

VIENNA SHORTS 2020 – AWARD WINNERS

VIENNA SHORTS AWARDS 2020

Vienna Short Film Award International Competition Fiction & Documentary – Best Film

Film title: Sun Dog
Director: Dorian Jaspers (BE)

Qualifies for the Academy Awards – Live Action Short Film

“It goes to an experiential film with a unique cinematic language and narrative that takes us on a trip where space, time, and the characters melt together in a strange dream where anything can happen. The Vienna Shorts Award for Best Film goes to the unique and stunning **Sun Dog** by Dorian Jaspers. Congratulations!”

Donated by the City of Vienna: € 4.000

ASIFA Austria Award International Competition Animation Avantgarde – Best Film

Film title: Genius Loci
Director: Adrien Merigeau (FR)

Qualifies for the Academy Awards – Animated Short Film

“This film is outstanding, complex piece of art in all aspects. Inside–outside sceneries melded together by the great soundtrack, beautiful animation, and graphic style demonstrate a percussive (not singular) way of recognition. The ASIFA Austria Award for the Best Animation Avantgarde Film goes to **Genius Loci** by Adrien Merigeau. Congratulations!”

Donated by ASIFA Austria: € 2.000

Austrian Short Film Award Austrian Competition – Best Film

Film title: The best city is no city at all
Director: Christoph Schwarz (AT)

Qualifies for the European Film Awards
Qualifying for the Austrian Film Awards

“A film about a moving 15,000-piece church and a newly built empty city where human beings can only take the form of either ghosts or masses. The singularity and peculiarity of human nature are gone forever in the notes of this building site’s soundtrack. Replacing of school children’s games are empty underground parking

lots, 'slow traffic' safety zones and reminiscences of holiday places on the Upper Adriatic Sea. This documentary essay poses a reasoned critique of late capitalism, depicting it with the forms of an architectural dystopia on the outskirts of Vienna, where so-called progress cancels out the past and the peculiarity of a place and its former inhabitants without any plausible reason. That said, 'only when things have disappeared can they be missed.' The Austrian Short Film Award for the Best Austrian Film goes to **The best city is no city at all** by Christoph Schwarz."

Donated by VdFS, viennaFX & Blautöne: € 3.000 + € 2.000 postproduction voucher

Austrian Music Video Award Best Music Video

Film title: Über Nacht – Oehl
Director: Rupert Höller (AT)

Qualifying for the Austrian Film Awards

"The winning video turned out to be a poignant forecast of our everyday lives only one year after its release: a woman in solitude engaging in mundane indoor tasks and activities. What separates her quarantine from ours, though, is the huge stylish house she has all to herself. The elegant and magical deceleration of the whole vision and the desexualized way in which the protagonist is portrayed make it the most outstanding piece in this competition. Congratulations to Rupert Höller and his music video for **Oehl – Über Nacht!**"

Donated by FAMA: € 1.000

VIENNA SHORTS JURY PRIZE 2020

Jury Prize International Competition Fiction & Documentary

Film title: Apiyemiyekî?
Director: Ana Vaz

Qualifies for the Academy Awards – Documentary Short Subject

"Our Jury Prize goes to a film that struck us in its poetic and political strength. By working on language as an object of revelation and a necessary means of communication to keep memory alive, the director guides us through a territory and its colonial history and heritage that resonates with the current situation in Brazil with great urgency. The Jury Prize goes to **Apiyemiyekî?**, or 'Why?' in English, by Ana Vaz. Thank you very much, Ana, for this beautiful and important film."

Donated by Q21/MuseumsQuartier Wien: 1 Month Residency in Vienna

Jury Prize

International Competition Animation Avantgarde

Film title: The Six

Directors: An Xu & Chen Xi (CN)

“This film adopts the meditative rhythm of the moon phases, guiding your gaze through time and space in a loop. It looks monotonous but fascinates the viewer by beautifully and sensually evoking various feelings and emotions. The Animation Avantgarde Jury Prize goes to **The Six** by An Xu and Chen Xi.”

Donated by Q21/MuseumsQuartier Wien: 1 Month Residency in Vienna

Jury Prize

Austrian Competition

Film title: Fish Like Us

Director: Raphaela Schmid (AT)

“A Chinese restaurant immersed in a colorful palette serves as an intimate stage for the reunion and mourning ritual of two adult siblings trying to find a way to deal with their mother’s death. Embedded in a soundscape of voices and snippets of conversation from adjacent tables, the cast’s strong performance and a precise, detailed visual language create an intense cinematic atmosphere. The young director’s script carefully balances a humorous tone with an emotional density of intimate gestures and subtle dialog. With formal consistency, the farewell ritual is shot on analog film and framed by color schemes, editing, and aesthetics reminiscent of ’90s cinema as the main characters struggle with the present loss of a family member and try to find a future home for their mother’s goldfish. The Jury Award for Best Newcomer in the Austrian Competition goes to Raphaela Schmid for **Fish Like Us**. Congratulations!”

