



27. Venice
International Film
Critics' Week



A MONTH IN THAILAND

a film by PAUL NEGOESCU

Technical details: shooting format HD • screening format DCP, 35 mm • 1:1.85 • Dolby Digital • 85 Min
Romania, 2012



SYNOPSIS

New Year's Eve in Bucharest. Radu, a smart and handsome young man, decides to break up with his girlfriend. Soon after he starts a journey through several parties and nightclubs searching for his ex-girlfriend whom he thinks is his true love. The film is a radiography of an emerging city, Bucharest, and of the bewilderment of an entire generation of young wealthy adults.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"I am part of a confused generation. People my age nowadays tend to be more superficial regarding their love life and tend not to pay any attention to their own feelings. They take decisions following their narrow minds, without listening to their instincts. This is a film about decisions, it's a film about my generation."

Paul Negoescu



NOTE ON THE PRODUCTION

"**A Month in Thailand**" is most likely the Romanian feature with the youngest cast & crew in the history of post communist Romanian cinema. The average age of the head of departments is a bit over 30 (the only members over 40 being the producer, the executive producer & the make-up artist) while the average age of the cast stays under 30 having only 3 cast members over 30 (the parents and the aunt of one of the characters).

A film for young adults, made by young adults with young adults.



DIRECTOR'S BIO

Born in 1984 in Bucharest, **Paul Negoescu** graduated from film directing at the National University of Film and Drama in 2007. Currently he is preparing a PhD in cinema at the same university.

He directed several short films that were selected in over 270 film festivals and won 30 awards. His latest short film, "**Horizon**" (2012), was selected in Cannes, in the Semaine de la Critique competition. His previous three short films – "**Derby**" (2010), "**Renovation**" (2009) and "**Late**" (2008) – were selected in the Berlinale Shorts. He was also selected in other important events like Karlovy Vary, Rotterdam or Slamdance. He won awards in Bristol (Encounters IFF), Vila do Conde, Dresden, New York, Belgrade or Sofia. He was twice nominated at the European Film Academy Awards in the Best Short Film category, in 2009 ("**Renovation**") and 2011 ("**Derby**"). "**A Month in Thailand**" (2012) is his debut feature film.

Paul Negoescu is also the founder and the artistic director of the Timishort Film Festival. He also runs a small local production company that produces independent short films and animations.

Sailing is one of his biggest hobbies. He won several prizes in international competitions and also he won the national championship for several times.

CAST

ANDREI MATEIU (RADU)

Andrei Mateiu (born 1982) is a young actor whose work is related to Paul Negoescu's previous shorts ("**Late**", "**Radu + Ana**") as well as Cristi Puiu's "**Aurora**" or Constantin Popescu's "**Portrait of the Fighter as a Young Man**". He is well known to Romanian audience for a famous tv show comedy bar called "**Mondenii**" as well as several commercials. He is a passionate tennis player, winner of the silver medal in the Amateurs Contest. Radu from "**A Month in Thailand**" is his first leading role.



IOANA ANASTASIA ANTON (ADINA)

Ioana Anastasia Anton (born 1985) has a Master's degree in Acting and Performing Arts from The National University of Theatre and Film Bucharest (2010). While still a student, she started acting both in professional theatre and film. She starred in feature films such as "**Silent Wedding**" (d. Horațiu Mălăele), "**The Green Moon**" (d. Alexa Visarion), "**Miss Christina**" (d. Alex Maftei in post-production) and several short films among which "**Ela**" (d. Tudor Jurgiu) and "**9 Minutes**" (d. Florin Kevorkian). She also made a short appearance in Francis Ford Coppola's "**Youth without Youth**". In 2008 she received the most prestigious Romanian theatre prize - The UNITER Debut of the Year - for her performance as Ophelia in Shakespeare's "**Hamlet**". Currently she is collaborating with five theatre companies in Bucharest (starring in plays by Chekhov, Gorky, Brecht, modern playwrights) and is also a permanent member of the Odeon Theatre company.



SÎNZIANA NICOLA (NADIA)

Sînziana Nicola (born 1985) performed in several plays directed by young Romanian theatre directors such as "**Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf**", "**For the Win**", "**Hai k potzi!**", "**Countryside Tour**". She attended several theatre workshops outside Romania. Besides her acting, she worked as a journalist for art magazines. Nadia's role in "**A Month in Thailand**" is her first collaboration with Paul Negoescu.



