

## Media Information

### Austrian Film Academy: The Nominees of the Austrian Film Award 2019



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On 6 December 2018, a high-calibre panel of politicians and filmmakers announced the nominees of the Austrian Film Award 2019 at the traditional press conference of the Austrian Film Academy in Vienna's VIG Ringturm office tower.

The nominees can be found here: <http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/2019/nominierungen2019.html>

After a screening, the members of the Austrian Film Academy entitled to vote select their nominees from **21 feature films**, **21 documentaries**, and **14 short films**. In the second round of the top secret selection procedure, the prizewinners are finally selected. The spiral-shaped aluminium Award Sculpture was created by the renowned Austrian artist **VALIE EXPORT**.

The Austrian Film Award will be awarded in 16 categories in the Vienna City Hall on 30 January 2019 upon invitation by Mayor **Michael Ludwig**. Director **Michael Sturminger**, who also moderated today's press conference, will stage the Award Ceremony. Actress **Caroline Peters** will moderate it and the guest speaker will be the author and translator **Martin Pollack** (Austrian State Prize for Cultural Journalism 2018).



Ursula Strauss and VALIE EXPORT  
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Michael Sturminger (moderation)  
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In her statement, Academy President **Ursula Strauss** addressed the proportion of women in the films submitted: “Many outstanding, exciting, moving and clever films were submitted to the Austrian Film Award 2019. I personally have noticed in particular that this year there are many strong and multi-layered female figures in both the documentary and feature film categories. These cinematic works are also reflected in numbers. We’ve been counting exactly: Of the **42 feature-length films**, **17** were directed by **female directors**, and **7** out of **14 short films** were directed by female directors. The proportion of female producers in the feature film sector can be put at 11, and among the short films there are 10. This gives hope—we will count again next year and keep an eye on the statistics regarding 50/50.”

**Roland Teichmann**, Director of the **Austrian Film Institute**, writes in the press folder: “The Austrian Film Award has become an institution that is constantly reinventing itself and is therefore always fresh at the pulse of filmic events in our country! On this radiant stage, therefore, are not only the award-winners in the truest sense of the word, but all filmmakers and producers who contribute to the richness of domestic filmmaking, all those who conceived, made possible and created these strong and independent films.”

The challenges and opportunities offered by digitisation and streaming were a key topic in the panel discussion. **Margarete Schramböck**, Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs, looks positively into the future in this respect: “The film industry is one of the sectors most affected by digitisation. It is used in the production and online distribution of films and does not replace people, but creates new innovative combination models. As a result, film as a cultural asset will continue to be anchored as an important economic factor in Austria in the future.



Margarete Schramböck  
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Josef Aichholzer  
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**Josef Aichholzer**, producer and Chairman of the Austrian Film Academy, addressed the importance of cultural-political dialogue: “The Austrian film enjoys a high international reputation. In order not to fall behind, there must be a flourishing exchange between the film industry and politics on the question of the contemporary management of Austrian film.”

**Gernot Blümel**, Federal Minister for the EU, Art, Culture and Media, spoke about concrete EU-wide measures: “The amendment of the EU directive on audiovisual media services will make video-on-demand providers and video-sharing platforms more accountable, for example through a 30% minimum quota for European content and rules, which for the first time also apply to these large online platforms. This brings us closer to a competition law framework that will improve the current asymmetric competitive situation. That is why we are also working to the full to conclude the EU Copyright Directive before the end of our Presidency. To protect intellectual property and secure our Austrian identity for the future.”



Gernot Blümel  
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Veronica Kaup-Hasler  
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**Veronica Kaup-Hasler**, City Councillor for Culture and Science in Vienna, thought about the future of the cinema as a place: “Enabling film production in a wide variety of genres is a major concern, but so is strengthening cinemas as cultural and educational institutions. They are analogue sites of experience, places of encounter, communication and mediation. In the future they will become even more important as audiovisual centres in which film is to be celebrated as an important narrative and documentary medium across generations.”

**Harald Mahrer**, President of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, writes in his statement for the press folder: “A key competitive factor will be to exploit and master the opportunities and challenges of digitisation. Even if the cinema remains the first choice for films and cineasts, online forms of exploitation, for example, must be given greater consideration than before.”

**Teresa Indjein**, Head of Department for Cultural Relations Abroad in the **Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs** stressed the importance of the short film genre: “The **Austrian Short Film Series** is a joint initiative of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and the Austrian Film Academy, which has meanwhile become an integral part of the film activities of the Ministry. Thus the films are much more than entertainment. We encounter motifs such as exclusion, friendship, abuse, social grievances, ideologies and the eternal search for happiness.”



