



interfilm Berlin presents:

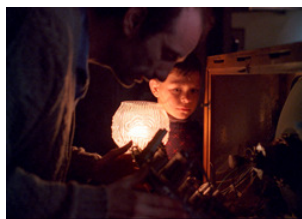
from the 6th to the 11th of November 2007
The 23rd International Short Film Festival Berlin

Presse Release
Focus on Romania

31st October 2007



Contemporary Romanian cinema is taking the film world by storm. At the beginning of this new millennium, a Romanian film revival started with a first wave of films from emerging young filmmakers including graduates from the Bucharest Film Academy. Just in the years between 2001 and 2005 there were as many as 15 feature film debuts. Since then, Romanian film has experienced an enormous upswing, confirmed by the number of renowned awards received at international festivals. The director C. Puiu won the Golden Bear for best short film at the 2004 Berlinale for the film "Coffee and Cigarettes" and in the same year C. Mitulescu won the Golden Palm at Cannes for the film "Traffic". And 2007 is no exception regarding international prizes for Romanian film. While the short film "Waves" from A. Sitaru was awarded with the main prize in Locarno and Sarajevo, "The Tube with a Hat" from director R. Jude received the European Short Film Encouragement Award as well as numerous other prizes (including Sundance, Cottbus, Montpellier). These achievements were further crowned at Cannes this year when C. Mungiu's second feature "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days" was awarded with the Golden Palm.



As one can see, interfilm has every reason to highlight Europe's most exciting, contemporary cinema in this year's country focus. The international Short Film Festival will screen two programmes which present an insight into life in the new EU member state Romania, way beyond any Dracula clichés.

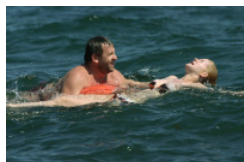
Short films will be shown from directors who have already made their first feature. C. Porumbollu won the Golden Palm in 2006 with the film "12:08 East of Bucharest", and is well presented at this year's interfilm with "A Trip to the City". In addition, films from students studying at the country's only Film Academy, the UNATC in Bucharest, will also be screened.

I. City, Country, Beach

In this programme, interfilm presents short films that provide a critical insight into the radically changing world of this new European member state. You'll see young people confronted with difficult decisions such as in "Waves" by A. Sitaru. More frequently, other films tend to focus on adults who avoid the decision making process entirely and live with the consequences such as in the "Apartment" from C. Popescu, awarded with the Golden Lion at Venice Film Festival. The stark contrast between city and country life is an ever recurring theme as in C. Porumbollu's "A Trip to the City". The fast-paced comedy "Midnight Crisis" from G. Dogaru will also run in competition and the director will be present during the festival.

Wed., 7.11.07, 22.00 Hackesche Höfe Filmtheater Cinema 2

Fri., 9.11.07, 21.00 Hackesche Höfe Filmtheater Cinema 3



II. Blinded by the Lights

The multi-award winning film about a father-son relationship "The Tube with a Hat" from R. Jude, makes its Berlin premiere in this programme. The other films included depict modern Romanian life in an often tragicomical way, characterised by extreme contradictions. While "C Block Story" by C. Nemescu tells of love in an elevator, "Friday around 11" from the young director I. Rugina shows what indifference in the face of violence can result in. C. Leescu, director of "Afterimage", and the two-minute film "Crossing" (in the programme "City, Country, Beach") will be present during interfilm 2007. His film "Afterimage" will also be screened in the "Experimental" programme.

Wed., 7.11.07, 17.00 Babylon Berlin:Mitte Cinema 1

Sat., 10.11.07, 22.00 Hackesche Höfe Filmtheater Cinema 5



These programmes are presented with the helpful assistance of the **Romanian Film Fund CNC**.

interfilm Berlin is supported by [Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg](#) and the [EU Media Programme](#).

The 23rd International Short Film Festival Berlin is under the **patronage** of **Klaus Wowereit**, Mayor of Berlin.

We would be glad to supply photographs and / or more detailed programme information you should require.

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