Vienna, September 2020

**FREERIDE FILM FESTIVAL – Press release**

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**www.freeride-filmfestival.com**

**FREERIDE FILM FESTIVAL 2020**

From November 7th to 29th, 2020 in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Italy

**The 11th Freeride Film Festival is dedicated to the beauty on your own doorstep - in more countries than ever before: "shred@home & film@home", but not only because everyone was forced to do so in spring 2020!**

***2020 is a very special year for the Freeride Film Festival (FFF) - and that affects several aspects. Firstly, the selection of films is more international than ever and at the same time anchored locally. Second, that's exactly in the sustainable sense of the festival. Thirdly, in addition to Austria, Germany and Switzerland, the tour goes to Italy for the first time. Fourth, not only have the FFF visitors got used to dealing with the corona virus, but the organizers are also aware of their great responsibility. Fifth, this year, for the first time, the full potential of the new cooperation with ABS / PYUA will be used.***

It's been a challenging and somehow strange year. The two Master Minds of the Freeride Film Festival (FFF) also agree on this. But Volker Hölzl and Harry Putz have never doubted that the 2020 tour will take place. “We were always aware that we had to adapt to the constantly changing conditions and remain flexible in the process,” explains Hölzl. “Of course we will adhere exactly to the official COVID-19 guidelines, but we want to focus specifically on joy, enthusiasm and shared experience: in sport as well as in filming and watching. That is why we are particularly pleased that this year we have more international productions in our program than ever before, all of which were shot in our own backyards. "

Harry Putz is also enthusiastic about the mixture and subject matter of the selected films. “The productions are not only united by the slogan 'shred@home & film@home', but they also show a range of cinematic and creative implementations: from the stylish ambience and atmosphere film to the psychological hardcore stress in the mountains at the beginning of the Corona lockdowns to slapstick and a complete solo project. What Putz is also very proud of: “That we are continuing to push ahead with our 'Freeride for Future' initiative, which we launched last year. With this we want to promote a change in awareness and a responsible use of natural habitats."

**First POW Film Award, Italy for the first time**

The premiere of the POW Film Award, which is presented in cooperation with Protect our Winters Europe, also falls into this category. The prize, which is donated by the FFF at € 1,000, is aimed at freeride films that provide explicit evidence of active, climate-conscious behavior without pointing a finger at others. Another important criterion is that no machine-driven climbing aids are used. In addition to the prize money, the winning production will be awarded a trophy made by an artist and the "FFF + POW Film Award Laurel".

**New partners, new destinations**

There has also been a change behind the scenes at the Freeride Film Festival. Volker Hölzl and Harry Putz have brought ABS and PYUA, two of the leading brands in the freeride industry, into the company as investors. The strategy is clear: Together we are working on the constant expansion and increasing internationalization of the tour.

Therefore, the fans can expect an innovation this year with the tour stops. In addition to Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the FFF will be visiting Italy for the first time in 2020. The exact dates for all destinations and the respective cinemas can be found at the end of this document.

On the first tour stops in Andermatt, Zurich, Wolfurt, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Munich, Vienna and Innsbruck, the FFF convoy is on the road as usual with the nightliner, complete with athletes and filmmakers. At all other stops, a moderator and sometimes one or more of the actors will be on site and guide the audience through the selection of films.

**Swiss love and Corona change of heart**

The headliner of the FFF 2020 is the production **"From Switzerland with Love".** The main character is Laurent De Martin, an internationally renowned freeskier from western Switzerland. He's been around the world a lot, now he's inviting athletes from near and far to his home in Valais to savor the different terrains and types of games. Laurent's home is the “Dents du Midi” (“The Teeth of the South”), seven three-thousand-meter peaks in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. The result is a freeskiing potpourri from street to backcountry, with a fat guest appearance by FFF-proven Mathieu Schaer. Presented in an absolutely harmonious, familiar atmosphere and with a soundtrack that gets under your skin. A film with so much “freestyle” hasn’t been seen at the FFF for a long time!

In the Austrian-German film **“Metanoia”**, the COVID-19 pandemic is suddenly coming very close. A few days before the lockdown on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Mountain Tribe Crew set off for the Ötztal Alps. The goal is an old border hut on the Timmelsjoch. In addition to ski tours and big lines, the group also wants to explore the limits of friendship and society there. But the endeavor becomes a different kind of border crossing. Instead of funny evenings, there are tough discussions. In addition, intensive contact with the police and the families at home. Metanoia stands for an increasing change of heart that is making itself felt among the athletes and the film team in the course of the film. The camera is always on. At the beginning, jokes are made and the Corona Blues are played on the guitar, but bitter seriousness joins the troupe over the course of the days.

**In the far north and the Tyrolean shallows**

Two FFF 2020 productions take us far up to northern Europe. In “**Fjörd Lines**”, snowboarder Runar Petur takes us to his favorite areas in Iceland. As the name suggests, it is about the unique fjord landscapes of Iceland. The filmmaker Víðir Björnsson shows us spectacular shots. At the same time, they exude a calm and magical bond that almost leads to melancholy. This is mainly due to Runar Petur's individual style when he becomes one with his lines.

