



offest
ofilm .com

24-28 OCTOBER 2019

FRAGMENTS OF TRUTH

THE 15th
ROMANIAN
FILM
FESTIVAL



15th Romanian Film Festival in London
FRAGMENTS OF TRUTH
24 – 28 OCTOBER 2019

Thursday 24 October, 6.20pm

The Whistlers/La Gomera

Director: Corneliu Porumboiu
Followed by Q&A with film director **Corneliu Porumboiu** and artistic director **Arantxa Etcheverria Porumboiu**.
Hosted by film writer **Ian Haydn Smith**.
2019 | Romania-France-Germany | Comedy, Crime | 97 min

Sunday 27 October, 5.00pm

One Step Behind the Seraphim

(UK premiere)

Director: Daniel Sandu
Followed by Q&A with lead actor **Vlad Ivanov**.
Hosted by festival director **Ramona Mitrica** and author **Mike Phillips**.
2017 | Romania | Drama | 150 min

Friday 25 October, 6.45pm

Infinite Football

(UK premiere)

Director: Corneliu Porumboiu
Followed by Q&A with director **Corneliu Porumboiu**.
Hosted by festival director **Ramona Mitrica** and author **Mike Phillips**.
2018 | Romania | Documentary | 70 min

Monday 28 October, 6.15pm

Moromete Family: On the Edge of Time

(UK premiere)

Director: Stere Gulea
Followed by Q&A with director **Stere Gulea**.
Hosted by film writer **Ian Haydn Smith**.
2018 | Romania | Drama | 110 min

Saturday 26 October, 3.30pm

Lemonade

(UK premiere)

Director: Ioana Uricaru
Followed by Q&A with director **Ioana Uricaru** (on Skype) and actor **Dylan Smith**.
Hosted by festival director **Ramona Mitrica** and author **Mike Phillips**.
2018 | Romania | Drama | 88 min

All films are in Romanian with English subtitles.

The screenings take place at:

Curzon Soho (99 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 5DY)

Nearest tube: Leicester Square;

Piccadilly Circus

Tickets:

<http://www.curzoncinemas.com/rff>

Dear film lovers & friends,

We are delighted to return to Curzon Cinema showcasing Romania's finest releases from the past year

We are happy to welcome you to the 15th Romanian Film Festival in London, which takes place at Curzon Soho, between 24 - 28 October 2019.

The Romanian Film Festival (RFF15) is back once again, bringing you new releases, talented artists, and important debates with film experts and critics, from Romania to the UK. Special events and conversations accompany the screenings, continuing the tradition of the festival as a joyful celebration of Romanian cinema. Award-winning filmmakers, directors and actors will join the festival to

Curzon Membership

For lovers of free and discounted tickets, money off food and drink, cheaper new release and classics on Curzon Home Cinema, invites to early previews, selected priority booking periods and no booking fees. Plus a new subscription service called Curzon12 where you can see classic films completely free of charge included in your package. Film lovers, welcome home.

enter into a dialogue with their audiences.

The festival title Fragments of Truth encapsulates the many-layered themes of RFF15.

Its history and successful track record makes RFF15 one of the major Romanian cultural events of the year in Britain. For many, this will be an opportunity to encounter a cinema which addresses itself to the history and conditions of a specific audience, while at the same time tackling themes which are universal, and which explore the emotions and experience of an international public. On the other hand, during this period of challenge to the issue of cultural understanding across Europe, your continuing interest will prove priceless in the promotion of Romanian culture throughout the continent and in Britain.

Filmmaker Corneliu Porumboiu features twice, with his crime thriller *The Whistlers / La Gomera* and sports documentary *Infinite Football*. Ioana Uricaru's debut feature *Lemonade* plays, as does Daniel Sandu's *One Step Behind the Seraphim*, with the festival closing with Stere Gulea's *Moromete Family: On the Edge of Time*, sequel to one of Romanian cinema's most lauded adaptations.

Thank you for your support!

Ramona Mitrica & Mike Phillips
Profusion Directors

Thursday 24 October, 6.20pm, Curzon Soho

THE WHISTLERS / LA GOMERA

Screening followed by Q&A with film director Corneliu Porumboiu and artistic director Arantxa Etcheverria Porumboiu. Hosted by film writer Ian Haydn Smith.

