

MAY 24, 2022

WE'VE COME A LONG, LONG WAY TOGETHER: VIENNA SHORTS OPENS TOMORROW

19th edition of the international short film festival kicks off at Vienna's Gartenbaukino with 6 films and 3 Vienna premieres—Welcome by City Councillor for Culture—Online program starts at 00.01 a.m.

The international short film festival VIENNA SHORTS **opens its 19th edition tomorrow, Wednesday**. After an online-only event in 2020 and a reduced open-air opening in 2021, the festival kick-off will finally be celebrated again in a festive way **at Vienna's Gartenbaukino**—including a champagne reception by Sziget afterwords. Presenter Neil Young will host the event, festival directors Doris Bauer and Daniel Ebner will speak words of welcome and **Vienna's City Councillor for Culture Veronica Kaup-Hasler** will officially open the festival.

True to this year's festival motto **"We've Come A Long Long Way Together"**, the evening will feature a journey through time on the big screen: We remember the Romanian dictatorship of the 1970s through archival footage ("Visitors to a Familiar Past", Gabriel Tempea), witness failures in Kosovo from the 1990s to the present ("Pa vend", Samir Karahoda), take a look at a banking scandal in Austria in the 2010s ("300.000 – Oehl", Ariel Oehl) and recognize the current state of the world in the exhaustion of a girl ("Lullaby", Magdalena Chmielewska). The three Austrian productions will be shown **as Vienna premieres in the presence of directors Gabriel Tempea, Ariel Oehl and Magdalena Chmielewska**.

Two feel-good classics will start and end the program: Norman McLaren's clumsy "Opening Speech" (1961) is the prelude, Spike Jonze's flash mob to Fatboy Slim's "Praise You" (1998), shot in a single take, is the crowning finale—including the lyrics that the festival audience won't be able to get out of their heads in the following days: "We've come a long long way together, through the hard times and the good" ...

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST FESTIVAL DAYS

The festival launch will also be celebrated virtually: The **"Gems of Opening Pasts"**, a collection of previous opening films featuring, among others, the Swedish audience hit "Hopptornet" (Ten Meter Tower) by Maximilien Van Aertryck, will be available on the [film portal](#) starting May 25 at 00.01 a.m. Also available during the first days of the festival are the first of six "Mov(i)e Weeks", designed to encourage watching as much as moving, and the first of five "Odd Couples": Under the motto "Two Programmers, Two Comedies", two festival programmers with a different sense of humor will select their favorite funny films—from anarcho-comedies to social satires.

A total of **around 360 films from 70 countries** will be shown at VIENNA SHORTS, with more than 230 of them on the big screen. One of the festival's outreach programs, "Young Programmers", is scheduled before the opening gala: At the Austrian Film Museum, pupils show short films on the theme of "Blackout" (May 25, 3 p.m.). On the first regular day of the festival (May 26), the first competition programs can be seen at the Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus

starting at 3:30 p.m., and iconic music videos are shown at “Late Night – Into the Groove” beginning at 11 p.m. Open air at Wild im West, meanwhile, the program “Ukraine. In Joy and Sorrow” (9 p.m.) will be screened with free admission, and at the METRO Kinokulturhaus the projectors are rattling for the first focus programs. The following day, the 10th Austrian Music Video Award is celebrated there—with a screening of the nominated films, a concert by Viennese musician ANTHEA and the award ceremony (May 27, from 6:30 p.m.).

GOOD TO KNOW

Tickets and festival passes for VIENNA SHORTS are available via the [online store](#) as well as the new festival app (for [Android](#) and [iOS](#)). Tickets for cinema screenings can also be purchased through the respective venues. At the open-air events, the “Young Programmers” screening and the industry events, **admission is free** and no ticket is required.

In contrast to last year, the festival will be much less affected by the pandemic. According to the current Corona measures in Vienna, neither a 2G proof nor a FFP2 mask is mandatory. **The festival nevertheless recommends wearing a face mask at cinema screenings.**

This year, for the first time, VIENNA SHORTS events will be held **as recognized Green Events**. According to the guidelines of the Ministry of Climate Action, the festival meets the requirements to certify its cinema screenings or industry events with the [Austrian Ecolabel](#). This means that renewable resources are used wherever possible—for example in the environmentally friendly arrival and departure of filmmakers and industry guests, or sustainably produced (or entirely avoided) printed materials.

VIENNA SHORTS is the international short film festival in Vienna and one of the world’s most renowned events for films up to 30 minutes in length. The festival is Austria’s only qualifying event for the Oscars®, the European Film Awards, the British Film Awards BAFTA and the Austrian Film Awards. The 19th edition takes place from May 25 to 30, 2022 in Viennese cinemas and until June 30 online.

You can download press releases and images at viennashorts.com/en/press/pressebereich.

For further questions, please contact Angelika Prawda at presse@viennashorts.com or +43 681 104 159 16.