VICTORIA RĂILEANU (EMILIA)

Victoria Răileanu (born 1988) made her first appearance at the National Theatre in Timisoara, at the age of 15 – "**We Can Dance**" (director Mihaela Lichiardopol) and "**Krumm**" (director Radu Afrim). She graduated from The National University of Theatre and Film Bucharest and during her college years she had supporting roles in the TV series "**Daria, dragostea mea**", "**Doctori de mame**". Her cinematographic debut was in "**The Whistleblower**" (d. Larysei Kondracki), along Rachel Weisz and Monica Bellucci. Emilia from "**A Month in Thailand**" represents her second cinematographic role.



TUDOR AARON ISTODOR (ALEX)

Though only 28 years old, Tudor (born 1984) has a rich background in film acting as well as theatre performance. He has worked with famous directors such as Lucian Pintilie in "**Tertium non datur**" (2005), Radu Muntean – "**The Paper Will Be Blue**" (2006), Fanny Ardant – "**Blood and Ashes**" (2009), Cristi Puiu – "**Aurora**" (2010). He played in several acclaimed Romanian TV series, among which "**Băieți buni**" and "**Lombarzilor 8**". He is one of Paul Negoescu's favorite actors, previously cast in "**Exam**" (2006), "**Radu + Ana**" (2007), "**Late**" (2007). Tudor is starring in important theatre companies such as Teatrul Act and Teatrul Evreiesc de Stat.





RALUCA APRODU (RALUCA)

Raluca (born 1985) was rewarded with Best Actress Award at the Graduation Ceremony for her roles in "**Yom Kippur**" and "**California Suite**" by Neil Simon. Her theatrical background includes collaborations with Radu Afrim, Felix Alexa and Cristi Juncu. Her cinematographic appearances include the TV series "**Păcatele Evei**" (2005), "**Om bogat, om sărac**" (2006), HBO Romania's "**În derivă**" (2012), but also the features "**Blood and Chocolate**" (d. Katja von Garnier, 2007), "**Na vlastni nebezpeci/ At Your Own Risk**" (d. Filip Renc, 2008), "**Ho Ho Ho**" (d. Jesús del Cerro, 2009), "**Contratimp 2**" (d. Jesús del Cerro, 2009).

IONUȚ GRAMA (TOMA)

Ionuț Grama (born 1982) is a young actor who had the chance to play in one of the American productions shot in Romania – "**The Devil Inside**" (d. William Brent Bell, 2012) – a low budget horror. He also had supporting roles in "**Closer to the Moon**" (d. Nae Caranfil, 2012 in post-production), "**Gruber's Journey**" (d. Radu Gabrea, 2009). "**A Month in Thailand**" is his first collaboration with Paul Negoescu.



BOGDAN COTLEȚ (DUCU)

Bogdan (born 1983) has had a great start in his acting career, awarded with the Best Leading Actor at UNATC Graduation Ceremony as well CineMAiubit Student Film Festival and ECU The European Independent Film Festival 2010 for his role in the short movie "**Tarantyno**". He had several supporting roles in "**California Dreamin' (endless)**" (d. Cristian Nemescu, 2007), "**The Rest Is Silence**" (d. Nae Caranfil, 2008), "**Portrait of the Fighter as a Young Man**" (d. Constantin Popescu, 2010). Bogdan is also one of the most appreciated voices for dubbing cartoons and well known to the Romanian audience for "**Divertis – Land of Jokes**" – a famous tv show.





ȘTEFAN MUNTEANU (KIRI)

Ștefan (born 1984) studied Film Directing at The National University of Theatre and Film. His shorts were selected in several film festivals: "**Cealaltă fică**" (Mediawave 2010, Karlovy Vary Fresh Film Fest) and "**Undeva în Casa Poporului**" (Film.DOK 2007, Karlovy Vary Fresh Film Fest). This summer he staged an unconventional "**The Barber of Seville**" during Opera Nights Festival Hunedoara. "**A Month in Thailand**" represents his debut as an actor.

SIMONA GHIȚĂ (MONA)

Simona (born 1981) studied acting, but teamed up with young fellow directors as a co-writer – "**Interior. Block of Flats Hallway**" (d. Ciprian Alexandrescu, 2007), "**Ștefan**" (d. Stanca Radu, 2007). Simona Ghiță & Paul Negoescu's first teamwork was "**Radu + Ana**" (2007) during their University years, followed by "**A Short Ride**" (2008) and "**Renovation**" (2009). She was also the casting director for "**A Month in Thailand**".



