

CROSSROADS

Festival für Dokumentarfilm und Diskurs
18.-27.5.2012 // Forum Stadtpark / Graz / Österreich

PRESSE-AUSSENDUNG - 29.3. 2012

Presse-Update: CROSSROADS Festival, Graz, 18.-27.5. 2012

Werte Redaktion, liebe Kolleg_innen,

Soeben ging die Festival-Website online und freudig kündigen wir die ersten Filme an:
<http://crossroads-festival.org/430/erste-filme-announced>

Weitere Informationen und Bildmaterial finden sie in unserer Presse-Section:
<http://crossroads-festival.org/presse>

Die Basic Infos zu Crossroads finden sie auch nochmals ganz unten. Für Rückfragen und Terminvereinbarungen (es wird keine Pressekonferenz geben) stehe ich ihnen jederzeit zur Verfügung.

Wir freuen uns über Berichterstattung und senden ihnen freundliche Grüße aus Graz,

Josef Obermoser

ps: Eine besonders erfreuliche Last Minute Meldung:

Sundance-Gewinner und Oscar-Nominee Mark Kitchell hat sich eben dafür entschieden, dass sein neuer Film "A Fierce Green Fire" seine Europa-Premiere im Rahmen von Crossroads feiern soll!

Er wird auch persönlich via Live-Videostream an einer Q&A-Session im Anschluss an das Screening teilnehmen. Gerne können wir versuchen, Interviews zu vermitteln.

Hier weitere Infos zum Film:

**A Fierce Green Fire
The Battle for a Living Planet**

European Premiere!

USA, 2012, 110 min, English OV
Directed by: Mark Kitchell

It's the largest movement the world has ever seen, and maybe the most important - in terms of what's at stake. Yet it's not easy being green. Environmentalists have been reviled as much as revered, for being killjoys and Cassandras. Every battle begins as a lost cause and even the victories have to be fought for again and again. Still, environmentalism is one of the great social innovations of the twentieth century, and one of the keys to the twenty-first. It has arisen at a key juncture in history, when humans have come to rival nature as a

power determining the fate of the earth.

A Fierce Green Fire tells stories of environmental activism - people trying to save the planet, their homes, their lives, the future. It aims at creating the first big-picture overview of environmentalism - covering iconic events of the past 50 years, including the rising conservation ethic of the 1960s that culminated in the first Earth Day in 1970, rescuing the people of Love Canal from toxic chemicals, saving whales and the Amazon rainforest. Finally, the film examines the origins of climate change with the accompanying political paralysis and the grassroots movements that are beginning to transform industrial society and put us on a path to sustainability.

Featuring: Bill McKibben, Marina Silva, Paul Watson, Elizabeth Kolbert, Carl Pope, Stephanie Mills, Wolfgang Sachs, and many more. Narrated by: Robert Redford.

A Fierce Green Fire premiered at this year's Sundance Festival. Crossroads is very proud to host its European Premiere!

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7uFGJDCluY>

Website: <http://www.afiercegreenfire.com>

CROSSROADS

Festival für Dokumentarfilm und Diskurs

18.-27. Mai 2012

FORUM STADTPARK, Graz

Mit einem spannenden, aktuellen Filmprogramm sowie zahlreichen Vorträgen, Workshops und Podiumsdiskussionen setzt sich das neue Dokumentarfilm- und Diskurs-Festival Crossroads 2012 schwerpunktmäßig mit der Zerstörung der Natur und unserer Lebensgrundlagen sowie dem weltweiten Widerstand dagegen auseinander. Anlass für diesen Themenschwerpunkt ist u.a. der große UNO-Erdgipfel „Rio+20“, der von 20.-22. Juni in Rio de Janeiro stattfinden wird. Behandelt werden des weiteren Themen wie etwa Migration, Geschlechtergerechtigkeit und der Einfluss neuer Technologien auf unser Leben.

Sichtbar machen soll das Festival vor allem auch Entwicklungen, die in den Mainstream-Medien nicht ausreichend oder zu unkritisch behandelt werden. Der Fokus ist dabei stark auch auf Perspektiven aus dem globalen Süden und insbesondere auf jene mutigen Menschen gerichtet, die tagtäglich für den Erhalt unserer Lebensgrundlagen kämpfen.

Vielfach ausgezeichnete Filme und zahlreiche international renommierte Vortragende und Diskussionsteilnehmer_innen werden zur Auseinandersetzung mit alternativen gesellschaftlichen, ökonomischen und politischen Konzepten und Strategien anregen, Handlungsmöglichkeiten aufzeigen und zu persönlichem und kollektivem Engagement ermutigen.

