

World Premieres at Transilvania IFF's Romanian Days

Richer than ever in premieres, the Romanian film program of the 19th **Transilvania International Film Festival** includes a record 21 features and 16 shorts which will screen in the presence of filmmakers in Cluj-Napoca between **July 31 and August 9. 15** of these will have their Romanian premieres, while 7 will have their world premieres in the **Romanian Days** section.

“This is a film of formidable and almost intimidating seriousness,” says The Guardian of *Malmkrog*, **Cristi Puiu**'s period drama, which won the directing award in the Berlinale's new Encounters section, and will have its Romanian premiere at Transilvania IFF. **Radu Jude**'s *Tipografic Majuscul / Uppercase Print* also comes from Berlin, and juxtaposes Romanian state television archives with the true story of a teenager who wrote subversive graffiti during the last years of Communism, adapted from Gianina Cărbunariu's documentary theater piece. Also based on a true story about police intervention in a protest against an LGBT-themed film screening at the Romanian Peasant's Museum in Bucharest, Dan Chișu's *5 minute / 5 Minutes Too Late* comes straight from its Warsaw premiere.

Tudor Cristian Jurgiu's *Și poate mai trăiesc și azi / And They May Still Be Alive Today* visits the distance between expectations and reality through the story of a young couple seduced by the idea of perfect, true love. Also a world premiere, Răzvan Săvescu's *Început / Begin* deals with a couple dealing with isolation in the mountains.

Ivana Mladenović directs and stars in an unconventional, humorous, and tender story about belonging and nostalgia in the Locarno-winner *Ivana cea Groaznică / Ivana the Terrible*. And actor Teodor Corban leads two strong debuts: Dorian Boguță's police procedural about the disappearance of a pianist, *Urma / Legacy* and Liviu Săndulescu's *Cărturan*, about the final arrangements of a man who finds out his end is near. Nominated at the European Film Academy awards, Anca Damian's animation *Călătoria fantastică a Maronei / Marona's Fantastic Tale* is the moving story of a puppy with a heart-shaped nose.

Andrei Zincă's *Și atunci... ce e libertatea? / Well... What Is Freedom, Then?*, based on a novella by Ana Blandiana', deals with the deportations in the Bărăgan flatlands in the 1950s. Nicolae Mărgineanu's *Cardinalul / The Cardinal* is also based on the true story, the story of Greek-Catholic bishop Iuliu Hossu, who read the union act before the Romanians gathered in Alba Iulia on December 1st, 1918.

The non-fiction selection is also generous: 10 of the 21 feature-length titles are documentaries, many premiering at Transilvania IFF. *Film Threat* called Radu Ciorniciuc's debut *Acasă, My Home* “devastatingly raw and poignant.” This Sundance Special Jury award winner from cinematography documents the life of a family forced to move from the place they call home, Delta Văcărești. The same place is approached

from a different perspective by Eva Pervolovici in *Delta Bucureștiului / The Delta of Bucharest*, which delves into the history of this urban oasis.

Monica Lăzurean Gorgan, Michaela Kirst, and Ebba Sinzinger's *Lemn / Wood* exposes illegal logging by major companies. The multiple award winner *Colectiv / Collective* by Alexander Nanau reveals a web of corruption, lies, and manipulation in Romania's health care system. Equally troubling is Adrian Pârnu and Helena Maksyom's *Totul nu va fi bine / Everything Will Not Be Fine*, a documentary about the first generation born after the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl. Director of photography Tudor Platon makes his debut as documentary director with *Casa cu păpuși / House of Dolls*, which delves into the special world of several women in their 70s who take an annual vacation together. Alex Bendea's debut *Profu' / Teach* is a humorous portrait of an unconventional and charismatic teacher who gives up his job to open a tutoring business out of his apartment.

Pavel Cuzuioc's *Așteptați răspunsul operatorului / Please Hold the Line* is an allegory about modern communications told through cable technicians from different countries and their clients. Leontina Vătăman-Mărgineanu's *Siberia din oase / Siberia in the Bones* collects testimonies from deportees to Siberia from Bessarabia. Bessarabia also features in Dragoș Turea's documentary *Grădina Sovietică / The Soviet Garden* about Nikita Khrushchev's secret experiments using atomic energy in agriculture.

The Romanian Days selection is completed by 16 shorts, most of them presented in premiere: *Contraindicații / Contraindications* (dir. Lucia Chicos), included in the 2020 Cinéfondation selection in Cannes; *El iubește ochii mei / He Loves My Eyes* (dir. Enxhi Rista), which was voted best short documentary at the 2020 Gopo Awards; *These Days* (dir. Andrei Crețulescu); the animation *Moartea și Cavalerul / Death and the Knight* (dir. Radu Gaciu); *Basmofilia / Fairy Fever* (dir. Tudor Cristian Jugiu); *Luna mea / My Month* (dir. Claudiu Mitcu), *Sașa și Petre / Sașa and Petre* (dir. Luca Istodor); *Zimnicea* (dir. Bogdan Naumovici); *Kaimos/ Sorrow* (dir. Sarra Tsorakidis); *Corigent* (dir. George ve Ganaeaard); *Idila* (dir. Mihai Mincan); *Totul pentru Riana* (dir. Mihai Dragolea); *Laila* (dir. Raya Al Souliman); *Bilet de iertare* (dir. Alina Șerban); *Despre ce naiba să scriu?* (dir. Matei Monoranu), *Bucureștiul văzut de sus* (dir. Andrei Răuțu).

The Romanian Days section is presented by Banca Transilvania.