

PITCH 2026

JURY



**GABRIELE
BRUNNEMEYER**



**CRĂIȚA
NANU**



**GIOVANNI
ROBBIANO**

Pitch agenda

DAY 1 – JUNE 4TH 2026

| | |
|------|--|
| 9:00 | Registration of Participants |
| 9:30 | Greetings – Ministry of Culture, CNC |
| 9:50 | Introduction – Ksenia Ciuvașeva, moderator |

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|--|-------------------|----------------|
| 10:00 | <i>IMPORT/EXPORT</i> | Max T. Ciorba | Realitatea |
| 10:10 | <i>The Market</i> | Veronica Verlan | 45xMedia |
| 10:20 | <i>Romaszka</i> | Michał Szcześniak | TROFILM GROUP |
| 10:30 | <i>The Stage</i> | Violeta Gorgos | OWH TV STUDIO |
| 10:40 | <i>Norma</i> | Victor Maxian | Floarea Vieții |
| 10:50 | <i>Cahul - Generator of National Stage Dance</i> | Dumitru Grosei | Symbol Media |
| 11:00 | <i>SUB-BALCANS</i> | Max T. Ciorba | Realitatea |

COFFEE BREAK: 11:10 - 11:30

Pitch agenda

FEATURE FILM PRODUCTION

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 11:30 | <i>Stefan</i> | Igor Vlas | VLAS FILM |
| 11:40 | <i>The Bite of Love</i> | Ana Kruglova | Hex88 Productions |
| 11:50 | <i>Badanta</i> | Ion Borș | 609 Film |
| 12:00 | <i>Robic</i> | Ruslan Moroșan | Kantora Film Production |

DEBUT

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|---|----------------|---------------------|
| 12:10 | <i>NACHALNIK KARLAULA: The Dictator</i> | Radu Șarbei | Zero Media Creative |
| 12:20 | <i>The Night of the Billy Goat</i> | Dumitru Grosei | Alternative Cinema |

POSTPRODUCTION

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 12:30 | <i>Forests without Wolves</i> | Ioane Bobeica | IMAGINAR PRODUCTION |
| 12:40 | <i>2438 KM</i> | Sergiu Prodan | Atelier Film și Publicitate |

COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING: 12:50 - 14:10

Pitch agenda

DEVELOPMENT

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 14:10 | <i>THE SHEELET</i> | Popescu Vitalie | Atribut Film |
| 14:20 | <i>The Road to the Faceless Kingdom</i> | Ana Kruglova | Hex88 Productions |
| 14:30 | <i>3 Daughters</i> | Ana Gherciu | Narrativa Studio |
| 14:40 | <i>Prut. Line of Rupture</i> | Pavel Sidorencu | PRODEZVOLT MEDIA |
| 14:50 | <i>In Dependence</i> | Luchianțeva Valentina | VALENTINA KLEMENTINA FILM |
| 15:00 | <i>Noel and Nadia</i> | Victor Pietraru | Venture Pictures |
| 15:10 | <i>Gagauz People</i> | Galina Vasilieva | Om Media Lab |
| 15:20 | <i>UHELESES</i> | Luchianțeva Valentina | VALENTINA KLEMENTINA FILM |

COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING: 15:30 - 15:50

Pitch agenda

DEVELOPMENT

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 15:50 | <i>Home</i> | Novicov Evgheni | Teatrul fără nume |
| 16:00 | <i>Sunrises of Adulthood</i> | Marina Şupac | Om Media Lab |
| 16:10 | <i>Eli's Choise</i> | Novicov Evgheni | Teatrul Fără Nume |

ANIMATION SHORT

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 16:20 | <i>Soul 404</i> | Igor Vlas | VLAS FILM |
| 16:30 | <i>The Girl From The Shadow</i> | Oleg Condrea | Black Mark Media |
| 16:40 | <i>Moldova-Termini</i> | Radu Popovici, Eugeniu Popovici | UNIVERS STUDIO |
| 16:50 | <i>Me Too</i> | Ana Colţuc | Black Mark Media |

Pitch agenda

DAY 2 – JUNE 5TH 2026

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 9:00-9:30 | Registration of Participants |
|-----------|------------------------------|

SERIES

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9:40 | <i>Edited Life</i> | Violeta Gorgos | OWH TV STUDIO |
| 9:50 | <i>New Village</i> | Ruslan Gilka/Igor Vlas | Bright Communications |

MINORITY COPRODUCTIONS

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 10:00 | <i>Seven Roads</i> | Mihail Borodin | Studio Metrafilms |
| 10:10 | <i>Outside the Square</i> | Pavel Cuzuioac | Hai cu DOC |
| 10:20 | <i>A Long Awaited Vacation</i> | Bogdan Theodor Olteanu | AMPRENTA FILMS |
| 10:30 | <i>Occupation: Witch</i> | Jamie Teehan | Studio Metrafilms |
| 10:40 | <i>At King's Gate</i> | Eugen Dediu și Ilinca Straton | Alternative Cinema |
| 10:50 | <i>Karakoyun</i> | Melik Saraçoğlu | AMPRENTA FILMS |

COFFEE BREAK: 11:00 - 11:20

Pitch agenda

MINORITY COPRODUCTIONS

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 11:20 | <i>Life of Simon Jashi</i> | Dmitryi Mamulya | Alternative Cinema |
| 11:30 | <i>Village for Sale</i> | Iurie Tocmaș | Laur Cinema |
| 11:40 | <i>Nava Mamă</i> | Ana Vîjdea | Niște Filme |
| 11:50 | <i>Magnum Opus</i> | Bogdan Mirică | 609 FILM |
| 12:00 | <i>Mythos</i> | Ondřej Vavrečka | Laur Cinema |
| 12:10 | <i>Die, Please</i> | Ioana Mischie | Symbol Media |
| 12:20 | <i>The Hat</i> | Diana Gavra | BARPROD-CONS |
| 12:30 | <i>The Book of Hunger</i> | Dragoș Turea | PARMIS INT |

COFFEE BREAK: 12:40 - 14:00

Pitch agenda

SHORT FICTION

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 14:00 | <i>Shopping List</i> | Dora Mîndrescu | Legende Urbane |
| 14:10 | <i>Of People and Lice</i> | Victor Maxian | Floarea Vieții |
| 14:20 | <i>Haimana</i> | Lucia Lupu | Volt Cinematography |
| 14:30 | <i>MY is better</i> | Grigore Beghet | Urma TA |
| 14:40 | <i>The Belot Crew</i> | Pavel Bas | Mioritza Studio |
| 14:50 | <i>From the Cold Riverbank</i> | David Pozdîrcă | Legende Urbane |
| 15:00 | <i>Taste of Cherries</i> | Vlad Bolgarin | Volt Cinematography |
| 15:10 | <i>Apartment no 26</i> | Oleg Creangă | Alba Film |

COFFEE BREAK: 15:20 - 15:40

Pitch agenda

SHORT FICTION

| TIME | PROJECT TITLE | DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION |
|-------|--|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 15:40 | <i>Locked Stage</i> | Igor Vlas | Bright Communications |
| 15:50 | <i>The Visit</i> | Veaceslav Cebotari | BARPROD-CONS |
| 16:00 | <i>Toward the Fears that Await You</i> | Livia Maria Sîrbu | Carpat Screen |
| 16:10 | <i>My Loser Brother</i> | Cătălină Pistol | GRAIN FILM |
| 16:20 | <i>Under My Skin</i> | Eugen Marian | Symbol Media |
| 16:30 | <i>Dad for a Day</i> | Miron Daniela | CIREȘICA MIRON |
| 16:40 | <i>Shadow Behind</i> | Eugen Marian | Symbol Media |
| 16:50 | <i>We Can't Break Up</i> | Jasmin Delev | BRICABRAC |

Feature Documentary



Production Company



Short bio

Max T. Ciorbă is a documentary filmmaker from Moldova, whose work explores identity, collective memory, and social transformation. He teaches Documentary Directing at the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts in Chişinău.

Bogdan Coşa is a Romanian novelist, winner of the Cartea

Realitatea Film is a production company that develops and produces film content with a focus on local stories, emotional impact, and connecting Moldova's audiovisual industry to the international market.

Director

Max T. Ciorba

Project title

IMPORT/EXPORT

Synopsis

After his father's death following a misdiagnosis, director Max T. Ciorbă begins following Comedy Zebra Show, a troupe of doctors and former doctors from Moldova who perform stand-up comedy as a survival mechanism. At the center of the story is Ion Căvârjăc, an anesthesiologist, teacher, and comedian, a man living simultaneously in multiple worlds without fully belonging to any of them.

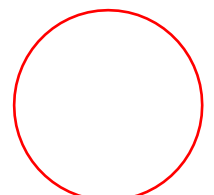
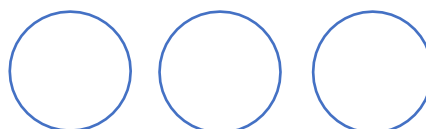
During production, Max becomes a patient himself, diagnosed with ulcerative colitis. This turn is not incidental: the director who observes the system comes to depend on it. Seeking a second opinion, Max travels to Bucharest, where he reconnects with Dumitru, a former Zebra member now working as a plastic surgeon who chose to stay in Romania. Through him, the film examines what the "export" of doctors really means: not just an economic phenomenon, but an emotional and identity one.

Comedy Zebra Show serves as both a narrative thread and a metaphor. The jokes told on stage, backstage, or in hospital corridors are acts of survival, not decoration. Humor is the medicine the system does not reimburse.

The film offers no solutions. It asks one simple, serious question: what happens to a country that can no longer take care of its doctors or its patients?

Jury name:

Jury score:



Feature Documentary



Production Company



Short bio

Veronica Verlan is the director, producer, and co-founder of 45xMedia (est. 2012). With 14 years of commercial and travel filmmaking experience, she combines rigorous production management with a human-centric creative vision. Company milestones include representing Red Bull Media House (2013–14), producing the 12-episode documentary series *Ultima Frontieră* (2020), and delivering Moldova's largest tourism media project for ANTRIM. In 2025 the company was selected through FEPIC to represent Moldova at the Cannes Lions RoCreativity stand.

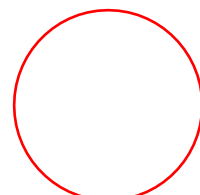
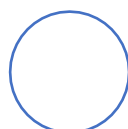
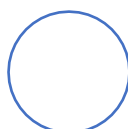
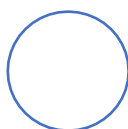
Director Veronica Verlan Project title The Market

Synopsis

The market is one of the few places where life cannot be directed. Here, the community gathers and a country's reality becomes visible in its most authentic form. The film follows a professional crew traveling through Moldova's regional markets, encountering characters like a woman selling cheese by her grandmother's recipe or a vendor who knows every local rumor. Using gossip as an anthropological tool, *The Market* maps a true mirror of society. Conversations starting over tomato prices organically escalate into raw discussions about the country's deepest anxieties, showcasing how lighthearted chatter slips into heavy realities: weaponized disinformation, fake news, domestic violence, and emigration. Simultaneously, the film exposes its own making, capturing the fascinating collision between urban media creators and provincial vendors. By highlighting the crew's awkward, unscripted mistakes, the film breaks down barriers and builds ultimate trust. Moldova's multi-ethnic diversity becomes audible as Romanian, Russian, Gagauz, Bulgarian, and Ukrainian voices mingle. Ultimately, the film reveals that beneath superficial cultural and linguistic divides, people share the exact same humor, fears, and love for local wine. Moving past regional tragedies, *The Market* delivers a profound realization: before any national identity, we must first identify as human beings.

Jury name:

Jury score:



Feature Documentary



Production Company

TroFilm
group

CASA DE PRODUCȚIE

Short bio

Michał Szcześniak is a Polish director and screenwriter, graduate of the Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing, documentary film faculty. His film Starting Point (2014) was shortlisted for the Academy Awards and selected in competition at Sundance, DOK Leipzig, and IDFA Amsterdam. It received Grand Prix at Sheffield International Documentary Festival and Camerimage IFF. His subsequent projects have been recognised with awards for direction and screenwriting at national and international festivals.

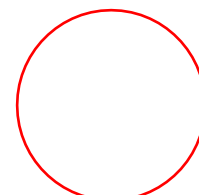
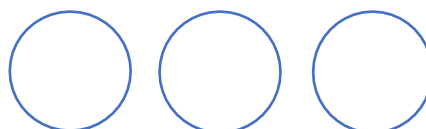
Director
Michal Szczeniak
Project title
Romaszka

Synopsis

Romashka is one of Chișinău's most recognisable buildings: a circular bloc constructed during the Soviet era as a symbol of collective life and a shared future. Today it remains a space of contrasts - worn down, full of tension, yet still inhabited by people who, without having chosen one another, share the same world. The film follows life inside this building, where curved corridors, the lift, and the staircase repeat the same circular path, as though no one can truly escape the pull of the place. Romashka becomes the film's central character: a living organism that gathers stories, rumours, frustrations, hopes, and unexpected forms of human closeness. Among the residents, several lives take shape: a young woman dreaming of leaving to start over elsewhere, a mother caught in the daily routine of survival, an older man left alone after his children emigrated, and other figures around whom fear, suspicion, and urban legends accumulate. Reality and rumour blur together, and intimacy is always fragile, because in Romashka everything is heard and nothing stays fully hidden. As the film progresses, the portrait of the residents becomes a portrait of the building itself and, more broadly, of a city and a society marked by transition, memory, and uncertainty. Romashka becomes a metaphor for contemporary Moldova: a space where the past has not disappeared, and where people continue searching for belonging and stability in a reality caught between leaving and staying.

Jury name:

Jury score:



Feature Documentary



Director
Violeta Gorgos
Project title
The Stage

Production Company



Short bio

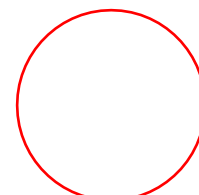
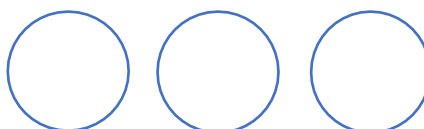
With over 26 years of experience, OWH Studio is the longest-running independent production company in the country. Its activity includes four major areas: creation, production, distribution, and training. Its filmography features over 50 documentary and fiction titles, alongside TV shows, cultural, social and educational projects. Since 2001, it has organized Moldova's first international film festival, IDFF CRONOGRAPF. Violeta Gorgos has over 30 years of experience in cinematography and a background in musicology, literature and film directing. She creates internationally awarded documentaries and experimental musical films focused on narrative and artistic exploration. She currently works as Artistic Director at TVR Iași.

