

World Premieres and Surprising Debuts in the Romanian Days at TIFF 2018

The most anticipated Romanian premieres of the year will be presented in the 17th edition of the **Transylvania International Film Festival** (Cluj-Napoca, May 25-June 3). This year's **Romanian Days** will include 35 titles: 13 features and 22 shorts, some of which are world premieres, while others are recipients of major festival awards. Thirty of these titles are competing for the Romanian Days awards. Scores of Romanian professionals will come to meet the TIFF audiences and the international industry guests.

Two films included in the international competition for the **Transylvania Trophy** will also be screened in the Romanian Days: Berlinale Golden Bear-winner *Nu mă atinge-mă / Touch Me Not*, Adina Pintilie's feature debut, a shocking exploration of intimacy and the very human need for authentic contact told in a format that tests the boundaries between fiction, documentary, and art; and Andrei Crețulescu's excellent debut *Charleston*, a pop cocktail spiced with black humor and melodrama which premiered in the official competition at Locarno. Crețulescu also takes part in the shorts competition with the world premiere of *Parabellum*.

This year's Romanian Days features five world premieres, some of them from first-time directors. Bogdan Theodor Olteanu enters the competition with his debut *Câteva conversații despre o fată foarte înaltă / Several Conversations About a Very Tall Girl*, which features Silvana Mihai, one of the actors promoted in TIFF's **10 for Film** program, in a leading role. Actor Vlad Zamfirescu makes his directorial debut with *Secretul fericirii / The Secret of Happiness*, a dynamic story about a love triangle and its uncomfortable truths, written by Alexandru Popa as a cynical comedy whose twists and turns will keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

Winner of the debut prize of the Romanian Days in 2013 for his *O lună în Thailanda / A Month in Thailand*, and director of the popular comedy *Două lozuri / Two Lottery Tickets*, Paul Negoescu returns to TIFF with *Povestea unui pierde-vară / The Story of a Summer Lover*, a bitter-sweet comedy about the difficult situations in which love can throw us, featuring Alexandru Papadopol as a lead. Alex Mavrodineanu's documentary *Caisă* about a boxing coach who, having sworn off coaching, returns nevertheless to it when he meets a talented young man, is also a world premiere.

A tender meditation on the human condition and the passage of time, *Licu, o poveste românească / Licu, A Romanian Story* brought director Ana Dumitrescu the top award at DOK Leipzig for re-telling

Romania's past century through the eyes of a man lost in history. Another film that debates historical themes is ***Dacii liberi / Free Dacians*** by Andrei Gorgan and Monica Lăzurean Gorgan. This world premiere delves into nationalist controversies and intrigues among different strands of Dacologists.

The great winner of this year's Gopo Awards, Daniel Sandu's feature debut ***Un pas în urma serafimilor / One Step Behind the Seraphim***, is inspired by the director's own experience in a theological seminary. ***Pororoca***, Constantin Popescu's third feature, also included in the Romanian Days competition, is a knife's edge story about a father desperate to find his daughter. Lead Bogdan Dumitrache was recognized as best actor at San Sebastian for this role. Șerban Pavlu also received an acting award at Sarajevo for playing a father who sacrifices everything for his child's happiness in ***Meda sau partea nu prea fericită a lucrurilor / Meda or The Not so Bright Side of Things***—a film which also received the directing award for Emanuel Pârvu, who also shows up in TIFF's Romanian shorts competition with ***Totul e foarte departe / Everything Is Far Away***. Launched in the San Sebastian competition and awarded in Trieste, ***Soldații. Poveste din Ferentari / Soldiers. Story From Ferentari*** is an adaptation of the eponymous novel by Adrian Schiop, who plays one of the protagonists of this unconventional love story directed by Ivana Mladenovic.

After premiering in the Berlinale Forum section, Corneliu Porumboiu's new documentary ***Fotbal infinit / Infinite Football*** about the utopian theories of an eccentric character obsessed with revolutionizing soccer, will be screened out of competition at TIFF.

Last but not least, the Romanian Days program includes 22 shorts, 17 of which compete for the shorts award: ***Miss Sueno*** (dir. Radu Potcoavă), ***Karmasutra*** (dir. Cristian Bota), ***Ionuț și Călin / Ionuț and Călin*** (dir. Sorin Poamă), ***Ivy / Iedera*** (dir. Sarra Tsorakidis), ***Michelangelo*** (dir. Anghel Damian), ***Must Love Kubrick*** (dir. Alma Andreescu), ***Parabellum*** (dir. Andrei Crețulescu), ***The Christmas Gift / Cadoul de Crăciun*** (dir. Bogdan Mureșanu), ***Everything Is Far Away / Totul este foarte departe*** (dir. Emanuel Pârvu), ***Morski Briz*** (dir. Cecilia Ștefănescu), ***Sunday / Duminică*** (dir. Dorian Boguță), ***The Seagull / Pescărușul*** (dir. Maria Popistașu, Alex Baci), ***New Dacia*** (dir. Millo Simulov), ***8*** (dir. Mihai Pârcălabu), ***Silence / Liniște*** (dir. Alex Iureș), ***E.T. Was Here / E.T. a fost aici*** (dir. Ana Agopian), and ***The Beast/ Bestia*** (dir. Andreea Lăcătuș). Five documentary and animation shorts will be screened out of competition: ***PhoeniXXX*** (dir. Mihai Dragolea), ***A Death in My Family / O moarte în familia mea*** (dir. Andra Tarara), ***Ionaș Dreams of Rain / Ionaș visează că plouă*** (dir. Dragoș Hanciu), ***In the Frame*** (dir. Ion Gnatiuc), and ***Ceva*** (dir. Paul Mureșan).

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