

SHELLAC presents a MANDRAGORA production



MALMKROG

a film by CRISTI PUIU

based on *Three Conversations* by VLADIMIR SOLOVYOV



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a film by CRISTI PUIU

adaptation of a text by Vladimir Solovyov

with Frédéric Schulz-Richard, Agathe Bosch, Marina Palii,
Ugo Broussot, Diana Sakalauskaite, István Téglás

SALES shellac

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200MIN - DCP - 1.85 - COLOR - 5.1 - FRENCH, HUNGARIAN, GERMAN, RUSSIAN
ROUMANIA, SERBIA, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA, MACEDONIA - 2020

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SYNOPSIS

Nikolai, a large landowner, a man of the world, places his country estate at the disposal of some friends, by organizing a sojourn at the spacious manor house.

For the guests, among which we find a politician, a young countess, a Russian General and his wife, time passes at the manor house with rich meals, society games and by engaging in a long discussion about death and the Antichrist, progress and morality.

As the discussion gradually takes shape and the various topics are broached, each of them lays out his vision of the world, history, and religion.

The hours pass, the discussion becomes more heated, the topics become more and more serious, and differences of culture and viewpoints grow increasingly apparent.

Whether for good reason or not, the guests end up exacerbating each other's anxieties to the point that their conversation begins to be sorely strained.

Finally, falling into the snare of their own discourse and believing that history never repeats itself, none of them is able to realize the extent of the event in which they have unwittingly come to be trapped.

