



**MEN  
OF  
DEEDS**

directed by  
**PAUL NEGOESCU**

written by  
**RADU ROMANIUC**  
**OANA TUDOR**

with  
**IULIAN POSTELNICU**  
**ANGHEL DAMIAN**  
**VASILE MURARU**  
**CRINA SEMCIUC**  
**DANIEL BUSUIOC**

**PRODUCTION CONTACT**  
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106 min | dark comedy  
DCP format | color

photos **IONUŢ RUSU**  
press kit **AVRAMOVA VFX**  
poster **HARDCUT**

**INSTAGRAM**

<https://www.instagram.com/oamenidetreaba>  
(@oamenidetreaba)

**FACEBOOK**

<https://www.facebook.com/oamenidetreaba>



## CAST

**IULIAN POSTELNICU** - Ilie

**ANGHEL DAMIAN** - Vali

**VASILE MURARU** - Mayor Constantin

**CRINA SEMCIUC** - Cristina

**DANIEL BUSUIOC** - The Priest

**OANA TUDOR** - Mona

**VITALIE BICHIR** - Cornel

**ANNEMARIE CHERTIC** - Mayor's Wife

## CREW

director **PAUL NEGOESCU**

screenplay **RADU ROMANIUC, OANA TUDOR**

director of photography **ANA DRĂGHICI**

editor **EUGEN KELEMEN**

music **MARIUS LEFTĂRACHE**

sound **MARIUS LEFTĂRACHE, MARIAN BĂLAN**

production design **VANINA GELEVA**

costumes **MĂLINA IONESCU**

make-up **BISTRA KECHEDJIEVA**

hair **ANDREEA LUPU**

casting director **FLORENTINA BRATFANOF**

producer **ANAMARIA ANTOCI**

delegate producer **ANA VOICU**

production **TANGAJ PRODUCTION, PAPILLON FILM**

co-producer **POLI ANGELOVA, NIKOLAY TODOROV**

co-production **SCREENING EMOTIONS, AVANPOST PRODUCTION**





## LOGLINE

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.

## SFF DAILY BULLETIN

### INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR PAUL NEGOESCU

What was so special in the script from Radu Romaniuc and Oana Tudor that you decided to make it into your first film that you didn't also write?

*When Radu came to me with the script of "Men of Deeds" I initially turned him down because it seemed a completely different world to me than the world I knew and grew up in. I lived all my life in Bucharest and the story takes place in the northern part of Moldova, in the countryside, where there's a strong accent that I'm not familiar with. So I only agreed to produce the film for him if he found a different director. But after almost a year of Radu insisting that I should be the one to direct this film I realized there is something in the main character that I was really interested in. I was always interested in characters who can't connect to their emotions and who are running away from reality until fate suddenly brings them in front of a reality check. So after realizing that, this story became familiar to me and I started to know what it was about.*

Did you immediately envision Iulian Postelnicu as your leading man Ilie, the forty-something chief of police in a village in Northern Romania?

*No, because I didn't know Iulian can speak with a moldovan accent. We organized a casting session with most Romanian actors in their 40s that lived in Moldova or had roots in Moldova, which is a region in the north-eastern part of Romania. We've also tried actors from the Republic of Moldova (which is an independent state, east from the Romanian part of Moldova), even if their accent is quite different. In the end, when I was preparing to try actors that are not from the region, I found out that Iulian was born in a town from the southern part of Moldova where there actually isn't a strong accent, but by having relatives that still live there, I imagined he can learn the accent easier. I was really happy the events took that turn.*





**Why did you choose to set this story in Bucovina, a traditional, patriarchal region nestled on the slopes of the Carpathian Mountains?**

*Radu Romaniuc, who is one of the writers, is from that region, from Botoșani, which is not actually Bucovina, but very close to it. He wrote the story to take place in the region where he lived as a child and teenager, since he knew that world really well. While preparing the production for the film we took in consideration the opportunity to change the place to a region closer to Bucharest, but we needed a region close to a non-EU border where they still do some smuggling. So we kept Botoșani as the place where the story happens since there is still a lot of smuggling going there, especially with cigarettes.*

**In some old western Ilie would be a hero that saves the village from its corrupted leaders. But in the end, even when he tries to be one, he is far from it. Do you believe that there are no more heroes today?**

*I think there still are heroes in the world, there are lots of people I admire for their courage to take action in difficult times. I also think there are a lot of regular people who are “everyday heroes”, just by doing their job incredibly well. And I also think there are a lot of films with powerful heroes so there wasn't a desperate need for another one. Ilie is an anti-hero since he is so un-conflictual and submissive and when he tries to do the right thing, he only manages to make things worse. So he's not just an anti-hero, but he's also quite incompetent.*

How important was it to put a little humor in this otherwise pretty dark story?

*For me it's really important to have humor in films, especially when there is a film with a more serious subject. It's like in that Mary Poppins song "a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down".*

With the romantic comedy "Two Lottery Tickets" you broke the record on Romanian Box Office. Do you expect same numbers with a film that has a lot of crime and almost no love?