Kuratiert und organisiert wird Crossroads von einem Team um Josef Obermoser, dem langjährigen Co-Kurator des Diskursprogramms des Elevate Festivals und Beauftragten für die Sparte Gesellschaftspolitik des Forum Stadtpark.

Filmprogramm:

Die vollständige Auswahl (ca. 30 Filme, davon mehr als die Hälfte Österreich-Premieren) wird spätestens Mitte April bekanntgegeben. Einzelne Filme werden bereits davor auf der Festival-Website gebloggt.

Die ersten Filme wurde am 29.3. angekündigt - siehe unten.

Diskursprogramm:

18.-20.5. 2012: Die sozial-ökologische Krise/Wende und Rio+20

Rio+20 - der große Umweltgipfel (Analysen, Kritik, Alternativen), aktuelle Entwicklungen der sozial-ökologischen Krise und der (Anti-)Krisenpolitik, alternative politische und ökonomische Strategien und Handlungsoptionen, zukunftsweisende Projekte und Initiativen, Zukunftsperspektiven

25.-27.5. 2012: Green Economies, zukunftsfähige Ökonomien

„Green Economy“ (Was wird im Rahmen der UNO diskutiert? Welche Chancen und Gefahren sind damit verbunden?), Welche Wirtschaft wollen/brauchen wir?, alternative politische und ökonomische Strategien und Handlungsoptionen, zukunftsweisende Projekte und Initiativen, Zukunftsperspektiven; Alternatives Wirtschaften, Solidarische Ökonomie(n), Commons, Buen Vivir

Teilnehmer_innen:

Ricardo Navarro (Ehem. Vorsitzender von Friends of the Earth International und Träger des Goldman Prize, der als „Nobelpreis für Umweltschutz“ gilt / El Salvador), **Birgit Mahnkopf** (Professorin für Europäische Gesellschaftspolitik an der Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin), **James Hansen** (Direktor des Goddard Institute for Space Studies der NASA und Professor für Erd- und Umweltwissenschaften an der Columbia University), **Verónica Moscoso Cordero** (Filmmaker und Journalistin / Ecuador, USA), **Ulrich Brand** (Professor für Internationale Politik, Universität Wien), **Mark Kitchell** (Filmemacher, Sundance Gewinner / USA), **Barbara Ettinger** (Filmemacherin, Nijii Films / USA), **Bernhard Obermayr** (Greenpeace), **Irm Salzer** (Bäuerin, Via Campesina), **Mario Matzer** (Arbeiterkammer Steiermark), **Andreas Exner** (Social Innovation Network), **Christian Zeller** (Professor für Wirtschaftsgeographie, Universität Salzburg), **Brigitte Kratzwald** (Sozialwissenschaftlerin und Aktivistin, commons.at), **Ernst Schriefl** (energieautark consulting), **Franziskus Forster** (AgrarAttac), uvm.

Eintrittspreise / Unkostenbeiträge:

Da Crossroads keine fixen Eintrittspreise verlangen möchte, weil das Programm für alle zugänglich sein soll, sind wir auf freiwillige Unkostenbeiträge angewiesen. Als Empfehlung

gilt: langer Film: 5 €; mittellanger Film: 4 €; kurzer Film / Vortrag / Workshop / Diskussion: 3 €; Tagesprogramm: 15 €; Gesamtes Festival (9 Tage): 110 €

Veranstalter_in:
FORUM STADTPARK

Medienpartner_innen:
FM4, Biorama, The Gap, Junge Welt, oekonews.at, ZiGe.TV, Radio Helsinki, g24.at, Yeni Hayat, Analyse&Kritik, iz3w, Luxemburg, Lebensart (Stand: 28.3. 2012)

Kooperationspartner_innen:
Elevate, Gespolitix, agit.DOC, Attac, ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria, Arbeiterkammer Steiermark, HTU Graz - Referat für Gesellschaftspolitik, WTuG (Wissenschaft, Technik und Gesellschaft), IFZ Graz, Social Innovation Network, Grüne Akademie, KPÖ Bildungsverein, Junge Grüne Steiermark, Welthaus Diözese Graz-Seckau, A_partment politi_X, movimenta.org, Forum Politische Bildung Steiermark, rettet die mur, Alpine Geckos, SOL - Menschen für Solidarität, Ökologie und Lebensstil, Spektral, Arbeitskreis Nachhaltigkeit der katholischen Aktion, Institut für Umwelt-Friede-Entwicklung, Care, Amsel, Hier und Jetzt! (Stand: 28.3. 2012)

Weitere Infos und Updates:
<http://www.crossroads-festival.org>

Ihr Ansprechpartner:
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FILME: Erste Ankündigungen - 29.3. 2012

A Wild Idea

Austrian Premiere!

