The Romanian Film Initiative and the Jacob Burns Film Center announce the lineup for the 11th edition of Making Waves: New Romanian Cinema, December 1–8

Highlights include Cristi Puiu’s *Sieranevada*, Romania’s entry to the Academy Awards® foreign language race and Bogdan Mirică’s FIPRESCI prize-winning *Dogs*

**New York, NY — November 15, 2016** — The Romanian Film Initiative and the Jacob Burns Film Center are proud to present the 11th Edition of Making Waves: New Romanian Cinema (December 1–8), the survey that the *Wall Street Journal* describes as having, “helped define and establish the southeastern European country as a stronghold of socially incisive, independently minded personal cinema.”

“New Romanian Cinema entered its second decade of greatness with a bang,” says the festival’s artistic director, Mihai Chirilov. “With two titles selected from the official competition in Cannes, *Graduation* and *Sieranevada*, which both went on to play at the New York Film Festival, and two other, *Illegitimate* and *Scarred Hearts*, that won prizes at the Berlin and Locarno film festivals, we enter the 11th edition of Making Waves with one of the strongest ever presentations of work by both new and established Romanian filmmakers. Directors Cristian Mungiu, Cristi Puiu, Adrian Sitaru and Radu Jude, who have all shown previous works at the Festival, are joined by the new voices of Bogdan Mirică and Paul Negoescu, delivering exciting genre cinema with the Balkan western *Dogs* and the indie comedy *Two Lottery Tickets*. The endearing documentary, *Cinema, Mon Amour* by Alexandru Belc, about the vanishing movie theaters completes this year’s Romanian selection, while Tomasz Wasilewski’s *United States of Love*, represents this year’s guest country Poland,
adding a touch of post-Communist angst that reflects the Romanian reality in the aftermath of the Revolution of 1989.”

“We are thrilled that the Jacob Burns Film Center exclusively presents Making Waves this year, the annual showcase of new Romanian Cinema which we have been co-presenting for four years, and which includes films that are often literally impossible to see otherwise — in theaters or out. And we are delighted to welcome again the charismatic curator of the series, Mihai Chirilov, who will appear with each film,” said JBFC Programming Director Brian Ackerman.

Corina Șuteu, current Minister of Culture of Romania, founder of the Making Waves festival and long-time promoter of Romanian Cinema in the U.S., will also attend this year’s edition. “Romanian Cinema,” states Ms. Șuteu, “has grown to international prominence in the past decade in spite of a public support system utterly unadapted to the task. Convinced, as I have been since 2006 when I launched the Romanian Film Festival in New York, that Romanian cinema is one of the greatest vehicles for making Romanian arts and culture known in the U.S. and internationally, I have placed cinema, during my mandate as a Minister of Culture of Romania, as one of my priorities, and undertook the kick-start of a reform that will provide Romanian filmmakers and producers, and the film industry as a whole, with better tools.”

Guests of this year’s festival include actors Vlad Ivanov (Dogs, Graduation), Maria Drăguș (Graduation), Alina Grigore and Robi Urs (Illegitimate) and Julia Kijowska (United States of Love).

MAKING WAVES was founded by the Romanian Film Initiative and is co-presented in partnership with the Jacob Burns Film Center. Co-founded in 2012 by Corina Șuteu, Mihai Chirilov and Oana Radu, the independent Romanian Film Initiative aims to preserve and enhance the festival’s crucial and creative spirit. Leading support for the 11th edition of Making Waves is provided by The Trust for Mutual Understanding, the Filmmakers Union of Romania, and HBO Romania.

Schedule
Thursday, December 1, 7:00 pm
Graduation (127m) NR DCP. In person: Maria Drăguș. Followed by a reception

Friday, December 2, 7:30 pm
United States of Love (105m) NR, DCP. In person: Julia Kijowska

Saturday, December 3, 7:30 pm
Two Lottery Tickets (86m) NR, DCP Preceded by A Night in Tokoriki (18m)

Sunday, December 4, 5:00 pm
Sieranevada (173m) NR, DCP

Monday, December 5, 7:45 pm
Cinema, Mon Amour (74m) NR, DCP
Tuesday, December 6, 7:40 pm

*Illegitimate* (89m) NR, DCP

In person: Alina Grigore & Robi Urs

Wednesday, December 7, 7:15 pm

*Scarred Hearts* (141m) NR, DCP

Thursday, December 8, 7:30 pm

*Dogs* (104m) NR, DCP

In person: Vlad Ivanov

**OPENING NIGHT**

**Graduation**

Thu, Dec. 1, 7:00PM

2016. 127 m. Cristian Mungiu. Romania/France/Belgium. Romanian with English subtitles. NR.