Donated by VAM, viennaFX & Blautöne: € 2.000 + € 1.000 postproduction voucher

VIENNA SHORTS – SPECIAL AWARDS 2020

Elfi Dassanowsky Award

Best Female Director

Film title: Marée (Tide)

Director: Manon Coubia (FR)

“Monstrous snow plows at a ski resort. The casual killing of a deer. A mountain blizzard glows in the strange blue of the night. A young worker’s plow stalls but someone waits for him in the wreckage of the night. Manon Coubia’s film **Tide** is an allegory on human relationship with nature. The film’s visual beauty and haunting narrative recall the Bergfilm of the 1920s, Kubrick’s 2001 and The Shining, Marlen Haushofer’s The Wall, even the nature sagas of pagan Europe. Is it sacrifice that brings on the cyclical geening of spring? Is it an eternal

female spirit that knows its price? Coubia's visionary film is a timely meditation on a sentient earth that insists on rebirth regardless of our technology and human cost.”

Donated by the Elfi Dassanowsky Foundation: € 1.000

Youth Jury Award Best Austrian Experimental Film

Film title: THORAX

Director: Siegfried A. Fruhauf (AT)

“The award for best experimental film goes to **THORAX**. This abstract film tells a story. On the one hand, a story about a beating heart. On the other hand, it lets the viewers freely interpret the plot lines and the form. It inspires and fascinates us. **THORAX** reminds us of infinitude and has a hypnotic effect. We also want to make special mention of the experimental films ‘The City Bridges Open Again’ and ‘200118_T3’; the former because of its extraordinarily magical impact and technique, and the latter because of its powerful visual effects.”

Donated by viennaFX & Blautöne: € 1.000 postproduction voucher

VIENNA SHORTS – SPECIAL MENTIONS 2020

Special Mention International Competition Fiction & Documentary

Film title: 3 Logical Exits

Director: Mahdi Fleifel (AE/DK)

“He keeps looking, he keeps filming, he keeps asking questions. Cinema as politics and as a means of communication inform this director’s filmmaking. It also keeps making us think, discuss and ask questions. The Special Mention goes to **3 Logical Exits** by Mahdi Fleifel.”

Special Mention International Competition Animation Avantgarde

Film title: Serial Parallels

Director: Max Hattler (DE/HK)

“This film reflects on urban architecture in a very physical rather than intellectual way. The megacity is experienced as a pulsating apparatus where you can just sense the presence of otherwise invisible humans. It speaks directly to the retina and vestibular system. The Animation Avantgarde Jury gives a Special Mention to **Serial Parallels** by Max Hattler.”

Special Mention Austrian Competition

Film title: How to Disappear

Director: Total Refusal (Robin Klengel, Leonhard Müllner, Michael Stumpf) (AT)

“The jury wishes to extend a special mention to Total Refusal’s philosophically rich and politically charged **How to Disappear**. This film provocatively employs the online confines of Battlefield V as both minefield and playground in an unsettling exploration of acts of defiance.”

VIENNA SHORTS – Online Edition: Austrian Short Film Award to Christoph Schwarz

Viennese artist with essay film “The best city is not a city” also candidate for European Film Award – International main prizes for fantasy film “Sun Dog” (BE) and computer animation “Genius Loci” (FR) – Nearly 20,000 euros prize money

You can't get more Vienna: The 15-minute essay film “The best city is no city at all” by the Viennese Christoph Schwarz is awarded the Austrian Short Film Award of the 17th edition of VIENNA SHORTS. The documentary work, which deals with the Seestadt Aspern as the capital's largest expansion area from several perspectives, receives 3,000 euros plus 2,000 euros as a post-production voucher and was also nominated by the jury as a candidate for the European Film Award.

The main prizes in the two international competitions go to Belgium and France. The Vienna Short Film Award (4,000 euros) in the feature film and documentary competition Fiction & Documentary goes to the fantasy film “Sun Dog” by Dorian Jaspers (BE). The ASIFA Austria Award (2,000 euros) in the Animation Avantgarde competition goes to Adrien Merigeau for his computer animation “Genius Loci”, which has already been awarded at the Berlinale. Both films are thus qualified for the Academy Awards.

The jury prizes, which are awarded for special achievements, go to the young Upper Austrian Raphaela Schmid for her tragicomic drama “Fish Like Us” (2,000 euros + 1,000 euros post-production voucher), to the Chinese duo An Xu and Chen Xi for the 2D animation “The Six” and to the Brazilian Ana Vaz for her documentary project “Apiyemiyekî?” (Why?). Xu/Xi and Vaz each receive 1,050 euros as well as residencies in Vienna in 2021. Vaz's film is the third to be sent into the Oscar race.

