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# “I DO NOT CARE IF WE GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS BARBARIANS”



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***“I DO NOT CARE IF WE GO DOWN  
IN HISTORY AS BARBARIANS”***

Dir. Radu Jude

Romania/Germany/Bulgaria/France/Czech Rep./2018/140 min/Color/DCP (shot on 16mm)  
In Romanian, with English subtitles  
Aspect ratio: 1.85:1 Sound: Dolby Digital 5.1

*Best Film* – Karlovy Vary International Film Festival; *Best Feature Film* – IndieLisboa International Independent Film Festival; *Best Film* – Minsk International Film Festival; *Best Film* – Vukovar Film Festival; selected to represent Romania for the 2019 Academy Awards

“Tasked with staging a public performance relating to Romanian history, an idealistic theatre director opts to stage a re-enactment of a 1941 massacre of tens of thousands of Jews by Romanian troops. Her choice angers a city official who threatens to close the production because of its “anti-Romanian” take on history. However, the reaction to the piece is one that neither anticipated. This internationally-acclaimed dark satire is a timely statement about the consequences of selective and willful amnesia on a society fueled by populist sentiments.”

- Toronto Jewish Film Festival

## SYNOPSIS

“I do not care if we go down in history as barbarians” - these were the words spoken by Romania’s military dictator Marshal Ion Antonescu in the Council of Ministers in the summer of 1941 that started the ethnic cleansing on the Eastern Front.

One of contemporary Europe's most distinctive creators, Jude has come out with an ingeniously conceived film. While it unfolds slowly and in detail, it hits the viewer with a singular emotional punch.

“I DO NOT CARE IF WE GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS BARBARIANS” chronicles a young theatre director’s efforts to stage an accurate re-enactment of the Odessa Massacre - in which Romanian soldiers slaughtered tens of thousands of Ukrainian Jews - despite the municipal government’s attempt to censor the director’s efforts. Her choice angers a city official who threatens to close the production because of its “anti-Romanian” take on history. However, the reaction to the staged play is one that neither anticipated. This internationally-acclaimed dark satire is a timely statement about the consequences of selective and willful amnesia on a society fueled by populist sentiments.

Radu Jude’s sixth feature comes on the heels of a pair of critical favorites—AFERIM!, featured on New York Times critic A.O. Scott’s “Best of 2016” list; and SCARRED HEARTS, which made The New Yorker critic Richard Brody’s “Best of 2018” list.

Jude, whose earlier fiction feature films (THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD and EVERYBODY IN OUR FAMILY) received accolades at numerous festivals in Europe and the US, is also known for a string of prize-winning short films, including THE TUBE WITH A HAT (2006), which took the top prize at Sundance and 15 other awards at festivals around the world.

## **PRESS**

“Darkly comic, politically timely...a mature, ambitious work from a spirited auteur who has mastered the cinematic rules well enough to break them with confidence.” - Stephen Dalton, *The Hollywood Reporter*

“A provocative, sarcastic, and momentous act of interrogation between the past and the present.. [“Barbarians”] is a culmination of all Jude’s recent formal and thematic preoccupations. And gluing it all together, there’s Iacob’s unassumingly riveting performance...a fiercely intelligent, engaging and challenging wake-up call, a film that leaves you smarter at the end than when you went in...” – Jessica Kiang, *Variety*

“A dazzlingly dialectical and daring comedy that brings past and present together...”  
– Demetrios Matheou, *Screen Daily*

“*I Do Not Care If We Go Down in History as Barbarians*’ begins as documentary, proceeds as political comedy, climaxes as a live event, and concludes as the most laser-accurate indictment of the modern culture we’ve yet seen since neofascism seized the world stage.”  
– Scott Nye, *Battleship Pretension*

“A potent argument for truth in art, and a provocative challenge for all nations to reckon honestly with their own history.” – Philip Concannon, *The Skinny*

"Despite it being a rather challenging film, we thought it was very important for us to show. But the audience’s response to the film exceeded our expectation." – Stuart Hands, Director, Toronto Jewish Film Festival

## **DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT**

Thinking about our dark history makes one look back with the horrified gaze of Walter Benjamin’s angel of history, whose “face is turned toward the past. Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay, awaken the dead, make whole what has been smashed. But a storm is blowing from Paradise; it has got caught in his wings with such violence that the angel can no longer close them. This storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward. This storm is what we call progress.”