Ecuador/USA, 2011, 26 min, OV with English Subtitles
Directed by: Verónica Moscoso Cordero

A Wild Idea is a documentary about the Yasuní-ITT Initiative, Ecuador's unprecedented proposal for fighting global climate change: In exchange for payments from the world community, the country will leave untouched its largest oil reserves. The film takes the

viewer to the Ecuadorian Amazon, capturing the rain forest's stunning biodiversity. The film also focuses in the millions of barrels of oil lying beneath a place known as the ITT Block. Exploiting the ITT seemed to be the logical step Ecuador had to take, but political changes have changed the way the country views oil development. Through testimony representing different perspectives and rich archival video, *A Wild Idea* shows how the seemingly utopian ideal of keeping valuable oil underground turned into an official proposal. As the film progresses, the complex initiative becomes easy to understand. The audience sees what's at stake if the proposal is not accepted. And the political twists and turns that made it possible and that could also threaten the success of this revolutionary idea. If accepted, the Yasuní-ITT initiative will protect perhaps the most biodiverse place on Earth. It would also respect the rights of indigenous people. And it would avoid the emission of hundreds of millions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. *A Wild Idea* is a thought provoking film that explores the complexity of oil development within a fragile ecosystem, its local and global implications, and its effects on the planet as a whole.

Trailer: <http://vimeo.com/26254822>

Website: <http://awildidea-movie.com>

Five Star Existence

Austrian Premiere!

Finland, 2011, 90 min, OV with English subtitles

Directed by: Sonja Lindén

Machines make our daily life easier in many ways but have they made us freer - or happier?

Five Star Existence is the director Sonja Lindén's personal and sensitive quest to the core of the modern information society where technology and human being get more and more entwined. It explores our society being on the verge of turning ubiquitous - a wireless society, where the laws of time, space and distance are revolutionizing the concept of liaison. Do the consequences of the technological revolution increase our freedom or do they limit us? Is it possible to find a balance between one's own natural rhythm and the society that spins at an ever increasing speed, demanding a lot from us? Are we chasing the echoes of our lost inner wholeness in our everyday lives, which are becoming busier, more fragmented and more rational than ever before?

Trailer: <http://vimeo.com/32799039>

Website: <http://www.avanton.fi/fivestarexistence/en>

Just Do It

UK, 2011, 90 min, OF mit deutschen Untertiteln

Regie: Emily James

The world of environmental direct action has remained a secretive one, until now. Emily James spent over a year embedded in activist groups such as Climate Camp and Plane Stupid to document their clandestine activities. With unprecedented access, *Just do It* takes you on an astonishing journey behind the scenes of a community of people who

refuse to sit back and allow the destruction of their world. Torpedoing the tired clichés of the environmental movement, Just Do It introduces you to a powerful cast of mischievous and inspiring characters who put their bodies in the way; they super-glue themselves to bank trading floors, blockade factories and attack coal power stations en-masse, despite the very real threat of arrest. Their adventures will entertain, illuminate and inspire.

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zavTd31qxho>

Website: <http://justdoitfilm.com>

Pink Saris

India/UK, 2010, 96 min, OV with English subtitles

Directed by: Kim Longinotto

„A girl's life is cruel...A woman's life is very cruel“, notes Sampat Pal, the complex protagonist at the center of Pink Saris, internationally acclaimed director Kim Longinotto's latest foray into the lives of extraordinary women. Sampat should know - like many others she was married as a young girl into a family which made her work hard and beat her often. But unusually, she fought back, leaving her in-laws and eventually becoming famous as a champion for beleaguered women throughout Uttar Pradesh, many of whom find their way to her doorstep. Like Rekha, a fourteen year old Untouchable, who is three months pregnant and homeless - unable to marry her unborn child's father because of her low caste. Fifteen year old Renu's husband from an arranged marriage has abandoned her, her father-in-law has been raping her and she's threatening to throw herself under a train. Both young women, frightened and desperate, reach out for their only hope: Sampat Pal and her Gulabi Gang, Northern India's women vigilantes in pink.

Pink Saris is an unflinching and often amusing look at these unlikely political activists and their charismatic leader; in extraordinary scenes, we watch Sampat launch herself into the centre of family dramas, witnessed by scores of spectators, convinced her mediation is the best path for these vulnerable girls. Her partner Babuji, who has watched Sampat change over the years, is less certain...

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbxeCKExH48>

Website: <http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c789.shtml>

The Big Fix

Austrian Premiere!

