

Few Were Happy with their Condition: Film Festival

Documentaries, Saturday, January 16

Capitalism: Our Secret Recipe, 2010, Alexandru Solomon, 75min

Solomon invites Ceausescu to revisit Romania, 20 years after he was executed. The dictator haunts present-day capitalist society, emerged in the Wild East and often deeply rooted in its communist past. The film offers incredible access to top magnates – at home, in their offices and in their minds – building a bitter-sweet portrait of a new ruling class. Capitalism with a K – an Eastern European cocktail of power and money. This is now part of Greater Europe.

Discussion – The documentary in art and cinema, Irina Botea and Alex Baci, Moderated by Olga Stefan

The Visiting Room, 2011, Alex Baci and Radu Munteanu, 66min

Visiting Room follows the stories of some prisoners found in different penitentiaries across the country, who have found their life partner during their sentence time. The one is either a person from outside, or as them, a person who is serving time in prison. “Our intention was to talk to the people found in the special situation of being deprived of freedom, to whom love becomes a substitute for freedom and represents maybe their only hope for a better future.”

Shorts, Sunday, January 17

In the Name of Art

Art, Adrian Sitaru, 2014, 19'

After a casting session, two filmmakers found the perfect 14-year-old girl to star in their new movie. Now, they have to convince the reluctant mother to let her daughter play the role of a sexually abused child. What follows is a witty argumentation on proper parenting and on the abuses and sacrifices made in the name of great works of art.

Casting Call, Conrad Mericoffer, 2014, 14'

Victor Rebengiuc is just an ordinary actor from Bucharest. He is called to a casting call for an advertisement promoting a “miracle cream”. The short is a parody of the condition of the actor in today’s Romania.

The Finnish Cow, Gheorghe Preda, 2012, 20'

Inspired by Guillemo Vargas, an artist who exhibited in 2008 at Habakkuk Centroamericana Honduras Biennale a very original artwork (a dog that was left to die of hunger), *The Finnish cow* depicts the story of a farmer, Fane, who sells a breed cow to a contemporary art museum, unaware of the fact that exhibiting that animal in a museum will cause him to radically change his life.

Love Stories

Waiting for the Sunrise, Mihai Sofronea, 2011, 23'

A young couple, one evening. She reveals she loves another man and he tries to win her back.

Blue Spring, Andreea Bortun, 2015, 15'

A day in the life of a solitary woman in her thirties, as she has to part from her teenage lover.

There's Nothing in this World, 2015, Andreea Valean, 10'

Two friends reconnect after not seeing each other for a few years. A comedy about life's absurd turns.

Pavel, Alexandru Ranta, 2015, 14'

The beginning of an apparently ordinary day. Pavel deals with loneliness by creating a world of his own, bringing into the present, through gestures and conversations, persons that he once loved.

In the Pursuit of Happiness

A Trip to the City – Corneliu Porumboiu, 2003, 19'

A beautiful morning, the need of a little village for the internet and the toilet that the mayor's wife is crying for, bring together the computer-impassioned teacher and the mayor's driver for a little trip to the nearby city.

Oli's Wedding - Tudor Cristian Jiurgiu, 2009, 22'

Alone in his kitchen in Bucharest, Dorel prepares for what seems to be a party. Actually, it's his son's wedding which takes place in the USA. Dorel is going to watch the wedding through a webcam together with two of his son's friends.

The Pill of Happiness - Cecilia Felmeri, 2012, 12'

Revenge. Feels so good. Are you ready to pay the price for it?

Now and Then

The Legend of the Party Photographer – Cristian Mungiu, 2011, 18'

The editorial staff of an official national newspaper readjust a photograph to make Ceausescu taller than Giscard d'Estaing and put a hat on his head so he doesn't appear to be kowtowing to capitalism.

You Were Not There – Agatha Ioana Paltinel, 2015, 15'

Costache Ionescu receives an unexpected visit that brings him face to face with the past - a dark reflection that will shake his relationship with his son.

Cigarettes and Coffee - Cristi Puiu, 2004, 11'

The father, fired two years before retirement, wants to get rehired, requiring the support of his son. The action takes place in a restaurant in Bucharest.

