



marilena from P7

a film by Cristian Nemescu

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synopsis:

Andrei, a 13 year old teenager, living on Bucharest outskirts, decides one day to steal a trolleybus in order to impress Marilena, a prostitute he fell in love with.

Things you do for love...

Andrei, un adolescent de 13 ans qui vit dans les environs de Bucarest, décide un jour de voler un trolleybus pour épater Marilena, une prostituée dont il est amoureux.

Des choses qu'on fait par amour...

director's statement:

MARILENA from P7 plunges into the universe of teenage emotions that we all remember. **MARILENA from P7** is a study on the – sometimes small, sometimes big – reasons that make us turn from children into teenagers. The story takes place on the “exotic” outskirts of Bucharest and the background is peopled with many authentically racy characters.

Besides telling the story, the film also makes a cross-section of the life in the suburbs of Bucharest at the beginning of the 21st century, with no intervention whatsoever on most of the locations and extras. The handheld camera shooting style offers the opportunity to capture details and genuine background elements that enforce the “documentary” atmosphere of the movie.

It's a film about feelings and not about the Romanian reality. What was important & innovative for me was to concentrate on the feelings of a teenager, his problems & his understanding of the world around him.

Avec **MARILENA du P7** on plonge dans l'univers des émotions d'adolescence dont nous nous souvenons tous assez bien. **MARILENA du P7** est un étude des raisons – soient elles majeures ou mineures – qui nous poussent à devenir des adolescents. L'histoire se passe dans les banlieues « exotiques » de Bucarest, avec, en arrière-plan, des nombreux personnages forts et authentiques.

Le film raconte une histoire mais, à part ça, offre une section de travers de la vie des quartiers bucarestois au début du 21-ième siècle, sans aucune intervention ni sur les paysage urbain ni sur le paysage humain. Le style de tournage, camera à la main, permet de capturer des détails et des éléments authentiques, qui accentuent l'atmosphère « documentaire » du film.

C'est un film sur des sentiments, non pas sur la réalité roumaine. Pour moi c'était important de se concentrer sur les émotions d'un adolescent, sur ses problèmes et la façon dont il comprend le monde autour de soi-même.

about the film :

Marilena from P7 makes the connection between **C Block story & Mihai & Cristina** - our student films - and **California Dreaming** - the feature length we have in production. Basically is the same theme: the miracle of falling in love.

Somehow I envy our movies. **C Block Story** – was traveling around the world in festivals while back then I didn't have a passport. Now **Marilena from P7** is doing the same while I'm in Toronto busy writing. The movies have all the fun, don't they?

tudor voican, scriptwriter

MARILENA du P7 fait le lien entre **Histoire du Bloc C, Mihai & Cristina** - nos films d'école – ainsi que **California Dreaming** - notre long métrage qui est maintenant en production. En fait, ils ont le même thème : le miracle de tomber amoureux.

Je suis jaloux de nos films. **Histoire du Bloc C** voyageait aux festivals du monde entier à un moment où je n'avais pas de passeport. Aujourd'hui, **MARILENA du P7** fait le même, pendant que je suis à Toronto, occupé à écrire. Les films prennent tous les avantages, n'est-ce pas?

tudor voican, scénariste

I've tried to get to understand Marilena and not to treat the character as just another stupid cheap hooker. She is a sensitive & strong young woman that lives in a world that doesn't allow her to show her feelings or her love. What is special about her is that, despite her life, she trusts people.

I felt that I have to bring Marilena on screen "naked" – without romanticism or false modesty.

madalina ghitecu, lead actress - marilena

J'ai essayé de comprendre Marilena et pas de la traiter comme une pute ordinaire et idiote. Elle est une femme forte et sensible, qui vit dans un monde qui ne lui permet pas de montrer ses sentiments ou son amour. En dépit de sa vie, elle a confiance dans les gens.

J'ai senti que je dois incarner Marilena à l'écran « toute nue » – sans romantisme ou fausse modestie.

madalina ghitecu, interprète de marilena

Marilena from P7 – my second film with Cristian - was a new challenge for me. We shot it basically on the whole range of Kodak film stock – everything that we could take for free or as cheap as possible. Also I had to find the most creative, no-money solutions for delicate shots, as we didn't have a budget for cranes, hot heads, innovation lenses or other sophisticated devices.

At the end of the day this makes the fun of the game...

liviu marghidan, director of photography

Marilena du P7 – mon deuxième film avec Cristian – a été une nouvelle provocation. Nous l'avons tourné sur toute la gamme des films Kodak, sur tous sortes de bouts qu'on a trouvé gratis ou pas cher du tout. Ensuite, j'ai dû inventer des solutions créatives pour ces tournages délicats, parce qu'il n'y avait pas l'argent pour une grue, un cap télécommandé, pour des objectifs innovés ou autres moyens sophistiqués.