Austrian Music Video Award to Rupert Höller – Coubia best female director

For the 8th time already, the Austrian Music Video Award is awarded within the framework of Vienna Shorts. After videos for Bilderbuch and Zebra Katz, this year's award, which is endowed with 1,000 euros, goes to Rupert Höller's video “Über Nacht” for the band Oehl. The gala for the Music Video Award should have taken place this year at the Porgy & Bess jazz club in Vienna; but there, on Sunday, only the festival's sole analog event took place: the live gig of the band MELA, which was made possible at short notice.

Across all competitions, two prizes will go to two films that have made a lasting impression: The Elfi Dassanowsky Foundation in honor of the Austrian film pioneer honored the Frenchwoman Manon Coubia for her mountain adventure “Tide” as best female director of the festival (1,000 euros). The youth jury, consisting of three 15-year-old schoolgirls from Vienna, awarded “THORAX” by the Upper Austrian Siegfried A. Fruhauf as the best Austrian experimental film.

Directors Bauer & Ebner: “Overjoyed how the adventure went”

The international short film festival VIENNA SHORTS was held as an online edition in 2020 due to the pandemic. More than 5,000 films from all over the world were submitted for the festival, a total of 96 were ultimately up for selection in four competition categories for the prominent and international juries. The festival prizes are endowed with a total of almost 20,000 euros. The audience awards, which are determined via Vevox.app, will not be announced until Tuesday evening. In total, the festival made around 280 films in over 50 film programs available on a specially developed streaming platform.



“In view of the short time available to us since mid-March, we are overjoyed with how the adventure online edition has gone,” said the two festival directors Doris Bauer and Daniel Ebner. “We transferred the entire festival from the analog to the digital world in the shortest possible time and worked day and night with our team to make it possible to hold the festival after all. And even though we are already longing for the cinema and the big screen again, we have learned a lot in the past months, weeks and days and have taken a lot with us for the future.”

Vienna Shorts – 17th edition opens at home cinema

Kick-off for the short film festival's "Online Edition" with Mayer and Kaup-Hasler – Opening also on ORF.at – 280 films on streaming platform – Live chat & voting via Vevox – Daily online talks at 5 pm

Tomorrow (28 May 2020) the international short film festival Vienna Shorts will, for the first time, start not in the cinema but online. At 8 pm the festive opening of the 17th edition, which has been moved almost entirely into virtual space due to the precautions taken to contain Covid-19, will begin. The ceremony, which will be attended by the new State Secretary for Culture, Andrea Mayer, and Vienna's City Councilor for Culture, Veronica Kaup-Hasler, will also be streamed simultaneously on ORF.at.

The first film program of this year's festival is all about cohesion and under the impression of the past weeks and months. Six films, including two legendary short film classics, have been selected for it—as a protest against thoughtlessness and as a promise to raise awareness. "For us, cinema works like an empathic, utopian mirror of life," the festival directors and curators of the program, Doris Bauer and Daniel Ebner, explain their approach. "And we believe that we are not alone in this."

You can find the entire opening program on our website under the new program section **ATTRACTION**. The evening will be hosted by British film critic Neil Young. Following the opening gala, the first competition program will be available at the Vienna Shorts Festival Hub and a large part of all non-competition programs will be unlocked. In total, there are more than 50 film programs and about 280 films at the Festival Hub.

Under the title "Streams are my Reality", international music videos will also be shown tomorrow, Thursday, in cooperation with and on the FM4 website (from 10 pm) to share the acoustic element of the traditional opening party with the audience. A second music video program on FM4.orf.at will be shown on June 2, following the award ceremony, to conclude the festival.

INTERACTION: ONLINE TALKS, NOTES ON FILM & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

A film festival also includes the opportunity to meet filmmakers and exchange ideas within the industry. Every day at 5 pm (except on the opening and closing day) all accredited professionals and festival pass holders can therefore take part in webinars as part of the **INTERACTION** section. This year's webinars will focus on the programming of and legal basis for online festivals and world premieres online.

Together with the online film magazine Talking Shorts, Vienna Shorts will also present the text series "**NOTES ON FILM: Covid-19 and Cinema? The future of cinema with & after Corona**". Ten people from the European cinema and festival scene, including Rotterdam and Locarno programmer Julian Ross (UK), film historian Jurij Meden (SI), analog filmmaker Philipp Fleischmann (AT), cinema operator Wiktorija Pelzer and film funding manager Barbara Fränzen (AT), describe from a personal and/or professional perspective how they deal with the current situation and what their wishes, ideals or fears look like in times of and after Corona.

