



THE OAK

(Balanta)

A FILM BY

LUCIAN PINTILIE

RESTORED BY FUNDAȚIA9 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MK2
THE ORIGINAL NEGATIVE DIGITIZED BY HIVENTY (FRANCE) AND RESTORED IN 4K BY
DIGITAL CUBE (ROMANIA)

1992 – DRAMA – FRANCE, ROMANIA – ROMANIAN – 105'

foundation9

founding partner
 BRD
ORGANIZATIA DE PROMOVARE SI PROTECTIE A CINEMATOGRAFIEI ROMANE

mk2 FILMS

THE OAK – SYNOPSIS

Apocalypse is now in this edgy, extravagant and savagely funny depiction of Romania in the last stages of Ceaușescu's monstrous Communist dictatorship.

The beautiful and recklessly defiant Nela, whose secret police father has just died, sets off into the desolate countryside with the father's ashes in a coffee jar. When she arrives at a run-down, overcrowded hospital, Nela embarks on a makeshift love affair with a brilliant, rude and irreverent doctor.

THE OAK – PRESS REVIEWS

"A magnificent social satire which shows the material and spiritual poverty of a sick nation where hospital patients die from bureaucracy, and baby-faced soldiers machine gun a school bus."

Senses of Cinema

"Mr. Pintilie dramatizes it in the bitter ways of social satire. The movie has the tempo of cabaret theater. It is wildly grotesque, shocking and sometimes very funny. The details are vivid. The two central roles are exceptionally well played."

The New York Times

"Lucian Pintilie dissects the dispossession of one human being by another, and the cruelest is not the one you would expect."

Les Cahiers du Cinéma

"An allegory of the corruption and terror that marked the Ceaușescu era."

The Guardian

LUCIAN PINTILIE – SHORT BIOGRAPHY

“The godfather of the Romanian New Wave.”

The Guardian

Lucian Pintilie (1933 – 2018) was a Romanian director whose career in theater, opera, film and television has gained him international recognition. From 1960 to 1972 he was resident director at the Bulandra Theatre in Bucharest. His productions included George Bernard Shaw's *Cesar and Cleopatra*, Max Frisch's *Biedermann and the Firebugs*, Anton Chekhov's *Cherry Orchard* and Nikolai Gogol's *Inspector General* a satire of government bureaucracy, which was suspended by the regime in 1972. From 1973 to 1982 he directed mainly in France at the Théâtre national de Chaillot and the Théâtre de la Ville where he staged, among other plays, Carlo Gozzi's *Turandot*, Henrik Ibsen's *Wild Duck*, and Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters* and *The Seagull*. In the United States, in addition to his work at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, Lucian Pintilie staged *Tartuffe* and *The Wild Duck* at Arena Stage in Washington.

His films brought him international reputation. *Sunday at 6* (1966) won the Prize of the Jury and the FIPRESCI Prize in Mar del Plata in 1966, and the Grand Prize of the Jury at the International Encounter of Films for Youth at Cannes in 1967. In 1968, he directed *The Reconstruction* (1968) considered by film historians to be the most important representation of Romanian cinema. After the return to democracy in Romania and his return to his homeland, Lucian Pintilie shot several films on his own terms. *The Oak* (1992), *An Unforgettable Summer* (1994, Cannes Competition) starred Kristin Scott Thomas, *Too Late* (1996, Cannes Competition), *Next Stop Paradise* (1998, winner of the Grand Special Jury Prize in Venice), *The Afternoon of a Torturer* (2001, Venice Competition). Lucian Pintilie was given retrospectives in 2011 (in Cluj) and in 2012 (in New York).

FILMOGRAPHY

2006 **TERTIUM NON DATUR** (SHORT)

2003 **NIKI AND FLO**

2001 **THE AFTERNOON OF A TORTURER**

Venice Competition

1998 **NEXT STOP PARADISE**

Venice Grand Special Jury Prize

1996 **TOO LATE**

Cannes Competition

1995 **LUMIÈRE ET COMPAGNIE** (DOCUMENTARY)

1994 **AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER**

Cannes Competition

1992 **THE OAK**

Geneva Best Actress Award (Maia Morgenstern), EFA European Actress of the Year (Maia Morgenstern)

1982 **CARNIVAL SCENES**

1978 **WARD SIX**

1973 **WARD SIX** (TV MOVIE)

1968 **RECONSTRUCTION**

1966 **SUNDAY AT 6**

Mar del Plata Special Mention, FIPRESCI Prize

THE MEDIA ABOUT LUCIAN PINTILIE

"One of Europe's finest filmmakers, Lucian Pintilie creates corrosive cinema that is at once original, ferocious, and hopeful."

