

Accreditation possible until May 19

## 18TH VIENNA SHORTS ONLINE & ON SITE – OPEN AIR OPENING ON MAY 27

**International short film festival takes place as hybrid edition – 20 film programs at Stadtkino, Austrian Film Museum and Porgy & Bess – Focus on solidarity and unusual facets of the pandemic – Full program release on May 18**

The 18th edition of the international short film festival VIENNA SHORTS will take place from May 27 to June 1 and will be realized as a hybrid edition this year. Over six days, the festival will present a carefully curated selection of around 300 films each up to 30 minutes in length. **A large part of the program will be available exclusively online**—however, 20 film programs will also be shown on the big screen at several venues in Vienna.

The official opening of the festival will **take place as an open air event in cooperation with VOLXkino**. The international competitions Fiction & Documentary and Animation Avantgarde as well as the Austrian competition will be shown in their entirety at Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus. Two exceptional Austrian filmmakers will be honored at the Film Museum. And the Austrian Music Video Award will be celebrated with a **screening and live concert by the band EsRAP at Porgy & Bess**.

All these programs will also be made **available online (with half an hour delay) on the festival's own film portal**—the 90 films in the competition and the opening will also be **subtitled in German for the first time**. This way, the festival guarantees not only expanded accessibility to the program, but also an inclusive approach to the comprehensibility of the films presented. The full festival program will be released on May 18.

*Regarding the safe implementation of analog festival events, we work closely with our partners of the respective festival venues as well as the festivals Diagonale and Crossing Europe. All screenings will take place within the legally prescribed framework. Detailed Covid-19 security measures will be announced on our [website](#) and continuously updated.*

## THE AIR THAT WE BREATHE: OPENING & FOCUS 2021

After more than a year under the spell of the pandemic, the festival's focus **The Air That We Breathe** is dedicated to the all-dominant topic—but from unusual perspectives. The opening program (which suitably takes place open air) deals with the departure into and the escape from one's own four walls. In regard of the existing curfew, the film program (beginning at 9 p.m.) will be shown in a shortened version. The complete version will be available online half an hour later.

Other Focus programs revolve around longing and curiosity, family and the bizarre, drama and memories, places and off spaces, exploratory journeys at home and around the world. The six programs in total include classics and new films by Jennifer Reeder, Lisl Ponger, Barbara Hammer & Lynne Sachs, Paul Wenninger and Bady Minck, among others.

## SOLIDARITY & EUROPEAN SHORT FILM NETWORK

Together with three other European festivals, Vienna Shorts has founded the European Short Film Network—and has now decided, in view of the joint online project THIS IS SHORT, to dedicate itself to the theme of solidarity in this association. Between the refugee crisis and the #MeToo movement, between the troublesome distribution of vaccines and growing unemployment, solidarity is either increasingly demanded or criticized as quixotic.

In the film programs of the four festivals of the European Short Film Network, the different perspectives on the topic are reflected in the example of four controversially discussed fields of our society: **the generation gap, labor rights, migration and equality**. The four programs were originally intended to be shown in their entirety in cinemas, but will now—depending on the Covid-19 requirements—only be shown sporadically in the four cities.

On the joint online platform THIS IS SHORT, however, all four programs will be available one after the other over a longer period of time and will also be shown together in the last week of June. The Vienna Shorts program, which shows **solidarity with those who have no rights on the occasion of the deportation of Viennese schoolgirls in January**, will already start on May 13 on THIS IS SHORT and will also be shown open air in Vienna on May 28 (in a shortened version).

**VIENNA SHORTS 2021** will take place from May 27 to June 1 online at [viennashorts.com](https://viennashorts.com) as well as [thisisshort.com](https://thisisshort.com) and, in accordance with the Covid-19 requirements of the authorities, will offer programs at Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus, Filmmuseum, Porgy & Bess and Open Air. The full festival program will be released on May 18.

If you have any questions, please contact [presse@viennashorts.com](mailto:presse@viennashorts.com). Detailed information on accreditation can be found [here](#).