Actress Maria Drăguș in attendance

On the day before her first written graduation exam, a bright student falls victim to an assault that could jeopardize her entire future. Fearing the worst, her father jumps in, trying to avert a crisis, and triggers a chain of unfortunate events. Since 2007, when he was first invited to compete in the Cannes Film Festival with his second feature (*4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days*), director Cristian Mungiu has never gone home empty-handed. That year, *4 Months...* scooped up the top prize — the Golden Palm — and in 2012 *Beyond the Hills* brought him the Best Screenplay award (plus an award for his two main actresses). This year, he was named Best Director for *Graduation*, a powerful, intricate, and universal study about the imprecision of parenthood, the relativity of truth, and the ambiguity of compromise. This is the morality play at its most startling, fresh from its two smashing screenings at the New York Film Festival, where it really got people talking.

**CLOSING NIGHT**

**Dogs**

Thurs, Dec. 8, 7:30PM

2016. 104m. Bogdan Mirică. Romania/France/Bulgaria/Qatar. Romanian with English subtitles. NR.

NEW YORK PREMIERE

Actor Vlad Ivanov in attendance

A young man from the city comes to a remote village in rural Romania to sell the land he inherited from his grandfather, and discovers that the old man had been a crime lord. In order to sell, he has to face his grandfather’s deputies, now led by an affable Tartar (Vlad Ivanov, effortlessly superb again as a bad guy, after *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days* and *Snowpiercer*). Meanwhile, the local policeman investigates the finding of a severed foot, but what he’s really after is revenge on his lifetime nemesis, at any cost. If the Coen brothers had been Balkan born, this is how their *No Country for Old Men* would have looked. Beware, this strong debut is no bittersweet *Japanese Dog* but a shocking Molotov cocktail of genres that won the FIPRESCI prize in Cannes and the Transylvania trophy.
**United States of Love**  
Fri, Dec. 2, 7:30PM  
2016. 105m. Tomasz Wasilewski. Poland/Sweden. Polish with English subtitles. NR.  
NEW YORK PREMIERE  
Actress Julia Kijowska in attendance  

It is 1990, the first euphoric year of freedom in Poland, and four seemingly happy women decide it’s time to change their lives and fulfill their desires: a young mother trapped in an unhappy marriage who seeks refuge in another, impossible relationship; an older teacher fascinated with her neighbor; an aerobics instructor who herself is dreaming of a career in modelling; and a headmistress in love with the father of one of her students. This compassionate portrayal of unrequited love was rightfully awarded Best Script at this year’s Berlinale. A bonus: Its distinctive Romanian visual touch is courtesy of the Romanian New Wave cinematographer Oleg Mutu (4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days, The Death of Mr. Lăzărescu). Tomasz Wasilewski’s third feature comes from this edition’s guest country Poland, adding a touch of Post-Communism angst that powerfully matches the Romanian reality after 1989. The film is presented in the framework of the **Creative Freedom Through Cinema** program, which examines the relationship between art and politics in Eastern Europe.

**Two Lottery Tickets**  
Sat, Dec. 3, 7:30 pm  
NEW YORK PREMIERE  

Three ne'er-do-wells from a provincial town hit the jackpot when they win the six-million Euro lottery prize only to find out that the winning ticket is, well, nowhere to be found. This is the beginning of a zany adventure as the trio sets off on a madcap hunt in search of the two wannabe gangsters who stole the bum bag containing the lucky scrap of paper. Paranoid potheads, would-be singers, exotic prostitutes, gullible children, enterprising clairvoyants, and even a color blind policeman cross their paths, generating one hilarious set piece after another. With little resources and great craftsmanship, director Paul Negoescu has put together a refreshingly charming indie comedy, not without a serious undertow as it effortlessly explores issues such as corruption, poverty, and chance. The main cast, including Dogs’ lead Dragoș Bucur, is topnotch.

Preceded by audience favorite **A Night in Tokoriki** (Roxana Stroe, 18m), another comedy of errors, and winner of the Best Romanian Short at this year’s Transilvania International Film Festival

**Sieranevada**  
Sun, Dec. 4, 5:00PM  
2016. 173m. Cristi Puiu. Romania/France/Bosnia/Herzegovina/Croatia/Macedonia. Romanian with English subtitles. NR.
Three days after the terrorist attack on the offices of Parisian weekly *Charlie Hebdo* and 40 days after the death of his father, a middle-aged doctor and his wife are attending a family gathering in Bucharest to commemorate the deceased. While waiting for the priest’s arrival, the numerous guests and relatives catch up, arguing about everything from 9/11 to the Communist times. The inevitable fights that follow turn the ceremony into an operatic settling of scores. This is black comedy of Altman-esque ambition and gargantuan proportions, with director Cristi Puiu (*The Death of Mr. Lăzărescu*) brilliantly choreographing more than a dozen characters in a maze of rooms, hallways, and resentments. *Sieranevada* won top honors at the Chicago Film Festival (Best Film and Best Director) and is representing Romania in the Foreign Language Film Oscar(r) race.