*First of all, "Two Lottery Tickets" is not a romantic comedy, it doesn't have a love-story. I did make a romantic comedy, "The Story Of A Summer Lover", which didn't come close to the box office success of "Two Lottery Tickets" either. So I don't expect this film to be a box-office hit either, since it's not quite the story for a regular popcorn movie, even if I think it can be enjoyable to watch. The film might go well for a more mature audience than the typical multiplex audience, but it's hard to convince that kind of people to go and watch a film in a cinema venue, outside of a film festival. That's why festivals like Sarajevo are so important to films like this one. It offers them a chance to find their way to an audience that wants to see films that are a bit different than the ones they can normally watch in the regular program of a multiplex.*





## **BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR PAUL NEGOESCU**

*Born in 1984, Paul Negoescu, studied film directing at the national film school in Bucharest. His short films were selected in many international festivals including Cannes (Semaine de la Critique - 2012), Berlinale (2008, 2009 and 2010), Karlovy Vary or Rotterdam. Two of his short films (Renovation and Derby) were nominated at the European Film Academy Awards in 2009 and 2011.*

*His debut film, "A Month in Thailand" premiered at the Venice Film Festival (International Critics' Week) in 2012 and was awarded with the FIPRESCI prize in Sofia International Film Festival and Best Debut in Transilvania International Film Festival. His second feature, "Two Lottery Tickets", a micro-budget independent film, became one of the most successful Romanian film at the box office and was also very well received by festivals and critics. "The Story of a Summer Lover", his 3rd feature, was distributed by Netflix in over 30 territories.*

## BIOGRAPHY OF MAIN ACTOR IULIAN POSTELNICU

*Born in a small village near Romanian-Moldovan border, Iulian Postelnicu moved to Focșani where he discovered acting at 15 and he fell irremediably in love with the craft. At 22 he graduated from UNATC IL Caragiale in Bucharest with a Bachelor's Degree in acting.*

*After his graduation Iulian played several supporting characters in film such as "Domestic" (2012), "A Decent Man" (2018) and "One Floor Below" (2015) for which he received a Gopo nomination as Best Supporting Character. In 2019 he played the character of Vali in "Arest", for which he won the Gopo Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role. His more recent characters include: Costin in "Otto the Barbarian" (2020), Daniel in the HBO TV show "Ruxx" (2022) and Ilie in "Men of Deeds" (2022).*

*In addition to his acting career, Iulian Postelnicu worked as a writer for several Romanian TV shows like "Mondenii" and "Las Fierbinti". More recently, he co-wrote, together with Bogdan George Apetri, the screenplay for "Unidentified" (2020).*



## TANGAJ PRODUCTION (RO)

Tangaj Production is a Bucharest-based production company. Tangaj's branding and management underlines the company's direction towards a strong slate of arthouse films, carefully balanced with productions that tackle the audience in a unique manner. While focusing on exploring fresh, talented Romanian voices and newly discovered ones outside the borders, the company also provides high-quality production services. In Romania the company is working with established authors Andrei Ujică, Adrian Sitaru and Paul Negoescu, Ilinca Călugăreanu and directors at their first or second film like Bogdan Theodor Olteanu or Andra Tarara. In terms of international co-productions, the company's portfolio includes SAF by Turkish director Ali Vatansever (Toronto IFF – Discovery Section 2018, TR/DE/RO), the sophomore film by Mladen Djordjevic LABOUR DAY (RS/BG/GR/ME/RO), as well as George Sikharulidze's debut feature PANOPTICON (GE/FR/IT/RO).

## PAPILLON FILM (RO)

Papillon Film is an independent production company based in Bucharest. Its first production, Paul Negoescu's short film DERBY (2011), screened at over 80 film festivals, including the Berlinale, Karlovy Vary and Sarajevo, and was nominated for Best European Short at the European Film Awards. In 2014, it was followed by the omnibus film LOVE BUS: FIVE LOVE STORIES FROM BUCHAREST, directed by five upcoming Romanian directors. Papillon co-produced one of the biggest Romanian box-office successes, the critically-acclaimed TWO LOTTERY TICKETS (Shanghai, Thessaloniki and Zurich FFs 2016). The Romanian-Bulgarian coproduction THE STORY OF A SUMMER LOVER (Tallinn Black Nights FF 2018) was released in 2018 and, in 2021, the company co-produced Paul Negoescu's new feature film MEN OF DEEDS, which is set to be released in 2022.

## SCREENING EMOTIONS (BG)

Screening Emotions is a Bulgarian production company working mainly with young up-and coming filmmakers. The goal of SE is to create opportunities for new talents and to support original art films by directors that stand out with their unique visions. The company members have excellent experience in the production of short, feature, documentary and international co-production films. They have been in key positions and involved as co-producers in diverse productions such as Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanovs - THE LESSON (2014 San Sebastian, Tokio IFF) and GLORY (2016 Locarno IFF), to large scale international co-productions like THE STORY OF A SUMMER LOVER by Paul Negoescu (supported by Eurimages 2017), MEN OF DEEDS by Paul Negoescu (supported by Eurimages 2020), with premiere at Sarajevo IFF, TO THE NORTH by Mihai Mincan, with premiere at Venice IFF.

## AVANPOST PRODUCTION (RO)

Avanpost Production is a team of professionals gathered in the largest production hub in Eastern Europe, specialized in telling stories through images that captivate the imagination and inspire the audience. A complete source for every production. Comprehending the specificity of each project and having all departments under the same roof. Since its foundation in 2019, Avanpost Production has completed numerous advertising and film productions, collaborating with leading agencies, brands and artists across the audiovisual market. Avanpost supports Romanian film through funding and partnerships, offering a fertile space for creators to explore ideas that aspire to improve our future and challenge new ways of thinking. All projects are important to Avanpost Production, whether we are talking about movies, commercials or music videos. No project is too big or too small to benefit from the same processes to ensure maximum quality.

MEN OF DEEDS | OFFICIAL TRAILER  
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PAPILLON FILM



*screening emotions*



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