Synopsis

The Stage is a documentary about the beginning and development of the National Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Chișinău: a story of how a cultural institution becomes an expression of collective identity. The film explores how memory, people, and tradition keep alive a stage that crosses eras, regimes, and social transformations. The narrative begins in the present of the theatre: intense rehearsals, the emotion of young artists, and the vibrant backstage world of performances. From this living present, the film descends into memory, tracing lyrical beginnings in the 19th century and the path that led to the official founding of the institution in 1956–1957. Key historical milestones — the premiere of the opera “Grozovanul” (June 9, 1956), the official act of establishment (July 5, 1957), the artistic flourishing of the 1970s–1980s, and the international opening through the “Invită Maria Bieșu” Festival — are integrated through archival footage and testimonies of those who lived these moments. By combining archival material, interviews, and symbolic interventions, the film creates a dialogue between past and present. The Stage is not only the history of an institution, but also a reflection on how culture is built and transmitted, on the fragility and resilience

Jury name:

Jury score:



Feature Documentary



Production Company

FLOAREA VIETII



Short bio

Victor Maxian was born in 1993 in the Republic of Moldova. In 2016 he graduated from the Academy of Arts where he studied film editing. He worked for 5 years as a video reporter at Radio Free Europe Chisinau. In 2026 he debuted with the feature-length documentary Floarea Vieții, a film appreciated in the country and abroad. „Floarea Vietii” Production House was founded in 2026 and this are its first projects in production.

Director

Norma

Project title

Victor Maxian

Synopsis

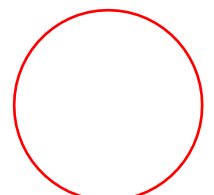
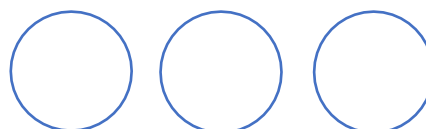
In the Republic of Moldova, wine is more than a drink — it is part of the national identity. “NORMA” explores the complex relationship between wine culture and excessive alcohol consumption through a cinematic journey across traditions, celebrations, tragedies, and hopes for recovery. The film begins in the underground labyrinths of Mileștii Mici, a symbol of the pride of a country famous for its wines, and follows the path of wine from vineyards and large wineries to festive gatherings where alcohol is present at weddings, baptisms, birthdays, and funerals.

As the celebrations intensify, the documentary gradually reveals the darker side of excessive drinking: road accidents, domestic violence, police interventions, and testimonies from people whose lives were destroyed by alcohol. Interviews with victims, addicts, doctors, and specialists highlight the impact of alcohol on the body, family, and society.

In contrast to these dramatic stories, “NORMA” also follows the rehabilitation journeys of former addicts who became mentors, proving that change is possible. Without condemning wine culture, the film asks an essential question: where is the line between tradition and excess?

Jury name:

Jury score:





Production Company

Symbol
M E D I A

Short bio

Symbol Media stands out through its films and co-productions, with over 100 selections at international festivals.

Dumitru Grosei has been active in the film industry for over 20 years. He has directed 7 documentaries and 13 fiction short films, with many selections and awards at major international film festivals. Currently, he is the founder and administrator of the ALTERNATIVE CINEMA Association and the manager of the annual cinema event Romanian Film Days in Chisinau.

Director

Dumitru Grosei

Project title

Cahul - Generator of National Stage Dance

Synopsis

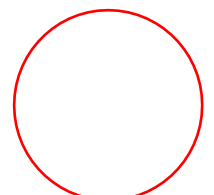
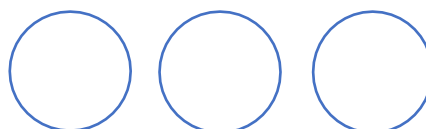
In a village in southern Moldova, where tradition still breathes through the steps of folk dance, the story of one man continues to unite generations. “Cahul – Generator of National Stage Dance” is a documentary about memory, identity, and living heritage, built around the personality of Ion Furnică — the dancer who brought the spirit of the village of Manta to major stages around the world.

Through archival footage, testimonies, and the energy of younger generations, the film follows how a dance style born from local roots becomes part of the national cultural heritage. At the same time, young people from Manta rediscover dance not only as an art form, but also as a sense of belonging, in an authentic process of reconnecting with their origins.

It is a story about how tradition never truly disappears — it transforms, is passed on, and is reborn through people, becoming a bridge between past and future.

Jury name:

Jury score:



Feature Documentary



Production Company

REALITATEA



Short bio

Max T. Ciorbă is a documentary filmmaker from Moldova, whose work explores identity, collective memory, and social transformation. He teaches Documentary Directing at the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts in Chişinău.

Bogdan Coşa is a Romanian novelist, winner of the Cartea

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Director

Max T. Ciorba

Project title

Sub Balcans

Synopsis

Bean MC, artist hip-hop și fondator al colectivului Subcarpați, simte că noul album la care lucrează îi cere mai mult decât poate găsi în studioul din București. Împachetează echipamentul și pornește în Balcani.

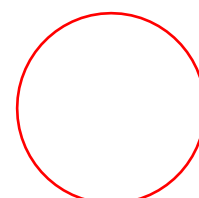
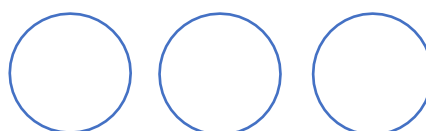
Călătoria îl duce mai întâi în Maramureș, unde un dialog muzical cu Ioan Pop Iza și Grupul Iza se naște firesc pe prispa unei case. Trece apoi în Bulgaria, unde se alătură corului Voix Bulgares pentru o înregistrare în Peștera Prohodna. Acustica amplifică diafonia până la ceva greu de încadrat. În aceeași noapte, urmărește în tăcere cum tineri desculți calcă pe tăciuni încinși în ritualul Nestinarstvo.

În Creta, alături de muzicianul Giannis Haroulis, Bean MC explorează Heraklionul, cântă la lyra cretană și construiește unul de la zero cu propriile mâini. În Albania, ultimul capitol, căutarea devine mai precisă: "Nu caut un instrument. Caut un om, o voce." Îl găsește pe Nazif Cela, maestru al isopolifoniei albaneze, tradiție recunoscută UNESCO. La Festivalul Național de Folclor din Gjirokașter, un ansamblu vocal uriaș umple cetatea.

Filmul se încheie cu un concert în care Bean MC cântă alături de toți cei întâlniți pe drum. Ceea ce căuta nu era inspirație, ci memoria vie a unui continent care respiră prin muzica lui.

Jury name:

Jury score:



FEATURE FILM PRODUCTION



Production Company



Short bio

Igor Vlas is a film director from the Republic of Moldova and founder of Vlas Film SRL, a production company active in film and commercial video. His short film “A Flame of Memories” won first place at the International Project Spark 2023 competition, while Vlas Film was officially selected for NASA CineSpace. The company creates television productions, musicvideos, author projects, and branded content for national and international partners. Based in Moldova, Vlas Film develops film, video, and television projects, combining production, post-production, and creative services in an independent studio model focused on contemporary audiovisual storytelling and cinematic visual impact.

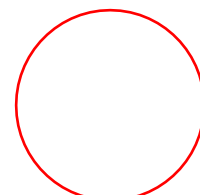
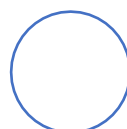
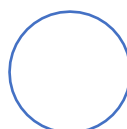
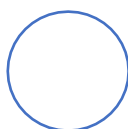
Director
Igor Vlas
Project title
Stefan

Synopsis

Moldova, 2026. Maia, a 16-year-old girl, tries to help her mother win a local mayoral election in a small town, where her opponent is a corrupt politician anchored in the system. Desperate for a miracle, Maia opens an old book of spells inherited from her grandfather and reads an incantation during an online livestream. The ritual works: during a storm, Stephen the Great is torn from 1476 and brought into the present. The ruler appears near Ștefan Vodă, confused and convinced he has reached hell. Marius, a young delivery driver obsessed with livestreaming and old BMW cars, films everything, while Maia realizes she has unleashed an event she can no longer control. Together, the two teenagers must hide Stephen from the police and the mayor’s men, explain a modern world he cannot recognize, and find a way to send him back before it is too late. In Victor Veleanu, Stephen sees the same type of traitor from his past, only dressed in modern clothes. Their confrontation becomes inevitable, leading to a televised debate where Stephen’s speech cuts through propaganda and forces the community to make a moral choice. After this victory, he must return, while Maia and Marius change forever.

Jury name:

Jury score:



FEATURE FILM PRODUCTION



Director
Anja Kreis
Project title
The Bite of Love

Production Company

HEX 88 Productions

Hex88

Short bio

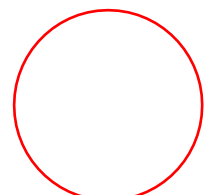
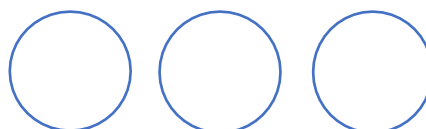
ANIA KREIS is a filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer with extensive experience in European cinema. She is the founder of Hex 88 Productions and a co-founder of FORTIS FEM FILM, an award-winning German production company whose films have screened at major international festivals, including the Berlin International Film Festival, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, and Transilvania International Film Festival. Her feature films were presented at festivals worldwide. Ania is also active in film education in Moldova, giving masterclasses.

Synopsis

Psychotherapist Andreea, 42, is writing a book about emotional dependency and toxic relationships, yet she cannot find clarity in her own life. Her cousin Nika, her patients, her blind neighbor Irina, and the people surrounding her each reflect, in different ways, the dynamics of false love, desire, and dependency. As Andreea listens, observes, and collects these stories for her book, she gradually loses control over her own emotions. Her growing attraction to her patient Victor ends in failure, leaving Andreea alone — trapped between observation and involvement, helplessness and a compassion that no longer seems to have meaning.

Jury name:

Jury score:



FEATURE FILM PRODUCTION



Production Company



Short bio

Ruslan Moroșanu is a film director and media producer with extensive experience in the media industry in Moldova and Germany. After a period of work in Germany, Ruslan returned to the Republic of Moldova, making his debut as co-director of the film HOTARUL alongside Ion Borș. This creative tandem is now developing ROBIC — their next comedy project, which has the potential to surpass the performance of any Moldovan film conceived as a local product. Kantora Film Production is the production company behind ambitious cinematic projects, involved in international co-productions between Moldova, the USA and Romania, with a mission to bring authentic stories with global resonance to the screen.

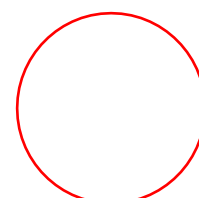
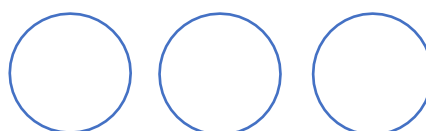
Director
Ion Borș
Project title
Robic

Synopsis

At a state-owned winery in Moldova on the brink of bankruptcy, a Japanese delegation arrives with an advanced humanoid robot, intended to diagnose the factory's problems — but no one expected the robot to be quite so honest. It scans everything, reports everything, and quickly becomes a nuisance to workers accustomed to their small arrangements. Igor, an engineer with big dreams and a homemade wine-tester instead of a career, and Colea, a driver with plans for America and debts to smugglers, take the robot under their wing after an accident that wipes its memory. They name him Robic, repair him with parts from Igor's own inventions and gradually transform him from an audit instrument into an accomplice. Their plan is to forge bottles from Putin's collection to cover a debt that grows by the day — and Robic turns out to be an exceptional forger. But Robic learns fast. Influenced by Baba Anica, the cleaning woman who sweeps the yard and speaks plain truths, and by Doina, Igor's little daughter who has come from Italy, the robot begins to ask uncomfortable questions about happiness, family and what it means to do good. And in the factory's collapsed galleries, he discovers something no one had been looking for: lithium deposits. When the truth surfaces, the deputy who had been plotting the factory's bankruptcy and privatization is exposed by his own recordings. The factory gets a new chance, and Robic stays — not as an audit machine, but as something harder to define. A comedy about people surviving as best they can, in a world that often gives them no choice.

Jury name:

Jury score:



FEATURE FILM PRODUCTION



Director
Ion Borș
Project title
Badanta

Production Company

609 FILM

Short bio

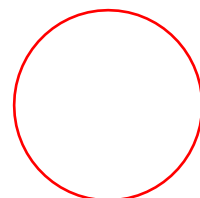
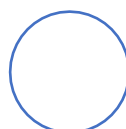
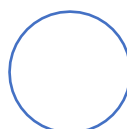
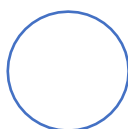
Ion Borș is a Moldovan film director and producer known for addressing social and political themes in contemporary Moldova. He made his feature debut with Carbon - one of the most successful Moldovan film, selected at San Sebastián. Recently, he directed Hotarul, a comedy released in cinemas, continuing his exploration of local stories through humor and realism. He continues to focus on accessible storytelling rooted in local realities and international festival potential cinema circuits. 609 FILM is a Moldovan company founded in 2025 by Sergiu Cumatrenco Jr. and Ion Borș, developing commercial films and supporting local industry through production, distribution, TIFF Chișinău collaborations

Synopsis

Valea leaves for Italy to work as a caregiver in order to save her family's financial situation, leaving Valera behind at home, where he tries all sorts of get-rich-quick schemes. While Valera makes things worse and worse, Valea discovers that the disabled elderly man she is caring for is not a simple pensioner, but an eccentric millionaire hiding a secret coveted by the Italian mafia as well. Soon, the two find themselves caught up in an adventure full of absurd situations between Moldova and Italy.

Jury name:

Jury score:



DEBUT



Production Company

zeromedia
CREATIVE

Short bio

Radu Șarbei – Director and Producer. With over 6 years of experience in television (JurnalTV), he has produced numerous entertainment shows from the ground up, as well as video clips and commercials. This project marks his feature film directorial debut.

ZERO MEDIA CREATIVE – A production house specializing in audiovisual content, including commercials, promos, and TV shows, managed by Radu Șarbei and Cătălin Lungu

Director

Radu Șarbei

Project title

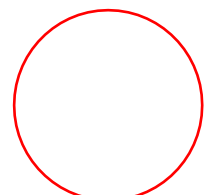
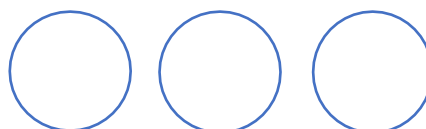
Nachalnik Karaula: The Dictator

Synopsis

In a remote Moldovan village named Salamura, Nachalnik Karaula—an authoritarian, old-school security guard—becomes an accidental internet sensation after a hilarious, aggressive altercation with a local activist is caught on camera. While many view him as a madman, villagers hail him as the "iron leader" the country desperately needs. Capitalizing on the hype, Nachalnik and his assistant, Vitalic, stage a heroic intervention, catching a criminal with a bag of "black money" meant for political bribes. The viral stunt secures Nachalnik a landslide victory in the local mayoral elections. Once in office, Nachalnik establishes a comical yet dangerous village dictatorship. He enforces absurd rules: cutting the village electricity at 7:00 PM, rejecting European development funds, and closing the local school to send children to work the fields — all while using municipal funds to renovate his own house. When Nachalnik goes too far, the central government takes action. During a tense nighttime standoff, the Prime Minister and masked special forces surround the Town Hall. Refusing to surrender, Nachalnik is eventually arrested by masked officers and sent to prison, order being restored in Salamura.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Production Company



Short bio

Dumitru Grosei has worked in the film industry for over 20 years. He directed 4 documentary shorts, 3 feature documentaries, and 13 short fiction films, screened and awarded at festivals including Premiere Plans, Tallinn Black Nights, and Drama Film Festival. He is the founder and manager of ALTERNATIVE CINEMA, a production company organizing film labs, workshops, and events such as the LitFilm Screenwriting Lab and Romanian Film Days in Chişinău. He has produced or co-produced 8 fiction short films and 4 documentaries and is currently developing an international co-production feature film with ROVA FILM that is in post-production.