Teresa Indjein  
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Maria Smodics-Neumann and Michael Sturminger  
© Robert Newald

**Maria Smodics-Neumann**, chairwoman of the trade and crafts division of the **Vienna Chamber of Commerce**, spoke about film as an economic factor: “The Austrian Film Award attracts attention, triggers economic impulses and thus strengthens the industry and Vienna as a business location. The 2,250 companies of the Viennese film industry offer jobs to thousands of trade professionals and craftsmen, creatives and filmmakers and generate a total annual turnover of around 700 million euros in the business location Vienna.”

**ART for ART Theaterservice GmbH** has been helping with stage construction and equipment since the beginning of the Austrian Film Award Galas. “The past year has also brought many remarkable works, which have been convincing both at international festivals and at Austrian box offices,” says Managing Director **Josef Kirchberger** with pleasure.



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Josef Kirchberger, Mercedes Echerer and Peter Schöber  
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Gernot Schödl  
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The **VdFS – Collecting Society of Audiovisual Authors and Actors** has been a loyal sponsor of the Austrian Film Academy for many years and is also a supporting member. In 2018, the **VdFS** exclusively financed the European project **A SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY**, which was jointly organised with the **EFA European Film Academy**. Managing director **Gernot Schödl** pointed out the importance of the new EU Copyright Directive both in the panel discussion and in his contribution to the press folder, so that the lobbying field is not left to the international Internet giants without a fight.

**Veit Heiduschka**, managing director of **VAM – Collecting Society for Audiovisual Media**: “The ninth Gala of the Austrian Film Academy is worth being appreciated. From its humble beginnings, a considerable amount of representation of Austrian film has evolved.”

**Martin Eichtinger**, member of the state government of Lower Austria, represented **Johanna Mikl-Leitner**, Governor of Lower Austria, in the panel discussion. Eichtinger is pleased that the **Night of the Nominees 2019** will be celebrated in Lower Austria (Perchtoldsdorf Castle) and that the **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Austrian Film Award in 2020** will take place in Grafenegg (Lower Austria). Eichtinger was also delighted that the Austrian Film Academy and the State Government of Lower Austria continue to cooperate on European projects, including the **EFA Young Audience Award**, in which the politician himself took part in 2018.



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Martin Eichtinger and Michael Sturminger  
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Kathrin Zechner  
© Robert Newald

ORF programme director **Kathrin Zechner** noted that in its 9th year, the Austrian Film Award could “link the idea with the realisation” and “let the outstanding shine in the spotlight”. The ORF itself can believe in the “potential of the country of films and stories and strongly stand up with this attitude against the negative, the dividing, the self-damaging, the frightening”.

**Peter Schöber**, managing programme director of ORF III Culture and Information: “Together we’ll make sure that on 30 January 2019, all the spotlights are on the extensive output of the Austrian film scene.”

Around the gala, the **ORF** also accompanies the 9<sup>th</sup> Award Ceremony comprehensively and shows again a number of domestic feature films at primetime. On Friday, 1 February 2019, “**Achtung! Sondersendung zum Österreichischen Film**“ at 10 p.m. on ORF 1 will present the prizewinners and show the highlights of the Gala. Moreover, the films “**Die Migrantigen**“ (directed by **Arman T. Riahi**) and “**Hidden Reserves**” (directed by **Valentin Hitz**) will be shown on ORF 1.

At 7.45 p.m., **ORF III** will kick off with a “**Kultur Heute Spezial**” live at the arrival of the guests at the Vienna City Hall.

Live from the Award Ceremony, Ani Gülgün-Mayr and Peter Fässlacher will then report at 10.10 p.m. with interviews of the prize winners and highlights of the event. At 8.15 p.m. and 10.35 p.m., the programme focus “**ORF III Spezial zum Österreichischen Filmpreis**” will also feature two works that were awarded the “Austrian Film Award” in previous years.

If you want to see it live on 30 January 2019, you can also follow the **Facebook live stream** of ORF Kultur.

[www.facebook.com/ORFkultur](http://www.facebook.com/ORFkultur)

More information on the programme and the films shown can be found in the press folder:  
[http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/presse/2019/Pressemappe ...](http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/presse/2019/Pressemappe...)

**Marlene Ropac**, managing director of the Austrian Film Academy, thanked the supporters, cooperation partners and sponsors who have contributed to the realisation of the Academy’s activities. About 50 percent are financed by the public sector, the other half by the contributions of the 517 members, supporting members, sponsors and product sponsors.



