



COLD WAVES

a film by Alexandru Solomon

Press cuttings & notes from the viewers

Press cuttings

- “The film is exciting from the beginning to the very end: a live history lesson, with people who wrote (or recorded) this history... A must see!”

Alex Leo Serban – „This is video Free Europe” in *Libertatea*, December 2007

- “The restoration of this relation, that was so intense despite the distance, between people united by invisible (shock) waves, is the main source of emotion (an authentic one) of the documentary, not only for the local audience... Alexandru Solomon is one of the few documentary makers who master the art of mesmerizing and enchanting his viewers.”

Mihai Fulger – „The documentary as a war log”, *Hotnews*, October 2007

- “Solomon, who achieved fame with his reconstruction of a reconstruction of a bank robbery in *The Great Communist Bank Robbery*, is clearly an heir of postmodernism. The post-modern narrative form seems almost tailor-made for Communist Romania, a murky land of suspicion and conspiracy theories: truth and lie, then and now, facts and assumptions, all merge to form a ghostly web. Solomon has used this to make a masterpiece of a film about the history of the Romanian section of Radio Free Europe.”

Chris Keulemans in the IDFA catalogue

- “La radio qui a fait chuter Ceaușescu – un documentaire retrace de façon originale l’histoire de la section roumaine de *Radio Free Europe*, une station financée par Washington dont l’objectif avoué était de destabiliser les régimes socialistes des “pays de l’Est”

Courrier International, December 10th, 2007

- “Man, this film really takes your hand and puts it on the radio buttons to search for Free Europe, just like in old times. You would have gladly given your life for the unknown: the radio waves of Free Europe. But Solomon’s film does not let you linger in hollow nostalgia. No. It kills you journalistically. It is a meticulous film that documents our madness up to Carlos the Jackal who is still in jail and back to Ceausescu’s servants, now in our day-to-day life and even in Parliament. Which one of the present journalists has ever gone that far?”

Eugen Istodor – “Solomon ne sucește mintea cu arta și amintirea”, in *Academia Cațavencu*, 10/31/2007

- "Alexandru Solomon made an exceptional film and had the extraordinary intelligence to build it as “his” story. It is however our story too, the ones who witnessed those times, and this story is worth listening to, especially by the young who – luckily for them – did not experience the communist era but – unfortunately for them – are contemporaries of Ilie Merce and Nicolae Plesita. In nowadays free Europe, a story on yesterday’s “Free Europe” is absolutely necessary. “

Mircea Vasilescu in *Dilema Veche*, December, 2007

- “... How many of us still believe that if they close their eyes and listen will see things more clear? How many of us closed their eyes, listened and survived? And, more important, how many of us spoke? With his most recent project, a documentary on Radio Free Europe, Alexandru Solomon puts the mirror of history in front of us once again and, through a Hamlet-like “mouse trap”, puts our conscience and resistance on trial.”

Iulia David in *Time-Out Bucharest*, March, 2007

- “A film may have a stronger effect than a whole shelf of books on the same topic. Mind the attention the media has been paying on the things that happened at Radio Free Europe since Alexandru Solomon’s film entered the cinema...”

Nestor Ratesh, former director of Radio Free Europe, in *România Liberă*, November, 2007

- “The dynamic core of the "Romanian New Wave" (...) also includes awarded documentary filmmaker Alexandru Solomon (The Great Communist Bank Robbery). Solomon's latest documentary, *Cold Waves*, drew a packed house at its screening during the recent Leipzig DOKfilm festival. And with good reason: *Cold Waves* (read: radio waves during the Cold War) chronicles the fumbling efforts of the Ceausescu regime to halt the Radio Free Europe broadcasts from Munich by prominent Romanian dissidents who had daily delivered news on timely Romanian (and international) political and social affairs.”

**Ron Holloway, Festival Report
- 50th Leipzig International Festival for Documentary and Animation Films, November 2007**

- “*Cold Waves* is a must see not only because it deals with a topic that still belongs to the day-to-day reality, but also because it tells us a lot of things about yesterday's Romania, nowadays Romania and the eternal Romania.”

Mihai Fulger in *Observator Cultural*, 29.11-5.12.2007

- “*Cold Waves* portrays – in an obviously subjective and categorical manner – a phenomenon... A film that cannot be told, it must be seen.”

Andreea Chiriac in *Ziarul de Duminică*, 7.12.2007

- “*Cold Waves* is a discrete slap, deprived of the brutality we got used to in the Romanian public space... It elegantly initiates polemics and does exactly what Radio Free Europe did: it launches ideas, without instigating.”

Lucian Cremeneanu, on *Liternet*, Nov. 2007

- “With this film, Solomon wants to show that reality has different sides. For some people, Radio Free Europe meant the American propaganda, but on one hand the Romanians wanted to stretch things further while, on the other hand, the Americans slowed it down. There is much talk nowadays about manipulations by television. But then again, you can also strive for the good with bad means.”

***De Volkskrant*, Holland, December, 2007**

Notes from the viewers

- Ioana Moraru's impressions (about 19 years old), e-mailed by her mother:
 - “- when we left the cinema: “... it is touching...”, she said
 - on the way home, in the car: “...I found out so many things...”
 - home: “...I am overwhelmed with all the information I accumulated...”Late at night she was still talking with her friends on messenger, telling them about the film and encouraging them to see it ...”

Velvet Moraru, Bucharest

- “The warm voices, that gave cold shivers to some people, have their own story now - Cold Waves. It is very important to whom and how we tell this story, and if we don't feel up to it, we let Alexandru Solomon do it for us, answer the unanswered questions. Did we live for too long time or for too short time under the communist regime? Are we confused? Or maybe not? I had to say “Thank you” to somebody. Better later than never!”

Cristina Banu, Cluj

- “A story that implacably makes us face a cruel truth: we are the hideous world which doesn't know to be grateful and cannot help cowardly admiring and granting awards to its executioners, the strange world where outlines are fuzzy and everything becomes relative. It is a film we needed and still need. Thank you.”

C. Ungurean, Iași

From the director

- “ ...What I liked about the history of Radio Free Europe from the very beginning was the persistency of a mythology of a radio, of some voices about which you can imagine anything. Beyond the myth, all kinds of paradoxes mingle. Nothing is what it seems. Add to all this: mystery, terrorists and all that muted but violent war. Plenty of reasons to go to the cinema.”

**Alexandru Solomon in an interview to Mihai Fulger for the paper of Astra Festival,
Oct. 2007**