The **INTERACTION** section also includes film educational projects which partly had to be cancelled or scaled down due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, with the animation program "Change Of Scene", the hub also offers an entertaining program (from 5 years) to combat tired legs and worn-out thoughts.

(HOME) CINEMA EXPERIENCE WITH LIVE CHAT AND VOTING

Starting tomorrow evening, the adventure online festival will enter its first round—without shared cinema experiences or drinks at the festival bar, but with an extensive festival program and the opportunity to exchange ideas between filmmakers, audience and industry via live chat, voting and online seminars. With the festival number **109-225-618**, you can select your favorite films on the site **vevox.app**, leave comments and ask questions.

“The original planning for the 17th festival edition definitely looked a little different,” Bauer and Ebner say in unison. “But taking all circumstances into consideration and after some very intensive weeks of remodelling our plans, we can now look forward to the festival’s very first Online Edition—with more than 1,500 international accredited and hopefully many, many film and festival interested people from Austria. We keep our fingers crossed!”

Festival passes for Vienna Shorts – Online Edition are available for EUR 9,— at

<https://www.viennashorts.com/festival/online-festival-pass>

You can find press stills in the download area of our website: <https://www.viennashorts.com/downloads>

Lisa Kriechhammer, MA
presse@viennashorts.com
0699/17162068

VIENNA SHORTS – Online Edition
17th International Short Film Festival
May 28 to June 2, 2020
www.viennashorts.com



Vienna Shorts is going on an online expedition in 2020

International Short Film Festival publishes program of the 17th edition – Online festival pass available for 9 euros – Portraits of Périot, Pavlátová and Renoldner – Opening on orf.at and FM4 – Trailer celebrates "first digital spring"

With a renewed program structure and an ample variety of programs, the international short film festival Vienna Shorts is entering its "first truly digital spring", as the production text of this year's trailer promises. The one-minute film entitled **Spring Break** was created by the Austrian artists' collective *Total Refusal* and will be shown throughout Austria from May 21 – one week before the festival opens on May 28. The 17th edition of the festival, 98 percent of which will be online, will show around 280 films in 56 programs.

Away from the big screens, the festival still celebrates the moving image up to 30 minutes in length. Among the filmmakers* in the line-up are some well-known names from the industry such as *Jonathan Glazer* (UK), *Peter Strickland* (UK), *Randa Maroufi* (FR), *Jan Soldat* (DE) or the young Austrian *Kurdwin Ayub*, who is represented with two works, and from the (film) art scene such as *John Smith* (UK), *Anouk de Clercq* (BE), *Bjørn Melhus* (DE), *Sonja Feldmeier* (CH), *Kevin Jerome Everson* (US) as well as the two Austrian figureheads *Sigi A. Fruhauf* and *Billy Roisz*.

This year's festival opening will be celebrated on May 28 at 8 pm with socially distanced short speeches as well as a one-hour film program and will be streamed simultaneously on the Festival Hub and ORF.at. Immediately afterwards, the first film programs will be activated on the streaming platform, and together with FM4 we invite you to a festive closing of the day with international music video highlights.

Access to all features is provided by the festival pass, which offers the contents of an entire festival for 9 Euros, the price of a single cinema ticket, and is available from today, Wednesday, at <https://viennashorts.filmchief.com/hub/>. All films are presented in curated programmes of 60 to 100 minutes, arranged thematically or by competition, and three-quarters of them can be seen in Austria for the first time.

TRAILER BY TOTAL REFUSAL & NEW PROGRAM STRUCTURE

In its trailer for the festival, the artists' collective *Total Refusal* (Robin Klengel, Leonhard Müllner, Michael Stumpf) takes up the situation of the pandemic-induced shift away from public and towards virtual space. In **Spring Break**, digital grasses and flowers proliferate, while blooming meadows were inaccessible in closed-off parks in the spring of 2020, according to the collective. "Digital space is not shady and inaccessible in this 'first truly digital spring', but safe and clean as an alternative to the outside world. But in the backdrop of the billowing sea of tulips, there's already a fire.

Like a golden thread, the trailer of *Total Refusal* (this year also represented in the competition with **How To Disappear**) will run through the entire festival program, which this year was restructured to ensure a better overview of the extensive offer:

As of this year, the program is divided into five rough lines:

- The **SELECTION** contains the officially selected films of the two national and two international competition categories.



