

# VIENNALE

*Vienna International Film Festival*

**PRESS CONFERENCE**

**PRESENTATION  
OF THE NEW DIRECTOR  
OF THE VIENNALE**

January 11, 2018 • Metro Kinokulturhaus



## **THE NEW VIENNALE DIRECTOR**

### **EVA SANGIORGI**

Eva Sangiorgi's application created an opportunity for the Viennale of an almost historical dimension, an opportunity that the Viennale grasped with enthusiasm and full conviction. Eva Sangiorgi is one of the greats of the festival circuit: internationally connected, recognized and established, she was and will surely continue to be active in the juries of several important film festivals. She has earned a reputation as renowned creator of programs and has made contributions to a great variety of festivals. In 2010, she founded the successful FICUNAM international film festival in Mexico City, where she was also responsible for the full creative and business management.

Eva Sangiorgi understands the Viennale's importance and its international standing. In the hearing, she demonstrated a detailed grasp of the character, style and content of the festival, as well as a refined sense of its potential for growth.

In addition to the qualities that have already been mentioned, it was her comprehensive knowledge of films and her clear and determined approach to films and those who create them that were decisive in the choice of Eva Sangiorgi.

As a result, the Viennale will be able to go forward, maintaining all the essential elements that feed its spirit and the international respect it enjoys: a single person will select the films, providing the reasons and accepting the full responsibility for that selection.

*“With Eva Sangiorgi as an internationally renowned festival director at its head, the Viennale, Austria’s biggest film festival, will further emphasize its international orientation. At times of growing nationalism, this view from the outside – also of the Austrian film landscape – is of eminent importance for the Vienna film festival. That is why I am so pleased to see an internationally respected personality at the head of this important cultural institution. I am confident she will build on the great successes of the past and employ all her expertise and experience in taking the Viennale further.”*

**Andreas Mailath-Pokorny, Vienna City Councilor for Cultural Affairs, Science and Sports**

*“Having gained an insight into the work as the interim artistic director, I cannot imagine a better person than Eva Sangiorgi for this task. Her decisive and independent approach to films and those who create them promises us some extraordinary Viennale festivals in the future.”*

**Franz Schwartz, interim artistic director of the Viennale**

*“I congratulate the selection committee on its choice of the new artistic director of the Viennale. I am delighted that the choice fell on Eva Sangiorgi. She is an excellent program creator, wonderfully connected and very personable. She is a woman, who grasps the unique character of the festival and who will lead the Viennale in a remarkable way. I am already looking forward to an enjoyable and fruitful cooperation with her.”*

**Eva Rotter, managing director of the Viennale**



## **Eva Sangiorgi about the Viennale**

The Viennale festival is an iconic event that rounds off the year's calendar of film events and has been important to me for a very long time. I have developed a deep appreciation for its programmes and selection of guests over the years, finding inspiration and strength in its ideas and insights. I have also benefitted greatly from the friendships and professional contacts made within the context of the festival.

It is a great honour to work as the director of such an eye-opening and consistently high-quality project, and an opportunity for me to apply all the knowledge acquired over many years I have been working in festivals. I would seek to contribute my experience to the Viennale, respecting the festival's legacy and the professionalism of those in charge of the various areas.

The Viennale has a heritage that I would wish to respect and promote. It has a reputation for showcasing the very best of the year's crop of films, combining works by established filmmakers with fresh proposals from across the globe – a masterful blend that explains the Viennale's success and offers surprises for international programmers.

## **Eva Sangiorgi – some new ideas for the Viennale (selection)**

The retrospectives and themed sections make the Viennale an eagerly anticipated event for the careful and congruent film choices in its programmes, which also create links to contemporary works. My intention is to maintain its strength and consistency while infusing a new, dynamic spirit for the event to evolve in line with today's art scene.

I will modify the structure of the current programming in a move away from separating documentaries and dramatic films, because this distinction is becoming increasingly blurred in contemporary cinema. Besides, I will underline the productions of as-yet-undiscovered filmmakers just starting their careers.

I propose evening conversations as a fixed event to accompany each day's closing ceremonies. The evenings at Viennale could act as informal gatherings of people who would come to hear and talk about films and they would give filmmakers the chance to reveal their more personal and creative sides.

By establishing contacts with higher education institutes we will try to reach agreements to attract more people and younger audiences to the theatres, showing them the latest in cinematographic culture.

We will try and start an initiative to bring in people from other disciplines who are working with moving images at the same time as researching the language of film and helping keep it alive. Eventually this will catalyse joint projects with other branches of the arts.

## THE SELECTION PROCEDURE

As planned, the vacancy notice for the artistic director of the Viennale was published on November 3, 2017 in a variety of national and international media as well as in press announcements. Thirty applications had been submitted by the deadline of midnight on December 5, 2017.

The selection committee, which had been chosen and appointed by the board of trustees, consisted of six members of the board of trustees (Tizza Covi, Gabriele Flossmann, Barbara Fränzen, Daniel Löcker, Marijana Stoisits, Armin Thurnher) and the interim artistic director, Franz Schwartz. The committee studied the applications intensively, performed its own additional research and conducted individual discussions.

Following this, hearings were held, supplemented by parallel discussions between the candidates and the City Councilor for Cultural Affairs, Andreas Mailath-Pokorny.

Based on the selection committee's recommendation, the board of trustees decided to make an offer to Eva Sangiorgi. City Councilor for Cultural Affairs, Andreas Mailath-Pokorny, then appointed Eva Sangiorgi as successor to Hans Hurch and thus as artistic director of the Viennale for the coming three years. The contract can be extended.

Eva Sangiorgi will head the FICUNAM film festival, which takes place from February 28 to March 6, 2018 in Mexico City and then take up her new duties in Vienna at the end of March. Eva Rotter and Franz Schwartz will continue to take care of the daily business until then.



## **EVA SANGIORGI**

Born July 10, 1978 in Faenza (RA), Italy. Italian national.

Studied Communication Sciences at the University of Bologna, Italy (graduated in 2005).

Studied History of Art at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (completed studies in 2017).

Founded the FICUNAM international film festival in Mexico City in April 2010, creative and business director since that date.

Since 2003, curator and responsible for the programs of international festivals in Mexico and Europe.

Since 2012, on juries of international film festivals in Mexico, South America, Israel, Portugal, Italy, France, Spain and Germany, among them FIDMarseille, Doclisboa and Mar del Plata.

Additionally, hosted a TV program about film, and worked as a publicist and production assistant. Gives courses and presentations on film science.

January 2018: appointment as Viennale director.



**VIENNALE – VIENNA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Siebensterngasse 2  
A-1070 Wien

**Press Office**

Fredi Themel 0043/1/526 59 47-30  
press@viennale.at

Press information and photos can be downloaded at: [www.viennale.at/en/press/download](http://www.viennale.at/en/press/download)  
Photos: Roland Ferrigato