**Cinema, Mon Amour**  
Mon, Dec. 5, 7:45PM  
2015. 74m. Alexandru Belc. Romania/Czech Republic. Romanian with English subtitles. NR.  
NEW YORK PREMIERE

Romania has the fewest screens per capita of any European country. In 1990, there were 450 film venues. Today, only 30 are still up and running. This bittersweet documentary is about one of them, telling the story of Victor Purice — manager, former projectionist, and lifetime cinephile — and his two loyal employees in their everyday battle to preserve Dacia Cinema, located in northern Romania. Having lived through “the golden age” of the country’s cinema, Victor dreams of bringing back the good old days, as he struggles to keep up with the new harsh reality. In a theater that lacks heating and is slowly falling apart, with no support from the state, which owns it, it’s a quixotic wish. *Cinema, Mon Amour* is a love letter to cinema, celluloid and a bygone era that illustrates how lucky we are to have such a homey place as the JBFC.

**Illegitimate**  
Tue, Dec. 6, 7:40PM  
2016. 89m. Adrian Sitaru. Romania/Poland/France. Romanian with English subtitles. NR.  
NEW YORK PREMIERE  
Actors Alina Grigore and Robi Urs in attendance

Learning about their OB-GYN father's long-ago actions shatters the lives of four adult siblings: They find out that he informed on women seeking illegal abortions during the Ceaușescu regime. To further complicate family matters, the twins, Sasa and Romeo, have an incestuous relationship that has been going on since they were children. When Sasa becomes pregnant, their older brother desperately tries to keep his family together. There are enough moral issues and ambiguities at work in this fast-paced, fearless, and brilliantly acted drama to ignite hot debate on several fronts. For a film shot almost entirely in a tight flat on a tiny budget and with no script, the result is unexpectedly stunning, stifling and complex.
**Scarred Hearts**  
Wed, Dec. 7, 7:15PM  
2016. 141m. Radu Jude. Romania/Germany. Romanian with English subtitles. NR.  
NEW YORK PREMIERE

Romania, 1937. A young man spends his days at a sanatorium on the Black Sea coast, suffering from bone tuberculosis. Falling in love with another patient, he narrates their attempts to live life to the fullest as their bodies slowly fade away but their minds refuse to give up. This refreshingly unconventional drama is loosely based on Jewish Romanian author Max Blecher's autobiographical novel *Scarred Hearts*, written before he died at age 29, after ten years of suffering. Ironically, the hero is never seen scribbling anything in Radu Jude's *Aferim!* latest. Instead, Jude’s quiet direction allows us to witness an almost surreal carnival of vitality and wry humor in a Magic Mountain–like setting, while outside the hospital, fascism is on the rise.

Screening Venue: Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville, NY 10570

Tickets: $8 (members), $13 (nonmembers). For the opening night gala screening, followed by a reception, tickets are $10 (members), $15 (nonmembers). Visit burnsfilmcenter.org for more information.

The Romanian Film Initiative (RFI) came together in 2012 to safeguard the existence and the spirit of the Romanian film festival in New York, redesigned as Making Waves: New Romanian Cinema, and co-presented with the Film Society of Lincoln Center. Created by Corina Șuteu, Mihai Chirilov, and Oana Radu, the core team that initiated and organized the festival since 2006, RFI is a flagship of Film ETC. Association in Bucharest. Along with the continuation and expansion of Making Waves, RFI aims to develop and contribute to other projects interested in promoting Romanian cinema in the U.S., and the professionalization of the cultural sector in Romania and internationally. www.filmetc.org

The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) is a nonprofit cultural arts organization dedicated to: presenting the best of independent, documentary, and world cinema; promoting 21st century literacy, and making film a vibrant part of the community. Located on a 47,500 sq. foot, three-building campus in the center of Pleasantville, the JBFC is just 30 miles outside of New York City. Since the opening in 2001, over 2,000,000 people have seen over 5,400 films from more than 40 countries. The campus includes the 27,000 sq. foot Media Arts Lab, the JBFC’s state-of-the-art education center, a creative and educational community for storytellers in the digital age, offering one-time workshops, intensive courses, and weekend programs for children and adults of all ages. www.burnsfilmcenter.org

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