- With the **EXPEDITIONS** we pursue the objective of creating a dialog among the films and programs, exploring historical facets or geographical edges, and taking a closer look at great filmmakers and artists.
- Our **EXPANSION** line accommodates the immediate event character of each festival, placing a focus on live formats that transcend the movie screen.
- **INTERACTION** is dedicated to educational programs and professional exchange.
- Our **ATTRACTIONS** celebrate the kind of festive events (opening and award galas, receptions, and parties) that provide a ceremonial and relaxed frame for our festival.

SELECTION FEATURES 96 FILMS, SELECTED FROM OVER 5,000 SUBMISSIONS

The official SELECTION comprises 96 films selected from over 5,000 submissions for the four competitions: The international competition includes 57 films from 27 countries, divided between the two sections Fiction & Documentary (FIDO) and Animation Avantgarde (AA). Women are responsible for 46 percent of these films. For the two national competitions, 39 films were selected, divided between the Austrian Competition (ÖW) and the Austrian Music Video Prize (MUVI). Women directed 49 percent of the films.

All films in the SELECTION compete for prize money of around 20,000 euros, residencies in the MuseumsQuartier and places on the longlist for the Academy Awards®, the European Film Award, the British film prize BAFTA and the Austrian Film Award. The four juries are made up of representatives of major festivals such as Locarno, Venice or Vancouver as well as artists, filmmakers and journalists. They will award the prizes on June 2 during the online award ceremony.

EXPEDITION: PORTRAITS, PANDEMIC & AUDIENCE FAVORITES

This year's EXPEDITIONS includes three portraits, programs on the themes of fairness and the pandemic as well as the audience's favorite films and genre gems of the year.

The portraits offer guided expeditions into the work of individual artists: The great works of the French filmmaker **Jean-Gabriel Périot**, who celebrates success in the field of committed found-footage cinema ("A German Youth") with a radical spirit of resistance and both political and artistic ambition, will be honoured in two programs this year.

A second portrait is dedicated to the Czech artist **Michaela Pavlátová**, who applies her spontaneous and expressive drawing style as an illustrator and animation filmmaker and whose works have already been awarded an Oscar nomination, a Cristal d'Annecy, a Golden Bear and the Grand Prize of the Hiroshima International Animation Festival.

In the field of animated (short) film, **Thomas Renoldner** is a name that no one in Austria can ignore: On the occasion of his 60th birthday, the third portrait is dedicated to this passionate advocate of experimentation, fighter against clichés and always curiously provocative spirit, as well as a long-standing member of the Vienna Shorts programming team.

In the **Focus: Fair Enough?** we deal with questions of in/equality, in/justice, un/social working conditions as well as un/sustainable modes of production and thus topics that (must) necessarily arise and be discussed especially in times of crisis. How fair is "fair enough"? Film festivals must also ask themselves these questions



- and especially in a year in which Vienna Shorts has been certified as an eco-event and has imposed compliance guidelines on itself, this discussion should also be reflected in the program.

Seven programs have been brought together on the **Topic: Co vadis, Pandemic?**, which in various ways deal with the developments of the past weeks and months: the phases of isolation, the absence of the cinema, the escape into the digital world and the longing for closeness.

Last but not least, in the subcategory **Favorites**, the audience embarks on an expedition with old and new festival highlights of the past months. And in addition to the tried and tested trash film program *Très Chic* and the horror short films *Nightmares*, the **Late Night** will also feature music for the first time: a dazzling musical programme will be launched under the title *Dancing Screen*, while international music videos entitled *Streams Are My Reality* on FM4 invite the audience to a virtual escape into tonal (dis)harmonies.

EXPANSION: LIVE PERFORMANCE ONLINE, CONCERT AT PORGY & BESS

The EXPANSION line takes into account the immediate nature of a festival and focuses on live formats (audiovisual performances, film concerts, virtual reality) that go beyond the cinema screen. Even though this year's program has been greatly reduced due to the health situation, we are pleased to present two special program items:

Robin Klengel and Leonhard Müllner – two thirds of the Total Refusal collective – won the festival's Austrian Competition in 2018 with their film **Operation Jane Walk**, a virtual city tour through an online shooter game. On the Friday of the festival they will contribute a live performance based on the film to the Online Edition, with two specially invited guests.

We are also very happy to be present in the analogue with an exclusive concert by the band **MELA**. Following the screening for the Austrian Music Video Award, Simon Bauer and Marius Grimminger, who are in this year's competition with the music video *Crystalline*, will perform live in the legendary Viennese concert location **Porgy & Bess** as well as via stream directly in the (living) rooms.

Details about the sections INTERACTION and ATTRACTION will be announced next week. "Until then, however, there will be enough time to browse through the program in detail and get a festival pass", as the festival directors Doris Bauer and Daniel Ebner suggest. "We can see that the interest is great from the impressive number of accreditations. We are therefore very much looking forward to the 17th edition of the festival!"