Director

Dumitru Grosei

Project title

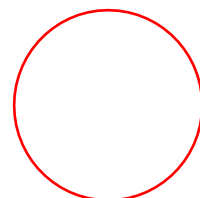
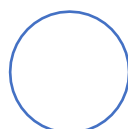
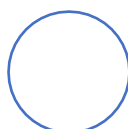
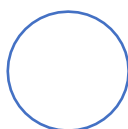
The Night of Billy Goat

Synopsis

Irina and Laurențiu appear to be the perfect couple: wealthy, professionally accomplished, yet deeply unhappy after more than 15 years of childless marriage. When Laurențiu decides to leave her for a younger woman, Irina, a biochemist specializing in toxicology, decides to poison him. That same evening, her sister Valentina and niece Veronica unexpectedly arrive at their cold and luxurious apartment, where an ordinary dinner turns into a nightmare. Convinced that everyone has been accidentally poisoned, Irina locks them inside the apartment, throws the key off the balcony, and forces them to confront their resentments, frustrations, and hidden secrets. As alcohol and panic intensify the tensions, the mysterious appearance of a black goat — a symbol of death and fate — transforms the night into a hallucinatory and violent experience, during which Laurențiu brutally strikes his wife. When they discover that the poison was never actually used, the characters suddenly shift from despair to reconciliation and tenderness. But Laurențiu's attempt to save his injured wife ends tragically. In contrast to the adults consumed by failure and regret, young Veronica remains the only character who still holds hope for a different future.

Jury name:

Jury score:



POSTPRODUCTION



Director
Ioane Bobeica
Project title
Forests without Wolves

Production Company
Imaginar Production

Short bio

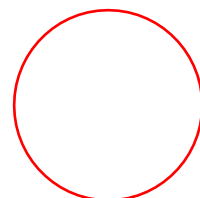
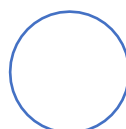
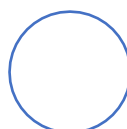
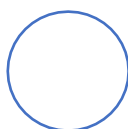
Ioane Bobeica is a director, screenwriter, and, more recently, a producer. In 2023, he made his debut with his first feature-length fiction film—*Tunete*—which was well-received in the Republic of Moldova and was selected for the Goa Film Festival. Imaginar Production SRL is a production company founded in 2025 by Ioane Bobeica specifically to produce the film “Forests Without Wolves,” and in the 2025 CNC Moldova competition, it emerged as one of the frontrunners, securing 2,600,000 lei in funding for the film’s production.

Synopsis

After a stray wolf settles in a ghost town, old man Luchean, the last remaining resident, finds himself in a territorial standoff with the wolf. But when the beast becomes a suspect in the murder of a child from the neighboring village, the old man realizes that the wolf’s appearance actually hides a crime and—as a defender of the beast—begins an independent investigation, which, however, surprisingly leads him down a long-forgotten path from his childhood.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Production Company

ATELIER

film și publicitate

Short bio

The film is directed, written, and produced by Sergiu Prodan, author of several film and audiovisual projects produced in the Republic of Moldova and Romania. His work includes feature films, documentaries, and television productions presented at international festivals and programs. The film is produced by Atelier Film și Publicitate SRL, a company specializing in film, television, and advertising production, involved in the development and realization of national and international film and media projects.

Director
Sergiu Prodan
Project title
2438 KM

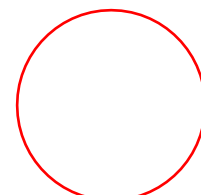
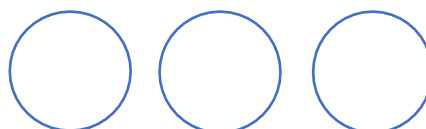
Synopsis

In a village in the Republic of Moldova, three schoolteachers — Tamara Ivanovna, Nina Petrovna, and Miss Vera — are preparing to leave for Italy. Through intermediaries, they have arranged illegal transportation and are supposed to be taken clandestinely to their destination. Carrying their luggage, they arrive at a deserted train stop where they wait for the truck that will pick them up.

The truck sets off. Inside, the space is narrow and dark. The three women try to settle in, arrange their belongings, and talk among themselves. During the journey, Nina hands the driver the money they have collected for the trip. Hours pass, then days. The women only occasionally glimpse the outside world. At one point, during a stop, they notice the lights of a distant city. The drivers tell them it is Vienna. Convinced they are already abroad, they believe they are getting closer to their destination. After a long drive, the truck stops in a forested area. The driver tells them they are close to Rome and points out the direction they must continue on foot. He shows them a road sign and then leaves. The three women continue on foot. Crossing the area, they observe the landscape and keep walking, convinced they are in Italy. Reaching the agreed meeting place, they notice a man who seems to be waiting for them. They call out to him and try to speak in Italian. The man answers in Romanian. The women realize they have been driven around without ever crossing a border. The money they paid is gone. After the initial shock, they begin walking home, understanding what they have to do next.

Jury name:

Jury score:



DEVELOPEMENT



Director
Vitalie Popescu
Project title
The Sheeplet

Production Company



Short bio

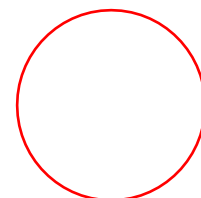
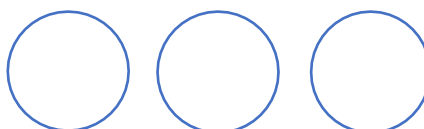
Vitalie Popescu is a screenwriter, director, and TV producer, and a graduate of the Academy of Arts, specializing in Film and TV Production. After years of independently writing screenplays, he began his academic journey at the age of 35. His graduation film became his feature-length debut, giving him hands-on experience in all aspects of directing and production. He is currently developing the film's distribution and marketing strategy. In 2023, he founded Atribut Film, whose first project was the independent feature film *Nu-i rău* (Not Bad), produced entirely with its own resources. The company is currently developing new independent film projects, including the feature film *Miorița*.

Synopsis

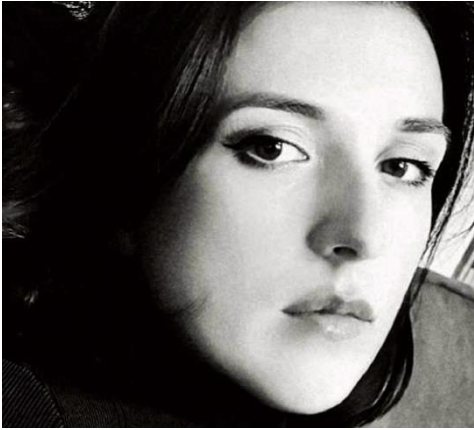
“Miorița” tells the story of Gheorghe, a young man torn between family responsibility and the desire to find his own path, and Anastasia, a pregnant actress whose relationship is falling apart. They meet by chance at a moment of existential crossroads, when each is forced to reassess their life and choices. Gheorghe lives in a rural village, bound to his family and farm work, yet troubled by doubts about his future. Anastasia, coming from an urban background, is going through a personal and professional crisis that makes her question everything she has built. Their encounter becomes a space of rare honesty, where they confront their fears, loneliness, and hidden desires. Over the course of an emotional journey, their connection deepens, offering both of them a new perspective on their lives. In the process, each is pushed toward a defining decision. In the end, Anastasia chooses to move forward into a new life, while Gheorghe decides to stay with his family, embracing his roots. “Miorița” becomes a reflection on uncertainty, connection, and the courage to follow one’s own path.

Jury name:

Jury score:



DEVELOPEMENT



Director

Anja Kreis

Project title

The Road to the Faceless
Kingdom

Production Company

HEX 88 PRODUCTIONS

Hex88

Short bio

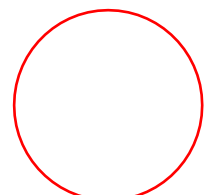
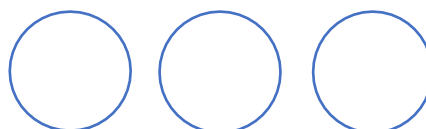
ANIA KREIS is a filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer with extensive experience in European cinema. She is the founder of Hex 88 Productions and a co-founder of FORTIS FEM FILM, an award-winning German production company whose films have screened at major international festivals, including the Berlin International Film Festival, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, and Transilvania International Film Festival. Her feature films was presented at festivals worldwide. Ania is also active in film education in Moldova, giving masterclasses.

Synopsis

During a violent storm, a faceless princess is born, and her father, the King, swears to find the most beautiful face in the world for her. In present-day Chişinău, Petru, a sensitive boy fascinated by dance, meets Petra, a strange one-eyed girl. She tells him about the Faceless Queen and a magical kingdom where identity can be altered. When Petru discovers he is a child without a navel, the two embark on a surreal journey through absurd worlds populated by witches and bizarre rulers. As their bodies and identities begin to transform, they risk losing both memory and humanity. Only by destroying the Queen's mirror can they break the cycle of transformation.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director
Ana Gherciu
Project title
3 Daughters

Production Company
NARRATIVA STUDIO

Short bio

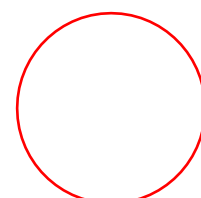
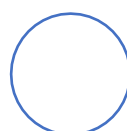
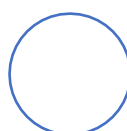
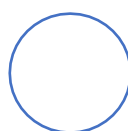
Ana Gherciu is a journalist and media manager from the Republic of Moldova, with nearly 14 years of experience in storytelling and human rights-oriented journalism. She is the founder of Narrativa Studio and former executive director of Moldova.org, the only openly feminist newsroom in Moldova. 3 DAUGHTERS is her first independent feature documentary, developed within the ESoDoc and CHANGE (EAVE / CPH:DOX) programs.

Synopsis

3 Daughters follows three women from the same family in the Republic of Moldova (grandmother, mother, and daughter) and the way ideas about womanhood are passed down through generations. Anghelina (55), a schoolteacher, lives between duty, faith, and unspoken desires. Raised by her mother, Iulia (85), she learned that a woman must be devoted to family and sacrifice. Married to an unpredictable man, she avoids conflict to preserve peace within the family. Her daughter, Sanda (25), a violinist, is trying to build an independent life. Although seemingly freer, she remains deeply connected to the values she grew up with and to her relationship with her mother. After the death of Iulia, the family's moral authority and model of a "good woman," Anghelina loses the compass that guided her life. Grief becomes a moment of instability in which she begins confronting values she had followed without ever questioning them. Built through an observational approach, the film follows Anghelina's slow transformation as she navigates faith, marriage, and her daughter's freedom.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director
Pavel Sidorencu
Project title
Prut. The Line of Rupture

Production Company

BIZSAMURAI
PRODUCTION
www.bizsamurai.me ®

Short bio

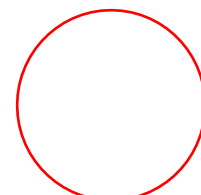
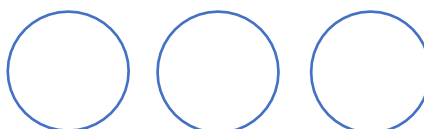
Pavel Sidorencu is a Moldovan screenwriter, director and producer, founder of BizSamurai Production and representative of PRODEZVOLT S.R.L. He made and released in cinemas the feature film Turcoaica. PRODEZVOLT S.R.L. / BizSamurai Production develops film and audiovisual projects focused on human stories, memory and identity.

Synopsis

In June 1940, in Grozești, Ion Lungu and Maria are preparing to marry. The Prut is still a road between relatives, work and church, not a border. After the Soviet ultimatum, the bridge closes and the river becomes a frontier between the USSR and Romania. Maria is trapped in Iași; Ion remains on the other bank. Between 1940 and 1946, their love is tested by documents, fear, occupation, war, anti-Semitic violence, military service, return and new repression. Ion crosses the river at night to recover papers, while Maria tries to protect a fragile home, a child and a memory. Years later, an old Ion returns to the Prut with his great-grandchildren. He does not give them a lesson in history. He gives them the objects that survived: letters, a ring, a cross and a stone from the river. The film is about love, dignity and the memory that remains when history breaks a home.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director
Valentina Luchianteva
Project title
In Dependence

Production Company



Short bio

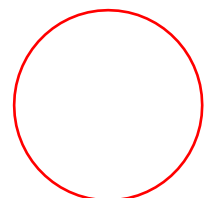
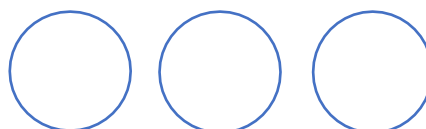
Valentina Luchianțeva is a director, screenwriter, and producer from the Republic of Moldova working in fiction, documentary, and experimental cinema. She graduated from the I. K. Karpenko-Kary Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and Television with a degree in film directing. She is currently developing her debut fiction and documentary feature projects. She is the founder of the independent production company Valentina Klementina Film SRL, focused on developing auteur and socially engaged audiovisual projects.

Synopsis

Three characters attempt to illegally cross the border through different methods, trying to save their lives and avoid military obligation. Their stories unfold in parallel, intersecting within a space of risk, fear, and hope, gradually revealing the inner conflict of a person faced with a choice: submit to the system or, by becoming a criminal, preserve the right to determine their own fate.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director
Victor Pietraru
Project title
Noel and Nadia

Production Company



Short bio

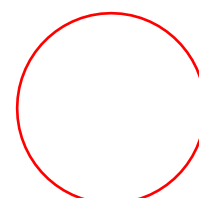
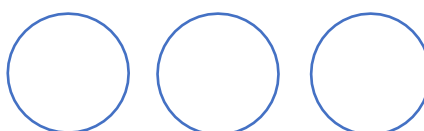
Victor Pietraru – film director. Graduate of the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts in Chişinău (2016) – Multimedia Department. Passionate about independent cinema; I write, direct, and produce my own projects to ensure creative freedom and authenticity. An unexpected success and recognition came with my short film "The Other Leaves of Longing." All my works can be found on YouTube: @pietraruvictor. Venture Pictures is a film production company founded in 2025, built on the idea of creative independence and the full valorization of local talent. The company aims to cover every stage of a super-low-budget film production, relying exclusively on local resources and expertise.