An exciting suspense thriller, about a corrupt Bucharest cop (Vlad Ivanov), who has become involved in the drug-money-laundering setup he has been investigating. He arrives in La Gomera in the Canary Islands in order to infiltrate the mafia and recover a large sum of money concealed inside a mysterious mattress, but he must first learn the difficult local dialect, a language that includes whistling, hissing and spitting.

“Political satire meets pulp fiction in the latest from Romania’s Corneliu Porumboiu. It’s a playful thriller that works as both a critique of state bureaucracy and a briskly commercial film noir.

Unfolding in Tarantino-esque chapters that forge their own competing timescales, *The Whistlers* tells the story of Cristi, a weatherworn cop who’s become part of the

director CORNELIU PORUMBOIU



Bucharest crime syndicate he’s meant to be investigating. This takes him to the island of La Gomera in the Canaries, where he is schooled in the art of ‘silbo’ whistling – a secret language used by shepherds that sounds like birdsong and hence is perfect for keeping secrets from his eavesdropping colleagues.

The result is a slick and engaging mystery, steeped in the classic hardboiled mythology of Hammett and Chandler.” (Damon Wise for BFI LFF)

Director: Corneliu Porumboiu

Stars: Vlad Ivanov, Catrinel Marlon, Rodica Lazar, Agusti Villaronga, Sabin Tambre, Istvan Teglas, Cristobal Pinto, Antonio Buil, George Pistereanu
2019 | Romania-France-Germany | Comedy, Crime | 97 min | in Romanian, with English subtitles

UK Distribution: Curzon Artificial Eye - curzonartificialeye.com

Friday 25 October, 6.45pm, Curzon Soho

INFINITE FOOTBALL

(UK premiere)

Screening followed by Q&A with director Corneliu Porumboiu.
Hosted by festival director Ramona Mitrica and author Mike Phillips.



After a sports injury that left him unable to play professional football, Laurentiu Ghingina sees himself as a football revolutionary, yearning to upgrade and refine the game, but his theories and trials soon reveal the way that we're all players in our own beautiful games. It's Monty Python's Fear of the Penalty... A heartbreaking and sometimes hilarious portrait of Porumboiu's childhood friend.

"It's a true story which is also an odd social-realist parable, with a bit of the deadpan comedy and bureaucracy-satire to be found in Porumboiu's fiction features, such as *12:08 East of Bucharest* and

Director: Corneliu Porumboiu
2018 | Romania | Documentary | 70 min | in Romanian, with English subtitles
UK Distribution: ANTI-WORLDS RELEASING
www.anti-worldsreleasing.co.uk

Police, Adjective." (Peter Bradshaw for The Guardian)

Corneliu Porumboiu graduated from the Film Directing department of the National University of Theatre and Film from Bucharest. He had his early films seen in important cinematographic events in Europe and USA - *A Trip to the City* (2003) won the Second Prize at Cinefondation, Cannes Film Festival, and the Best Short Movie Prize at Cinema Mediteraneen Film Festival, Montpellier; *Liviu's Dream* (2003) was the Best Romanian Film at TIFF, Romania, and was selected at Telluride Film Festival, Great Expectations Section.

His debut feature, *12:08 East of Bucharest* (2006) won the Camera

director CORNELIU PORUMBOIU



d'Or award, and *Police, Adjective* (2009) won the Jury Prize at Cannes. They were followed by *When Evening Falls on Bucharest or Metabolism* (2013), and the documentary *The Second Game* (2014). *The Treasure* won the Un Certain Talent award at Cannes 2015. His film *The Whistlers* (2019) was shown in the main competition of the 2019 Cannes Film Festival and was chosen as the Romanian submission for Best International Film at the 92nd Academy Awards.

Saturday 26 October, 3.30pm, Curzon Soho

LEMONADE

(UK premiere)

Screening followed by Q&A with director Ioana Uricaru (on Skype) and actor Dylan Smith.

Hosted by festival director Ramona Mitrica and author Mike Phillips.

The film follows Mara (Malina Manovici), a nurse and single mother who has come to America on a temporary work visa and marries an American she has met only a few months before. In the process of getting a green card she is faced with abuses of power on every level and forced to test her own limits. The writer-director based her plot on the difficulties she faced obtaining residency in America many years ago, empathetically exploring the timely and contentious issue of U.S. immigration.

