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Donostia Zinemaldia
Festival de San Sebastián
OFFICIAL SELECTION



BLUE MOON

A FILM BY ALINA GRIGORE



SYNOPSIS

The film follows a girl's psychological journey to her dehumanizing process. While struggling to achieve higher education and escape the violence of her extended dysfunctional family, Irina metamorphoses from victim into abuser as a result of subtle violent contexts.

An ambiguous sexual experience with an artist gives her the strength to fight the violent approach of the males in her family.

BLUE MOON is a psychological drama that involves family, sex and a little bit of blood.



For years, themes like family grip suffocation and toxic relationships have drawn their roots from the political, economic, financial, religious or purely dogmatic environment, in Romania and abroad.

BLUE MOON looks at the female transformation in this present context.



IRINA

played by Ioana Chițu (*Closer to the Moon*, *Zavera*, *The Campaign*), is struggling to escape the violence of her extended dysfunctional family, while trying to achieve higher education in Bucharest, far away from her mountain village. During a party, Irina has an ambiguous sexual experience with an artist. She wakes up deflowered, having vague images of a man's hands. She confronts her uncertain “abuser” but chooses to begin an exclusively sexual relationship with him. This experience seems to give her strength because this is where she starts to fight the violent approach of the males in her family and becomes determined to run to Bucharest.

Using solely her astute brain and her feminine instincts Irina drives all the aggressors in her life into the depth of a subdued psychological game.



LIVIU

played by the award-winning actor Mircea Postelnicu, (Ana Mon Amour, Portrait of the Fighter as a Young Man, Apostolul Bologa) tries to put the old family business on the wheels and believes that a person does not need education as long as some simple family values and principles are followed.

There's no moral or immoral for Liviu but instead what matters is a proper christian demeanor to favor any purpose and by any means. Thus he enters into countless conflicts with his cousin, Irina and from an unintentional aggressor he becomes a certain victim.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I always knew I had to tell the story about the girls in my community but gathering the strength to express my inner feelings through images was rather difficult. Because I strongly believe in collaborative exploration and interdisciplinary approach, we gathered the team even before the script was written and thus we explored together the means to let the story unfold from emotions.

Within the continuous process of 5 years, I have willingly given up on a precise narrative thread. In the 10 years of researching creativity inside InLight Center I came to believe that the films needs a collective approach a deep understanding of the creative processes involved so for **BLUE MOON** I encouraged, for example, the **DOP** to understand the working and thinking mechanisms of an actor and vice versa and step by step we all exchanged techniques and ideas so that we can “dance” together on the same music and touch the subtlety of collective emotions.

The film does not provide solutions for the vicious circle of aggression. I think the film is more of a discourse of revenge, of decompression. The film does not touch at all on the possibility of escaping the status of the victim but rather seeks to determine a kind of experience of her emotions. In order to be able to accurately present the emotions, I often chose, in editing, to give up a logical course of the story and make it relevant for the public from the perspective of a very intimate experience.



CAST

Ioana Chițu
Mircea Postelnicu
Mircea Silaghi
Vlad Ivanov
Emil Măndănac
Ilinca Neacșu
Ioana Flora
Robi Urs
Mihaela Perianu



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Alina Grigore has a bachelor degree at UNATC - Bucharest, Acting/Directing department, Adrian Titieni's class. She is now a Phd student at the same university and an assistant researcher at CINETIC "International Research and Education Center for Inovative and Creative Technologies" Bucharest.

While preparing the release of BLUE MOON and its festival track for 2021 she is producing her second feature "Some irrelevant stories about moms" (working title) having attached the Oscar winning actress Melissa Leo (The Fighter, Frozen River, 21 Grams, Prisoners) to star in it.


Alumni Berlinale Talents 2018

Best Actress Subtitle Film Festival, Ireland 2016 for Illegitimate

Best script, Subtitle Film Festival, Ireland 2016 for Illegitimate

Best Actress Europe Autour De L'Europe Film Festival,
France 2016 for Illegitimate



A man and a woman are sitting in a field of tall grass, looking out over a vast mountain landscape. The man is on the left, wearing a light blue t-shirt and dark pants. The woman is on the right, wearing a light blue t-shirt and dark pants. The landscape features rolling hills, a small red building, and a dense forest of evergreen trees. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Producers

InLight Films

Coproducers

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THANK YOU!

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