



LOOK BACK / LOOK FORWARD

Home & Away. The Romanian Film Festival in London, 5th edition:
10-13 April 2008, Curzon Mayfair, 38 Curzon St, London W1J 7T

Dear Friends,

You already know that The Romanian Film Festival in London is five years old this year. Now that we have a past, we decided that each year we will revisit one of the iconic films of Romanian cinema. This year we selected **The Cruise** (Mircea Daneliuc, Romania, 1981), a witty satire of political mobilisation and collapsing authority set at the beginning of 1980s Romania. **The Cruise** mixes travelogue, love intrigue and political innuendo to tell the story of a group of youngsters who are offered a free cruise on the Danube as a reward for socialist 'work discipline'. The film is one of the most critically acclaimed to come from film-maker Mircea Daneliuc - probably the most flamboyant and irreverent figure of Romanian cinema of the 1970s and 1980s. Daneliuc's work carries an anti-establishment aura and a *gusto* for sparkling dialogue which have been his assets from the very beginning of his career.

Join us for the funniest and most politically acute work from the *enfant terrible* of Romanian cinema, and you will discover a cinematic gem of the former 'Eastern Bloc', ready to prove that today's New Romanian Cinema didn't materialise out of thin air.

And now that you agreed to look back at Daneliuc's *oeuvre*, we will also give you the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the newest wave coming out of Romania, and following in the footsteps of Cristian Mungiu and Cristi Puiu. They are working in short film for now, but those short films are already creating a buzz in international festivals. We have lined up two shorts sessions: a lighter, more humorous one, followed by a weightier programme which invites reflection. Check out your mood and go for one of them, or try a double bill and you won't regret it. Some of the film-makers will also be joining us, ready to tell you more about how it feels to be part of an exciting new cinema.

So see you on Friday 11 April at 6.30 pm for our (*sort of*) *fun on the run* (SHORTS I: IN THE

MORNING; BAKHTALO!; LIFE'S HARD; INSPIRATION; SASHA, GRISHA & ION), and then on **Saturday 12 April at 4.00 pm** for our *survival lessons* (SHORTS II: THE BOXING LESSON; HOME; THURSDAY; SANDPIT #186; REALITY WON'T BITE).

And don't forget about this year's winner in the Shorts Competition of the Berlinale: A GOOD DAY FOR A SWIM will be screened on **Saturday 12 April at 8.30 pm**, just before the feature-length documentary COLD WAVES. We can tell you that none of them has much to do with swimming as such, but for more info on the films and film-makers, visit our festival website, now fully updated at www.romanianculturalcentre.org.uk/filmfestival/

Meet you at Curzon Cinema Mayfair on 10-13 April, to look back & forward at Romanian Cinema from home & away!

Yours,
Home & Away Team 2008

Ramona Mitrica - Director, Romanian Cultural Centre
Adina Bradeanu - Programme Curator
Mihai Risnoveanu & Tudor Prisacariu - Design

The Romanian Film Festival is organised by:
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Photos: director Mircea Daneliuc; still image from REALITY WON'T BITE (directed by Marius Olteanu)

