

SLASH

festival des fantastischen films

For immediate release

SLASH ½ 2022 – PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN COOPERATION WITH CROSSING EUROPE

May 5–7, 2022, Filmcasino: Film Highlights Part Two

It's roughly T minus two weeks to the opening of our eighth edition of the SLASH ½ Film Festival at Filmcasino in Vienna. From May 5 through 7, we will present eleven highlights of Fantastic Cinema on the big screen. An inherent part of the festival is our long-standing partnership with **Crossing Europe Filmfestival Linz**, which recently announced its lineup. SLASH festival director Markus Keuschnigg, who curates the Nachtsicht segment of Crossing Europe, is bringing **six productions from the Linz festival** to the Filmcasino screen in Vienna this year.

Superhero movies have become a staple of American cinema, but in **FREAKS OUT**, Italian director Gabriele Mainetti has spiced the genre with some European flair and transferred it to Nazi-era Rome. **INEXORABLE**, directed by Fabrice du Welz, tackles the intruder motif in a terrifying new manner. Much like Du Welz's last film, evil also pops up in his recent offering in the form of a fifteen-year-old girl named Gloria. In **SOME LIKE IT RARE**, the second Fabrice in our program, Fabrice Eboué, serves up a thick slice of black humor garnished with splatter and a dash of social criticism. Here, everything revolves around meat and what it's (not) worth to us. Mixing serious drama about abuse with martial-arts blockbuster elements, Mabrouk El Mechri's **KUNG FU ZOHRA** walks a tightrope with great bravado—and, to top it off, also features impressive performances. From this digital, (mainly) controlled world, audiences are then hurled into the deep, mystic woods of Latvia, which are governed by laws entirely different from those on social media: **UPURGA** marks the first time Ugis Olte left the documentary realm, drawing inspiration from modern classics like **BLAIR WITCH PROJECT**.

In addition to the films from the Crossing Europe program, Fantastic Cinema enthusiasts will have Ti West's slasher **X** to look forward to, which will be screened for the press on Tuesday, April 19 at noon at Filmhaus. For his latest, Ti West has raided the treasure chest of 1970s exploitation cinema, giving the whole thing a brand-new, blood-red coat of paint.

**>> Press screening of X on April 19, 2022
12 noon, at Filmhaus, Spittelberggasse 3, 1070 Vienna <<**

>> Please register at: press@slashfilmfestival.com <<

SLASH ½ 2022:

May 5 to 7 2022, Filmcasino

SLASH FESTIVAL 2022:

September 22 to October 2 2022

**The entire program of SLASH ½ Film Festival can be
downloaded at www.slashfilmfestival.com starting April 21.**

>> CORRECTION <<

In the last press release from April 7, we erroneously listed Eva Habermann, George Hardy, and Greg Sestero as the cast of Dario Argento's DARK GLASSES angegeben. Instead, the film stars Ilenia Pastorelli, Asia Argento, Andrea GherPELLI, and Xinyu Zhang. We apologize for this negligent mistake.

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Download film stills & press material: www.slashfilmfestival.com/en/press

SLASH ½ FESTIVAL: FILM HIGHLIGHTS PART TWO

in cooperation with [CROSSING EUROPE](#):

FREAKS OUT

Italy/Belgium 2020

Director: Gabriele Mainette

Starring: Claudia Santamaria, Aurora Giovinazzo, Pietro Castellitto, Franz Rogowski

Rome, 1943: After bombs rain down on a circus Fascist Italy, its entertainers must fend for themselves in. Matilda, the girl who can make light bulbs glow with her body, joins the partisans, while her supernatural friends—among them an insect whisperer and a human magnet—sign with a different show: Zirkus Berlin is helmed by twelve-fingered pianist Franz (Rogowski), who seeks out freaks with whom he wants to help the Nazis win the war. **FREAKS OUT** is an irreverent mix of fantasy and war movie, pure magic and brute force.

