

KAPITALISM - OUR SECRET RECIPE

Imagine Ceausescu would come back 20 years after he was overthrown and executed. That he would start comparing the state in which he left the country for us, with the state of today. Imagine the former Communist dictator would understand it is some of his nearest who built Capitalism and that - generally - Romanians think only about money, cars and consumption.

The proposal might seem absurd or funny - and it is. Because how else is post-communist reality? I prefer to see it as a comedy. Anyway, there's nothing more we can change about it. After Eastern European countries joined the EU, our recipe for capitalism might be successful in other parts of the world.

CAPITALISM - REȚETA NOASTRĂ

propunere pentru un documentar de lung-metraj

de Alexandru Solomon

Imaginați-vă că Ceaușescu s-ar întoarce la 20 de ani după ce a fost înlăturat de la putere și executat. Că s-ar apuca să compare felul în care ne-a lăsat el România, cu stadiul în care o găsește astăzi. Imaginați-vă că fostul dictator comunist și-ar da seama că unii din oamenii săi de încredere au pus umărul la construcția capitalismului, că - în general - românii se gândesc numai la mașini și la bani, că pentru ei consumul e principala preocupare.

Propunerea poate părea absurdă sau comică - și într-adevăr este. Cum altcumva este realitatea post-comunistă? Eu prefer să o privesc ca pe o comedie. Oricum, nu mai putem schimba nimic. Acum că țările din Europa de Est au fost admise în UE, s-ar putea ca rețeta noastră de capitalism să prindă și prin alte părți.

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Filmmaker, Cinematographer, Producer. Member of EDN (European Documentary Network).
Worked as Associate Producer for foreign crews on BBC, WDR/Arte, CBC and Yorkshire TV documentaries.

Documentaries & experimental / Direction and camera (selective) :

2008: "APOCALYPSE ON WHEELS" - Apocalipsa dupa soferi / *Every city has the traffic it deserves.*

52 min. Prod. Hi Film, HBO Romania. Selected in the: London International Documentary Film Festival, Sofia Film Festival.

2007: "COLD WAVES" - "Razboi pe calea undelor" / *radio versus state terror during the Cold War and after.*

108 min. Prod. Hi Film, Geppert Productions, Paul Thiltges Distributions. CNC, TVR (Romania), YLE Finland with Media Plus, Nipkow Programm and Jan Vrijman support. Best Romanian Doc - Gopo Award.

Festivals: Leipzig, Astra Sibiu and IDFA premieres, participations in Visions du Reel Nyon, Goeteborg, Trieste, Sheffield IFF, etc.

2006: "CLARA B." / Docu-fiction: *the 20th century through the eyes of a woman-photographer.*

52 min. Prod. Seppia, NDR/Arte, FR3 Alsace and TVR with support from French CNC.

Prize for Best Documentary, Dakino International Festival, 2006.

2004: "THE GREAT COMMUNIST BANK ROBBERY" / *how did the 1959 hold-up became a propaganda coup?.*

75 min. / 69 min. Prod. Les Films d'Ici, Libra Film, ZDF/Arte, BBC, FR2, with support from the National Film Center, Romania, Jan Vrijman Fund and Eurimages.

Prize of the Festival du Film d'Histoire, Pessac, France. Grand Prix Mediawave Hungary.

Prize for Social values, Documenta Madrid. Best Director, Hungarian-Romanian Doc Festival, 2005.

Selected in the Joris Ivens Competition at IDFA 2004, Jerusalem, Minneapolis, Sarajevo, Mar del Plata, Hong-Kong and Alpe Adria Film Festivals.

2002: "THE SWEET BREAD OF EXILE" / *Romania's greatest comic author, Caragiale, exiled himself to Berlin*

26 min. / 10 min. Prod. Fundatia Arte Vizuale, with support from the National Film Center, Romania.

Special Prize of the Jury, Romanian Filmmakers' Union. Best Documentary, Alternative Festival, Targu Mures. Selected at Jerusalem, Mediawave & Sarajevo FF.

Broadcasted by TVR 2 / Romania. Special screenings in Berlin, London.

2001: "THE MAN WITH THOUSAND EYES" / *the life and pictures of Iosif Berman, reporter.*

52 min. / 26 min. Prod. Ager Film, Fundatia Arte Vizuale, with support from the National Film Center, Romania.

Best Documentary, Dakino Film Festival (2001). Best Short Documentary, Romanian Filmmakers' Guild.

Best Director and Best Photography, Cronograf FF, Chisinau.

Selected at DokumentArt, Germany; ArtFilm, Slovakia; Mediawave, Gyor; Astra International Festival, Romania.

1999: "A DOG'S LIFE" / *Bucharest, city of dogs, village without watchdogs.*

23 min. A coproduction of Fundatia Arte Vizuale and the Soros Foundation, Romania.

Best Documentary Prize, Dakino Film Festival, Romania.

Selected by Videoart Locarno, Eureka Screenings, Budapest (1999), NAHEMI Festival/ Londra, IndieLisboa.

1997: "FORTRESS GUARD" / Documentary.

24 min. Prod. Fundatia Arte Vizuale, Romania. Great Prize, Ethnos Film Festival, Romania (1997).