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You can find press stills in the download area on our website.

www.viennashorts.com



VIENNA SHORTS: 280 FILMS FOR 9 EUROS IN THE ONLINE EDITION

Vienna's international short film festival presents all film programs from the 28th of May on a specially developed streaming platform – ÖkoEvent label & new festival animation – Complete program release on 20th of May

Instead of taking place at several venues in downtown Vienna, the international short film festival Vienna Shorts will be accessible exclusively online this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions. To this end, the festival has adapted the program within a few weeks and developed its own streaming platform, the Vienna Shorts Festival Hub, where in three weeks (starting on the 28th of May) around 280 films in 50 film programs will be available both live and on demand.

Access to the entire offer is available to all (short) film enthusiasts via an online festival pass, which will be available from the 20th of May for the price of a cinema ticket – at 9 euros. For legal and fairness reasons, all films will be geo-blocked and can therefore only be accessed in Austria by the regular audience. For the (international) industry and press—i.e. all those who also work with the films professionally—access to the films from outside Austria is made possible.

Characteristics of a short film festival are maintained

This year's competition—with 96 films in two international and two Austrian categories—was already presented in April. The entire program will finally be released on the 20th of May and will definitely reflect the characteristics of a short film festival. "Even though we make use of many advantages of online platforms, we still wanted to stay as close as possible to the festival presentation in the overall design", explain the two festival directors Doris Bauer and Daniel Ebner.

The films are thus grouped together in curated programs of 60 to 100 minutes and arranged according to competition or theme. At the Festival Hub, all competition and late-night shows will be activated according to a classic timetable and can afterwards be viewed on demand for 48 hours; the thematic programs, on the other hand, will be available throughout. About three quarters of all films will be shown in Austria for the first time.

New festival animation between cinema love and spirit of new beginnings

"It was no easy task for the entire team to transfer the festival from analog to digital in the shortest possible time," Bauer and Ebner say in unison. "And even if some details have not yet been finally decided and a certain portion of melancholy is always present, that we can't bring together filmmakers, industry and audience in the cinema on location, we are now very much looking forward to the adventure of the online festival."

The great love of cinema and the simultaneous curiosity for new cinematic form—which are inherent to the festival in its basic character and will also be visible in the Online Edition—also characterize the new festival animation by German artist Robert Seidel and Austrian musician Christof Kurzmann. The short sequence, which in future will be shown and heard before every Vienna Shorts film program, bows to classical cinema and the avant-garde as well as to the countless expressive variations of the short form.

EU funding and the ÖkoEvent label provide a tailwind



In the past few days, the festival has also received support for its current work from two sides: On the one hand, the EU has awarded the festival MEDIA funding for the fifth time in a row—definitely not a matter of course in view of the current difficult conditions. On the other hand, the environmental authority of the City of Vienna (MA22) has honoured our efforts to organize an environmentally conscious and sustainable festival (still in the analog version) with the label ÖkoEvent.

After the recent publication of compliance rules, we have thus taken a further step towards fulfilling the self-imposed guidelines. The concept for Vienna Shorts 2020 included more environmentally friendly travel to and from the event, waste prevention and energy-saving use of equipment during set-up and dismantling, as well as regional, seasonal and fair trade catering and sustainably produced printed materials and give-aways.



17TH VIENNA SHORTS FESTIVAL BECOMES “ONLINE EDITION”

International short film festival takes place on a specially developed streaming platform due to coronavirus – Kick-off for design relaunch with new logo – New compliance rules as measures for a fair festival

The date has long been set: From 28th of May to 2nd of June 2020, the 17th edition of Vienna Shorts will again celebrate outstanding films up to 30 minutes in length. Due to the worldwide health and social challenges however, the festival will not take place at various venues in downtown Vienna this year, but will only be accessible online. It is planned to present all competitions (about 100 films in four categories) as well as selected additional film and supporting programs on a new streaming platform, which is currently being developed in cooperation with several international festivals.

Like many other festivals, Vienna Shorts has been faced with the difficult decision to cancel or postpone the event—or rethink it. “An international film festival like ours is ultimately a big machine”, co-festival director Daniel Ebner describes the considerations. “150 international filmmakers and 650 accredited professional guests who are invited and looked after; a 200-page book that is written, designed and printed in six weeks; 300 film copies that are procured and prepared for the cinema; and so on. It makes little sense to launch an undertaking of this magnitude without being able to guarantee a regular implementation of the festival and the health of the audience, the industry, the filmmakers and the team.”

No replacement for cinema experience, but a platform worthy of a festival

The festival now prefers to focus its energies and concentrate on giving the films and their makers a good and festival-worthy presentation online. “The flair, the cinematic experience and last but not least the encounters on location can of course not be replaced online”, says co-director Doris Bauer. “But the works of the filmmakers, the trust they have placed in the festival with their submissions, and not least the work of the entire festival team to date deserve a platform that we want to give them this year as well—not as planned, but still worthy.”

