



INTERNAL ZERO

By Eugen Jebeleanu

Festivals

Smart 7 competition 2025: Vilnius FF, Indie Lisboa, Transilvania FF, Filmmadrid, New Horizons IFF, Reykjavik IFF, Thessaloniki IFF

One-liner

The daily tribulations of a young woman looking for a sense of belonging in an alienating society as seen by the actresses trying to tell and to inhabit her story.

Synopsis

Cristina, a mid 30s secretary living in an alienating and hostile Bucharest, is trying to understand what it means being a bills-paying, ready-to-settle, social-ladder-climbing adult while still desperately wanting to be a good child for the single mom that raised her. She is also a character in a novel that a theatre director is turning into a feature. As the actors start setting into the story, their individual backgrounds, social circumstances and personal motivations begin to overlap with the fiction they were offered, making it their own, questioning it and shaping it. The result is what it's supposed to be: a playful mesh of perceived reality and fabrication.

Director's Statement

With Internal Zero I am exploring the border between reality and fiction. The concept is based on the dialogue between the filming crew, the construction process and the fiction itself. Together with Ioana Moraru, the screenwriter of the film, we imagined the main role of Cristina should be played by three actresses in order to offer the viewer a game of perception and a dramaturgical reading of a generation of actresses looking for their place in contemporary Romania. Ioana Moraru said right from the beginning that the key to understanding the main character is the ending line: «All my life I wanted to be a good child». Having this concept of life, Cristina fights to fulfil her role as best as possible. However, the huge pressure on the millennial generation to change the world and to find solutions can only lead to a devastating state of disillusionment.

PATRA SPANOU FILM

Director Biography

Eugen Jebeleanu is a Romanian film, theatre and opera director. For almost fifteen years now, his projects, both in Romania and in France, have been centered around political and social subjects, while also maintaining a committed inclination towards stylistic exploration. His artistic endeavor is focused on giving voice to anonymous individuals, to those that don't adhere to the dominant culture and that revolt against systemic censorship. His debut film POPPY FIELD travelled in over 70 festivals around the world, received numerous awards and is distributed a.o. in all major territories.

Director Filmography:

POPPY FIELD (81 min., 2020)

Cast

Cristina Drăghici, Cendana Trifan, Valentina Zaharia – CRISTINA
Katia Pascariu – LILIANA
Cristi Popa – MIHAI
Vlad Udrescu – DAN
Alexandru Potocean – TRAIAN
Irina Movilă – MOTHER
Ada Galeş – OTILIA

Crew

Director: Eugen Jebeleanu / Writer: Ioana Moraru / Cinematographer: Marius Panduru / Editor: Cătălin Cristuțiu / Sound: Alex Dragomir / Art Director: Mălina Ionescu / Producer: Velvet Moraru / Production Company: Icon Production

Technical Information

Original Title: INTERIOR ZERO / shot digital/ available for screenings in DCP (24 fps) / color / scope 2.39 / 100 min / sound format 5.1 SURROUND / original language: Romanian, French, Spanish with English subtitles / 2025 Icon Production, Romania

Production Company

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Sales/Festivals Agent

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