Synopsis

Under the conditions of an impending ecological collapse—still potentially preventable—the regime’s fight is no longer against environmental problems, but against the people themselves. “Social Prophylaxis” becomes both the weapon and the slogan of the regime, re-established in this part of the world. The two main characters of the movie are NOEL and NADIA. Nadia teaches environmental education; Noel is an engineer working on the production of key components for new prototypes of strategic weapons. Noel is suspected of intentionally sabotaging the development of new strategic weapons in order to prevent their practical implementation, and he is arrested. As the wife of an enemy of the people, Nadia also faces ten years of imprisonment—unless she renounces Noel, publicly condemns him, and testifies against him. Noel is sentenced to execution. Nadia is sent to the “Torrent of Wives Condemned for Loyalty.” Two other key characters are THE SERPENT and GORE BEDA—the antagonist and the main ideologue of the regime. The Serpent contributes to the death of Gore Beda, thereby creating an opportunity for Noel and Nadia to escape.

Jury name:

Jury score:



DEVELOPMENT



Director
Galina Vasilieva
Project title
Gagauz People

Production Company



MEDIA LAB

Short bio

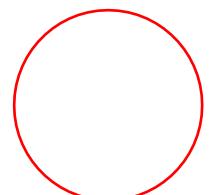
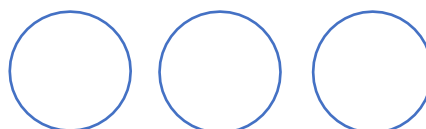
Galina Vasilieva has extensive experience in the media industry. She graduated from the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences at the State University of Moldova (USM) and completed an intensive MBA program for media managers at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga. In 2025, together with Marina Shupac, she founded OM Media Lab with the aim of bringing complex Moldovan stories to an international audience through documentary films. Previously, she served as development director and editor-in-chief at NewsMaker.md

Synopsis

The documentary series follows the journey of a journalist of Gagauz origin who grew up in the autonomous region of Gagauzia and later distanced herself from that environment. Her journey is an attempt to understand how Gagauz identity was formed, where it stands today, and how it manifests itself in different contexts. The narrative unfolds across three spaces, reflecting different trajectories of this identity. In Bulgaria—a territory associated with the migration of the Gagauz people to Bessarabia in the early 19th century—history is preserved in oral accounts, local memory, and various interpretations. This space marks the starting point of the journey. In the northern regions of Greece, the protagonist seeks out people and stories connected to Gagauz origins. Here, the traces of identity are fragmentary: the language has largely disappeared, and the memory of belonging is preserved unevenly. In Moldova, a different trajectory is taking shape. It is the space where Gagauz identity is preserved as a living cultural practice—through language, traditions, and daily life. The film captures the current state of Gagauz identity, between past and present, between preservation and change, and poses the question: what will remain of it and what might the future hold for it.

Jury name:

Jury score:



DEVELOPMENT



Director

Valentina Luchianțeva

Project title

Uheleses

Production Company



Short bio

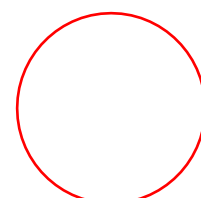
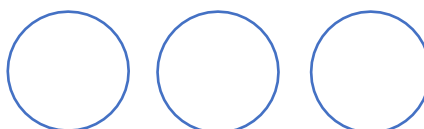
Valentina Luchianțeva is a director, screenwriter, and producer from the Republic of Moldova working in fiction, documentary, and experimental cinema. She graduated from the I. K. Karpenko-Kary Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and Television with a degree in film directing. She is currently developing her debut fiction and documentary feature projects. She is the founder of the independent production company Valentina Klementina Film SRL, focused on developing auteur and socially engaged audiovisual projects.

Synopsis

The documentary series explores addiction in its multiple forms: eating disorders, alcohol and drug addiction, codependency in relationships, emotional dependency, the confusion between love and addiction, as well as addiction to social media, shopping, and gaming. Through real-life stories, expert interviews, and the director's personal experience, the project reveals the causes, mechanisms, and consequences of addiction while raising the question of whether an exit is possible — toward awareness, freedom, and love.

Jury name:

Jury score:



DEVELOPMENT



Director
Evgheni Novicov
Project title
Home

Synopsis

On a day of white clouds and blue skies, SHE discovers a world where people wear masks and gloves, avoiding all human contact. In a supermarket, trying to buy food for her dog, cat, two pigeons, and herself, she meets HIM—a man who avoids neither her gaze nor conversation. He helps her carry the supplies home and confesses that he lives in a dormitory, where he risks being among the first infected. SHE allows him onto the roof for a two-week quarantine.

Soon, going outside is forbidden, and the state is reduced to nothing but the disembodied voices of megaphones. Survival begins, yet they remain faithful to the system. The cat hunts the pigeons, the dog kills the cat, and their remains lead to a vital discovery: fly larvae can become food.

In the euphoria of this discovery, the two improvise a wedding, dreaming of an official marriage. But the larvae are not enough—HE decides his body would be of greater use. A unilateral decision. Forced to live, her existence stretches until the day the megaphones come alive with the call for vaccination. Years later, having become Prime Minister, SHE tells her story while stroking her old dog.

Production Company

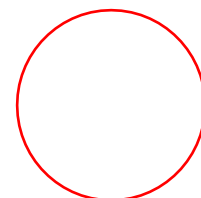
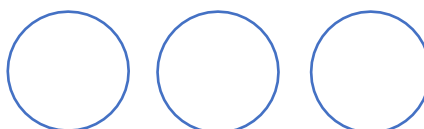


Short bio

Teatrul Fără Nume is a private cultural institution founded by the artist family Eugen and Lidia Novicov. The company's activity combines theatre, cinema, and independent visual projects, with a particular interest in existential themes, the relationship between humans, society, and technology, as well as science fiction. The screenplay for "Home" is a collaborative project by the Novicov family and reflects their artistic approach based on creative collaboration.

Jury name:

Jury score:



DEVELOPMENT



Director
Marina Şupac

Project title
Sunrises of adulthood

Production Company



MEDIA LAB

Short bio

Marina Şupac is a documentary filmmaker with 10 years of experience in journalism and human rights. IDFA Academy alumna, she studied documentary filmmaking at University College London and has directed several short films, including “Last Chance for Justice” (BBC World News), which has won numerous awards. In 2025, together with Galina Vasilieva, she founded OM Media Lab with the aim of bringing complex Moldovan stories to an international audience through documentary films.

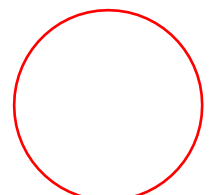
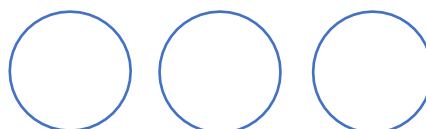
Synopsis

My story starts with a sunrise in June 2010 on a hill in the south of Moldova, the town of Bessarabca bordering Ukraine where I, together with my classmates and our beloved teacher, are following a local tradition - greeting the sunrise of our adult life after the graduation party. A decade later I am tracking down my classmates, to discover the trajectory of their lives since this very innocent day. My plan is to invite them to our class reunion at the very same hill in Bessarabca to discover how our town shaped their hopes and dreams.

By using a mix of personal archives, observational footage and input from the community, this documentary explores memories and transformation of a generation raised in an ordinary town. It’s a study of a generation and a country that had big dreams just like us.

Jury name:

Jury score:



DEVELOPMENT



Director
Evgheni Novicov
Project title
Eli's Choise

Synopsis

Tomorrow Elias turns seven. He lives in a world where scientists have fled into cosmic refuge due to war. His parents take him to a secret base, where a scientist named Boris gifts him a toy car containing a USB drive. If things spin out of control, the boy must find an internet-connected computer and launch the drive. Soon, the boy is kidnapped by a commander and ends up in a re-education camp. Through ingenuity, Elias finds a computer but is caught by loyalist children. A fight breaks out, and in the chaos, Elias launches the drive. The program bricks all digital devices, and the children escape. Elias receives a mysterious text: "Stay put. — Boris." Elias stays. Taken to a military base, he uses "Boris's" help to convert a ballistic missile into a spacecraft and launches toward the scientists' vessel. There, he discovers his parents are missing. A conflict erupts between Elias and the entity texting him. Elias refuses to accept reality. Left with no choice, "Boris" grants his wish, creating a virtual world where his parents are still alive—a world where Elias remains forever.

Production Company

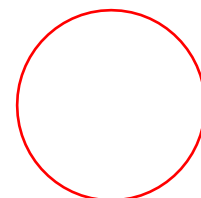
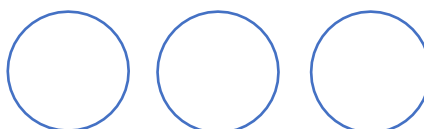


Short bio

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Jury name:

Jury score:



ANIMATION SHORT



Production Company



Short bio

Igor Vlas is a film director from the Republic of Moldova and founder of Vlas Film SRL, a production company active in film and commercial video. His short film "A Flame of Memories" won first place at the international Project Spark 2023 competition, and Vlas Film is official finalist at the NASA CineSpace competition. The company's portfolio includes television productions, music videos and authored works. Vlas Film, production company based in the Republic of Moldova that develops and produces film, video, and television projects, integrating production, post-production, and creative services into an independent studio model focused on contemporary audiovisual content.

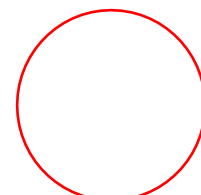
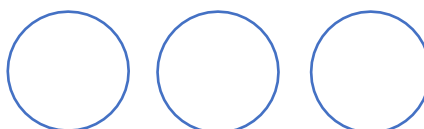
Director
Igor Vlas
Project title
Soul 404

Synopsis

Inside the AEGIS industrial complex, androids RTX and RTY are used daily as live targets for ammunition testing. They are tools. They are inventory. But in the nights spent in the maintenance lab, connected to charging cables and staring at their reflections in the guard booth window, they discover something the system cannot catalogue: a real connection. In whispered exchanges through internal frequencies, they philosophise about war, about protection and about the soul, a variable the factory does not recognise but which both of them feel as a growing weight inside their circuits. RTY reaches a simple conclusion: a stopped bullet does not mean peace, it means another bullet made ready. Exhausted by the role of shield, she removes her helmet during a routine test. The bullet finds her unprotected. She is sent to decommissioning. RTX, left beside the new model RTZ, a perfect machine entirely without humanity, understands that efficiency without conscience is not evolution. He tears off his own bulletproof vest and falls, forcing his transfer to the dismantling sector where RTY waits with her battery at 12%. Together, damaged and running out of time, they infiltrate the central network node of AEGIS, trigger a selfdestruct protocol and escape. The factory explodes behind them. Their sensors pulse blue, for the first time without an alarm. They are broken. They are finished. They are free.

Jury name:

Jury score:



ANIMATION SHORT



Director

Oleg Condrea

Project title

The Girl From The Shadow

Production Company



Short bio

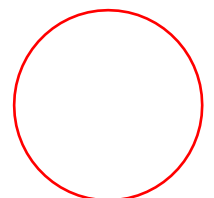
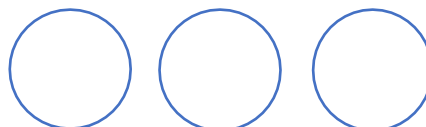
Oleg Condrea is a writer, director, and producer with 15 years of experience in animation. He has served as an Animation Director for clients like Marvel and DreamWorks, and most recently wrote and directed the award-winning game Anima Flux. As the founder of Black Mark Media, Oleg develops original stories recognized by Slamdance and TIFF Tirana.

Synopsis

The Girl from the Shadow follows a talented student athlete who spends all her free time locked in her campus room, playing football with a clumsy imaginary friend, a "beetle" that embodies her anxiety. Everything changes when she meets a young talented football player. With him, she can play football outside her room and feel safe, causing her anxiety beetle to shrink. Fearing its own disappearance, the beetle forces her into a clumsy kiss that embarrasses her in front of everyone. Driven by this sudden explosion of stress and shame, the beetle grows into a massive creature. Now trapped inside four walls by the giant beetle, she must reclaim her life and freedom. She has to stop feeding her fear and fight her anxiety in a final match of wills.

Jury name:

Jury score:



ANIMATION SHORT



Production Company



Short bio

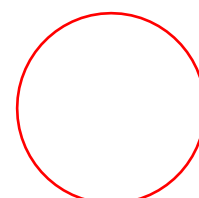
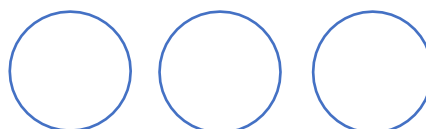
Univers Studio” is an independent video production company founded in 2003 by Leonid Melnic and Mircea Surdu. Its productions include *Moldovean ca mine nu-i* by Mircea Surdu and *Goodbye, Olegovici!* by Eugeniu Popovici, awarded Best Director at the 2020 Gala Awards. Directors and screenwriters Radu and Eugeniu Popovici create internationally recognized projects blending documentary and animation. Their latest collaboration, *Zbor*, dedicated to writer Vladimir Beşleagă, was produced with the support of CNC Moldova.

Director
Radu Popovici
Eugeniu Popovici
Project title
Moldova - Termini

December 22, 2006. On the day she turns 37, Olga leaves Chişinău for Prague, leaving behind two children and a promise that she will return soon. Together with Tasea, a woman she barely knows, she arrives at a small apartment where Tolea, the middleman who promised them passage to the West, announces that "there are problems" and that they must wait a little longer. Days turn into weeks. Christmas passes within foreign walls, with a cheap Christmas tree, cognac, and longing for home. Attempts to cross the border fail. One night, at the edge of a forest, Olga and Tasea refuse to cross the blizzard alone toward an unknown guide. Returning to the apartment, they discover that Tolea can no longer help them. Isolated and without solutions, the women search for other contacts, while the space around them seems to disintegrate. Sand that appears inexplicably on the windows begins to invade the apartment, transforming into a hallucination of fear and disorientation. In a dream, Olga crosses a white desert, without footprints and without a horizon. When the sand turns to snow, she understands that she must go on. Tasea returns home. Olga stays. A forest. Night. A single set of footprints in the snow. From the distance, a voice is heard in Italian: "Roma Termini." Beyond the forest, a new world begins — still unknown.

