



Peter Simonischek, Tobias Moretti and Egon Schiele shine bright at the Romy Awards

by Bénédicte Prot

26/04/2017 - At the ceremony for the 28th Austrian TV and film awards, the Toni Erdmann actor was crowned for his lifetime achievement, while Moretti became the new Romy record holder



Actor Peter Simonischek with his Platinum Romy for Lifetime Achievement (© Kurier)

On Saturday night (22 April), Graz native **Peter Simonischek**, the acclaimed actor from the Austrian-German co-production *Toni Erdmann*, received a Platinum Romy for Lifetime Achievement at the ceremony for the 28th Romy Awards for Austrian TV and film productions, organised by the daily newspaper *Kurier* and public broadcaster ORF.

The Romy Awards, at first reserved for the television sector only (despite being represented by a statuette of **Romy Schneider** in *La Piscine*), were opened up to film in 2010. Certain categories are decided on by the public (the “popularity” awards), while others (the so-called “Academy” Romys) are given out by a jury comprising eight specialist journalists, who pronounce their verdict a few days beforehand.

The Academy Romy for Best Film went to **Maren Ade**’s highly lauded movie, and the Academy’s Platinum Romy was bestowed upon costume designer **Birgit Hutter** (*North Face* [+], *Young Goethe in Love*).

Another actor who received hearty applause on stage at the Hofburg in Vienna was **Tobias Moretti**, who received his eighth Romy, for Most Popular Actor, for his role in *Cold Hell*, thus making him the new record holder for these national prizes. The thriller by **Stefan Ruzowitzky** (*The Counterfeiters*) was also singled out by the professional jury, scooping the Romys for Best Director and Best Cinematography (**Benedict Neuenfels**) for a cinematic feature.

For the fourth time, the Romy for Most Popular Actress went to **Ursula Strauss**, this time for her role in the film *Maikäfer flieg* by **Mirjam Unger**, in addition to her television work. The actress thus trounced four of her excellent colleagues: **Pia Hierzegger** (*Wild Mouse*), **Julia Koschitz**, **Anna Maria Mühe** and **Franziska Weisz**.

Still in terms of the film awards, the Romy for Best Documentary was handed to **Ruth Rieser** for her film dedicated to one of Austria's most internationally famous playwrights: *Peter Turrini: Return to My Point of Origin*.

Another movie devoted to an artist was victorious – four times, in fact: the Romy for Best Production was given to **Franz Novotny** and **Alexander Glehr** (of Novotny & Novotny Filmproduktion), plus **Bady Minck** and **Alexander Dumreicher-Ivanceanu** (of Amour Fou), for *Egon Schiele: Death and the Maiden* by **Dieter Berner**, which was also singled out for its screenplay by **Hilde Berger**. In addition, the movie earned its two young performers, **Noah Saavedra** and **Valerie Pachner**, the Most Promising Actor and Actress Awards.

Lastly, the brand-new International Romy was bestowed upon British screenwriter and leading historical narrative expert **Peter Morgan**, for the Netflix series *The Crown*.

Here is the complete list of winners of the 2017 Romy Film Awards:

Academy Romys

Best Film

Toni Erdmann - Maren Ade

Best Documentary

Peter Turrini: Return to My Point of Origin - Ruth Rieser

Best Director

Stefan Ruzowitzky - *Cold Hell*

Best Screenplay

Dieter Berner, Hilde Berger - *Egon Schiele: Death and the Maiden*

Best Cinematography

Benedict Neuenfels – *Cold Hell*

Best Production

Franz Novotny, Alexander Glehr, Bady Minck, Alexander Dumreicher-Ivanceanu - *Egon Schiele: Death and the Maiden*

Most Promising Actor

Noah Saavedra - *Egon Schiele: Death and the Maiden*

Most Promising Actress

Valerie Pachner - *Egon Schiele: Death and the Maiden*

International Romy

Peter Morgan (screenwriter)

Academy's Platinum Romy for Lifetime Achievement

Birgit Hutter (costume designer)

Public Romys

Most Popular Actor

Tobias Moretti - *Cold Hell*

Most Popular Actress

Ursula Strauss - *Maikäfer flieg*

Platinum Romy for Lifetime Achievement

Peter Simonischek

(Translated from French)