To rethink and organize the festival, which usually attracts around 10,000 visitors in five and a half days, so drastically at short notice is not only a technical challenge, but also a feat of strength for the whole team, which courageously supports this path. Many thanks also go to our funders, whose strengthened confidence makes it possible to change the form of Vienna Shorts. Ultimately, the online implementation should also contribute to maintaining the value of cultural events in turbulent and challenging times, to strengthening them and to ensuring that they can be consumed at a low level.

Start of design relaunch with new logo

While details of the festival’s online edition will only be announced in the coming weeks, today marks the start of the festival’s visual relaunch by the design agency TEAM. At the beginning, the focus is on the dissemination of the new logo, which already refers to the goal of precision and conciseness by means of distinctive aesthetics and clear sign language. “In the focus of design are semiotic abbreviations and cinematic references”, TEAM duo Benjamin Hammerschick and Axel Just explain the new graphic concept.

With its geometric formal language, the signet borrows from absolute film and narratively refers “to the temporal restriction and associated intensity of the genre of short film”, according to Hammerschick/Just.

Supplemented by a 30-step layout grid based on the maximum length of a short film (30 minutes), the logo also refers to the boundaries of canvas or screen and is just as variable in size and arrangement as various film formats, which can often change from one film to the next, especially in the case of short film screenings.

New compliance rules as measures for a fair festival

Together with the first steps of the graphic relaunch, we are pleased to make available online a new paper that we have been working on over the past few months: The new compliance regulations contain measures for an international film festival that is organized in an ecologically sustainable manner and under fair conditions for employees, filmmakers and partner institutions.

As the only qualifying festival for the Oscars® and the European Film Awards in Austria, as well as a founding member of the Forum of Austrian Film Festivals and the Fair Festival Work Now initiative, we feel not only a certain responsibility towards the outside world, but also a voluntary commitment towards the inside—and we want to set a good example accordingly.

Fair conditions in festival work include, for example, a commitment to ecologically sustainable action, appropriate remuneration and social security within the team, but also to paying screening fees and artists' fees and to taking into account the representation of female directors in the film program.

“This all sounds so obvious”, say festival directors Bauer and Ebner in unison, “but we know from our own experience that this is not a matter of course. That’s why it was all the more important to establish these measures for ourselves and to initiate a change in perspective.” We are convinced and hope that the compliance paper can also serve as an example for other cultural event organizers in Austria and internationally.

PORTRAIT OF JEAN-GABRIEL PÉRIOT (FR) – EXTENSIVE ANIMATION SHOW WITH PAVLÁTOVÁ & ŠVANKMAJER (CZ)

The international short film festival VIENNA SHORTS—Austria's flagship event for the short film form and a qualifying event for the Academy Awards, the European Film Award, the British film prize BAFTA and the Austrian Film Award—celebrates its 17th edition from the 28th of May to the 2nd of June.

Together with the Austrian Film Museum, the festival dedicates two programs and a master class to the work of French all-round talent Jean-Gabriel Périot. In addition, a part of the large-scale retrospective “Animace/Animácia” on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak animated film will take place within the framework of the festival, including an exhibition of works by Czech artist Michaela Pavlátová and a program on the famous classic Jan Švankmajer.

JEAN-GABRIEL PÉRIOT

29th and 30th of May 2020

French filmmaker Jean-Gabriel Périot (*1974) has attracted attention in recent decades as one of the most extraordinary talents in found-footage cinema. Périot taught himself his cinematic craft autodidactically when he did an internship in the archives of the Centre Pompidou. Working with historical and contemporary footage characterizes a crucial strand of his work, which resistively explores questions of representation, often in the form of rapid photomontages.

Current interventions on the image of workers or political protest are paired with images of history, such as a furious revision of collaboration in the Second World War or the transformation of Hiroshima. In some of these works, Périot is close to the music video, which he handles just as remarkably and committedly as he does political themes. He also stands out as a reflected documentarist and with (short) feature films such as “Looking At The Dead”, a faithful adaptation of Don DeLillo’s short story Baader-Meinhof. In short: an all-round talent.

*Two film programs in the presence of the artist + master class by Jean-Gabriel Périot
Curated by Christoph Huber, Austrian Film Museum*

ANIMACE/ANIMÁCIA

29th to 31st of May 2020 (the show will already start on 4th of April at the Austrian Film Museum)

In a retrospective the size of which has never been seen before, the Film Museum presents a comprehensive and multi-faceted selection of Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak animated films from the last 100 years. The long and internationally acclaimed tradition of animation in these countries is taken as an opportunity to tell the history of Czechoslovak animated film in a completely new way, even though the canon is accorded due respect.

