

Rebel Dance Superstar Sergei Polunin
Makes His First Romanian Appearance at the Transilvania IFF

Renowned dancer and actor **Sergei Polunin**, widely considered as the most talented dancer of his generation, makes his first Romanian appearance as a special guest of the **20th edition** of the **Transilvania International Film Festival** (July 23-August 1). Fans will get the chance to see him on **Thursday, July 29, at 8:30 PM** in the spectacular setting of the **Bánffy Castle in Bontida**, in the special event **Sergei Polunin Up, Close and Personal**. The day before, July 28, at 7 PM, at the Students Culture House in Cluj, the dancer will meet with the audience of **Dancer**, the moving documentary on Polunin's eventful life, directed by Steven Cantor.

Polunin will also lead a masterclass at the Transilvania IFF — details to be announced soon.

Born in 1989 in the Ukraine, Sergei Polunin became the youngest lead dancer in the history of London Royal Ballet at only 19 years of age. Appreciated for his artistic genius, his phenomenal technique, and his hypnotic stage presence, Polunin danced at the Bolshoi and the Stanislavsky Theaters, the Scala and the Paris Operas, and is currently a permanent guest artist at Bavarian State Ballet in Munich.

In recent years, Polunin has also acted in films like **Murder on the Orient Express** (directed by Kenneth Branagh), **Red Sparrow** (directed by Francis Lawrence), **The White Crow** (directed by Ralph Fiennes), and **Simple Passion** (by Danielle Arbid). Known as the “bad boy of ballet” on account of his rebellious style, his impulsive epartures from renowned companies (including his first, from the London Royal Ballet, at only 21), and his controversial statements, Polunin is the subject of a revealing documentary by Steven Cantor, **Dancer**, which will be shown at Transilvania IFF on **Wednesday, July 28, at 7 PM**, at the **Students Culture House** in Cluj before a Q&A with its star subject. A sequel titled **Dancer 2** is currently in production, it will be directed by Anton Corbijn and is expected to be released in 2022.

Sergei Polunin Up, Close and Personal, scheduled for **Thursday, July 29, at 8:30 PM** at the **Bánffy Castle in Bontida**, will start with the screening of **Bolero**, which gives new dimensions to Ravel's masterpiece by amplifying the dancer's movements with visual effects signed by Teun van der Zalm. Ross Freddie Ray signs the concept and the choreography. The evening will continue with **Sacré**, based on Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and inspired by Vaslav Nijinski's original vision, and choreographed by Japanese artist Yuka Oishi. The constant struggle between emotion and reason, the central theme of this world-famous show, plays out to reveal multiple layers of Polunin's artistic personality. The event will conclude with a Q&A with the star about his spectacular and unusual journey.

According to current regulations, for the July 29 event at Bánffy Castle in Bonțida, only persons who are 10 days out from the last dose of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine or have a negative RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours of the event or a certified rapid antigen test no older than 24 hours can be admitted. They will need to produce proof of vaccination or evidence of a negative test on paper or on the phone, as well as an ID.

Tickets and passes for the 20th edition of Transilvania IFF are on sale at tiff.eventbook.ro.

The **Transilvania International Film Festival** is organized by the Romanian Film Promotion Association and the Transilvania Film Festival Association. The 20th edition of the festival will take place between July 23 - August 1 in full compliance with the necessary public health safety measures.

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