MoMA

"Lucian Pintilie was cited by numerous critics and filmmakers as Romania's greatest director. [His] films have been praised for their dark humor and social critique. For Pintilie, filmmaking represents an act of resistance to an oppressive culture. For the greatest directors of the Romanian New Wave, cinema is a tool to expose social truths that had been impossible to discuss publicly under Ceausescu: state inefficiency, the nightmare of living under totalitarianism. The precise realism of these movies makes these experiences seem palpable, impossible not to discuss."

The Chicago Reader

"It is without any doubt that Pintilie was a strong inspiration for New Wave filmmakers. He was one of the unique voices of the Romanian cinema who was not making any artistic or ideological compromises. He was radical and edgy."

Tudor Giurgiu (Romanian director) in *Variety*

"A brilliant artist of immense irony who went from film to theater with the same elegance with which he combined acute social observation and visual poetry in his work. Always angry, cynical, subversive, and never willing to compromise, either politically or artistically, Pintilie cut to the bone and dismissed the numb, cosmetic version of reality as tailored by the authorities, revealing it in its stark, sometimes grotesque nudity."

Mihai Chirilov (Transilvania festival Artistic Director) in *Variety*

THE OAK – CAST

NELA

MAIA MORGENSTERN

MITICA

RAZVAN VASILESCU

VILLAGE MAYOR

VICTOR REBENGIUC

COUNTRY PRIEST

DOREL VISAN

PRIEST'S WIFE

MARIANA MIHUT

PROSECUTOR

DAN CONDURACHE

NELA'S FATHER

VIRGIL ANDRIESCU

NELA'S MOTHER

LEOPOLDINA BALANUTA

BUTUSINA

ALEXANDRU MATEI

PRIEST IN THE TRAIN

GHEORGHE VISU

MITICA'S ASSISTANT

MAGDA CATONE

TITI

IONEL MIHAILESCU

THE OAK – CREW

SCREENPLAY

LUCIAN PINTILIE

based on the novel *Balanta* by Ion Baiescu

PHOTOGRAPHY

DORU MITRAN

SOUND

ANDREI PAPP

EDITING

VICTORITA NAE

PRODUCTION DESIGN

CALIN PAPURA

COSTUMES

SVETLANA MIHAILESCU

MAKEUP

GEORGHE DRAGHICI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

CONSTANTIN POPESCU (FILMEX)

PRODUCED BY

LUCIAN PINTILIE - STUDIO OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC
CREATION OF THE ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF
CULTURE (ROMANIA)

ELIANE STUTTERHEIM, SYLVAIN BURSZTEJN -
PARNASSE PRODUCTION (FRANCE)

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SCARABÉE FILMS

MK2 PRODUCTIONS S.A.

LA SEPT CINÉMA

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

CNC

CANAL +

ABOUT FOUNDATION9

Foundation9, an initiative founded and financed by BRD Groupe Société Générale, supports the new generation of thinkers and artists. Through our programs, we intend to stimulate critical thinking and bring new perspectives on the contemporary world. We plan to open the culture to the public, stimulate curiosity and recover essential fragments from our memory. We are constantly building a network of people to remind us all why culture and education are so vital.

In 2018, we created the Lucian Pintilie Cinema Fund to honor the memory of the great Romanian director and to support the young generation of filmmakers.

The other two programs run by Foundation9 are the cultural journalism publication Scena9 and the arts program of Reziđența BRD Scena9, a cultural hotspot in the heart of Bucharest dedicated to contemporary artists.

Follow us on: www.fundatia9.ro and <https://www.facebook.com/fundatia9/>

ABOUT MK2 FILMS

Every year, mk2 FILMS coproduces, sells and distributes a dozen new films by established or promising directors such as Céline Sciamma, Mati Diop, Jia Zhangke, Xavier Dolan, Pawel Pawlikowski, and Corneliu Porumboiu.

mk2 FILMS also distributes a unique library of more than 600 films in France and around the world, including some of the major films of the history of cinema and a large number of classic films restored in 2K and 4K: Charles Chaplin, François Truffaut, Abbas Kiarostami, Krzysztof Kieślowski, David Lynch, Buster Keaton, Claude Chabrol, Michael Haneke, Stan Laurel and the RKO collection to name but a few. The latest film restorations conducted by mk2 FILMS include a collection of 20 early films of Abbas Kiarostami (2K), AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER by Lucian Pintili (2K), RENDEZ-VOUS by André Téchiné (2K), THE TRIAL OF JOAN OF ARC by Robert Bresson (4K) or MY AMERICAN UNCLE by Alain Resnais (4K).

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