USA, 2011, 89min, English OV

Directed by: Josh and Rebecca Tickell

On April 22, 2010 the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig sank into the Gulf of Mexico creating the worst oil spill in history. Until the oil well was killed on September 19th, 205 million gallons of crude oil and over 1.8 million gallons of chemical dispersant spread into the sea. By exposing the root causes of the spill, filmmakers Josh and Rebecca Tickell uncover a vast network of corruption. The Big Fix is a damning indictment of a system of government led by a powerful oligarchy that puts the pursuit of profit over all other human and environmental needs.

The filmmakers spent over a year of their lives along the Gulf Coast. While filming Rebecca was severely poisoned as a result of exposure to highly toxic crude oil and the Corexit dispersant. The result of their effort is a compelling indictment of both BP's and the Obama administration's response to the spill. Numerous Gulf coast residents; fishermen, sickened citizens, public officials, scientists, oil company officials, industry experts, and leading environmental attorneys speak to the spill and both the media's failure to report the story and the government's deliberate cooperation in assisting BP in covering up the true extent of the blowout. The Tickell's have produced a truly must-see documentary film which will inform, anger, and rouse to action a great many people who are fortunate enough to see it.

Trailer: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bg_fpr6XBFM

Website: <http://www.thebigfixmovie.com>

The Man Who Stopped the Desert

UK, 2010, 62 min, OV with English Subtitles

Directed by: Mark Dodd

From a harsh, uncompromising land comes a story of hope. Yacouba Sawadogo, an illiterate African peasant farmer, has succeeded where international agencies failed. He has transformed the lives of thousands of people across the Sahel, a bleak land between the Sahara desert and the wet forest of tropical Africa. During the 1970s and early 80s this vast region continued to creep southward, extending ever further into once agriculturally productive lands. Families abandoned their villages in search of food and water, but Yacouba Sawadogo, living right in the heart of the crisis in northern Burkina Faso, decided he would remain steadfast against the creeping desert. His 20-year struggle to revive, adapt and perfect an ancient farming technique known as Zai Yacouba has been internationally recognized for its success in reversing the process of desertification. Through cinematic reconstruction, Yacouba narrates his own gripping and dramatic story, revealing that his hardest battle was not with the elements, but with the people around him who would not accept his new agricultural methods. Perfectly pitched cinematography engages beautifully with a story that will leave you moved and inspired.

Trailer: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzah_5y65AU

Website: <http://1080films.co.uk/Yacoubamovie>

Urban Roots

Austrian Premiere!

USA, 2011, 93min, English OV

Directed by: Mark MacInnis

Against all odds, in the boarded-up shops, empty lots and defunct factories, seeds of change are taking root in Detroit. With the most vacant lots in the country, citizens are reclaiming their spirits by growing food. A small group of dedicated citizens have started an urban environmental movement with the potential to transform not just a city after its collapse, but also a country after the end of its industrial age. Urban Roots shows

dedicated Detroiters working tirelessly to fulfill their vision for locally-grown, sustainably farmed food in a city where people - as in much of the county - have found themselves cut off from real food and limited to the lifeless offerings of fast food chains and grocery stores stocked with processed food. The people of Detroit have taken on the enormous task of changing this for themselves, and to understand their story is to understand how we can change it for us all. It's a story that in the most difficult of places, new hope emerges. This growing movement of urban farmers is changing the way people think about food-and life in the "D". It took men like Henry Ford, William Durant, and Lee Iacocca to build this city, but it's taken a bunch of strong willed self-taught urban farmers to save it.

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpifS2GV660>

Website: <http://www.urbanrootsamerica.com>

Waking the Green Tiger

Austrian Premiere!

Canada, 2011, 78 min, OV with English subtitles

Directed by: Gary Marcuse

By declaring that nature must be conquered in the name of progress, Chairman Mao ushered in an era of environmental degradation for China. As glimpsed in archival footage (some of it seen outside China for the first time), citizens were mobilized to raze forests and slaughter animals. These rash actions laid waste to ecosystems and triggered a famine that killed tens-of-millions. Now, a new generation of environmentalists composed of activists, journalists, filmmakers and former politicians strives to preserve their natural wonders, educate their compatriots and encourage public debate. Gary Marcuse's stirring documentary celebrates the leaders of China's new revolution as they take aim at a hydroelectric dam project.

A product of the VIFF Film & TV Forum's Storyville Vancouver program, this call-to-arms' refreshing air of optimism distinguishes it from the majority of environmental documentaries. While never once diminishing the threats posed by massive dams, it focuses on the sense of purpose and deep-seated passion such contentious undertakings instill in their opponents. As one rural villager proclaims, "When our homes are about to be destroyed, we have nothing to fear." Newly emboldened, these once-marginalized citizens become part of a "green hurricane" that's sweeping through China. We'd all do well to be swept up in their thrall.

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hteaedah4g>

Website: <http://www.facetofacemedia.ca/page.php?sectionID=2&pageID=107>