



MEN OF DEEDS by Paul Negoescu

One liner

A village policeman, in his late thirties, tries to build a modest comfortable life for himself, but his past choices and a chain of violent events combine to pressure him into a very dark place.

Synopsis

Ilie, a small-town police chief, wants to build a modest comfortable life for himself, but ends up making the wrong choices. Middle-aged and alienated, he feels the need to be a part of something - to build an orchard, even a home. Although dubious things happen in the village, Ilie only sees what suits him. The moment he gets involved in the village marks the beginning of his collapse. In a vacuum of solutions, he tries to be what he has never been before: the justice seeker who arrests everyone guilty.

Director's Statement

Romanian Cinema is well known as an "auteur cinema" so it's not a very common thing for a filmmaker to direct a script he has not written himself. When I got the script of Radu Romaniuc I hesitated to accept it for more than half a year until I realized that Ilie is the kind of character I was always interested in, even if the stories I wrote were mostly urban stories of middle-class men. But in all these characters, I was interested in their inadaptation and inability to connect to their emotions. Ilie is this kind of a character.

Bucovina, the area where the story is settled, is a patriarchal society. Men are told since they are young children how they have to behave and what is their goal in life: they have to be strong, they have to dominate, they must start a family and must be successful in their careers. Well, Ilie is not like that at all. He failed at having a family, he is a mediocre policeman that runs away from conflicts, he is dominated by the people around him and when he finally gets a subordinate, he only manages to be pathetic by acting superior. And that wouldn't be such a problem if he wouldn't consider himself a failure. But he does feel like that. And this gap

between what Ilie knows about being a man and how he really feels inside makes him feel misfit. The dream to build an orchard is his last resort of feeling sort of fit in his world. When I realized this, not only I understood Ilie, but it also gave me a more detached perspective of idiosyncratic manhood and this is something that interests me a lot. The atmosphere of the film suggests that the story happens in a place where nothing normally happens, but also anything could happen at any moment. The characters are slightly stereotyped and caricatured, but the light-dark humored tone lets the audience take a step back and think about the film in a more profound manner.

Director's biography

Born in 1984, Paul Negoescu, studied film directing at the national film school in Bucharest. His short films were selected in many international festivals (Semaine de la Critique, Berlinale). His debut film, "A month in Thailand" premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2012, while his second feature, "Two Lottery Tickets", became one of the most successful Romanian film at the box office. "The Story of a Summer Lover", his 3rd feature, was distributed by Netflix in over 30 territories.

2018: The Story Of A Summer Lover – feature (Tallinn 2018)

2016: Two Lottery Tickets - feature

2012: A Month In Thailand – feature (Venice 2012)

2012: Horizon – short film (Cannes 2012)

2010: Derby – short film (Berlinale 2010)

2009: Renovation – short film (Berlinale 2009)

2008: A short ride – short film

2008: Late – short film

Cast

Iulian Postelnicu – Ilie / Vasile Muraru – Mayor Constantion / Anghel Damian – Vali / Crina Semciuc – Cristina / Daniel Busuioc – Priest Jordan

Crew

Director: Paul Negoescu

Writer: Radu Romaniuc, Oana Tudor

Cinematographer: Ana Drăghici

Editor: Eugen Kelemen

Sound: Marius Leftărache

Music: Marius Leftărache

Art Director: Vanina Geleva

Producer: Anamaria Antoci

Co-producer: Poli Angelova

Production Company: Papillon Film, Tangaj Production, Screening Emotions, Avanpost Production

Technical information

Original Title: OAMENI DE TREABĂ

Dark Comedy, Drama

Shooting format: Digital

Available for screenings: Cinema DCP

Color/b&w: color

Length: 105 min

Sound format: 5.1

Original language: Romanian

Subtitles: English

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