

# „Elevate The 21st Century“

## Discussing a new Millennium

Graz, 04. Oct. 2011 – Now in its seventh consecutive year the Elevate Festival bearing the slogan “Elevate the 21st Century” will reflect upon ideas and expectations of life in the future that existed in the past century, as well as shed light on visions which have a large potential to shape our future. 26 Events will feature debates on the fast pace of change in these days of technological advancement.

“We are glad, to welcome such renowned national and international guests and have provided communication-channels to allow a broader audience participation”; says Daniel Erlacher, chairman of the Elevate Team in the discourse area. 26 events will take place at the Forum Stadtpark, the Dom im Berg and further locations. Alongside discussions, presentations and workshops there will be the Austrian premiere of four documentaries, along with the world premiere of “The Crisis of Civilization”. All filmmakers will be guests at the presentation of their films; either on location or live via video stream like the two-time Sundance Festival Winner, Ondi Timoner (live from L.A.).

Elevate gives visitors the opportunity to actively discuss topics during the event. Alongside the Elevate Media Channel (live video streams of the festival), a new microblogging system has been implemented which allows users to send questions and opinions from computers or mobile devices directly to the podium. The official festival-hashtag is: #E11fest.

To kick off the festival on Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, Johan Galtung from Norway, the “father of academic peace-research” and winner of the Right Livelihood Award will be a guest in Graz. Known for his daring theses, he will focus his opening speech on the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Furthermore, South American Human Rights Activist, anti-apartheid fighter and current chairman of Greenpeace International, Kumi Naidoo, will speak to the audience in Graz live via video stream. The author and futurologist Mark Stevenson and maschek’s Robert Stachel will host the traditional opening show in the Dom im Berg.

You can find the program of the four following theme-days, as well the guest list, online: <http://2011.elevate.at>

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