SABINA POSEA (BIANCA)

Sabina Posea (born 1985) has been collaborating for over four years with two important theatre companies in Bucharest: Teatrul Foarte Mic and Teatrul Bulandra. She had supporting roles in the TV series "**Femei adevărate**" (d. Andrei Moroșan, 2005), "**Aniela**" (2010) and "**Iubire și onoare**" (2011) and short films – "**9 Minutes**" (d. Florin Kevorkian, 2008). Her first collaboration with Paul Negoescu and Vlad Trandafir was "**The Fabulous Destiny of Toma Cuzin**" (2008).



CREW

ADA SOLOMON / producer

Before setting up HiFilm Productions in 2004, **Ada Solomon** (born 1968) had worked as a production manager and executive producer on more than 150 TV commercials for Domino Film from 1993. She has also served as a line producer for foreign international projects such as Franco Zeffirelli's "**Callas Forever**" and Didi Danquart's "**Offset**" or recently Hermine Huntgeburth's "**Tom Sawyer**".

At HiFilm, Ada has produced award-winning shorts by Cristian Nemescu ("**Marilena From P7**"), Radu Jude ("**The Tube With A Hat**") and Paul Negoescu ("**Renovation**"), debut features by Jude ("**The Happiest Girl In The World**"), Melissa de Raaf, Răzvan Rădulescu ("**First of All, Felicia**"), Paul Negoescu ("**A Month in Thailand**") and documentaries by Alexandru Solomon ("**Cold Waves**" and "**Kapitalism – Our Improved**

Formula"), among others. She is currently developing Daniel Sandu's debut feature ("**One Step Behind The Seraphim**") as well as Radu Jude's third feature "**Aferim**" after the award-winning "**Everybody In Our Family**" which premiered in the Berlinale's Forum this year and received the Heart of Sarajevo for Best Film.

Ada Solomon is also the initiator and the director of Next IFF in Bucharest, dedicated to the memory of Cristian Nemescu & Andrei Toncu.



SMARANDA STERIAN / executive producer

Smaranda (born 1967) has been working as a Unit Production Manager or Line Producer for more than 300 commercials with advertising agencies such as Leo Burnett, McCann Ericsson, Grafitti BBDO. Her first experience in the film business was Cristian Nemescu's "**Marilena from P7**", followed by "**Lunchtime**" (Ciprian Alexandrescu). Among the feature films she worked on, one can say "**Și caii verzi sunt pe pereți**" (Dan Chișu) and "**Child Pose**" (Călin Peter Netzer).

VLAD TRANDAFIR / co-writer

After studying Maths at the Faculté des Sciences de Luminy in Marseille (France), Vlad (born 1981) was admitted to the National University of Drama and Film "Ion Luca Caragiale" of Bucharest in 2003. His first short, "**Duty**", won the Best Fiction Award in Tehran Int'l Short Film Festival (2007). He received his graduation diploma thanks to his short, "**Synopsis Docu-Drama**", which won the Pro Cinema Award at CineMAiubit International Student Film Festival the same year. Besides the short films, he was the co-writer of the TV series "**Serviciul Omoruri**" (Valentin Hotea, 2008). "**The Fabulous Destiny of Toma Cuzin**" was the first collaboration with Paul Negoescu (as co-writer and co-director), while "**A Month in Thailand**" represents their feature debut.



ANDREI BUTICĂ / director of photography

Andrei Butică (born 1979) graduated from The Film Academy in 2002, working as cameraman for "**The Death of Mr. Lazarescu**" (Cristi Puiu, 2006) and "**Marilena from P7**" (Cristian Nemescu, 2006). He teamed up with Radu Jude as co-writer & DoP for "**In the Morning**" (2006) and "**Alexandra**" (2007). His collaboration with Radu Jude went on with "**A Film for Friends**" & "**Everybody in Our Family**" (2012).

He also worked as a documentary DoP, on Alexandru Solomon's "**Cold Waves**" (2007) and "**Kapitalism – Our Improved Formula**" (2010). Andrei Butică teamed up with Paul Negoescu in 2008 for his shorts: "**Late**", "**Renovation**", "**Derby**", "**Horizon**".



ALEXANDRU RADU / editor

Alexandru Radu (born 1984) is a Bucharest based freelance film editor. In 2007 he graduated from Film Editing and Sound at the National University of Drama and Film in Bucharest. He has worked on over 25 short films and one feature documentary. Some of the short films, directed by Paul Negoescu, were selected at the Berlinale, London Film Festival and nominated for European Academy Awards. In 2012 he participated in the "Cinéfondation" program at Cannes Film Festival with Cristi Iftime's short film "**The Camp in Razoare**". His aim is to gather international experience and in 2010 he co-produced and edited the Turkish short film "**Snow**" ("Berf") by Erol Mintas that won the Best Short Film at the 47th Antalya International Golden Orange Film Festival. Now he is proud to participate in the 27th Venice International Film Critics Week alongside first time director Paul Negoescu.



