

THE APOCALYPSE FROM THE DRIVERS' POINT OF VIEW

A documentary by Alexandru Solomon

WHY:

The Bucharest citizen was born for the second time in his car. He also spends his second life in the car. When driving, he is another person: intolerant with other people, careless about their lives or savage every time he is annoyed. The rules are not obeyed, they couldn't be. Due to this aspect, the city has become unrecognizable: we have to deal with a jungle rather than a community. The future is a dark one: more and more cars, Bucharest citizens more and more ... drivers. The start-up of this project comes from a pressing feeling that this is – truly- how the apocalypse looks.

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HOW:

This is not a documentary about the state of roads or cars, but about the condition in which the traffic leads us. We chose 5 characters whom we accompany in traffic, on a daily basis. They are ordinary people, but their stories are extraordinary. The way they share the road in order to go one's way is a metaphor for the way in which our society functions. On the road, the same as in a court room, the strongest one wins and in many cases, the richest. On the road, everyone tries to remain human, although at the end of it you can't see anything good.

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FEW DATA :

- annually there are registered approximately 130.000 new vehicles in Bucharest
- in 1990, there were 136.000 cars in Bucharest, today there are 1.100.000 registered cars
- 25% of Romanian imports are represented by cars (2nd place in Europe)
- each 3 serious accidents, a decease is registered (1st place in Europe)
- over 90% of the guilt killing cases receive abeyance sentences (no prison)
- the car accidents are the main death cause on the 16-24 years old segment

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 - Filmmaker, Cinematographer, Producer. Member of EDN (European Documentary Network).
 - Worked as Associate Producer for foreign crews on BBC, WDR/Arte, CBC and Yorkshire TV documentaries.
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- **Documentaries & experimental / Direction and camera (selective) :**
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 - 2007: "COLD WAVES" – "Razboi pe calea undelor" / *radio versus state terror during the Cold War and after.*
 - 108 min. Prod. Hi Film, Geppert Productions, Paul Thiltges Distributions. CNC, TVR (Romania), YLE Finland with Media Plus, Nipkow Programm and Jan Vrijman support. Best Romanian Doc – Gopo Award.
 - Festivals: Leipzig, Astra Sibiu and IDFA premieres, participations in Visions du Reel Nyon, Goeteborg, Trieste, Sheffield IFF, etc.
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 - 2006: "CLARA B." / *Docu-fiction: the 20th century through the eyes of a woman-photographer.*
 - 52 min. Prod. Seppia, NDR/Arte, FR3 Alsace and TVR with support from French CNC.
 - Prize for Best Documentary, Dakino International Festival, 2006.
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 - 2004: "THE GREAT COMMUNIST BANK ROBBERY" / *how did the 1959 hold-up become a propaganda coup?.*
 - 75 min. / 69 min. Prod. Les Films d'Ici, Libra Film, ZDF/Arte, BBC, FR2, with support from the National Film Center, Romania, Jan Vrijman Fund and Eurimages.
 - Prize of the Festival du Film d'Histoire, Pessac, France. Grand Prix Mediawave Hungary.
 - Prize for Social values, Documenta Madrid. Best Director, Hungarian-Romanian Doc Festival, 2005.
 - Selected in the Joris Ivens Competition at IDFA 2004, Jerusalem, Minneapolis, Sarajevo, Mar del Plata, Hong-Kong and Alpe Adria Film Festivals.

- 2002: "THE SWEET BREAD OF EXILE" / *Romania's greatest comic author, Caragiale, exiled himself to Berlin*
- 26 min. / 10 min. Prod. Fundatia Arte Vizuale, with support from the National Film Center, Romania.
- Special Prize of the Jury, Romanian Filmmakers' Union. Best Documentary, Alternative Festival, Targu Mures. Selected at Jerusalem, Mediawave & Sarajevo FF.
- Broadcasted by TVR 2 / Romania. Special screenings in Berlin, London.
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- 2001: "THE MAN WITH THOUSAND EYES" / *the life and pictures of Iosif Berman, reporter.*
- 52 min. / 26 min. Prod. Ager Film, Fundatia Arte Vizuale, with support from the National Film Center, Romania.
- Best Documentary, Dakino Film Festival (2001). Best Short Documentary, Romanian Filmmakers' Guild.
- Best Director and Best Photography, Cronograf FF, Chisinau.
- Selected at DokumentArt, Germany; ArtFilm, Slovakia; Mediawave, Gyor; Astra International Festival, Romania.
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- 1999: "A DOG'S LIFE" / *Bucharest, city of dogs, village without watchdogs.*
- 23 min. A coproduction of Fundatia Arte Vizuale and the Soros Foundation, Romania.
- Best Documentary Prize, Dakino Film Festival, Romania.
- Selected by Videoart Locarno, Eureka Screenings, Budapest (1999), NAHEMI Festival/ Londra, IndieLisboa.
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- 1997: "FORTRESS GUARD" / Documentary.
- 24 min. Prod. Fundatia Arte Vizuale, Romania. Great Prize, Ethnos Film Festival, Romania (1997).
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- 1996: "ZURICH CHRONICLE" / *Romanian artists went to Zurich to invent Dada movement, 1916-1918.*
- 40 min. in coll. with Radu Igazsag. Prod. Fundatia Arte Vizuale, with support form Pro Helvetia.