Within the framework of VIENNA SHORTS, the classic Jan Švankmajer will be honoured with a special program and a show will be dedicated to Czech animation artist Michaela Pavlátová in her presence. In addition, the tradition of puppet animation will be upheld in a live dubbed children's program, and animated





documentaries and the combination of animated image and sound will be celebrated with their own programmes.

Five film programs, partly in the presence of the artists

Curated by Eliška Děcká, Martin Mazanec, Matěj Strnad from National Film Archive Prague

Vienna Shorts – 17th edition opens at home cinema

Kick-off for the short film festival's "Online Edition" with Mayer and Kaup-Hasler – Opening also on ORF.at – 280 films on streaming platform – Live chat & voting via Vevox – Daily online talks at 5 pm

Tomorrow (28 May 2020) the international short film festival Vienna Shorts will, for the first time, start not in the cinema but online. At 8 pm the festive opening of the 17th edition, which has been moved almost entirely into virtual space due to the precautions taken to contain Covid-19, will begin. The ceremony, which will be attended by the new State Secretary for Culture, Andrea Mayer, and Vienna's City Councilor for Culture, Veronica Kaup-Hasler, will also be streamed simultaneously on ORF.at.

The first film program of this year's festival is all about cohesion and under the impression of the past weeks and months. Six films, including two legendary short film classics, have been selected for it—as a protest against thoughtlessness and as a promise to raise awareness. "For us, cinema works like an empathic, utopian mirror of life," the festival directors and curators of the program, Doris Bauer and Daniel Ebner, explain their approach. "And we believe that we are not alone in this."

You can find the entire opening program on our website under the new program section **ATTRACTION**. The evening will be hosted by British film critic Neil Young. Following the opening gala, the first competition program will be available at the Vienna Shorts Festival Hub and a large part of all non-competition programs will be unlocked. In total, there are more than 50 film programs and about 280 films at the Festival Hub.

Under the title "Streams are my Reality", international music videos will also be shown tomorrow, Thursday, in cooperation with and on the FM4 website (from 10 pm) to share the acoustic element of the traditional opening party with the audience. A second music video program on FM4.orf.at will be shown on June 2, following the award ceremony, to conclude the festival.

INTERACTION: ONLINE TALKS, NOTES ON FILM & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

A film festival also includes the opportunity to meet filmmakers and exchange ideas within the industry. Every day at 5 pm (except on the opening and closing day) all accredited professionals and festival pass holders can therefore take part in webinars as part of the **INTERACTION** section. This year's webinars will focus on the programming of and legal basis for online festivals and world premieres online.

Together with the online film magazine Talking Shorts, Vienna Shorts will also present the text series "**NOTES ON FILM: Covid-19 and Cinema? The future of cinema with & after Corona**". Ten people from the European cinema and festival scene, including Rotterdam and Locarno programmer Julian Ross (UK), film historian Jurij Meden (SI), analog filmmaker Philipp Fleischmann (AT), cinema operator Wiktorija Pelzer and film funding manager Barbara Fränzen (AT), describe from a personal and/or professional perspective how they deal with the current situation and what their wishes, ideals or fears look like in times of and after Corona.

The **INTERACTION** section also includes film educational projects which partly had to be cancelled or scaled down due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, with the animation program "Change Of Scene", the hub also offers an entertaining program (from 5 years) to combat tired legs and worn-out thoughts.

(HOME) CINEMA EXPERIENCE WITH LIVE CHAT AND VOTING

Starting tomorrow evening, the adventure online festival will enter its first round—without shared cinema experiences or drinks at the festival bar, but with an extensive festival program and the opportunity to exchange ideas between filmmakers, audience and industry via live chat, voting and online seminars. With the festival number **109-225-618**, you can select your favorite films on the site **vevox.app**, leave comments and ask questions.

“The original planning for the 17th festival edition definitely looked a little different,” Bauer and Ebner say in unison. “But taking all circumstances into consideration and after some very intensive weeks of remodelling our plans, we can now look forward to the festival’s very first Online Edition—with more than 1,500 international accredited and hopefully many, many film and festival interested people from Austria. We keep our fingers crossed!”

Festival passes for Vienna Shorts – Online Edition are available for EUR 9,— at

<https://www.viennashorts.com/festival/online-festival-pass>

You can find press stills in the download area of our website: <https://www.viennashorts.com/downloads>

Lisa Kriechhammer, MA
presse@viennashorts.com
0699/17162068

VIENNA SHORTS – Online Edition
17th International Short Film Festival
May 28 to June 2, 2020
www.viennashorts.com