Au bilan, ces difficultés font la joie du travail...

liviu marghidan, directeur de la photographie

For me, the magic of this story comes from its universality. It doesn't matter where and when it takes place. We all fell in love for a first time, we all suffered as teenagers and thought that life will stop because of this... and we all grew up.

I think it is important to recall those moments and to get to better understand our kids – when comes the time.

ada solomon, producer

Pour moi, la magie de cette histoire vient de son universalité. Peu importe où et quand cette histoire se passe. Nous sommes tous tombés amoureux pour une première fois, nous avons tous souffert et cru que la vie va s'arrêter à cause de ces chagrins d'adolescence... et nous avons tous grandi.

Je pense que c'est important de se souvenir de ces expériences pour mieux comprendre nos enfants – quand le moment viendra.

ada solomon, producteur

cast:

andrei / gabriel huian
marilena / madalina ghitescu
mihai / cristi olesher
cristi / george ciontolac
petre (sausage) / florin burcea
matei (big teeth) / gianluca parrila
elena / giulia parrila
pulifrici / alexandru trifu
giani / catalin paraschiv
the pimp / andi vasluianu
father / gabriel spahiu
mother / aura calarasu

ioana / andreea samson
prostitute #2 / laura voicu
prostitute #3 / ilinca hirnut
prostitute #4 / roxana mirica
prostitute #5 / tudorita popescu
prostitute #6 / catalina paunoiu
elvis / elvis romano
nea costel / costica draganescu
nea panduru / costica ghenescu
bartender / constantin dita
giani's girl friend / sabina branduse
night guardian / mircea cojan
singing girl / ana-maria damaschin

credits:

director/réalisateur	cristian nemescu
script/scénario	tudor voican & cristian nemescu
based on an idea by/ après un idée de	andreea valean & liviu marghidan
producer/producteur	ada solomon & cristian nemescu
cinematography/images	liviu marghidan
editing/montage	catalin f. cristutiu
sound design/son	andrei toncu
art & costumes	cristina mititelu

a n-film / hifilm / media pro pictures production

in colaboration with
scharf adv./inovativ media

director's bio-filmography:

Born on the 31st of March 1979, **Cristian Nemescu** graduated the Romanian National Film University in 2003.

Presently he is preparing his first feature film - **California Dreaming** - with the support of the National Film Center (CNC).

His short films, **Mihai & Cristina** and **C Block Story** have been screened in more than 50 international film festivals (like Clermont Ferrand, Tampere, Toronto, Karlovy Vary, Sao Paolo, Montreal, Montevideo), have received several awards like in the New York Film Festival, Sankt Petersburg Film Festival or the Milano Film Festival - Audience Award. **C Block Story** was nominated for "Best Short Film" at the European Film Academy's Awards, in 2004.

Né le 31 Mars 1979, Cristian Nemescu a fait ses études à l' Université Nationale de Cinéma de Bucarest.

A présent, il prépare son premier long-métrage - **California Dreaming** - avec l'aide du Centre National de la Cinématographie Roumain.

Ses courts-métrages **Mihai & Cristina** et **Histoire du Bloc C** ont été présentés à plus de 50 festivals internationaux (comme Clermont-Ferrand, Tampere, Toronto, Karlovy Vary, Sao Paolo, Montréal, Montevideo) et ont gagné des prix au New York Film Festival, Sankt Petersburg Film Festival, ou le Prix du Public au Festival de Milan. **Histoire du Bloc C** a été nominalisé Meilleur Court-métrage aux Prix de l' Académie Européenne du Film en 2004.

Filmography: "Flathouse People Are Dying for Music" - short film/16 mm
"Kitsch Witches.2 FM" - documentary, BETA
"Mecano" - short film/35mm
"Mihai and Cristina" - short film/35mm
"C" Block Story - short film/35mm

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madalina ghitescu/ lead actress-marilena, interprète de marilena

Born in 1978, Madalina has studied choreography in high school & acting in the National Film University of Bucharest. Since her graduation in 2003 she has played in more than 15 theatre plays, experimental shows, dance events & other happenings – all directed by the most interesting & innovative Romanian directors. Also she has main roles in over 10 short films & TV series as well as several music videos.

In this spirit of theatre-dance-film-experiment, Madalina participated in several art festivals as Contemporary Poetry Festival Bacau, International Theatre Festival Sibiu – Off section (experimental section), Int'l Festival of Electronic & Computer Music Acoustmania – Sincretic Art Dance, Books & Art Festival Bucharest or Underground Theatre Festival, as well as CINEMA Beloved Festival where she got in 2004 the Public Award for the film “Chocolate”.