FILIP MUREȘAN / sound designer

Though he attended the Polytechnic University courses, Filip (born 1980) was fascinated by film. He was admitted at the National University of Theatre and Film in Bucharest. In 2008, he started working as an editor and sound engineer for various shorts and documentaries like "**Derby**" (d. Paul Negoescu), "**The World According to Ion B.**" (d. Alexander Nanau), "**Adalbert's Dream**" (d. Gabriel Achim).



VLAD VOINESCU / sound designer

Born in 1985, Vlad studied editing and sound design in Bucharest. His participation at Aristoteles Workshop in 2007 provokes his interest towards documentary. He works both on set and on postproduction sound. Among his recent projects one can find "**Turn off the Lights**" (d. Ivana Mladenovic), "**Adalbert's Dream**" (d. Gabriel Achim). He and Filip Mureșan have been a team since university graduation.

IULIA NEGOESCU FULICEA / production designer

Born in Bucharest in 1981, in a family of architects, Iulia has spent her childhood mixing her passion for sports with her inherited creative side. She started sailing at the age of 11, gathering until now more than 30 National Champion titles. She graduated from Ion Mincu University of Architecture in Bucharest in 2007 and her profession allowed her to combine building planning with interior design, styling for magazines, art directing, costume design and set design. In 2005, together with her family, she founded N-Graphix Creative Industries; working alongside her brother, film director Paul Negoescu, she created the set design for many of his short films between 2006 and present and for his debut feature film, "**A Month in Thailand**".



CIREȘICA CUCIUC / costume designer

Cireșica Cuciuc (born 1975) has worked as a fashion consultant for various magazines as well as freelance costume designer for commercials and advertising photo sessions since 1999. Her film experience is associated with Șerban Marinescu and Dan Chișu's films. "**A Month in Thailand**" is her second feature film as a costume designer.



DANA ROȘEANU / make up artist

Dana Roșeanu's name (born 1958) is connected to the films which represent the beginning of New Romanian Cinema: "**Filanthropy**" (d. Nae Caranfil), "**Furia**" (d. Radu Muntean). Her collaboration with Nae Caranfil continued with the production "**The Rest Is Silence**". She also worked with Radu Jude for his two feature films: "**The Happiest Girl in the World**" and "**Everybody in Our Family**". She was awarded with 3 Gopo Awards for "**Silent Wedding**" (d. Horațiu Mălăele), "**Caravana cinematografică**" (d. Titus Muntean), "**Bună! Ce faci?**" (d. Alex Maffei). Along her career she also worked with Lucian Pintilie ("**De ce trag clopotele, Mitică?**") and Mircea Daneliuc ("**Probă de microfon**").

ANDREI MATEIU (Radu) **IOANA ANASTASIA ANTON** (Adina) **SÎNZIANA NICOLA** (Nadia) **TUDOR AARON ISTODOR** (Alex) **RALUCA APRODU** (Raluca)

VICTORIA RĂILEANU (Emilia) **BOGDAN COTLEȚ** (Ducu) **IONUȚ GRAMA** (Toma) **SABINA POSEA** (Bianca) **SIMONA GHIȚĂ** (Mona)

ȘTEFAN MUNTEANU (Kiri) **MIRCEA RUSU** (Mihai) **MARIA PLOAE** (Elena) **ADRIANA ȘCHIOPU** (Carmen) **ESZTER TOMPA** (Ildiko)

DIANA BOGDAN (Eva) **RALUCA CĂRPINICI** (Cristina) **CRISTINA GAVRUȘ** (Miruna)

production manager: **ALEXANDRA IVAN** costume designer: **CIREȘICA CUCIUC** make-up artist: **DANA ROȘEANU**

production designer: **IULIA NEGOESCU FULICEA** cinematography: **ANDREI BUTICĂ** sound designer: **FILIP MUREȘAN** and **VLAD VOINESCU**

editing: **ALEXANDRU RADU** script: **PAUL NEGOESCU** and **VLAD TRANDAFIR** executive producer: **SMARANDA STERIAN**

coproducer: **GABI ANTAL** producer: **ADA SOLOMON** directed by: **PAUL NEGOESCU**

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