Jury name:

Jury score:



ANIMATION SHORT



Director
Ana Colçuc
Project title
Me Too

Production Company



Short bio

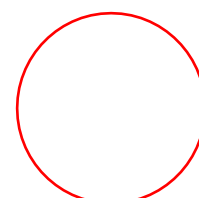
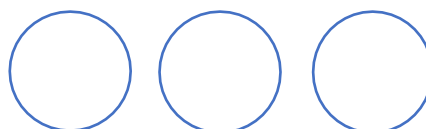
Ana Colçuc - screenwriter, animator, director at Black Mark Media. As an author, I have an approach leaning towards experimental animation, deep interest for exploring themes regarding human connection and identity, the nature of emotions and reality. In my projects I use powerful visual metaphors to offer the audience a reflective, deeply personal and captivating experience. Together with the production house we have the goal to go through the festival circuit and to initiate projects and international collaborations in the future.

Synopsis

"Mie Tot" tells the story of a little girl left home alone with food poisoning, who receives an unexpected visit from her friend. Being in the same condition, the two transform a "indoor hang-out" over basins into a sincere lesson about how empathy can heal more than any medicine.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SERIES



Production Company



Short bio

With over 26 years of experience, OWH Studio is the longest-running independent production company in the country. Its activity includes four major areas: creation, production, distribution, and training. Its filmography features over 50 documentary and fiction titles, alongside TV shows, cultural, social and educational projects. Since 2001, it has organized Moldova's first international film festival, IDFF CRONOGRAPF. Violeta Gorgos has over 30 years of experience in cinematography and a background in musicology, literature and film directing. She creates internationally awarded documentaries and experimental musical films focused on narrative and artistic exploration. She currently works as Artistic Director at TVR Iași.

Director Violeta Gorgos Project title Edited Life

Synopsis

The Negru family reunites to make a film written by their father, a recently retired university professor, who wants to transform the family's past into an ideal story. As filming progresses, the conflicts, secrets and fragility of the members come to light. The fiction begins to collapse, and each is forced to confront the truth about themselves and others. The story explores the relationships between parents and children, as well as the complex dynamics within the family. The series follows the hidden tensions behind the image of a seemingly perfect family, revealing how each character is forced to confront the truth about themselves and others.

Episode 1: After Tudor's retirement, the Negru family begins working on a film meant to idealize the past, but the project exposes tensions, traumas, and fractures hidden beneath their apparent unity.

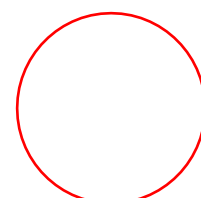
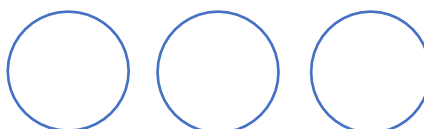
Episode 2: Conflicts between the siblings escalate, Alina's trauma resurfaces, and her refusal to continue the artistic "lie" triggers Tudor's collapse and forces the family to confront its own fragility.

Episode 3: Tudor's illness shatters the myth of the perfect father, and Alina decides to transform the film into an act of truth-telling, compelling each character to face their own conscience.

Episode 4: As illusions fall apart, the family seeks reconciliation, and Alina destroys the completed film, choosing for the first time an unedited life beyond control and fiction.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SERIES



Production Company



Short bio

Ruslan Gilca is a Moldovan director and screenwriter specializing in comedy. He has worked with KVN and Comedy Club, directed multiple TV sketch shows, and wrote and directed the series Creative Agency "Moonlight" (2025).

Igor Vlas is a Moldovan filmmaker. His work spans short films, music videos, and television, including A Fairytale New Year's Eve (TV8, 2025).

Bright Communications SRL specializes in producing content for online and TV.

Director

Ruslan Gîlcă

Project title

New Village

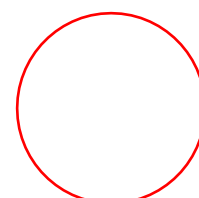
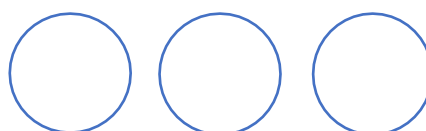
Synopsis

Moldova, 2026. Vlad Ursachi is a cynical political opportunist from Chisinau sent to Magura Veche, a forgotten village, with one mission: transform it into a Soviet-style model village and convert nostalgia into electoral capital.

What begins as a simple scheme spirals out of control. Vlad wins local elections through sheer absurdity, becomes mayor, and sets about reinventing Soviet collectivism: People's Patrol, obligatory labor brigades, propaganda over the village loudspeaker. Three relentless grandmothers run the gossip network. Three old men at the tractor brigade watch everything with sardonic calm. Dorina, a young local woman, challenges Vlad at every turn. And behind all the chaos waits Andries, Baba Nadejda's grandson, a boy with cerebral palsy whose mother has left to work abroad, quietly in his wheelchair while the village performs its absurd revolution around him. As collectivization, fake elections, and a mausoleum built by deception follow one another, the satire sharpens into something more painful. The villagers begin to recognize, in Vlad's methods, the same manipulation their grandparents once lived through. The comedy turns dark. And Vlad himself begins to change. New Village is a story about nostalgia as a weapon – and about the stubborn human capacity to resist it.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director
Michael Borodin
Project title
Seven Roads

Production Company



Short bio

Michael Borodin was born in Uzbekistan. In 2018, his short film “Normal” was featured in La Semaine de la Critique. His debut feature, Convenience Store, was presented at the Berlinale Panorama 2022. Michael is the co-founder of Tashkent Film School and SESTRA Films, an independent production company focused on documentaries and features addressing pressing social issues and local topics.

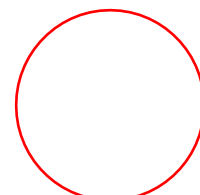
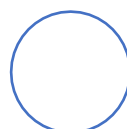
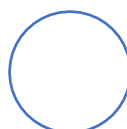
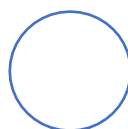
Studio Metrafilms SRL develops and produces feature films, author-driven series and animated projects targeted at a wide range of audiences around the globe. Films produced by METRAFILMS and Artem Vasilyev have received numerous awards at the most prestigious international film festivals.

Synopsis

Nodira lives and works in Ansan, South Korea. Her routine is disrupted when her father dies, causing Nodira’s return to Uzbekistan. Back home, Nodira’ brother, a person reported missing several years ago, suddenly reappears. Moreover, Nodira soon learns that he is not human, he is a ghost. His malevolent spirit threatens Nodira with a life of pain. She decided to flee his curse alongside her sister-in-law, Yulduz. The women lure their pursuer to the shore of the dried-up Aral Sea. Using mystical power of the sea, they fight to an end to the malevolent force that has haunts them and liberate themselves from both their past and supernatural adversaries.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director
Pavel Cuzuioc
Project title
Outside the Square

Production Company



Short bio

Pavel Cuzuioc is a Moldovan filmmaker whose works, including *Please Hold the Line* (2020), *Cosmosapiens* (2023), and *Green Light* (2025), were selected at festivals such as Locarno, IDFA, and Hot Docs. His films have been broadcasted by ARTE, HBO Europe, Netflix, Prime Video, 3sat, and are recognized for their sensitive exploration of human experiences and emotional landscapes.

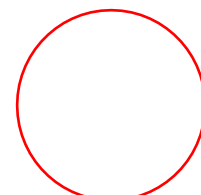
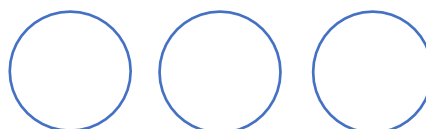
HaiDOC Productions, founded in 2018 by Ion Gnatiuc, develops character-driven documentaries and co-produces international projects involving Moldovan stories and talent. Its films were selected and awarded at festivals including PÖFF Tallinn Black Nights, Shanghai IFF, Trieste FF, and Ji.hlava IDFF.

Synopsis

In a small town in Moldova, a psychiatrist treats mental suffering while confronting the stigma surrounding it every day. At home and in public, he inhabits another world as well: cosplay - more than 200 roles, from Freud to Darth Vader. His visibility brings admiration, resistance, and suspicion. The film asks: how far can someone who lives outside social norms go, and what happens when his own stability begins to fracture?

Jury name:

Jury score:



MINORITY COPRODUCTIONS



Director

Bogdan Theodor Olteanu

Project title

A Long Awaited Vacation

Production Company

amprenta
FILMS

Short bio

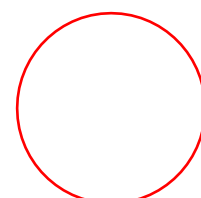
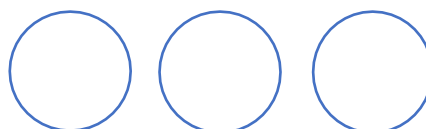
Bogdan Theodor Olteanu is a director, screenwriter, and playwright. Before pursuing a career in theatre and cinema, he worked in investigative journalism, sports marketing, and political communication. His debut feature, *Several Conversations About a Very Tall Girl*, received four Gopo Award nominations and was acquired by HBO and Netflix. *Mia Misses Her Revenge* won the Special Jury Prize at the Warsaw International Film Festival, while *Taximetriști* attracted more than 140,000 admissions and was acquired by Netflix. Amprenta Films is an independent production company founded in 2018 in Chișinău by producer Iulia Andriuta, dedicated to auteur cinema and international co-productions. The company develops projects with a strong artistic identity and promotes collaboration between filmmakers from Moldova and Europe.

Synopsis

Vasile Tătaru, senior inspector in the Homicide Unit in Bucharest, is tasked with investigating the murder of a young girl whose body is found dumped in a landfill. The investigation quickly leads him to Sebastian Sabău, the son of an influential politician. But it is the election campaign period, and pressure begins to mount as his superiors start receiving phone calls. With every step closer to the truth, the system he works within moves in the opposite direction. His allies begin to desert him one by one, and Vasile finds himself increasingly alone.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director
Jamie Teehan
Project title
Occupation: Witch

Production Company



Short bio

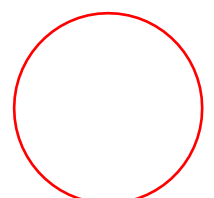
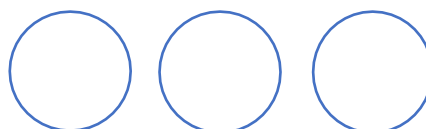
Jamie Teehan is an award-winning Irish director and animator with 25+ years' experience, known for The Amazing World of Gumball and Pinkalicious & Peterrific. Studio Metrafilms SRL is part of METRAFILMS group of companies, producing award-winning films and developing features, series, and animation projects in international collaboration.

Synopsis

Volha is eighteen, wild, brilliant, and nearly finished her training as a witch at Starmin Magic Academy. When she refuses a prestigious palace internship for reasons she won't yet explain, she's reassigned to Dogeva: a remote vampire valley recently reopened after years of uneasy peace. The world still believes vampires are monsters. Children are raised on horror stories. But when she arrives, she finds a town on edge and a helpful local guard named Lin, who helps her survive a deadly encounter. But when they cross paths again in the valley, Volha learns Lin is not only a vampire – he's the ruler of Dogeva.

Jury name:

Jury score:



MINORITY COPRODUCTIONS



Director
Ilinca Straton și
Eugen Dediu
Project title
At King's Gate

Production Company



Short bio

Eugen Dediu is a screenwriter/director, UNATC graduate. He made the short films “Mezzo Forte” (2019), “Intermezzo for the Autonomous Vacuum Cleaner and the End of the World” (2021).

Ilinca Straton is a screenwriter/director, graduate of Babeș-Bolyai University's Film Faculty. She made the short film “Coasta” (2019) and co-directed the documentary “And Always the same Horizons” (2024) with Eugen Dediu.

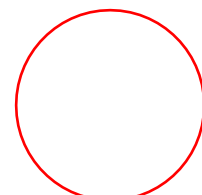
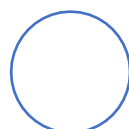
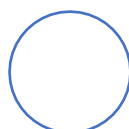
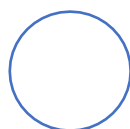
ALTERNATIVE CINEMA is a production company that has produced or co-produced 8 fiction short films and 4 documentaries and is currently developing an international co-production feature film with ROVA FILM (RO) and NUKLEON FRAME (SK), which is in post-production.

Synopsis

1916. The Great War in Transylvania. Victoria, 35, a teacher learns that her mother, Marta, has suffered a stroke. Together with Petra, her 12-year-old daughter, Victoria returns to the family home in the border village of Poarta Craiului, where clashes are taking place between the Romanian and Austro-Hungarian armies. Victoria finds her mother neglected, left to die by Simion, Marta's husband and Victoria's stepfather. Simion, the mayor of the village, is aggressive with Victoria, who discovers that he is informing both sides of the war, using hidden telephone lines. She threatens to denounce him, but the conflict degenerates and it is revealed that Simion abused her as a teenager. Fearing that he will be exposed, Simion locks them in the same room with Marta, who dies shortly after. At the funeral, Victoria publicly reveals that Simion is an informant, and the villagers turn against him. That night, finding his horse killed, Simion assaults Victoria. Petra, a silent witness, takes Simion's gun and shoots him. In the middle of the night, Victoria and Petra leave the house and their "war" behind, as nearby bombings light up the sky.

Jury name:

Jury score:



MINORITY COPRODUCTIONS



Production Company

amprenta
FILMS

Short bio

Hakkı Kurtuluş – Turkish director, screenwriter, and producer, who studied cinema in Istanbul, Paris, and Berlin. A directing lecturer in Berlin, he combines filmmaking practice with cultural and social research. Melik Saraçoğlu – Turkish director, screenwriter, and editor, known for his films blending dark humor with sharp social observation. Amprenta Films– an independent production company founded in 2018 in Chişinău by producer Iulia Andriuta, dedicated to auteur cinema and international co-productions. The company develops projects with a strong artistic identity, promotes collaboration between filmmakers from Moldova and Europe, and actively supports the presence of women in creative and production teams.