Née en 1978, Madalina a suivi les cours de danse à l'Université Nationale de Cinéma de Bucarest. Depuis la fin de ses études en 2003, elle a joué dans plus de 15 pièces de théâtre, spectacles de danse et autres – dirigés par les réalisateurs les plus intéressants de la scène roumaine. Elle a aussi interprété des rôles principaux dans plus de 10 courts-métrages et séries télévision ainsi que plusieurs clips vidéo. Dans le même esprit du mélange expérimental théâtre – danse – film, Madalina a participé a des festivals comme celui de Poésie Contemporaine de Bacau, le Festival International de Théâtre de Sibiu, le Festival de Musique Electronique Acoustmania, ainsi que le Festival CINEMA MON AMOUR, ou elle a reçu en 2004 le Prix du Public pour le film « Chocolat ».

tudor voican/ scriptwriter, scénariste

Tudor Voican is 31 yrs old. He has studied scriptwriting in Bucharest at the National Film University and now is doing a Master in scriptwriting at the York University Canada. He has already written 15 short films & 2 feature length films and his films were selected in over 100 festivals – as Toronto, Palm Springs, Clermont-Ferrand, Karlovy Vary, Rotterdam - and won 35 awards (Great Prize – NYU' ISFF, 1st Prize – Cittadella del Corto Roma, Jury's Prize – Interfilm Berlin, Best short film – Montevideo, Public Award – Milano Film Fest).

Tudor Voican a 31 ans. Il a étudié l'écriture de scénarios à l'Université Nationale de Cinéma de Bucarest ; a présent, il suit un Master à York University of Canada. Il a déjà écrit 15 courts-métrages et 2 longs. Ses films ont été sélectionnés dans plus de 100 festivals – comme Toronto, Palm Springs, Clermont-Ferrand, Karlovy Vary, Rotterdam – et ont reçu 35 prix (Grand Prix – NYU' ISFF, 1^{er} Prix – Cittadella del Corto Roma, Prix du jury – Interfilm Berlin, Meilleur Court – Montevideo, Prix du Public – Milan).

liviu marghidan/ director of photography, images

Liviu Marghidan is born in 1971. He has studied film photography in Romanian National Film University, Geology in Bucharest University & also is licensed in Underwater Shooting. He is skilled in various extreme shootings – mountaineering, shooting on ice or while skiing, stunt action shooting. Liviu has shot 2 feature length films & 10 short films as well as over 150 music videos & commercials & several documentaries for television. His films were selected in several festivals around the world & were awarded at: NYU Int'l Student FF, Art Film Bratislava, Zagreb Film Festival. He also got the MTV Prize for Best Romanian Music Video in 2003 & 2004 as well as Best Ad Photography in Romanian AD Contest 2000.

Liviu Marghidan est né en 1971. Il a étudié camera à l'Université Nationale de Cinéma de Bucarest, ainsi que la Géologie à l'Université de Bucarest. Il est spécialisé aussi dans la photographie sous aquatique.

Liviu a accumulé de l'expérience pour filmer dans des conditions extrêmes très diverses – alpinisme, ski, tournage sur glace, cascades, etc. Il a déjà filmé 2 long-métrages et 10 court-métrages, ainsi que plus de 150 pièces musicales, de la pub et des documentaires pour la télévision.

producer bio-filmography:

hi film / ada solomon

HiFilm was born in 2004 out of the ambition of Romanian producer Ada Solomon to make the best use of her ten years of experience with co-productions & foreign projects in the local Romanian market together with the desire of director/dop Avi Karpick to share his 20 years of international experience in a highly developing market as the Romanian market.

The goal of HiFilm is to use the exploding opportunities of the Romanian market in order to bring the best quality for the most cost-effective solutions, lift the level of Romanian film making, achieve international recognition for “made in Romania” projects, be them co-production projects generated in Romania or production services projects.

selective credits:

- “**A Journey into Fear**” a Les Films d'Ici & ARTE project of the well known documentary director Judith Kele - executive production .
- “**Black Sea**” by Andrew Reuland – co-production, short fiction. The film was selected among the 8 most representative films of the year for Columbia University.
- “**Stranded with Cash Peters in Transylvania**” – production services for Travel Channel.
- “**Marilena from P7**” by Cristian Nemescu – co-production, medium-length feature. Selected in Cannes Film Festival – Semaine de la Critique.

work in progress:

-DOCUMENTARY

- “**Cold Waves**” by Alexandru Solomon .

“Cold Waves” tells the story of the strange alliance between a nationalist-communist dictatorship and international terrorism. It is a film about Ceausescu and the Carlos-Weinrich gang, that waged a war against the Romanian department of Radio Free Europe.

The project has Media II Film Fund support and is subject to a Nipkow grant, Romanian CNC support & Romanian National TV participation.

-SHORT FILM

- “**The Bulb with a Hat**” by Radu Jude – in post production, with support of Romanian CNC. A little story about the journey of a boy & his father from their village to the big City in order to get the boy's precious TV set fixed.

-FEATURE

- “**Life-Long Principles**” by Razvan Radulescu, Alex Baciu & Radu Jude – script in development. A minimalist slice-of-life story about a father who, little by little, in only one day, loses the respect and love of his teenager son.

- “**Baby Photo**” by Andrei Codrescu & Ted Thomas – in development. In this tragi-comic tale, an imaginative boy survives a surreal childhood in Communist Romania & escapes for America with the help of his extraordinary mother.

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