



Akademie des
Österreichischen Films

AUSTRIAN FILM ACADEMY

Paper / FAN of Europe 2018 / Karlovy Vary Film Festival

The Award Ceremony of the 8th Austrian Film Award took place in Grafenegg/Lower Austria on 31 January 2018, the 9th Austrian Film Award will be organised in the Vienna City Hall on 30 January 2019. The Gala will be staged by the renowned director **Michael Sturminger** (**Everyman, Casanova Variations**).

The Austrian Film Award is awarded in 16 categories, the Award Sculpture was designed by the Austrian artist **VALIE EXPORT**. Here are photographic impressions of the Gala 2018, which was staged by **Mirjam Unger**: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/oesterreichische-filmakademie/sets/72157669104044129>



Foto © eSel



The Austrian Film Academy currently has over 500 members, the Presidents are actress **Ursula Strauss** and director **Stefan Ruzowitzky**. The **board** and the **members** can be found on <http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/vorstand.html>

<http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/mitglieder.html>

Marlene Ropac, Managing Director of the Austrian Film Academy, has been attending the **FAN of Europe** meeting in Karlovy Vary since 2010. Many cooperations with the **EFA – European Film Academy** have already emerged from this. The annual exchange of information with the other academies is priceless.



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EUROPEAN PROJECTS 2018

EFA YOUNG AUDIENCE AWARD

On 6 May, the European film world was dominated by young cinema: At the EFA Young Audience Award, some 2,000 young people from 34 countries—from Iceland to Spain, from Portugal to Croatia—voted for the Best Youth Film of the Year. Australia took also part for the first time. In Austria, the Academy of Austrian Cinema organized this cinema contest at the locations Vienna (cinemagic Urania Kino) and St. Pölten (Cinema Paradiso). In the cinemas, members of the Academy and filmmakers engaged in lively discussions with enthusiastic film fans between the ages of 12 and 14. Volunteer experts from the Academy had talks with the young people, and there were accompanying programmes that provided a glimpse behind the scenes of the film business. At Urania, renowned sound designer and sound engineer **Thorsten Heinemann** demonstrated how to produce special sounds for films, and cinema technician **Werner Fleckl** made it clear how films find their way onto the screen from the projection room. In St. Pölten, **Markus Freistätter**, youngest member of the Austrian Film Academy, conducted an acting workshop that was enthusiastically received.

The enthusiasm for cinema was also clearly noticeable in other respects: “I like watching YouTube videos, but if I like a film, I can watch it a thousand times,” said **Luna**, for example, the Viennese jury speaker with Syrian roots. Three demanding youth films were nominated for the award, whose main characters are confronted with different lifestyles and cultures: Sandra Vanucchi’s **GIRL IN FLIGHT** (Italy/Switzerland), Selma Vilhunen’s **HOBBYHORSE REVOLUTION** (Finland) und Berni Goldblat’s **WALLAY** (France/Burkina Faso/Qatar). In the evening, the Young Audience Award Gala was streamed live from Erfurt in Germany onto the Urania cinema screen.



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LES NUITS EN OR / THE GOLDEN NIGHTS

Another European project of the Austrian Film Academy, realised in cooperation with the French **Académie des César**, is the short film marathon **LES NUITS EN OR / THE GOLDEN NIGHTS**, which took place in May and June. On this occasion, the world's best short films were shown both in the Metro Kinokulturhaus in Vienna and for the first time in the Cinema Paradiso in St. Pölten.

The directors of the **GOLDEN NIGHTS** were also invited to the big **TOUR** by the Académie des César, during which they visited film academies and cultural institutions in Athens, Rome and Paris. Here, too, cross-border networks have emerged. This year's Austrian participant **Clara Stern** (winner of the Austrian Film Prize for Best Short Film 2018) found the trip to be a valuable experience, as she writes in her "Letter from the Academy": "On this journey; I became aware of the importance of these academies: Interfaces between filmmakers and other institutions, representation of the cinematic works of a country, exchange between countries. In every city we visited, we were introduced to the respective film industry, the funding agencies, producers and distributors. For me personally, the Academy has become an important network."

Clara Stern's complete "Letter from the Academy" can be read online here (German only):
http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/projekte/briefe/201806_Brief_der_Akademie_Clara_Stern.pdf



Gerhard Ertl with Clara Stern and Lee Filipovski



Clara Stern, Pascale Arbillot
© Elise Comte– ENS Louis Lumière pour l'Académie des César 2018



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THE AUSTRIAN SHORT FILM SERIES 2019

At the Austrian Short Film Series, which will take place on 11 November 2018 in the cinema of the mumok – Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Austrian short films will travel out into the world. The series, which was launched in 2012, is a cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. It is shown worldwide in cultural forums, embassies and consulates general and includes those works that have qualified for the selection procedure for the Austrian Film Award in the category “Best Short Film”.

http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/projekte/kurzfilmschau/AOEF_Broschuere_Oesterreichische_Kurzfilmschau_2018.pdf

A SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY



The project **A SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY**, which was initiated in 1995, is realised annually by the European Film Academy in changing countries and in cooperation with local partners. In 2018 the project was organised together with the Austrian Film Academy and sponsored by the **VdFS – Collecting Society of Audiovisual Authors and Actors** in Austria. Taking place in Yspertal, Lower Austria, from 22 to 25 June, **A SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY** enabled young European directors from Germany, France, Latvia, Austria, Portugal, Sweden and Spain to exchange views on their work and build cross-border networks in a free atmosphere. Films were viewed together—a haystack and an old cinema in the local history museum were available as screening locations—and there was intensive discussion of what was seen. Know-how ranging from working with children to budget issues and cutting techniques was also exchanged this weekend. Between film screenings, there were joint walking tours through the beautiful landscape, swimming in the water lily pond or cooking together.



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Nikola Joetze, EFA project manager, was impressed by the films:

“On the one hand, there was great diversity, on the other, the films linked political and private aspects and conducted a conversation. What surprised me was that young filmmakers also had a keen interest in religion.”

Florian Weghorn from the “Young Talents” department of the Berlinale was impressed by the social interaction, which favoured open film discussions: *“I can only recommend filmmakers to do the dish washing together.”*

Finally, at the **GET-TOGETHER** in Vienna last night, there were lively discussions with the Austrian film industry.

More information on Biohof Prannleithen on the Website:

<https://prannleithen.at/author/prannleithen/>

Edith Schroll wrote a thesis on the homestead which was awarded with the Culture Prize of Lower Austria 2017:

<https://edithschroll.com/>

SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONTACT

The Austrian Film Academy has been increasingly active on **Instagram** and **Facebook** since the beginning of the year and shares impressions of projects and activities there. We would be pleased if you would join us on these platforms.

<https://www.instagram.com/oesterreichischerfilmpreis/>

<https://www.facebook.com/OesterreichischerFilmpreis/>

For more information, please contact the Managing Director of the Academy, **Marlene Ropac**, at any time.

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