

FOCUS ON ROMANIA

Romanian cinema has been intriguing and delighting audiences in recent times and this special Focus On Romanian Short Films reveals the skill and unique artistry of Romanian film talent. In collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute and Andrei Gorzo, we are delighted to present these very special programmes of short films.

Most of the great and the good Romanian cinema that has emerged since 2005 (the year of Cristi Puiu's trail-blazing *The Death of Mr. Lăzărescu*) has been built (often very rigorously) on a particular set of aesthetic principles which can be traced back to Italian Neorealism and to André Bazin's theoretical writings on the subject. It is a cinema of quotidian events, more typically filmed in observational long takes rather than inflected or analysed through editing. Big dramatic points tend to receive no special highlighting, co-existing on an equal footing with small or marginal actions. The stance is unsentimentally humanistic, coolly alert, tense with moral awareness. Far from naive, this realism, at its best, has been fraught with thoughtful concern for matters of cinematic form and, increasingly, for the moral, philosophical and political questions raised by any attempt at realistic representation. Seen from the point of view of the subject matter and taken as a cycle, the films begin by covering what can be described as classically Neorealist ground, collectively depicting a frayed and battered society, haggard from totalitarian rule and from the harsh new economic realities that followed it, while also chronicling the consolidation of a new middle class.

All the characteristics of this New Romanian Cinema are powerfully showcased in our selection of 13 shorts. The programme includes work by some of the strongest individual personalities in the movement – Cristi Puiu's quietly punchy *Cigarettes and Coffee*, made right before he changed the course of Romanian cinema with *Lăzărescu*, or Corneliu Porumboiu's sure-footed *Liviu's Dream*, made in preparation for his highly original first feature, *12:08, East of Bucharest*. Films like Radu Jude's *The Tube with a Hat*, Marian Crișan's *Megatron* and Alexandru Mavrodineanu's *Music in the Blood* are, perhaps, among the most reminiscent of old Neorealist values, while a film like Peter Kerek's *Adultery* is representative of the gradual turn towards more bourgeois subject matter and more overtly formalist concerns. While the films seldom stray very far from the same core of stylistic norms – the most striking exception being *Marilena from P7*, whose director, the late Cristian Nemescu, inclined more towards an idiosyncratic form of pop cinema –, this stylistic formula lends itself to the good old-fashioned suspense of Anca Miruna Lăzărescu's *Silent River*, as well as to the comedic intergenerational fireworks of Paul Negoescu's *Derby*. - **Andrei Gorzo**



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Timetable

Monday 7th

2.00pm | Triskel | Romanian Short Films 1

8.30pm | Opera House | Gala | Best Intentions

Tuesday 8th

2.00pm | Triskel | Romanian Short Films 2

Wednesday 9th

2.00pm | Triskel | Romanian Short Films 3

5.00pm | Gate Cinema | Off The Beaten Track

Subjective Portraits: Photography Exhibition
by Alex Galmeanu | Triskel | Nov 6 – 13



Subjective Portraits by Alex Galmeanu

Alex Galmeanu is one of the most celebrated young Romanian photographers. His latest exhibition features well-known Romanian actors and directors.

An artist with a winning combination of superb vision, personal verve and riveting technical brilliance, Alex Galmeanu was born in 1978 in Bucharest.

Since 1992, he has been published regularly in *Harper's Bazaar*, *Esquire*, *Elle*, *Glamour*, *InStyle* along with international advertising campaigns.

Programme 1



Marilena From P7

Monday 7th | 2.00pm | Triskel Christchurch

Cigarettes And Coffee / Cristi Puiu

2003 | 13mins | 35mm | Colour

A man in his sixties asks a young man to help him find new employment. The young man turns out to be his son.

Producers Cristina Ionescu, Dan Badea
Print Source Temple Film

The Cage / Adrian Sitaru

2010 | 17mins | 35mm | Colour

When Mihaes's little boy brings home a sick dove, this raises new conflicts between father and son, but also a possible reconciliation, that Mihaes does not want to lose.

Producer Monica Lazurean-Gorgan
Print Source jasitaru@4proofilm.ro

Music In The Blood / Alexandru Mavrodineanu

2010 | 15mins | 35mm | Colour

Petre tries to make his son Robert a star at a music audition.

Producers Catalin Mitulescu, Jean Charles Mille
Print Source contact@stradafilmm.ro

Derby / Paul Negoescu

2010 | 15mins | 35mm | Colour

Mircea has a 15-year-old daughter whose boyfriend is invited to dine with the family. He arrives earlier and they go to her bedroom. While watching TV, Mircea can hear his daughter moaning from her room.

Producer Paul Negoescu
Print Source paul.ego@gmail.com

Marilena From P7 / Cristian Nemescu

2006 | 45mins | 35mm | Colour

Andrei, a 13 year old teenager, living on Bucharest outskirts, decides one day to steal a trolleybus in order to impress Marilena, a prostitute he fell in love with.

Producer Ada Solomon
Print Source ada@hifilm.ro

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Programme 2



The Tube With A Hat

Tuesday 8th | 2.00pm | Triskel Christchurch

The Tube With A Hat / Radu Jude

2007 | 24mins | Beta | Colour

A road-movie about father-and-son relationship and about the importance of the small things in life.

Producers Ada Solomon

Print Source ada@hifilm.ro

Silent River / Anca Miruna Lăzărescu

2011 | 30mins | 35mm | Colour

Romania, 1986: Gregor and Vali want to get away. Both need each other, yet there is mutual distrust. One night, Gregor finds his doubts confirmed. In the end only hope is left.

Producer Daniel Mitulescu

Print Source info@filmallee.com

Lord / Adrian Sitaru

2009 | 20mins | 35mm | Colour

Toni is engaged in finding lost animals and blackmailing the masters in order to obtain beautiful large amounts of money.

Producers Lazurean-Gorgan, Ada Solomon

Print Source asitaru@4proofilm.ro

Alexandra / Radu Jude

2007 | 25mins | 35mm | Colour

Tavi, a man in his late thirties, discovers that Alexandra, his 4-year-old daughter, is not calling him 'Dad' anymore.

Producer Ada Solomon

Print Source ada@hifilm.ro

Programme 3



Oli's Wedding

Wednesday 9th | 2.00pm | Triskel Christchurch

Megatron / Marian Crisan

2008 | 14mins | 35mm | Colour

It's Maxim's 8th birthday and his mother takes him to Bucharest to meet his father.

Producers Anca Puiu

Print Source anca@mandragora.ro

Liviu's Dream / Corneliu Porumboiu

2004 | 39mins | 35mm | Colour

Liviu's Dream tells the story of a young man who was born by mistake. That is, to be precise, by the fault of a communist decree which was forbidding abortions.

Producer Mihai Orasanu

Print Source Filmex Romania

Adultery / Peter Kerek

2010 | 29mins | 35mm | Colour

A portrait of a woman, a pediatrician, who becomes entangled in her own existence.

Producers Anca Puiu

Print Source anca@mandragora.ro

Oli's Wedding / Tudor Cristian Jurgiu

2009 | 22mins | 35mm | Colour

In his kitchen in Bucharest, Dorel prepares to participate in his son's wedding – via Skype. A bittersweet story about scattered families and lonely parents.

Producer Bogdan Craciun

Print Source Libra Film