



Akademie des
Österreichischen Films

MEDIA INFORMATION

Award Ceremony of the Austrian Film Award 2018 in Grafenegg/ Lower Austria

Dear members, supporters, sponsors, cooperation partners and friends of the Academy,
dear media representatives!

True to the motto “Into the Future”, the Austrian Film Award 2018 was awarded in the frame of a glamorous gala night in Grafenegg, Lower Austria, last night. The Award Sculpture, which had been designed by VALIE EXPORT, was handed over 16 times. The list of names of all prize winners and films is available a

<http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/2018/preise.html>



The Austrian Film Award 2018—A View from Outer Space on Last Year’s Outstanding Austrian Filmmaking

“Austrian film is multifaceted and should stay like that. It can cover both the mainstream and arthouse, and a damn lot in between too. Filmmakers with a wide variety of backgrounds and

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exuberant passion meet at the Austrian Film Award once a year to celebrate—and rightly so”, said Mirjam Unger, who directed this spaced out night. She transformed the Auditorium into a vibrant, powerful and inspiring spaceship.

In their welcoming address, Ursula Strauss and Stefan Ruzowitzky, the Presidents of the Austrian Film Academy, boiled down the filmmakers’ work to an essence:

“The essence of our art is empathy—to put ourselves in somebody else’s shoes, to feel the pain of other people, to love other people’s loved ones, to understand other people’s lives... We empathize with the blind pianist of “Mademoiselle Paradis” who would love so much to be able to see, with the Turkish taxi driver of “Cold Hell” who has experienced so much violence, or with the heroin addict of “The Best of All Worlds” who tries so hard to be a good mother.

And because we are professional emphatic people, we don't understand when people, newspapers, politicians sometimes show no empathy for other people at all.”

Address of the Presidents of the Austrian Film Academy

Lukas Miko, who was awarded for Best Supporting Actor, with his appeal against agitation and desolidarization, **#KlappeAuf**, which was signed by 248 Austrian filmmakers, provided the highlight of the night.

The one-of-a-kind comedian Christoph Grisseemann and the unrivalled actress Hilde Dalik moderated the Gala with a lot of wit and charm, humorously and full of punch lines. Special guest of the night was the Austrian-based US actor and *Star Trek* star Max Grodénchik.



Hilde Dalik, Max Grodénchik,
Christoph Grisseemann



Auditorium Grafenegg



Ursula Strauss, Johanna Mikl-Leitner,
Marlene Ropac

“Lower Austria is an attractive film location. And the film industry in particular has made a major contribution to strengthening our independent profile as a cosmopolitan and future-oriented cultural region. Thus, the film industry puts Lower Austria’s diversity in the spotlight and tonight we are putting you in the spotlight. Tonight, we would like to congratulate you on your outstanding achievements and express our special appreciation”, said Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Governor of Lower Austria.



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The journalist and writer Doris Knecht held a guest address:

“For I believe in humanity and in joy and in the power of art, and that is why there is also so much hope in me despite everything. Also, because I see the people who are here today: because I see you, because I have heard your songs and stories, because I have seen your wonderful films. And because you show with your art that there is a different Austria every day: an Austria of culture, where the future doesn't look like the most gruesome, disgusting, murderous past, a civilized country where the Sound of Music sounds more beautiful again, friendly, empathetic and joyful. I see you, and therefore I am sure that it will be better again, different again, bright again.”

Doris Knecht's guest address

Mirjam Unger gathered a wonderful team around her. Gudrun von Laxenburg delivered the sounds, Mathias Zsutty wrote the script together with her, Conrad Moritz Reinhardt and Matthias Götzelmann developed and built the spaceship, Wendy & Jim designed the cool outfits and the DJ/VJ collective ETEPETETE created a cult party atmosphere in the Riding School.



Mirjam Unger (Artistic Director)



"Into the Future"



ETEPETETE

The Sculpture

The spiral-shaped aluminium Award Sculpture, which is 37 cm high and weighs 3.3 kg, was created by the renowned Austrian artist **VALIE EXPORT**. Each statuette is signed by the artist and thus an original artwork.

ORF and ORF III—tried and tested cooperation partners for many years

This year, the ORF is a particularly strong partner and has already accompanied the Award Ceremony of the Austrian Film Award for years, with a lot of coverage and specials and broadcasting Austrian films at prime time and around the gala night's date (mostly award-winning films from the previous year). Many thanks go to Kathrin Zechner.



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Today, on the day after the Award Ceremony, the whole evening is devoted to Austrian film again. The TV format “**Achtung! Sondersendung zum österreichischen Film**“ (Attention! Special Programme on Austrian Film) is broadcast on ORF eins at 10 pm. Austrian feature films are shown before and after.

ORF Programme information about the Austrian Film Award 2018

The whole gala night with before and after, including the party, was accompanied by ORF with a Facebook **Livestream** on the channel of ORF Kultur. Click **here** to view it.

Flimmit collection in honour of the Austrian Film Award

Flimmit presents more than 80 submissions, nominations and prize-winners in the constantly expanding collection “Austrian Film Award”.

More information

Austrian American Short Film Festival-AASFF

The winner of the Austrian Film Award 2018 in the category "Best Short Film" can be integrated into the festival programme as a *Filmmaker in Residence*.

More Information

Congratulations and thanks!

The Academy extends its warmest congratulations to all prize-winners and expresses its sincere gratitude to all members of the Austrian Film Academy who contributed to the success of the Gala and the Night of the Nominees on a voluntary basis or for a very low honorarium. Thanks to Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Governor of Lower Austria, for inviting us to Grafenegg and to our long-term supporters, sponsors and cooperation partners.

Supporters and Sponsors of the Austrian Film Academy

LINKS

Prize-winners of the Austrian Film Award 2018

Photos of the Award Ceremony of the Austrian Film Award 2018

Video documentation of the Award Ceremony of the Austrian Film Award 2018

Online as from 5 February 2018

One week before the Gala, the Night of the Nominees 2018 took place in the Vienna City Hall.

Photos of the Night of the Nominees 2018

Video documentation of the Night of the Nominees 2018



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