1996: "ZURICH CHRONICLE"/ *Romanian artists went to Zurich to invent Dada movement, 1916-1918.*

40 min. in coll. with Radu Igazsag. Prod. Fundatia Arte Vizuale, with support from Pro Helvetia.

Special Prize, The Romanian Television Professionals' Association. Great Prize, MediaFest '96, Romania.

Prize for Best Documentary, Young Filmmakers' Festival, Costinesti (1996).

Broadcasted by TVR International / Romania. Special screenings in Zurich, Paris, Bruxelles.

1995: "VI A REGIS"/ *A documentary on king Michael living in exile as an ordinary man.*

62 min. in coll. with Radu Igazsag. Prod. Fundatia Arte Vizuale, Romania.

Award for Best Documentary, Romanian Filmmakers' Guild (1996).

Broadcasted by TVR International / Romania; TV Aben / Denmark.

1994: "DUO FOR PAOLONCELLO AND PETRONOME"/ *Paul Celan's youth in Bucharest, after WW2.*

28 min. Prize for Best Video, International Youth Film Festival, Costinesti, Romania (1994).

Special Prize, Mediafest '96, Romania.

Selected at Cracow / Poland (1995), Clermont-Ferrand (1996), Stuttgarter Filmwinter (1996).

Special screenings in Paris, Bruxelles, Mainz, Berlin. Broadcasted by Telecable, TVR 2 / Romania.

1993: "SHRIEK INTO THE EAR-DRUM"/ *A visual essay on Romanian avant-garde, 1916-1947.*

27 min. in coll. with Radu Igazsag. Prod. Fundatia Arte Vizuale, Romania.

Prize for Best Experimental Film, "Mediawave" Festival, Gyor, Hungary (1994).

Special Prize, International Film Festival, Targu-Mures, Romania (1994).

Award for Best Documentary, Romanian Filmmakers' Guild (1993).

Prize for Best Video, The Romanian National Film Festival, Costinesti, Romania (1993).

Selected at VideoFest Berlin (1994), Clermont-Ferrand (1995), Stuttgarter Filmwinter '96.

Broadcasted by Kunskanaal / Holland; Duna TV / Hungary, TV Aben / Denmark; TVR 2 / Romania.

1993: "2 X 5"/ *Videoart*. In collaboration with Geta Bratescu. 4 min.

Selected at "Deutscher VideoKunstPreis" / Germany (1994), "VideoFormes '95"/ Clermont-Ferrand.

Broadcast by SudWestFunk/ Baden Baden; TV Aben/ Denmark. "Europa, Europa" Exhibition/ Bonn (1994)

1992: "EARTHCAKE"/ in collaboration with Geta Bratescu. 7 min. *Videoart*.

Selected at EuroMediaArt Osnabruck; Clermont-Ferrand; Film Forum Arsenal / Riga, Latvia (1993).

Broadcasted by TVR 1 / Romania.

Cinematography for Features on 35 mm film:

2004: "L'HOMME PRESSE" / director of photography. Directed by Sebastien Grall. For FR2 (France).

2004: "SWEET SAUNA OF DEATH" / director of photography. Directed by Andrei Blaier.

2003: "THE PHARAOH"/ director of photography, 80 min. Dir. by Sinisa Dragin.

Selected at Rotterdam, Alba, Sarajevo FF.

2003: "EXAM" / director of photography. Directed by Titus Muntean.

Selected at "Go East" Festival Wiesbaden, Germany.

2000: "GOD KISSES US ON THE MOUTH"/ director of photography, 90 min. Dir. by Sinisa Dragin.

Tiger Award at the Rotterdam Film Festival, Special Prize at the Cairo Film Festival, Camera Award at the Belgrade Film Festival.

1998: "FACE TO FACE"/ director of photography, 90 min. Dir. by Marius Barna.

Selected at the Montreal and Los Angeles International Film Festivals.

1995: "STATE OF THINGS"/ camera; 90 min. Directed by Stere Gulea.

1994: "THE STONE CROSS"/ co-director of photography; 90 min. Dir. by Andrei Blaier.

1993: "LOOK FORWARD IN ANGER"/ director of photography, 85 min. Dir. by N.

Margineanu.

Great Prize at the Pesaro Film Festival, Special Prize at Troia Film Festival, Portugal.

Award for Cinematography, International Camera Festival, Bitola, Macedonia.

1992: "THE CONJUGAL BED"/ camera; 90 min. Directed by Mircea Daneliuc.

Selected at the Cannes International Film Festival. Great Prize of the Romanian Filmmakers' Union.

Education, Residences:

2001: Discovery Campus Masterschool, Germany.

2000: Nipkow Programm residence, Berlin, Germany.

1996: Residence in Multimedia, University of California at San Diego, USA.

1986-1991: Studies at the Film and Theatre Academy, Camera Dept., Bucharest. Graduate.

Current Activities:

1996-2001: Assistant Professor at the Art Academy, Bucharest.

1993-present: Program Manager at Fundatia ARTE VI ZUALE (Visual Arts Foundation).

1997- 1999: Director and director of photography for TV shows at PRO TV, Bucharest.

1992-1995: Assistant Professor at the Film and Theatre Academy, Camera Dept., Bucharest.