- Special Prize, The Romanian Television Professionals' Association. Great Prize, MediaFest '96, Romania.
- Prize for Best Documentary, Young Filmmakers' Festival, Costinesti (1996).
- Broadcasted by TVR International / Romania. Special screenings in Zurich, Paris, Bruxelles.
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- 1995: "VIA REGIS" / *A documentary on king Michael living in exile as an ordinary man.*
- 62 min. in coll. with Radu Igazsag. Prod. Fundatia Arte Vizuale, Romania.
- Award for Best Documentary, Romanian Filmmakers' Guild (1996).
- Broadcasted by TVR International / Romania; TV Aben / Denmark.
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- 1994: "DUO FOR PAOLONCELLO AND PETRONOME" / *Paul Celan's youth in Bucharest, after WW2.*
- 28 min. Prize for Best Video, International Youth Film Festival, Costinesti, Romania (1994).
- Special Prize, Mediafest '96, Romania.
- Selected at Cracow / Poland (1995), Clermont-Ferrand (1996), Stuttgarter Filmwinter (1996).
- Special screenings in Paris, Bruxelles, Mainz, Berlin. Broadcasted by Telecable, TVR 2 / Romania.
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- 1993: "SHRIEK INTO THE EAR-DRUM" / *A visual essay on Romanian avant-garde, 1916-1947.*
- 27 min. in coll. with Radu Igazsag. Prod. Fundatia Arte Vizuale, Romania.
- Prize for Best Experimental Film, "Mediawave" Festival, Gyor, Hungary (1994).
- Special Prize, International Film Festival, Targu-Mures, Romania (1994).
- Award for Best Documentary, Romanian Filmmakers' Guild (1993).
- Prize for Best Video, The Romanian National Film Festival, Costinesti, Romania (1993).
- Selected at VideoFest Berlin (1994), Clermont-Ferrand (1995), Stuttgarter Filmwinter '96.

- Broadcasted by Kunskanaal / Holland; Duna TV / Hungary, TV Aben / Denmark; TVR 2 / Romania.
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- 1993: "2 X 5" / *Videoart*. In collaboration with Geta Bratescu. 4 min.
- Selected at "Deutscher VideoKunstPreis" / Germany (1994), "VideoFormes '95" / Clermont-Ferrand.
- Broadcast by SudWestFunk/ Baden Baden; TV Aben/ Denmark. "Europa, Europa" Exhibition/ Bonn (1994)
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- 1992: "EARTHCAKE" / in collaboration with Geta Bratescu. 7 min. *Videoart*.
- Selected at EuroMediaArt Osnabruck; Clermont-Ferrand; Film Forum Arsenal / Riga, Latvia (1993).
- Broadcasted by TVR 1 / Romania.
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- **Cinematography for Features on 35 mm film:**
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- 2004: "L'HOMME PRESSE" / director of photography. Directed by Sebastien Grall. For FR2 (France).
- 2004: "SWEET SAUNA OF DEATH" / director of photography. Directed by Andrei Blaier.
- 2003: "THE PHARAOH" / director of photography, 80 min. Dir. by Sinisa Dragin.
 - Selected at Rotterdam, Alba, Sarajevo FF.
- 2003: "EXAM" / director of photography. Directed by Titus Muntean.
 - Selected at "Go East" Festival Wiesbaden, Germany.
- 2000: "GOD KISSES US ON THE MOUTH" / director of photography, 90 min. Dir. by Sinisa Dragin.
 - Tiger Award at the Rotterdam Film Festival, Special Prize at the Cairo Film Festival,
 - Camera Award at the Belgrade Film Festival.
- 1998: "FACE TO FACE" / director of photography, 90 min. Dir. by Marius Barna.
 - Selected at the Montreal and Los Angeles International Film Festivals.

- 1995: "STATE OF THINGS"/ camera; 90 min. Directed by Stere Gulea.
- 1994: "THE STONE CROSS"/ co-director of photography; 90 min. Dir. by Andrei Blaier.
- 1993: "LOOK FORWARD IN ANGER"/ director of photography, 85 min. Dir. by N. Margineanu.
- Great Prize at the Pesaro Film Festival, Special Prize at Troia Film Festival, Portugal.
- Award for Cinematography, International Camera Festival, Bitola, Macedonia.
- 1992: "THE CONJUGAL BED"/ camera; 90 min. Directed by Mircea Daneliuc.
- Selected at the Cannes International Film Festival. Great Prize of the Romanian Filmmakers' Union.

- **Education, Residences:**

- 2001: Discovery Campus Masterschool, Germany.
- 2000: Nipkow Programm residence, Berlin, Germany.
- 1996: Residence in Multimedia, University of California at San Diego, USA.
- 1986-1991: Studies at the Film and Theatre Academy, Camera Dept., Bucharest. Graduate.

- **Current Activities:**

- 1996-2001: Assistant Professor at the Art Academy, Bucharest.
- 1993-present: Program Manager at Fundatia ARTE VIZUALE (Visual Arts Foundation).
- 1997- 1999: Director and director of photography for TV shows at PRO TV, Bucharest.
- 1992-1995: Assistant Professor at the Film and Theatre Academy, Camera Dept., Bucharest.