"The theme of institutional corruption has become recognised as a mainstay of the Romanian New Wave, but Ioana Uricaru's debut *Lemonade*, the story of a Romanian woman's attempt to obtain a United States green card, suggests things aren't much better in the 'Land of the Free'." (Patrick Gamble for CineVue)

Ioana Uricaru is a director, screenwriter and Assistant Professor of Film and Media Culture at Middlebury College. Born in Cluj, Romania, she earned her

director IOANA URICARU



MSci in biochemistry from the University of Bucharest before she decided to become a filmmaker.

In 2001 she relocated to Los Angeles to study at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, where she received her MFA in Film and Television Production and PhD in Critical Studies.

Uricaru's films have been included in the official selections at, among others, Cannes (2009), Sundance (2011), and the American Film Institute (2007). She co-directed the omnibus *Tales from the Golden Age (Mobra Films, 2009)*, distributed commercially in over 30 countries. Her first feature project as a writer/director, *Lemonade* was supported by the Cinefondation Residency of the Cannes Film Festival and the Sundance Directors' lab program.

Director: Ioana Uricaru

Stars: Malina Manovici, Dylan Smith, Steve Bacic

2018 | Romania | Drama | 88 min | in Romanian, with English subtitles



A tale of clashing loyalties, set in an Orthodox Theological Seminary. Gabriel, a teenager who wants to become a priest is caught in the fight for power between an incorruptible but abusive priest (Vlad Ivanov) and a cunning, dishonest and unscrupulous secular teacher. Daniel Sandu's directorial debut is build around his real experiences at the theological seminary.

"Daniel Sandu's break-out debut was based on his own experiences as a teenage boy who enrolled in a seminary. At the time, he says, he thought it would be "something like [the] Harry Potter school," though his five years at St. George Orthodox

Director: Daniel Sandu

Stars: Vlad Ivanov, Stefan Iancu, Toto Dumitrescu
2017 | Romania | Drama | 150 min | in Romanian, with English subtitles

Sunday 27 October, 5.00pm, Curzon Soho

ONE STEP BEHIND THE SERAPHIM

(UK premiere)

Followed by Q&A with lead actor Vlad Ivanov.

Hosted by festival director Ramona Mitrica and author Mike Phillips.

Theological Seminary would be a far cry from Hogwarts-in-the-Carpathians." (Christopher Vourlias for Variety)

Born in 1977, in Piatra Neamt, he studied at the "Sfantu Gheorghe" Theological Seminary in Roman, an experience that would inspire his first feature film *One Step Behind the Seraphim*.

A graduate of the Media University – Film directing in 2002, he is screenwriter and director of short films, feature films and TV series.

In 2011 he was the producer, writer and director of the short film

The counting device that was selected in the official competitions of Sarajevo IFF, Cambridge IFF, Montpellier IFF, Leuven IFF and won the Jury award at Leiden ISF. Other shorts: *Second voice (2012)*, *Horsepower (2014)*.

Daniel Sandu's debut feature *One Step Behind the Seraphim* won eight awards at the 12th Gopo Awards including best film, best director and best debut feature.

director DANIEL SANDU



Monday 28 October, 6.15pm, Curzon Soho

MOROMETE FAMILY: ON THE EDGE OF TIME (UK premiere)

Screening followed by Q&A with director Stere Gulea.
Hosted by film writer Ian Haydn Smith.

Released in 1987, Stere Gulea's *The Moromete Family* slowly became known as the "best Romanian adaptation ever". Three decades later, the director comes back to his popular characters in *Moromete Family: On the Edge of Time*, which is set in the 1940s, as Romania gradually succumbs to communism. We see the horrors of collectivisation from the perspective of the Morometes, mainly the family's patriarch, Ilie (Horatiu Malaele, who very convincingly replaces Victor Rebengiuc from the original film) and his youngest son, Nicolae. He is the only one of the children who went to school and his dream is to finish his studies and become a journalist.

"The drama of the peasants who see their world – governed by the whims of nature, their own hard work and the law of the market – being replaced by something they consider unnatural and abusive." (Stefan Dobroiu for Cineuropa)

Stere Gulea was born in 1943 in the district of Mihail Kogalniceanu,



director STERE GULEA



Constanta. He was a film teacher and dean of The National University of Theatre and Film "I.L.Caragiale" Bucharest. After 1989, Stere Gulea became a respected civil society activist. He possesses a view of the world that is both "severe and objective" (according to his colleague Lucian Pintilie). He is one of the most important Romanian directors, with a career spanning more than 40 years.