Director

Hakkı Kurtuluş
Melik Saracoglu

Project title

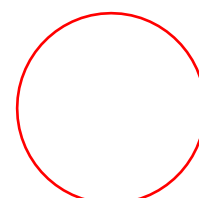
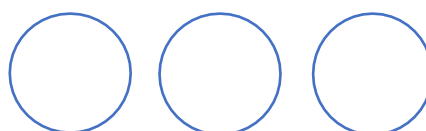
Karakoyun

Synopsis

Based on a true story. 1994, deep in the Anatolian countryside. Osman, a wealthy but irresponsible gambler drowning in debt, owes a dangerous local crime boss, Muhteşem. Desperate to recover his money, Muhteşem reluctantly agrees to Osman's absurd proposal: stage a fake kidnapping and split the ransom. But Osman's sharp and calculating mother, Naciye, sees a far greater opportunity. With local elections only days away, her husband Ercüment's mayoral campaign is collapsing. Instead of quietly paying for her son's return, Naciye devises a bold political spectacle: Ercüment should also be "kidnapped." By turning the family into public victims, sympathy could reverse the polls overnight and secure electoral victory. Debts would disappear, reputations would be restored, and everyone involved would profit. The plan quickly spirals out of control. Trapped together on the road are Osman, the unstable henchmen Haydar and Salih, and a growing web of lies, greed, and paranoia. What begins as a ridiculous scam slowly transforms into a violent chain of betrayals, accidents, and unexpected deaths. Blending dark humor with crime and political satire, GARAGOYUN is a chaotic portrait of opportunism, corruption, and survival in 1990s provincial Turkey — where everyone is trying to outsmart one another, and no one is innocent.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Production Company



Short bio

Dmitry Mamuliya was born in Georgia. A filmmaker, writer and cinema teacher, he taught at Tbilisi State University, Deutsche Film und Fernsehakademie Berlin, and the Moscow School of New Cinema. His first feature ANOTHER SKY received prizes at Karlovy Vary 2010; his second, THE CRIMINAL MAN, premiered in Orizzonti at Venice 2019. LIFE OF SIMON JASHI is his third feature, to be shot in 2026.

ALTERNATIVE CINEMA is a production company that has produced or co-produced 8 fiction short films and 4 documentaries and is currently developing an international co-production feature film with Romania and Slovakia, which is in post-production.

Director

Dmitry Mamuliya

Project title

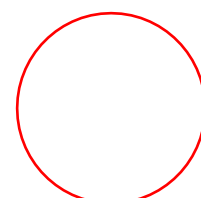
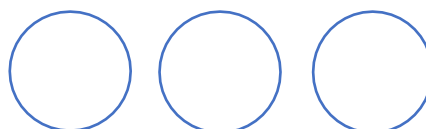
Life of Simon Jashi

Synopsis

Simon Jashi, a writer in his forties, travels to Guria, a remote western province of Georgia, to research a book on a 19th-century writer native to the region. Guided by Eliso, a young museum curator who becomes his guide and ultimately his confidante, he moves through villages and small towns seeking out people marked by extraordinary acts and unusual lives. Simon grows obsessed with the story of a woman who murdered her husband, a tale that seems lifted directly from Ninoshvili's pages. He visits her in prison, tracks down her twin brother in a remote village, and follows the trail of Mari, a young girl whose mother died under strange circumstances. These stories accumulate, pulling him deeper into Guria's world until the line between observer and participant begins to dissolve. Between his trips, Simon attempts to see his teenage daughter Salomé. Each visit forces him to confront what he has lost. What begins as a literary journey gradually becomes something else. As the stories of others wash over him, Simon quietly reconnects with his own life and what once felt irreparable begins, slowly, to soften. He starts to see his estranged wife in an entirely new light.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director
Iurie Tocmaș
Project title
Village for Sale

Production Company



Short bio

Iurie Tocmaș (1993) is an emerging filmmaker from Moldova with studies in journalism, media communication, and media management in Moscow and Stockholm. Since 2018, he has worked as a film editor while developing his own

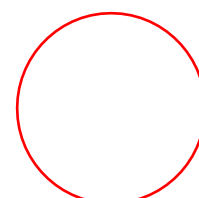
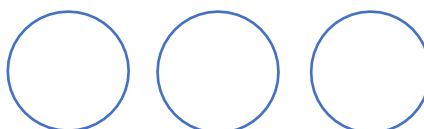
documentary projects. He has participated in programs such as IDFAcademy, ExOriente, Moldox Inspiration Lab, and Docudays Pitch. “The Village Is for Sale” is one of his documentary projects. Founded by Calin Laur in 2020, Laur Cinema is a Chișinău-based production company focused on Eastern European films and documentaries. In 2026, the company completed the documentary “Sailing with Babushkas” and is currently developing the fiction feature “The Poor Dove”.

Synopsis

In the Moldovan village of Naslavcea, on the verge of disappearing, some elderly residents sell their homes to afford their own funerals. Cristian, a young man working abroad training autopilot systems, buys one of these houses in search of peace. As he gradually gains the trust of the locals, they begin leaving him their homes in exchange for help and support. Isolated and uncertain about his future, Cristian faces a difficult choice: to leave or stay and take on the burden of giving meaning to a place abandoned by others.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director

Ana Maria Vîjdea Nicoară

Project title

Nava mamă

Production Company



Short bio

Ana Vîjdea is a Romanian documentary filmmaker and recent graduate of DocNomads. She studied in the US as a Fulbright scholar and in Cluj-Napoca. Her films have screened at IDFA, Visions du Réel, and MoMA's Doc Fortnight. In 2017, *Filmmaker Magazine* named her one of the "25 New Faces of Independent Film."

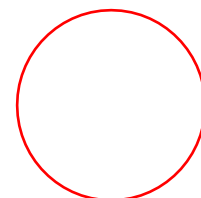
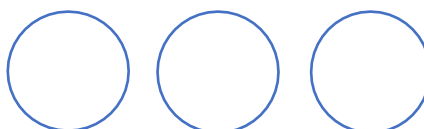
HaiDOC Productions, founded in 2018 by Ion Gnatiuc, develops character-driven documentaries and co-produces international projects involving Moldovan stories and talent. Its films were selected and awarded at festivals including PÖFF Tallinn Black Nights, Shanghai IFF, Trieste FF, and Ji.hlava IDFF.

Synopsis

After leaving an abusive home, Denis, a trans teenager returns to the Romanian village of his childhood. Through encounters with women shaped by silence, a girl seeking friendship, stray animals, and imagined companions, he moves through a world where vulnerability and tenderness persist despite violence. His return becomes both a confrontation with inherited wounds and a search for belonging. When the journey leads back to the city, to an institution for children with special needs, healing remains uncertain. Lyrical and fragmentary, *nava mamă* explores how gentleness survives in environments marked by abandonment, trauma, and exclusion.

Jury name:

Jury score:



MINORITY COPRODUCTIONS



Director
Bogdan Mirică
Project title
Magnum Opus

Production Company

609 FILM

Short bio

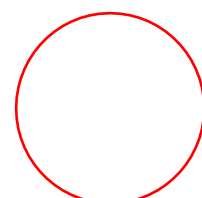
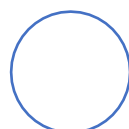
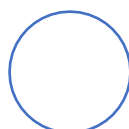
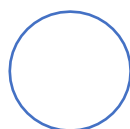
Bogdan Mirică is a Romanian director and screenwriter, trained as a journalist in Bucharest and as a screenwriter at Westminster University in London. He debuted with the short film Bora Bora (2011), awarded at Angers and selected in Locarno. He created the HBO series Umbre, distributed internationally, and the feature film Dogs (2016), which won the FIPRESCI Prize at Cannes, followed by Boss (2023), confirming a distinctive, atmospheric and rigorous cinematic voice. 609 FILM is a Moldovan company founded in 2025 by Sergiu Cumatrenco Jr. and Ion Borș, developing commercial films and supporting local industry through production, distribution, TIFF Chișinău collaborations.

Synopsis

Determined to prove that his father — an extremely famous actor — sabotaged his most recent film, director Alex Ghica embarks on a full-blown personal investigation, coming into conflict with his extravagant family, his tension-ridden film crew and a tenacious police officer. As the chaos escalates, egos clash and secrets come to light, the boundary between comedy and tragedy begins to blur.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director
Ondrej Vavrečka
Project title
Mythos

Production Company



Short bio

Ondřej Vavrečka is an award-winning filmmaker, musician, visual artist, and educator whose multidisciplinary work explores the intersections of film, music, and philosophy. An associate professor at FAMU, his latest film, *Lichens Are The Way*, premiered at CPH:DOX, receiving a Special Mention in the New:Vision section.

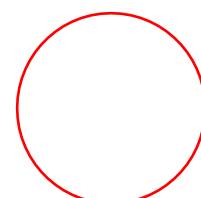
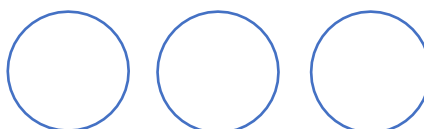
Founded by Calin Laur in 2020, Laur Cinema is a Chişinău-based production company. Its first production was the short documentary *GazProblema* (2023), followed by *Sailing with Babushkas* (2026), while the fiction feature *Blestemul Mariei Dragan* is in development for 2027.

Synopsis

Through radical listening, *Mythos* delves into the life of Arthur Aristakisyan, a visionary Moldovan-Armenian-Russian filmmaker and the last mythologist—one who can tell profound stories. He crafts a primordial language from old photographs, blending speech and image. Now prosecuted for his beliefs, the film asks: in our hectic, instant times, have we lost the joy of truly listening?

Jury name:

Jury score:





Production Company



Short bio

Ioana Mischie is a Romanian director, screenwriter, and transmedia artist internationally awarded for her film and immersive storytelling projects. She is a Fulbright Alumna of UNATC and USC School of Cinematic Arts in Los Angeles. Her works have been selected in over 250 international festivals and prestigious programs such as Berlinale Talents, Sundance Workshop, Cannes Screenwriters Pavilion, and Biennale College Cinema. Symbol Media stands out through its films and co-productions, gathering over 100 selections at international film festivals.

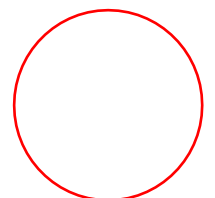
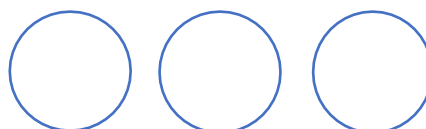
Director
Ioana Mischie
Project title
Die, Please

Synopsis

In a world where immortality is not a gift but a corporate policy, people are kept alive by force to remain productive. Death has become a privatized luxury — accessible only through exclusive euthanasia clinics, with waiting lists and thick files. Ivan, a forty-year-old man exhausted by the absurdity of his existence, applies to a clinic offering discounts on euthanasia. Pre-selected alongside Medeea, a determined young woman, and Vladimir, a fragile veteran, the three become friends through a Kafkaesque process: identity documents, letters attesting community contempt, endless forms. Vladimir never finishes — his body betrays him first. Ivan and Medeea reach the final stage: a showroom where they choose coffin textures,vcemetery design, and the soundtrack of their own funeral. Overwhelmed, both give up. The clinic, desperate to salvage its PR campaign, begins harassing them: "Die, please." Now refugees between the corporate world and death, they promise to find their own way out. But as they plan each other's end, they discover something unexpected: the presence of the other gives meaning to the days. Friendship becomes the only thing worth staying alive for. The film explores death with humor and warmth, placing bureaucratic absurdity face to face with the human desire for connection and freedom.

Jury name:

Jury score:



MINORITY COPRODUCTIONS



Director
Diana Gavra
Project title
The Hat

Production Company



Short bio

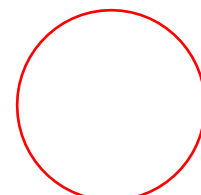
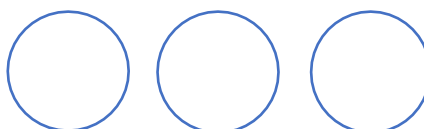
Diana Gavra is a documentary and fiction film director. Her feature “Casa cu Lacăt” (2019) was selected in the Romanian Competition at Astra International Film Festival, in the special screenings of Transilvania International Film Festival, and at international festivals in Edinburgh, Glasgow, New York and Chicago. “AMAR” (2024), a Romania–Spain co-production, won the New Perspectives in Romanian Cinema award at Astra Film Festival. “Lajos Szantay and Arad Secession” (2025) is her latest feature, dedicated to architecture and cultural heritage. Production house : BARPROD-CONS SRL - Fântânila, 2018, When Sky Was High, postproduction.

Synopsis

One billion dollars disappears from Moldova in broad daylight, through official signatures, banks, shell companies, and the very institutions built to protect. The money was never recovered. Citizens will be paying off the debt until 2041. The film takes its metaphor from Guguță's Hat, the magical cap from Spiridon Vangheli's story that grows to shelter an entire village. THE HAT reverses that image: what happens when the state becomes a hat pulled over the eyes of a country? Same object, two opposite meanings. The documentary follows three parallel worlds: the world of power, Plahotniuc, Șor, Platon, architects of invisible control; the world of investigation, journalists and documents through which truth accumulates; and ordinary people who signed nothing but carry the consequences. Vasile Ernu, screenwriter and narrator born in Soviet Moldova, moves through the story as a witness. Alongside him, investigative journalist Mariana Rață connects documents, companies, accounts, her persistence a form of sight. More than ten years after the theft, the Plahotniuc case enters a rare judicial phase. The courtroom becomes a cinematic space where the past becomes evidence. Moldova is a mirror of universal vulnerability. To understand what was done to you is the one thing they cannot steal.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director

Dragoș Turea

Project title

The Book of Hunger

Production Company



Short bio

Dragoș Turea is a filmmaker and screenwriter from Chișinău whose work explores collective memory, historical trauma and the unresolved legacy of the Soviet past. His debut feature documentary, “The Soviet Garden” (2019), premiered at Sarajevo Film Festival. In 2024, he directed “Ultimate Weapon”, and is currently distributing the hybrid feature documentary “Lenin’s Pawn”. “The Book of Hunger” continues his exploration of memory, testimony and inherited trauma through an intimate cinematic approach.

Synopsis

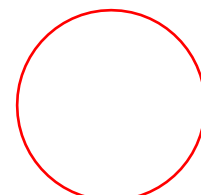
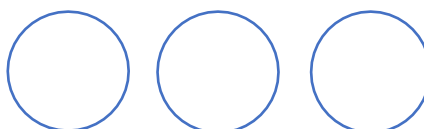
While working on a new edition of “The Book of Hunger”, writer Larisa Turea continues to search for testimonies of those who survived the 1946-1947 famine in Moldova. But the stories never end. Each voice leads to another, each memory opens a wound that refuses to close.

Moving between villages, archives, libraries and public events, Larisa becomes both witness and listener, carrying fragments of lives that disappear together with those who lived them. Often, she arrives too late, and what remains is only a name, or nothing at all.

The film explores not only the memory of a historical tragedy, but also the traces famine left behind in people’s behavior, silences and inherited fears. “The Book of Hunger” becomes the story of a book that can never truly be finished.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Director
Dora Mîndrescu
Project title
Shopping List

Production Company



Short bio

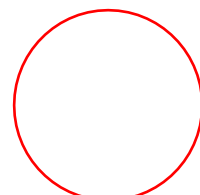
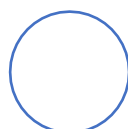
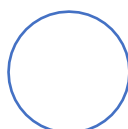
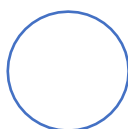
The director/screenwriter of this project is someone passionate about visual art and the power of stories translated to the screen. Although she has no formal studies or previous experience in the film industry, she wishes to learn, experiment, and build a career in this field. This film represents her first courageous and committed step into film directing. The film is produced by the local production company Legur Films – which focuses on supporting local projects that explore the urban challenges and histories of contemporary Moldova.