The film “**Billøs / Carless**” by the Norwegian Andreas Køhn is at least as individual. Billøs means carefree in German, and Andreas is carless because repairing his car is too expensive for him. That is why he renounces this luxury completely, switches to his bicycle and has been touring the Bodø, Lyngen and Lofoten areas for two years. Andreas Køhn is a loner and a bit of a loner as well. He openly admits that. This also includes his urge to reduce emissions. This film is "simple & basic at its best". Almost everything filmed and apart from a ferry ride to Lofoten there is only muscle power. Andreas doesn't let rain or icy documents stop him and always looks to a better future with a lot of self-irony: “The next month will be great. The next month. "

Finally, something extremely satirical. In “**The Tyrolean and his Piefke - Part 2**”, filmmaker Michael Bernshausen presents an eternal classic from the Tyrolean Alps. A local, in this case Roman Rohrmoser from the Zillertal, and a German, Felix Wiemers from Hesse, practice all kinds of communication difficulties. What they have in common: skiing at the highest level. The basis for this ski film parody is provided by the successful TV series “The Piefke Saga” from the early 1990s. Bernshausen has based himself on this classic and is now following part 1 of "Der Tiroler und seine Piefke". Again, with a strong note of black humor, he paints a portrait of the eternal love-hate relationship between Austrians and Germans. The audience should decide for themselves how serious the linguistic and cultural misunderstandings are.

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| **Tour dates 2020** |  |
| **07.11. Andermatt, Konzerthalle (CH)****08.11. Zürich, Kosmos Kino (CH)****09.11. Wolfurt, Cubus (AT)****10.11. Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Kongress (DE)****11.11. München, Alte Kongresshalle (DE)****12.11. Wien, Gartenbaukino (AT)****13.11. Innsbruck, Leokino (AT)****15.11. Landshut, Kinopolis (DE)****16.11. Erlangen, Cinestar (DE)****17.11. Lausanne, Pathé Les Galeries (CH)****17.11. Frankfurt, Metropolis (DE)****18.11. Engelberg, Kursaal (CH)****18.11. Berlin, Kino in der Kulturbrauerei (DE)****19.11. Basel, Pathé Küchlin (CH)****19.11. Hamburg, Zeise Kinos (DE)****20.11. Bern, Cine Bubenberg (CH)****21.11. Düsseldorf, Cinestar (DE)****22.11. Salzburg, Das Kino (AT)****22.11. Köln, Cinenova (DE)****23.11. Wels, Programmkino (AT)****23.11. Stuttgart, Gloria (DE)****24.11. Graz, KIZ Royalkino (AT)****24.11. Tegernsee, Seeforum (DE)****25.11. Villach, Stadtkino (AT)****25.11. Augsburg, Liliom (DE)****26.11. Neu-Ulm, Dietrich Theater (DE)****27.11. Bozen, Cineplexx (IT)** **28.11. Schlanders, Basis (IT)****29.11. Schruns, Kulturbühne (AT)** | **Switzerland****07.11. Andermatt, Konzerthalle****08.11. Zürich, Kosmos Kino****17.11. Lausanne, Pathé Les Galeries****18.11. Engelberg, Kursaal****19.11. Basel, Pathé Küchlin****20.11. Bern, Cine Bubenberg****Austria****09.11. Wolfurt, Cubus****12.11. Wien, Gartenbaukino****13.11. Innsbruck, Leokino****22.11. Salzburg, Das Kino****23.11. Wels, Programmkino****24.11. Graz, KIZ Royalkino****25.11. Villach, Stadtkino****29.11. Schruns, Kulturbühne****Germany****10.11. Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Kongress****11.11. München, Alte Kongresshalle****15.11. Landshut, Kinopolis****16.11. Erlangen, Cinestar****17.11. Frankfurt, Metropolis****18.11. Berlin, Kino in der Kulturbrauerei****19.11. Hamburg, Zeise Kinos****21.11. Düsseldorf, Cinestar****22.11. Köln, Cinenova****23.11. Stuttgart, Gloria****24.11. Tegernsee, Seeforum****25.11. Augsburg, Liliom****26.11. Neu-Ulm, Dietrich Theater****Italy****27.11. Bozen, Cineplexx****28.11. Schlanders, Basis** |

**Details about the individual films:**:

<https://www.freeride-filmfestival.com/filme-2020>

**Podcast:** <https://www.freeride-filmfestival.com/fff-podcast>

**Photos**: [freeride-filmfestival.com/presse/](http://www.freeride-filmfestival.com/presse/)

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**Vimeo**: <https://vimeo.com/channels/freeridefilmfestival>

For questions about the festival itself or for interview requests with athletes and filmmakers, please contact us. Further press photos and film material on request.