Selected filmography: *Moromete Family: On the Edge of Time* (2018), *I Am An Old Communist Hag* (2013), *Weekend With My Mother* (2009), *Hacker* (2004), *State of Things* (1996), *Fox – Hunter* (1993), *University Square – Romania* (documentary, 1991), *The Moromete Family* (1987), *The Bear's Eye* (1983), *Castle of the Carpathians* (1981), *The Green Grass of Home* (1978).

Director: Stere Gulea

Stars: Horatiu Malaele, Iosif Pastina, Dana Dogaru, Razvan Vasilescu, Gheorghe Visu, Oana Pellea, Andi Vasluiuanu, Ion Caramitru
2018 | Romania | Drama | 110 min | in Romanian, with English subtitles



Prodan Romanian Cultural Foundation

The Prodan Romanian Cultural Foundation is a charitable body endowed by the Estates of the late Mia Prodan de Kisbunn of Romania and her daughter the late Maria Bjornson, the well-known British theatre and opera designer best known to the public as the costume and set designer for Phantom of the Opera.

The purpose of the Foundation is to promote outside Romania the high points of Romanian contributions to 20th century Western culture, mainly the activities of the Romanian diaspora who fled their country to escape the two world wars and the Nazi and communist regimes.

For the purposes of the Foundation, the various ethnic differences of the creative personalities concerned are ignored, and the criterion adopted is 'born or grew up in Romania or territory which was or is Romanian, or of Romanian descent with a strong Romanian family tradition (such as Maria Bjornson)'.



romanianculture.org



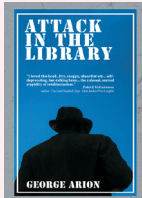
Romanian Film Festival in London

The Foundation has sponsored the excellent Romanian Film Festival in London for many years and this 15th festival has the theme Fragments of Truth. Five films will be shown showcasing the talents of Award-winning Romanian filmmakers, directors and actors. Film screenings are in the Curzon Soho Cinema.

Fiction and Non-Fiction in translation

Series Editor: Mike Phillips

Profusion Crime

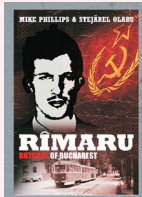


Attack in the Library

by **George Arion**

ISBN-13: 978-0956867612

One of the classic narratives of Romanian crime fiction, was written during the dictatorship of the 1980s in the finest Noir tradition.

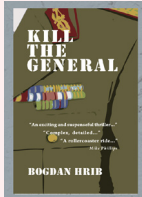


Rimaru - Butcher of Bucharest

by **Mike Phillips and Stejarel Olaru**

ISBN-13: 978-0956867636

A social review of Romania in the '70s, with a serial killer's story as a central focus. A fascinating read.

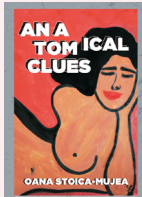


Kill the General

by **Bogdan Hrib**

ISBN-13: 978-0956867605

An exciting and suspenseful thriller which takes you on a rollercoaster ride through the last decades in Romanian history.



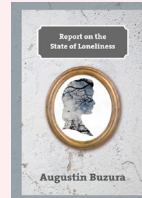
Anatomical Clues

by **Oana Stoica-Mujea**

ISBN-13: 978-0956867629

Featuring Iolanda, a crime-fighting heroine unique in the landscape of Romanian literature: mad, bad and dangerous to know.

Profusion Gold

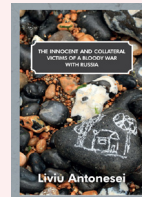


Report on the State of Loneliness

by **Augustin Buzura**

ISBN-13: 978-0956867643

A concluding moment in Augustin Buzura's great series of novels about the Central European social and political landscape.

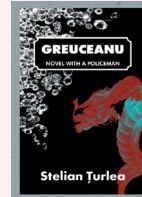


Greuceanu – Novel with a Policeman

by **Stelian Turlea**

ISBN-13: 978-0956867667

Turlea locates one of the major Pan-European issues in contemporary times, the problem of organised crime.



The Innocent and Collateral Victims of a Bloody War with Russia

by **Liviu Antonesei**

ISBN-13: 978-0956867650

These seductive short stories are an ingenious merger of simple life, essay, diary and reportage.

All books translated from the Romanian by Ramona Mitrica, Mike Phillips, and Mihai Risnoveanu.

All Profusion books are available in paperback from Profusion.org.uk and Amazon.co.uk, as well as **Kindle e-books**.