Synopsis

Marcela (27 years old) arrives for shopping at the Central Market in Chişinău along with her son, Marius (8 years old). She is absorbed by the constant notifications on her phone, while Marius's presence causes her more discomfort than the pleasure of shopping together with her son. The dynamics between the two go through an emotional roller coaster, oscillating between Marcela's frustrations over small things, such as the child's slow pace, and her attempts to ease the tension with jokes. At one point, the market becomes a labyrinth of goods and people. While navigating through the stalls and comparing prices, pulling Marius after her through the crowd, Marcela realizes that her son is no longer by her side. Her initial shouts, full of anger and authority, turn into despair. The search for Marius becomes increasingly chaotic. Marcela runs back and forth, and after several failed attempts to manage on her own, she asks for help. Vendors, everyday people, and a bored police officer join the search, but it becomes clear that the boy will not be found easily. Left with no other options, Marcela takes out her phone and makes a phone call. The story of the search ends abruptly. In another season, we find Marcela back at the Central Market, doing her daily shopping, alone.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Production Company



Synopsis

Victor Maxian was born in 1993 in the Republic of Moldova. In 2016 he graduated from the Academy of Arts where he studied film editing. He worked for 5 years as a video reporter at Radio Free Europe Chisinau. In 2026 he debuted with the feature-length documentary Floarea Vieșii, a film appreciated in the country and abroad. The Floarea Vieșii production house was recently founded and these are the first projects produced through it.

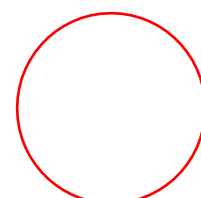
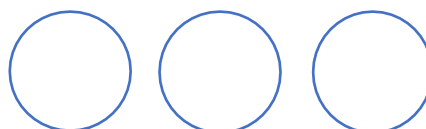
Director
Victor Maxian
Project title
Of People and Lice

Short bio

In a remote village cut off from progress, a weary mayor struggles with poverty, alcoholism, and the pressure of leading a forgotten community. After doctors warn him that his health is deteriorating, he desperately searches for a remedy. An eccentric nurse suggests an absurd traditional cure: eating lice. With no alternatives left, the mayor turns to Grișa, a cunning local man who lives on the margins of society but understands perfectly how to profit from desperation. What begins as a humiliating private exchange soon spirals into a bizarre national phenomenon. Videos of the mayor consuming the “medicine” spread online, attracting curiosity, ridicule, and eventually crowds from across the country. Grișa transforms the village into a chaotic production center, selling lice as miracle cures while exploiting the attention surrounding the scandal. As the media frenzy grows, the line between truth and absurdity disappears, and the impoverished village suddenly becomes a thriving attraction. In the end, the mayor publicly embraces the situation, presenting it as a return to forgotten traditions. Beneath the satire, the story explores poverty, manipulation, opportunism, and society’s willingness to turn even humiliation into profit. The film blends dark humor and social commentary, exposing how spectacle can reshape reality.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Director
Lucia Lupu
Project title
Haimana

Production Company



Short bio

Lucia Lupu is a film director and photographer from Moldova. After completing her studies at the National Academy of Arts from Chisinau in 2016, she debuted with the short fiction film "Paparuda", which has premiered at Kustendorf International Film and Music Festival. In 2024, she filmed her second fiction short – "Mommy's Daughter", which will be released this year.

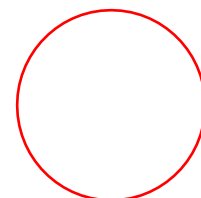
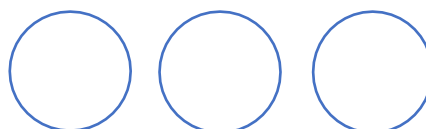
VOLT Cinematography is a film production company founded in 2017, based in Moldova, that focuses on author driven films. It has produced successful short films with more than 200 film festival selections and 40 awards.

Synopsis

Hannah, an adolescent skater girl, is suddenly ghosted by her best friend, Alisa. At school she finds out from a mate that Alisa is subject of a deepfake porn video, created by their classmates. Hannah decides to report this video to the class teacher, without managing to talk to Alisa. After school, Hannah stalks her best friend, who is visiting her secret adult boyfriend. Hannah waits for Alisa to come out of his apartment and forces her to explain why she didn't tell her about the video. Alisa confesses she was afraid that Hannah will disapprove this relationship and preferred to isolate herself and manage her issues alone. While sing on a rusty climber, facing their desolate soviet residential quarter, with a Xanax running in their blood, the friends come to the conclusion that probably all the girls in the classroom will have their identity stolen for the porn deepfakes.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Director
Grigore Bechet
Project title
My is Better

Production Company



Short bio

Urma ta is a production company focused on supporting promoting young voices on their path in audiovisual expression. The portofolio is a broad on including short, feature documentaries and feature films.

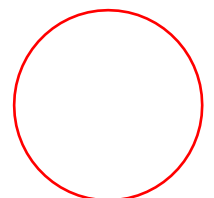
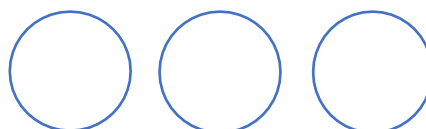
Grigore Bechet is a Columbia University Film School graduate (2017) and UNATC acting undergraduate. He acted in more than 10 films and directed as many. He made in 2024 his feature debut *Alive in Mo...* that was selected at important film festivals including MIFF, European Film Festival and others.

Synopsis

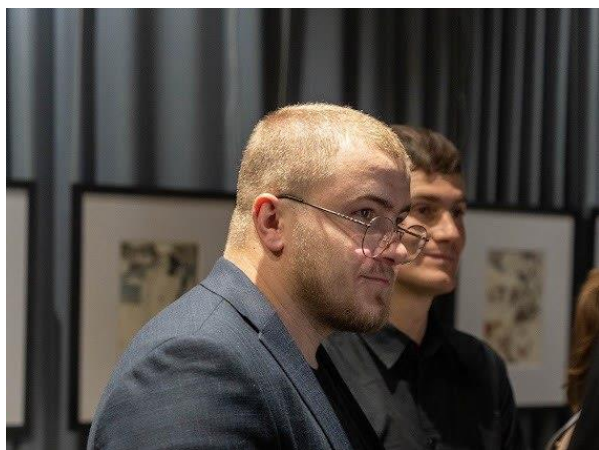
Two Moldovan caretakers, from a small Italian town, can't go to the park to meet a package with goodies from home, so they decide to take their old ladies with them. The old ladies agrees if her caretaker, Angela will walk her around the town. So they engage on an endless journey through the town. In the park the 2 caretakers share their food and wine from home with old ladies. They engage in a philosophical discussion to leave or to leave or to stay. The 2 old ladies argue whose caretaker is better and each one of them wanting to try the other's caretaker just to make sure. Next morning the family of the old lady, comes home only to see another old woman is their mothers bed. The caretaker understands the confusion, calls her friend to switch back the old ladies. The conflict seems to be settled and they exchange the old ladies in front of their families. While passing each other the two old ladies agree that the other caretaker is better, revealing that the confusion was actually their plot to visit each others house and try each others caretaker to see which one is better.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Director
Pavel Bas
Project title
The Belot Crew

Production Company



Short bio

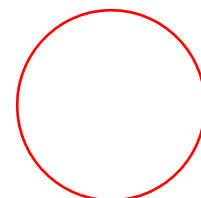
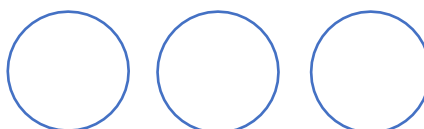
Directed by Pavel Bas and produced by Vadim Papuc, the duo combines auteur-driven storytelling with strong commercial production expertise. Pavel Bas is a Chisinau-based director and screenwriter, graduate of the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts, with over seven years in film, advertising, and media production. Vadim Papuc built his background through music videos, branded content, and commercial productions, focusing on visual precision, production coordination, and dynamic execution on set. Together, they create a synergy between poetic cinematic language and contemporary commercial aesthetics, balancing emotional depth with sharp visual impact.

Synopsis

A rural police unit discovers a young woman's body on the side of the road and, to avoid complications, decides to move the case to a neighbouring jurisdiction. The situation quickly spirals out of control when the officers from the adjacent district react in exactly the same way. Caught between egos, personal interests and absurd decisions, a serious situation turns into a ridiculous game — one where truth becomes negotiable and responsibility disappears entirely.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Production Company



Short bio

David Pozdârca, born in Chisinau in 1998, studied in SPUFT, and left Russia after the start of its Invasion in Ukraine in 2022. Made a number of short films focused on nuances of human relationships, four of which participated in different international film festivals, including BAFTA-qualifying Carmarthen Bay Film Festival, winning various awards. Now he is focused on making films in Moldova that could exist in a broader European context, by adding self-reflecting hero to the real socio-economic situation.

The film is produced by the local based production company Legur Films.

Director

David Pozdârca

Project title

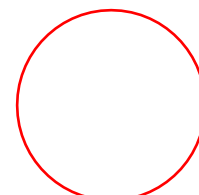
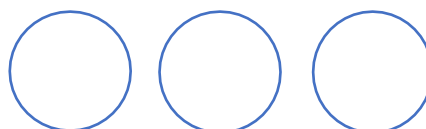
From the Cold Riverbank

Synopsis

On a chaotic post-New Year's morning in Chişinău, Diana, an activist student from Romania, answers the door to Sasha, a man from Transnistria. Sasha has arrived to collect a radiator he already purchased from Mitya, the apartment's hungover owner. However, Mitya forgot about the sale, and the radiator is missing. Intrigued by Sasha's bizarrely calm acceptance of the situation, Diana joins him on a quest to retrieve it. Their journey leads to a defunct Soviet house of culture, where a drunk security guard refuses to hand it over. While Diana aggressively fights for Sasha's rights, Sasha remains passively indifferent. Diana views him as a victim blind to his own oppression, while Sasha sees her as a condescending European lecturing him on a life she doesn't understand. After a heated argument, they part ways. Near a monument for Stalin's deportees, Sasha experiences a quiet epiphany, questioning whether his pragmatism is merely a defense mechanism against life's failures. Ultimately, Sasha returns home to Transnistria. A mild winter and a sudden resumption of gas supplies avert disaster, leaving Sasha content with his worldview, while Diana forgets the encounter entirely.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Director
Vlad Bolgarin

Project title
Taste of Cherries

Production Company



Short bio

Vlad is a film director, writer and producer, graduate of the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts from Chisinau. Vlad is known for the short films “Sigh” and “Place under the sun” (Shanghai IFF, Sarajevo FF, Busan ISFF, Cottbus FF). His latest short film "Slash" is in post-production and is developed within MIDPOINT Shorts and The Lab - Cinema de Demain, Cannes.

VOLT Cinematography is a film production company founded in 2017, based in Moldova, that focuses on author driven films. It has produced successful short films with more than 200 film festival selections and 40 awards.

Synopsis

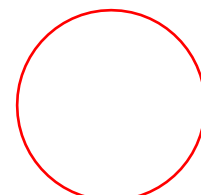
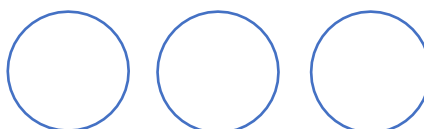
A family of Moldovans based in Romania, are going to a village in Transnistria. They are looked upon with suspicion when they arrive at the check point of the separatist region, because of the car’s Romanian license plate, so father has to explain that they’re going to a family funeral.

When they arrive home, in the village, they find Grandmother watching over Grandfather’s coffin. But in this moment when the family should be united more than ever, political themes open up old wounds. While the adults are busy with the arrangements for the funeral and can’t ignore the political context, Nicu – a shy 13-years-old boy is left to live this first encounter with death on his own.

He is the only one who sees grandpa picking cherries in the garden, at night. Next day, he is also the only one to notice that granpa’s coffin that is marched through the village, mourned by all villagers and buried at the cemetery, is actually empty.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Production Company **ALBA FILMS**

Director
Oleg Creangă
Project title
Apartment no.26

Short bio

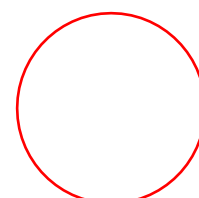
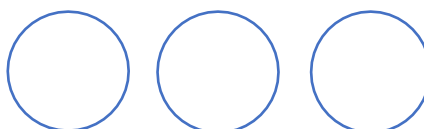
The screenplay and direction of the project are helmed by Oleg Creangă, whose artistic vision brings an intense and authentic story to life. The project is produced by Alba Films—a young, independent production company dedicated to promoting cinema and supporting creative voices. Together, we aim to deliver an impactful cinematic work to the audience.

Synopsis

A family in a modest apartment prepares for New Year's Eve, trying to project a peaceful celebration. Behind this facade lie deep frustrations: financial hardships, marital misunderstandings, and sibling tensions. Vitalie tries to maintain the happy image, while an exhausted Maria feels she is facing everything alone. When relatives and friends arrive, the atmosphere grows oppressive. Status differences, egos, and unspoken reproaches surface, reaching a climax as hidden debts and potential betrayals are revealed. On a night meant for new beginnings, the characters must confront the consequences of actions leading to the family's dissolution.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Director
Igor Vlas
Project title
Locked Stage

Production Company



Short bio

Igor Vlas is a Moldovan filmmaker. His work spans short films, music videos, and television, including A Fairytale New Year's Eve (TV8, 2025).

Ronin Terente is a multidisciplinary artist from the Republic of Moldova who works as an actor, poet, and screenwriter. He is known for his experimental style in poetry and for his involvement in independent film projects and audiovisual content addressing social and existential themes.

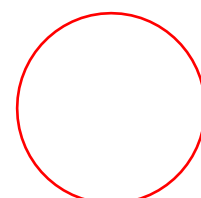
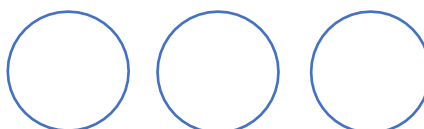
Bright Communication is an integrated media group that brings together TV, radio, and digital platforms, with its own in-house production team dedicated to developing and producing media content, campaigns, and audiovisual projects.