ABOUT THE BOOK

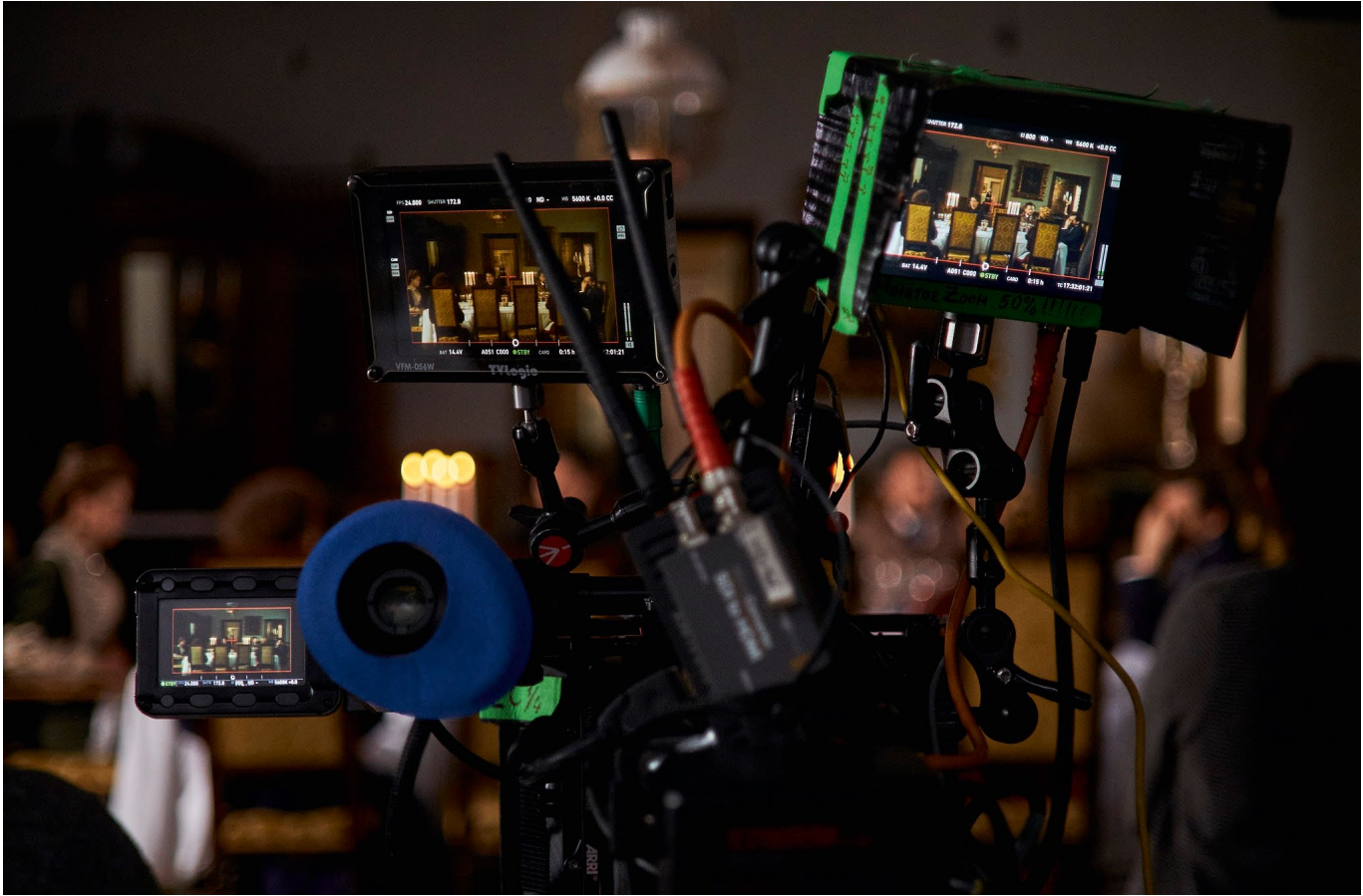
THREE CONVERSATIONS

The historical forces governing the masses of humanity will clash and mingle before the body of this beast, tearing itself as it grows a new head : the worldwide unifying power of the Antichrist “who utters strong and elevated words” and will throw the shining veil of good and justice on the mystery of iniquity which will peak at its final manifestation, to drag the elect, so it is said in the Scriptures, to the great apostasy.

The utmost design I had in writing this short book was to show the deceptive face which hides the abyss of evil.

Vladimir Solovyov





DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The problems posed by adapting a real event for the screen are to a large extent contiguous with those that arise in the case of creating a film version of a literary text. The risk of manipulating events or distorting the author's intention in order to put forward your own ideas, seems almost insurmountable. Perhaps this is why this screen version of Vladimir Soloviov's *Three Conversations* seems to be a doubly onerous task. On one hand, it must recreate an epoch, with its language, traditions and customs, and, on the other, it must respect the spirit of *Three Conversations* and thereby its author's intentions.

At the same time, in regard to the cinema properly speaking, the text constrains me to reformulate a large part of everything that has to do with image, acting and set-ting within a story told in the past tense. Therefore I decided to conceive the film as an interrogation on cinema and memory, allowing myself to imagine it step by step everyday, taking into account each vibration of the space, every change of the daylight, every fluctuation of the weather, every spasm of my intuition. These are the limits within which I plan to install my personal interpretation of a text that I consider to be, in many ways, prophetic.

Cristi Puiu, February 2019

BIO/FILMOGRAPHY

Cristi Puiu is the writer and the director, known for the award-winning films: *The Death of Mr. Lăzărescu* (2005), *Aurora* (2010), and *Sieranevada* (2016). He is considered the initiator of the Romanian New Wave and one of the most significant filmmakers today.

2020 *Malmkrog*

ENCOUNTERS - OPENING FILM - BERLINALE

2016 *Sieranevada*

OFFICIAL COMPETITION - FESTIVAL DE CANNES

2010 *Aurora*

UN CERTAIN REGARD CANNES - FESTIVAL DE CANNES

2005 *The Death of Mr. Lăzărescu*

UN CERTAIN REGARD AWARD - FESTIVAL DE CANNES

2001 *Stuff and Dough*

DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT - FESTIVAL DE CANNES



CAST

Madeleine	Agathe Bosch
Nikolai	Frédéric Schulz-Richard
Ingrida	Diana Sakalauskaitė
Edouard	Ugo Broussot
Olga	Marina Pali
István	István Téglás

CREW

Screenplay & director	Cristi Puiu
Producers	Anca Puiu Smaranda Puiu
Co-producers	Lucian Pintilie - Milan Stojanović Ivica Vidanović - Dan Wechsler - Jamal Zeinal-Zade Andreas Roald - Jörgen Andersson - Kjell Åhlund Peter Possne - Mirsad Purivatra - Labina Mitevska
Director of photography	Tudor Panduru
Sound	Jean-Paul Bernard
Sound mixing	Christophe Vingtrinier
Editing	Dragoş Apetri - Andrei Iancu Bogdan Zărnoianu
Costumes	Oana Păunescu
Art director	Cristina Barbu
Make-up	Dana Roşeanu
Hair	Elena Tudor

MANDRAGORA IADASARECASA SENSE PRODUCTION CINNAMON FILMS FILM I VÂST DOPPELGÄNGER BORD CADRE FILMS
PRODUKCIJA 2006 SARAJEVO SISTERS AND BROTHER MITEVSKI IN ASSOCIATION WITH SOVEREIGN FILMS ASOCIAȚIA CULTURALĂ IADASARECASA CNC
ROMÂNIA STUDIOUL DE CREAȚIE CINEMATOGRAFICĂ AL MINISTERULUI CULTURII IN ASSOCIATION WITH SRTV CANTON SARAJEVO NORTH MACEDONIA FILM
AGENCY MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS/REPUBLIC OF SERBIA MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION FILM CENTER SERBIA



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