Send an e-mail to mail@profusion.org.uk for details.

www.profusion.org.uk • [Facebook.com/ProfusionBooks](https://www.facebook.com/ProfusionBooks)

Find us on [Twitter @ProfusionBooks](https://twitter.com/ProfusionBooks)

Organised by

**PROFUSION
INTERNATIONAL**

profusion.org.uk



In partnership with

**CURZON
CINEMAS**

curzoncinemas.com

CURZON

**PRODAN ROMANIAN
CULTURAL FOUNDATION**

romanianculture.org



Sponsored by

GATEVILLE GROUP

Construction & Refurbishment
gatevillegroup.co.uk
01923 979 080



**TRADUCERI AUTORIZATE
MAREA BRITANIE**

translationromanian.co.uk
07456 542 570



RFF is a not-for-profit enterprise, functioning with the help of grants and sponsorship from friends and supporters.

www.rofilmfest.com

press@rofilmfest.com

Facebook.com/RoFilmFest

Twitter @RomanianFilmLDN

Instagram @rofilmfest

Vimeo.com/RoFilmFest

Tel. +44 7456 542570

TRADUCERI AUTORIZATE & APOSTILE DE URGENTĂ



-Executăm traduceri autorizate în regim de urgentă (o oră).

-Obținem Apostila de la Haga în regim de urgentă (3 ore).

-Suntem la 10 minute de Consatul României din Londra (**metrou Holland Park**).

-Traducerile oficiale sunt realizate de traducători autorizați de Ministerul Justiției, cu specimen de semnătură și sigiliu de la Ambasada României din Londra.

-Certified translations ready in 24 hours.

-Authorised interpreting services at the Romanian Consulate, for non-Romanian speakers (power of attorney, citizenship, passport).

☎ +44 (0)7456 542 570

✉ traduceri@translationromanian.co.uk

🌐 translationromanian.co.uk

We are grateful to the very talented filmmakers who will enter into a dialogue with their London audiences:

film directors **Corneliu Porumboiu**, **Ioana Uricaru** and **Stere Gulea**, lead actors **Vlad Ivanov** and **Dylan Smith**, artistic director **Arantxa Etcheverria Porumboiu**.

Festival team:

Ramona Mitrica – festival director

Mike Phillips – festival consultant

Laura Lazar & Dan Mitrica – design/advertising

Eugen Androne – logistics

Mihai Risnoveanu – media

Alina Salcudeanu – festival partner

Special thanks:

Michael Garrad, Kelly Powell, Curzon Artificial Eye, Ian Haydn Smith, Bogdan Catargiu, Gateville Group Ltd, Olivia and Robert Temple, Michael Lee, Prodan Romanian Cultural Foundation, Horia Munteanu, Raluca Dascalita, Maria Matei, Valentin Muntean, Ramona Mitran, Florin Ciornei, Elena Mitrica, Ion Mitrica, Micaela Gulea, Adrian Cherciu, Carmen Birsasteanu, Tatiana Rosoga, Minuteman Press Uxbridge, Steven Ochan, Ken Syme, Sebastian Merrick, Kazum, Iosefin Florea, Mosia Galicea Mare (Martha 2018 – Pinot Gris & Tamaioasa Romaneasca DRY, Cabernet Sauvignon 2016), Roexport Ltd



GATEVILLE GROUP CONSTRUCTION & REFURBISHMENT

Established in 2012 and with over 30 years industry experience, Gateville is a multi-sector construction company operating across London, the South East and Home Counties.

From simple small maintenance jobs to decorating, stripping out works, interior space restructuring and extension building, no project is too small. We work closely with our client to ensure the required work is undertaken to meet their specific needs, providing proactive management of the project to ensure a hassle free result.

- House/flat refurbishment
- Carpet/wood and other flooring works
- House extensions
- Offices refurbishment/partitions
- Loft conversion
- Kitchen & Bathroom fitting
- Maintenance
- Internal and External Decoration
- Plastering
- Flooring
- Tiling
- Plumbing and Gas services
- Boiler and Central Heating Installations
- Groundworks
- Landscaping
- Firestopping and fire protection
- Intruder Alarm Installations
- CCTV Systems

 +44 (0)1923 979 080
 info@gatevillegroup.co.uk
 www.gatevillegroup.co.uk
 Bermer Place, Unit1, Watford, WD24 4AY

