



POPPY FIELD

directed by **EUGEN JEBELEANU**



81 MINUTES	SHOT ON 16 MM	DCP	ASPECT RATIO	1:1.85
COLOUR	5.1, DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND	ROMANIA	2020	



A young gendarme from Bucharest keeping his sexuality a secret must intervene at a homophobic protest which takes place at a movie theatre.

Synopsis

Poppy Field follows the struggle of a young Romanian gendarme, Cristi, who tries to find the balance between two apparently opposing parts of his identity: that of a man working in a macho hierarchical environment and that of a closeted gay person who tries to keep his personal life a secret.



While his long-distance French boyfriend, Hadi, is visiting him, Cristi is called in for an intervention at a movie theatre, where an ultra-nationalist, homophobic group has interrupted the screening of a queer film. After one of the protesters threatens to out him, Cristi spirals out of control.





Cast

Cristi
Mircea
Hadi
Cătălina
Alex
Claudiu
Dan
Stroia

CONRAD MERICOFFER
ALEXANDRU POTOCEAN
RADOUAN LEFLAHI
CENDANA TRIFAN
IONUȚ NICULAE
ALEX CĂLIN
ROLANDO MATSANGOS
GEORGE PIȘTEREANU



Crew

director

EUGEN JEBELEANU

scriptwriter

IOANA MORARU

producer

VELVET MORARU

cinematography

MARIUS PANDURU

editing

CĂTĂLIN CRISTUȚIU

sound design

ALEX DRAGOMIR

production design

VELICA PANDURU

co-producers

RODRIGO RUIZ TARAZONA DIAZ

CORNELIA POPA

COSMIN FERICEAN

production company

ICON PRODUCTION

co-production companies

MOTION PICTURE MANAGEMENT

CUTARE FILM



- with the support of the Romanian Film Center
- co-financed by the European Union through the “Creative Europe - Media” programme, 2017
- pitched at connecting cottbus - Work in Progress 2019

Director's note

*Eugen
Jebeleanu*

“The wish to make this film came as a natural expansion of my artistic interests and needs. It emerged from the necessity to give voice to vulnerable individuals and put under scrutiny the way in which society tends to vilify the idea of being different. It is exactly for this reason that I wanted this film to draw its inspiration from contemporary Romania, namely from the 2013 Bucharest protest during which the screening of an LGBT film in a cinema theatre was interrupted by conservative groups.



This initial context created the premise to build a social fabric that anchors Cristi, a gay Romanian gendarme, in a complex domino effect related to his identity. Trying to adjust himself to the heteronormative exigencies of his surroundings, he embodies the conflict and the vulnerabilities of many LGBTQ+ people (from Romania or elsewhere). In other words, the social frame of the story triggers the inner conflict of the main character and forces him to confront himself in his attempt to regain his balance.”

Director's biography



Eugen Jebeleanu is a Romanian theatre and film director. For more than ten years, his projects, both in theatre and cinema, have been centred around political and social subjects and his artistic endeavour is focused on giving voice to anonymous

individuals, to those who don't adhere to the dominant culture and revolt against systems which censor freedom of expression.

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He has worked with prestigious theatres around the world, like the National Theatre in Stuttgart, where he directed **Katzelmacher**, by R.W. Fassbinder and **Roosevelt Square**, by Dea Loher; or the Opera de Lyon, where he is preparing a contemporary opera project, **I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky**, by John Adams.

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His creations have been programmed in theatre festivals in Romania, Poland, Denmark, Germany, Republic of Moldova and France. For example, **Ogres**, by Yann Verburgh, showcased in Avignon, is a project that has been touring all around France and received an award granted by the Fédération d'Associations de Théâtre Populaire (FATP) or **Itineraries. One Day the World Will Change**, written by Yann Verburgh, which was part of the Romania-France season in 2019. This is his first feature film.

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Cinematographer's biography

Marius Panduru (b. 1975) is one of the most accomplished Romanian directors of photography whose work helped establish Romanian films at the forefront of aesthetic innovation in contemporary arthouse cinema.



Since the emergence of the Romanian New Wave, he collaborated on more than 20 fiction feature films, most of them selected or awarded in A class international film festivals such as Cannes, Berlinale, Karlovy Vary, Locarno and others.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- “12:08 East of Bucharest” (2006), dir. Corneliu Porumboiu
- “Police, Adjective” (2009), dir. Corneliu Porumboiu
- “If I Want to Whistle, I Whistle” (2010), dir. Florin Șerban
- “Loverboy” (2011), dir. Cătălin Mitulescu
- “Aferim!” (2015), dir. Radu Jude
- “Scarred Hearts” (2016), dir. Radu Jude
- “Albüm” (2016), dir. Mehmet Can Mertoglu
- “I Do Not Care If We Go Down in History as Barbarians” (2018), dir. Radu Jude
- “Uppercase Print” (2020), dir. Radu Jude



Production company

ICON Production was founded in 1994 by Velvet Moraru as one of the first privately owned film production companies in Romania. To this day, the company has relied solely on the production of art-house films and creative documentaries, a fact also reflected by the company's film portfolio.



ICON Production has always searched beyond aesthetic fashions and did not shy away from difficult topics that confront the spectators with themes related to the still untangled social, political and economic legacy of the 20th century. From creative documentaries to short films and feature films, several works were selected in important film festivals: Andrei Ujică's **"Autobiography of Nicolae Ceaușescu"** had its international premiere in 2010 at Cannes Film Festival;

Andrei Gruzsniczki's **"Quod Erat Demonstrandum"** was selected in more than 15 film festivals and won the Special Jury Prize at Roma IFF in 2013; **"Charleston"** (director Andrei Crețulescu) was part of the Concorso internazionale section of the 2017 Locarno IFF, being nominated for a total of 13 Gopo Awards (the Romanian film industry awards), including a nomination for Best Film.

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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