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The Academy is proud to have reliable supporters and partners for many years. Thanks to the commitment of the **State Government of Lower Austria** the informal Night of the Nominees (this time at Perchtoldsdorf Castle) will take place again in 2019. Thanks to **THE GRAND POST**'s great commitment, we will once again be able to show film clips and feeds at this year's gala.

Panel participants:

**Margarete Schramböck**, Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs

**Gernot Blümel**, Federal Minister for the EU, Art, Culture and Media

**Veronica Kaup-Hasler**, Wiener City Councillor for Culture and Science

**Teresa Indjein**, Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Head of Department for Cultural Relations Abroad

**Martin Eichinger**, member of the Lower Austrian state government (as representative of Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Governor of Lower Austria)

**Maria Smodics-Neumann**, Member of Parliament, Chairwoman of the Trade and Crafts Division of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce (as representative of Walter Ruck, President of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce)

**Kathrin Zechner**, ORF Programme Director

**Peter Schöber**, managing director of ORF III

**Josef Kirchberger**, managing director of ART for ART Theaterservice GmbH

**Gernot Schödl**, managing director of VdFS – Collecting Society of Audiovisual Authors and Actors

**Austrian Film Academy**

**Ursula Strauss**, President

**Josef Aichholzer**, Chairman

**Marlene Ropac**, Managing Director

Moderation: **Michael Sturminger** (Stage production of the Award Ceremony 2019)

We would like to point out that all statements or the entire press conference can be viewed later in the [video footage of the Facebook Live Stream](#). All texts of these and other sponsors can also be found in the [press folder](#).

The Austrian Film Academy was founded in 2009 to provide a platform for film professionals to exchange ideas internally and a showcase for Austrian cinema films to the outside world. In addition to the annual awarding of the Austrian Film Award, there are numerous European projects in which the Academy is involved and which it has brought to Austria, such as the **EFA Young Audience Award**, **LES NUITS EN OR** or **A SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY**. At the moment, the Academy has 517 members. The Award Sculpture was created by **VALIE EXPORT**.

The Austrian Film Academy is supported by **ÖFI – Austrian Film Institute**, **FFW – Filmfonds Wien** (Film Fund Vienna), **the City of Vienna/MA7 - Municipal Department for Cultural Affairs**, **Austrian Federal Chancellery – Arts and Culture**, **FISA – Film Location Austria / Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy / AWS**, **Kultur Niederösterreich**, **Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs**, **F&MA** (Film and Music Austria), **WKO Vienna**, **VAM**, **AKM**, **Erste Bank**, **Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein**, **Vienna Film Commission**, **Satel Film**, **VdFS** (Collecting Society of Audiovisual Authors and Actors), **Flimmit**, **IMMOUnited**, **LISTO**, **THE GRAND POST**, **Concept Solutions**, **Aichholzer Filmproduktion**, **epo-film**, **Novotny & Novotny Filmproduktion**, **Superfilm**, **Gebhardt Productions**, **Lotus-Film**, **absolutprint**, **ART for ART**, **Vöslauer**, **Ströck**, **Ottakringer**, **Weingut Dürnberg**, **Popcorner** ... as well as many product sponsors, cooperation partners (**European Film Academy**, **Académie des César**, **VIS Vienna Shorts Festival**) and 517 members of the Austrian Film Academy.



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Media Partners: **ORF / ORF III, ray film magazine, FAQ magazine, Film, Sound & Media**  
Cooperation partner VOD Platform: [www.flimmit.at](http://www.flimmit.at)

Link to our partners: <http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/partner.html>

Special thanks go to the notary, Dr. Stephan Prayer, who supervises the election procedure on a voluntary basis every year, and the host of the press conference in the Ringturm (lunch included!), **Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein.**



Marlene Ropac and Veit Heiduschka  
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Ursula Strauss and Roland Teichmann  
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Dr. Stephan Prayer (notary) and Barbara Lindner  
(selection procedure)  
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## Links

Website: <http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OesterreichischerFilmpreis>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/oesterreichischerfilmpreis/?hl=de>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/user62040704>

Partners: <http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/partner.html>

The Nominees of the Austrian Film Award 2019  
[www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/2019/nominierungen2019.html](http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/2019/nominierungen2019.html)

Press Folder of the Nominees of the Austrian Film Award 2019:  
[http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/presse/2019/Pressemappe ...](http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/presse/2019/Pressemappe...)

Video Facebook Live Stream Press Conference:  
<https://www.facebook.com/OesterreichischerFilmpreis/videos/vb...>

Photos Press Conference—Announcement of the Nominees of the Austrian Film Award 2019:  
<http://bilderserver.skyunlimited.at/index.php/Filmpreis/Nominierungen-2019#>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/oesterreichische-filmakademie/albums/72157702889583871>

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