Synopsis

On the eve of a school theater festival, a group of teenagers gets permission to rehearse overnight in a small stage at the city theater, arranged by one of the girls' older sister. What starts as a regular rehearsal turns into a night of real panic: lights go out, phones disappear, their director vanishes, and three masked figures surround them with knives. Locked on the floor, the teens are forced to face their fears and react honestly. When everything seems out of control, the truth is revealed: the whole night was staged as an extreme exercise to draw out genuine emotions. Or so they thought, until the lights go out again and an unexplained sound echoes from the hallway.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Director
Veaceslav Cebotari
Project title
The Visit

Production Company



Short bio

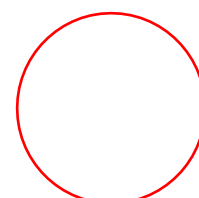
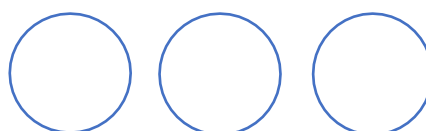
Veaceslav Cebotari studied at the Technical University of Moldova, after which he graduated from the Film Faculty, specializing in Film Image at UNATC Bucharest. He is the author of a medium-length documentary "Moldova-Land ogf Honey" and a mini-series of documentary shorts "Engineers Create the Future". He is currently in post-production with the feature-length documentary When the Sky Was High. Production house : BARPRODCONS SRL - Fântânila, 2018, When Sky Was High, postproduction.

Synopsis

Soviet Bessarabia, winter 1948–1949. In villages devastated by forced collectivization, the families of those hiding in the forests live under constant threat of denunciation and reprisals. Profira arrives with her four children at the house of Elizaveta, the family's elderly godmother, for what appears to be an ordinary visit. But the adults watch the children too closely and keep them away from the stove. Profira knows her fugitive husband is hidden in the alcove beside the stove. Meanwhile, Profira's seven-year-old son, Gheorghita, plays at arresting "enemies of the people," repeating the language of terror as he drifts closer and closer to the forbidden place. Profira senses that this visit is no longer just a clandestine family reunion. Elizaveta confirms that his leg has turned gangrenous. He can no longer survive in the forest. A clandestine family visit turns into a farewell. But Profira refuses to accept the ending already imposed on them.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Production Company

Carpat Screen.

Short bio

Livia Maria Sîrbu is a film director, screenwriter, and producer with experience in directing and producing numerous short films and documentaries; her projects have been selected for the Transilvania International Film Festival and nominated for the Gopo Awards. Together with CARPAT SCREEN, an independent production company focused on film, television, and audiovisual content, she develops projects with local and international potential, based on authentic storytelling and relevant to contemporary audiences.

Director

Livia Maria Sîrbu

Project title

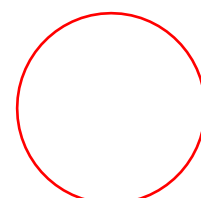
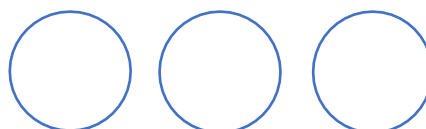
Toward the Fears
that Await You

Synopsis

In 1950, in Bucharest, the Pangrati family celebrates their daughter Felicia's birthday. Vicențiu's attempts to avoid conflict with the authorities fail, and the militia's violent intervention turns the party into a tragedy, marking the family's downfall and the end of innocence.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Director

Cătălina Pistol

Project title

My Loser Brother

Production Company



Short bio

Cătălina Pistol is a director and producer from the Republic of Moldova. She studied Film Directing at Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca and completed a master's degree in Film Production at UNATC Bucharest. In recent years, she has been based in Bucharest, working as a development coordinator for feature films and executive producer on short films, selected at festivals such as Venice, Berlinale, and Rotterdam, with her production experience helping shape her own directorial vision.

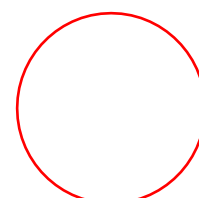
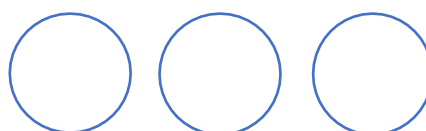
Grain Film is an independent production company dedicated to fiction short and feature films — projects that have something to say, built on the belief that cinema should never smooth out reality, but face it directly.

Synopsis

Victoria, a 9-year-old gymnast, is excited and nervous to meet Oleg, her teenage stepbrother from Ukraine. They share the same father, but have never met before. Victoria imagines a perfect older brother, yet Oleg's quiet, awkward presence disappoints her. As her parents question him and speak doubtfully about his life in Ukraine, their judgment slowly becomes her own. The next day, Victoria is forced to take Oleg outside with her. Embarrassed, she introduces Oleg to her friends as one of her mother's patients, hiding his real identity and keeping him at the edge of the group. However, when a frisbee gets stuck on a roof, Oleg climbs up and retrieves it, instantly winning the children's admiration. At a nearby ruin, he shows them parkour skills, and Victoria feels pushed aside. Trying to win the kid's attention back, she climbs onto the concrete structure to perform a gymnastics move, but her earring gets caught and tears her earlobe. Oleg reacts immediately, comforts her, and takes the blame at home. Days later, at Victoria's gymnastics competition, she sees him in the audience, smiling at her. For the first time, his support matters more than everyone else's approval.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Production Company

Symbol
M E D I A

Short bio

Symbol Media stands out through its films and co-productions, with over 100 selections at international festivals.

Eugen Marian, 33 years old, born in Orhei. A graduate of the Moscow film school "Free Cinema" at the lab "Non-Stop Production" led by Alexander Rodnyansky. He is the director and screenwriter of the film "Bird's Milk" (80 minutes, 2021), winner of the "Works in Progress" program at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival and a prize-winner at "Kinotavr".

Director

Eugen Marian

Project title

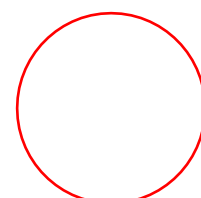
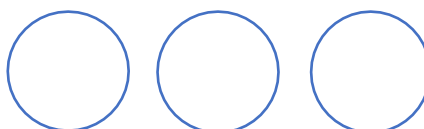
Under My Skin

Synopsis

Nina, 25 years old, from a provincial small town, sleeps in apartment block stairwells, avoiding at all costs returning home. She survives by selling breast milk to mothers in need — a secret carried in silence, without explanation. An unexpected encounter unsettles her: she takes a client's child in her arms and runs, overwhelmed by feelings she cannot control. Wandering through the city, she ends up in front of her own apartment, where a place covered in flowers and children's toys blocks her entry. She cannot bring herself to step inside. Her wanderings lead her to a maternity ward, where, guided by the cry of a newborn, she enters a room and breastfeeds a stranger's baby. The nurses intervene and take the child away. Returned to her block, Nina tries to scrub a dried bloodstain from the concrete — the trace of what happened. She cannot manage it. Exhausted, she finally enters her apartment. In the bedroom full of abandoned diapers and toys, Nina closes the window, grabs the curtain, and remains frozen — forever. The film is a quiet drama about loss, maternal guilt, and the impossibility of fleeing one's own pain.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Production Company



Short bio

Daniela was born in Moldova. Filmmaking is her way of expressing ideas and combining all forms of art. She is currently working on the post-production of the documentary “*Sentenced at Birth*” („*Pruncii de la Pruncul*”), about women giving birth in prison. The company was founded by Miron Daniela, a passionate director and producer who recognized the need for a creative platform that, in addition to producing documentary and fiction films, could also organize musical performances and interdisciplinary events bringing together artists from diverse fields.

Director

Daniela Miron

Project title

Dad for a Day

Synopsis

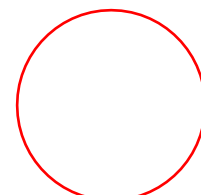
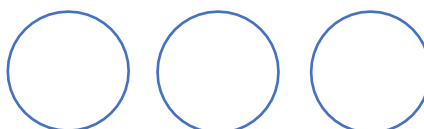
Anna, 10 years old, is prepared with excessive care by her mother, Ioana, to spend a summer day with her father, Mihai, a well-known singer. At the villa where Mihai is about to perform a concert with his band, Anna meets Magda, her father’s new girlfriend — a warm-hearted woman who tries her best to get close to her.

Anna rejects Magda from the very first moment. Jealous and deeply protective of her mother, she sees Magda as an enemy. Every smile, every gesture of closeness between Mihai and Magda makes Anna feel guilty, as if she were betraying her mother. Her jealousy grows throughout the day, culminating in a harsh remark meant to hurt Magda.

But just when Anna believes she has won, she witnesses Magda’s genuine pain. For the first time, the little girl understands that the two of them are not enemies. In fact, they share the same vulnerable position: both are trying to find their place beside the same man, who seems not to truly belong to anyone. Out of this shared pain, an unexpected and deeply moving moment of solidarity is born between the 10-year-old girl and the 33-year-old woman.

Jury name:

Jury score:





Production Company

Symbol
M E D I A

Short bio

Symbol Media stands out through its films and co-productions, with over 100 selections at international festivals.

Eugen Marian, 33 years old, born in Orhei. A graduate of the Moscow film school "Free Cinema" at the lab "Non-Stop Production" led by Alexander Rodnyansky. He is the director and screenwriter of the film "Bird's Milk" (80 minutes, 2021), winner of the "Works in Progress" program at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival and a prize-winner at "Kinotavr".

Director

Eugen Marian

Project title

Shadow Behind

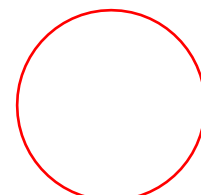
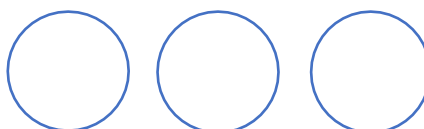
Synopsis

The year 2006. Moldova. Lilia, a young single mother from Sorooca, lives on the edge of poverty in a rented room, fighting daily for survival. Pressed by hardship and the dream of a better future in Europe, she makes an extreme decision: she temporarily leaves her child in the care of a wealthy family that recently lost their own child.

What seems like a temporary compromise quickly becomes an open wound. Loneliness, guilt, and the absence of her child overwhelm her. Determined, Lilia sets out alone to find him and discovers that the little one is loved and well cared for — a reality that causes her an even deeper inner rupture. Confronted with the pain of the adoptive family and her own suffering, Lilia makes the choice that can no longer be postponed: she takes her child back, refusing any compromise. In the end, on an abandoned carousel in a park, the slow and imperceptible movement captures her suspended state — between what she has lost and what she chooses to rebuild. The Shadow Behind is a drama about motherhood, sacrifice, and the moral limits imposed by poverty, and about the force of instinct that refuses to accept loss as final.

Jury name:

Jury score:



SHORT FICTION



Production Company



Short bio

Jasmin Delev is a young Moldovan filmmaker and audiovisual artist currently completing a BA in Audiovisual Design in Rotterdam. Raised in a family of artists, she has been shaping her artistic vision since an early age. Her work explores the absurdity of love and death, fairytales as naïve essences of human nature through surrealism, magical realism, and oneiric imagery. Through a bold lens inspired by European arthouse cinema, she reinterprets local culture to shake and provoke contemporary Moldovan mindsets.

Director

Jasmin Delev

Project title

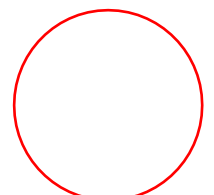
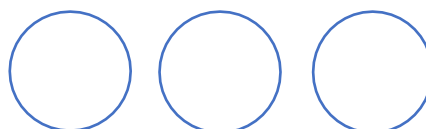
We Can't Break Up

Synopsis

On the day of his religious wedding ceremony with Luiza, David visits his father's grave with his mother. As they leave for the church across from the cemetery, she urges him to stop by Sofia's grave, his first wife, who died by suicide. David speaks to her as if she were still present, quietly asking permission to move on. When he touches the grave, he is pulled into a space between worlds: an isolated island on a river. There, Sofia appears as if their relationship never ended. She invites him to remain with her outside time. David refuses, and her tenderness turns into despair and accusation. He escapes back to the cemetery. At the church, David tries to continue the ceremony, but reality begins to shift. Sounds, objects, and faces distort. He sees Sofia where others should be, while Luiza suffers unexplained emotional breakdowns. The priest's questions about past promises feel like judgment. Sofia's presence grows stronger until it seems she may be possessing Luiza. David must choose between a distorted union, Sofia's world, or total loneliness. He runs from the church, falls, and dies. The final image shows him in a boat near the island, unable to escape or choose

Jury name:

Jury score:



Gabriele Brunnenmeyer is a script mentor, pitching coach and project consultant. She ran the MEDIA Antenna Berlin-Brandenburg, worked for the German young talent funding institution KJDF and has developed industry events including Connecting Cottbus, the IDM Film Conference Incontri and MDM's Meet Your Neighbour in Leipzig. Alongside consulting on script and project development for individual projects, she consults regularly European Training Programs as HerArts FilmLab, Midpoint Shorts, Midpoint Feature Launch, KVIFF Eastern Promises Industry Days, AKM (Akademie for Children Media), MDM Kontakt, Cutting Edge Talent Camp, Baltic Pitching Forum, SFC Cannes / Rendez-Vouz-Industry, New Horizons Studio, Istanbul Film Station, Sarajevo Talents-Pack& Pitch and others.

Giovanni Robbiano is an Italian screenwriter, director, producer, script consultant, and film educator born in Genoa in 1958. After graduating from the University of Bologna, he continued his studies as a Fulbright Scholar at Columbia University's School of the Arts in New York, where he worked alongside acclaimed filmmakers including Emir Kusturica, Marcia Nasatir, and Hector Babenco. Upon returning to Italy, he won the prestigious Solinas Prize for his screenplay *Figurine*, which he later directed in 1997. His directing credits also include *500!* (2001), co-directed and produced with Matteo Zingirian and Lorenzo Vignolo, and *Hermano* (2004), alongside numerous short films, documentaries, and television productions. As a screenwriter and creative producer, he has contributed to a wide range of feature films and TV projects, including *Tutti i rumori del mare* (2012), directed by Federico Brugia and recipient of several international awards, as well as the television series *Task Force 45 – Friendly Fire*. Alongside his filmmaking career, Robbiano has worked extensively as a script editor and consultant on productions across Europe and has taught at leading universities and film institutions throughout Europe and Africa. Since 2015, he has served as Head of FAMU International in Prague.

Crăița Nanu is Senior Manager of Fiction Development at PRO TV, where she oversees the development of fiction projects, drawing on extensive experience in film curation, script consultancy, television writing, and audiovisual education. She has worked with the Transilvania International Film Festival, contributed to independent film development initiatives, and co-founded the New Draft Screenwriting Residency together with Control N. She has also been actively involved in the development of Ora de Cinema, an educational platform bringing film literacy into Romanian schools since 2022. Holding a degree in Journalism and a Master's degree in Screenwriting from UNATC, she began her career at MediaPRO in 2002, working in production, assistant directing, and later as head writer and co-writer for television series and miniseries. Since 2012, she has been active across independent cinema, film festivals, distribution, cultural journalism, and professional training programs.