[Watch Trailer on YouTube](#)

in cooperation with [CROSSING EUROPE](#):

SOME LIKE IT RARE

France 2021

Director: Fabrice Eboué

Starring: Marina Foïs, Fabrice Eboué, Jean-François Cayrey, Lisa Do Couto Texeira

Do vegans have better taste? Well, they certainly *taste* better. This flash of insight strikes a butcher couple out in the French boondocks, whose little shop is attacked by vegan activists. After driving over one of them as an act of revenge, they butcher him for the counter, and lo and behold: The vegan ham, labeled as Iranian pork (!), sells like hotcakes! **SOME LIKE IT RARE** is a caustic but surprisingly nimble horror satire about a war of eating habits and the delicious gray area between noble ideals and the pragmatism of a well-sharpened cleaver.

[Watch Trailer on YouTube](#)

in cooperation with [CROSSING EUROPE](#):

INEXORABLE

Belgium/France 2021

Director: Fabrice du Welz

Starring: Benoît Poelvoorde, Mélanie Doutey, Alba Gaïa Bellugi, Anaël Snoek, Janaina Halloy

Celebrity author Marcel moves with his wife (and publisher) Jeanne into their gigantic family mansion. When one day the young Gloria brings back their runaway dog, she promptly finds herself in their employ to nanny their daughter Lucie. What started out as a fragile idyll gradually fades as the stranger burrows ever deeper into the family—until it is clear that she pursues her own sinister goals. Belgian director Fabrice du Welz expertly pushes all the right buttons of the classic usurper thriller, with psychosexual undertones galore—and lets his elegant and unfathomable white-knuckle spine-chiller derail spectacularly in the third act.

[Watch Trailer on YouTube](#)

in cooperation with [CROSSING EUROPE](#):

UPURGA

Latvia 2021

Director: Ugis Olte

Starring: Igors Selegovskis, Inga Tropa, Rihards Sniegs, Elvita Ragovska

Where do influencers go when they want to shoot an ad for vegan sausages? That's right: into the deep, dark, very damp Latvian forest. While wilderness expert Andrejs is concerned for their safety, the young group wanders ever deeper into nature, encountering flora and fauna both untouched and uncanny. Infused with dark folklore, Ugis Olte's mystery thriller UPURGA at first appears like a classic found-footage horror flick but soon mutates into a wayward, quirky, and pretty damn weird trip full of maladjusted characters and a lot of sauerkraut. A must-see.

[Watch Trailer on YouTube](#)

in cooperation with [CROSSING EUROPE](#):

KUNG FU ZOHRA

France/Belgium 2021

Director: Mabrouk El Mechri

Starring: Sabrina Ouazani, Ramzy Bedia, Eye Haidara, Tien Shue

When Zohra meets the charismatic Omar, she falls head over heels for him, and they move to a Parisian suburb. The first time he beats her, she hides her black eye behind sunglasses. When she finds herself in the same toxic relationship six years later because of her daughter, whom Omar loves to pieces, Zohra remembers her passion for martial arts movies. And when she meets an old Chinese man in a boxing gym, and he ends up teaching her kung fu, Zohra fights her way out, knifehand chop by knifehand chop. KUNG FU ZOHRA blends martial arts cinema with domestic violence drama. The result is one of the year's most extraordinary films.

[Watch Trailer on YouTube](#)

X

USA 2022

Director: Ti West

Starring: Mia Goth, Jenna Ortega, Brittany Snow, Kid Cudi, Martin Henderson

1979: A group of youngsters rides into rural Texas in their Econoline van to shoot an adult film on a remote farm. The old farmers' behavior is peculiar from the get-go, but when they find out about the lewd goings-on, the situation escalates. With his first feature film in six years, one-in-a-million talent and retro-(re)visionary Ti West (THE HOUSE OF THE DEVIL) leans hard into 1970s terror movie aesthetics, playing with established shock elements before modernizing them with panache and intelligence. This year's first true horror masterpiece.

[Watch Trailer on YouTube](#)
