wife, the architect Elissa Aalto. The film looks at their creations and their legendary buildings all over the world.

| Announcement of the first films of the program section ARCHITECTURE AND SOCIETY |

- ❖ AALTO (FI 2020), directed by: Virpi Suutari, 103 min. – Austrian premiere
- ❖ JOURNEY TO UTOPIA (DK, NO, SE 2020), directed by: Erlend E. Mo, 88 min. – Austrian premiere

| Additional titles of this section, as well as film guests will be announced in coming media information. | In cooperation with [afo architekturforum oberösterreich](#) |

Working Worlds: CHANGES

Re-education, structural change, new missions in life – under the title “Changes”, this year's Working Worlds deals with **changes** in the working life of 2021: Both of a professional and private nature, forced or voluntary, planned or unplanned. The documentary films, selected by curator Katharina Riedler, all take on very different viewpoints, and yet all four works are about people who are confronted with **challenges** that were sometimes entirely unforeseen.

In **NOVÁ ŠICHTA / A NEW SHIFT** a forty-four year old miner from the Czech Republic comes out of the dark and enters the world of IT. By doing so he becomes the model success story for the governments re-education program. **AUTOMOTIVE** shows us the path into the future of the automobile industry. Particularly in this field, the use of automation in the workplace is rapidly increasing, and in some cases robots are already working without any human control. This begs the question: How far will this development go?

| Announcement of the first films of the program section WORKING WORLDS |

- ❖ AUTOMOTIVE (DE 2020), directed by: Jonas Heldt, 80 min. – Austrian premiere
- ❖ NOVÁ ŠICHTA / A NEW SHIFT (CZ 2020), directed by: Jindřich Andrš, 91 min. – Austrian premiere

| Additional titles of this sections, as well as film guests will be announced in coming media information. | In cooperation with [AK Oberösterreich / Kultur](#) |

Cinema Next Europe Club 2021: Apply now!

The Cinema Next Europe Club (in cooperation with the Austrian film initiative [Cinema Next](#) and supported by [VdFS](#)) is a four day practical module that takes place within the **framework of CROSSING EUROPE between 1 and 4 June 2021**, in which **ten young film creatives** from Austria can take part. The Cinema Next Europe Club intends to give young filmmakers the possibility to take part in the film festival and to be able to gather **specific inputs**, as well as being able to enter into a **direct exchange with other young filmmakers**.

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This offer is aimed at a young generation of filmmakers from Austria, or living/working in Austria, who are currently working on a full-length film project, who could profit from the topics and inputs at CROSSING EUROPE 2021.

| Details on the Cinema Next Club [HERE](#) (in German only) | To apply please contact: info@cinemanext.at | Deadline for applications: 23 April 2021 |

YAAAS! Close-Up 2021: YOUKI goes YAAAS!

The discussion format YAAAS! Close-Up is a module within the [YAAAS! Youth Program](#) at CROSSING EUROPE, which was established in 2019 as a **holistic offer for film education, acquiring media competency, and DIY-video production** for young people between the ages of 15 and 20. Besides **screenings** of YAAAS! Competition films, as well as special school screenings (Details & application can be found [HERE](#)), a **youth jury** and a **video project** spanning multiple days, the YAAAS! Youth program also offers a series of **practical workshops** during the festival week, details on this will be announced in May.

This year's [YAAAS! Close-Up](#) is a cooperation with the [YOUKI International Youth Media Festival](#). The guests are **two young filmmakers** who will show their first video works in comparison with current films, and will answer questions by young people on various aspects of their cinematographic production and work in the film industry in an open **discussion format**. The event will take place **online on Friday 4 June at 3 pm**. The guests will be **Nicola von Leffern** and **Gregor Schmidinger**. **Nicola von Leffern** was born in 1986 in Hamburg and works as a freelance director. She studied Theatre, Film, and Media Studies at the University of Vienna, and then went on to study camera at the Film Academy in Vienna. In her works (short films, music videos, advertisements, and documentaries) Nicola von Leffern focuses on such topics as "female empowerment" and "state of the art". The director and screenwriter from Upper Austria **Gregor Schmidinger**, born in 1985, has already had two of his works shown at CROSSING EUROPE: In 2013 his short film [HOMOPHOBIA](#), and in 2019 his highly talked out feature film debut [NEVRLAND](#), for which he was awarded the youth jury award of the Max Ophüls Preis, as well as three awards at the Austrian film awards 2020. His films focus on topics such as fear, longing, tenderness, and homosexuality.

Festival date: [1 to 6 June 2021](#)

Press conference 2021: [Wednesday, 19 May 10 AM](#) via live-stream at www.crossingeurope.at

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

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

Regular **updates and current information** on Crossing Europe 2021, 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](#).