## CAST

IOANA IACOB (Mariana)  
ALEXANDRU DABIJA (Movilă)  
ALEX BOGDAN (Traian)  
ILINCA MANOLACHE (Oltea)  
ȘERBAN PAVLU (Ștefan)  
ION RIZEA (Alexianu)  
CLAUDIA IEREMIA (the vice-mayor)  
BOGDAN COTLEȚ (Decebal)

LILIANA GHIȚĂ (Mrs. Racoviță)  
ION ARCUDEANU (Lăcustă)  
MIHAI NICULESCU (Lupu)  
GABRIEL SPAHIU (the Romanian  
soldier) EDUARD CÎRLAN (Barbu)  
LARISA CRUNȚEANU (Romanian  
soldier)  
TUDOREL FILIMON (Laiotă)  
RAREȘ HONTZU (priest)

## CREW

written and directed by RADU JUDE  
director of photography MARIUS PANDURU (RSC)  
editing CĂTĂLIN CRISTUȚIU  
sound JEAN UMANSKI  
sound designer DANA BUNESCU  
mixing CRISTINEL ȘIRLI  
production and costume design IULIANA VÎLSAN  
costume supervisor CIREȘICA CUCIUC  
make-up PETYA SIMEONOVA  
hairstyling DOMNICA BODOGAN  
assistant director CRISTINA ILIESCU  
historical consultant ADRIAN CIOFLÂNCĂ  
associate producer HOLGER STERN  
co-producers JIŘÍ KONEČNÝ, SERGE LALOU, CLAIRE DORNOY, ROSSITSA  
VALKANOVA, JONAS DORNBACH, JANINE JACKOWSKI, MAREN ADE  
producer ADA SOLOMON  
world sales BETA CINEMA

## **CAST BIOS**

### **IOANA IACOB (Mariana)**

Ioana Iacob studied acting (German-speaking), and is currently working at the German Theatre in Timișoara. She has a great deal of experience on the theatre stage, collaborating with acclaimed directors such as Alexandru Dabija, Victor Ioan Frunză, Yuri Kordonsky, Radu Nica, Florin Fieroiu, Volker Schmidt, Silviu Purcărete, Laszlo Bocsárdi and Tompa Gábor. Mariana's part in Radu Jude's "I Do Not Care If We Go Down In History As Barbarians" is her first leading role in film.

### **ALEXANDRU DABIJA (Movilă)**

Alexandru Dabija is one of the most acclaimed Romanian theatre directors, having staged more than 100 productions. He debuted as a director in 1976 and ever since he has worked in the most important Romanian stage theatres with famous actors, winning the UNITER (Romanian Theatre Association) highlight prizes. Dabija was the General Manager of the prestigious Odeon Theatre in Bucharest. He has conducted several acting workshops in Bucharest, Leicester, Glasgow, La Marlagne. Radu Jude's previous films "The Tube with a Hat" and "Everybody in Our Family" convinced Dabija to accept the role of the Priest in "Shadow of a Cloud" in 2012. In "Aferim!", Alexandru Dabija plays the key-role of Boyar Iordache, the one who orders the recapturing of the Gypsy slave.

### **ALEX BOGDAN (Traian)**

Alex Bogdan is a young actor with a much experience in theatre. He has played a wide range of roles on the Romanian stage. He has a rare talent of impersonations. Previously, he had not acted in film. Radu Jude offered him a small part in his recent feature "Scarred Hearts." His part from "I Do Not Care If We Go Down In History As Barbarians" represents a consistent film role.

### **ILINCA MANOLACHE (Oltea)**

Ilinca Manolache's experience is linked to independent theatre productions, Romanian contemporary plays, but also repertory stagings. Among these are: "Artists Talk" by Gianina Cărbunariu, "Nil's Fucked Up Day" by Peca Ștefan and "Us 4" by Lia Bugnar.

Ilinca was awarded Best Actress in a Supporting Role by UNITER, one of the most acclaimed theatrical organizations, in 2016.

She has performed in both Romanian and international film productions such as: "Morski Briz" by Cecilia Ștefănescu, "București nonstop" by Dan Chișu, "Bunraku" by Guy Moshe and "Sex Traffic" by David Yates.

## **CREW BIOS**

### **RADU JUDE, Director & Screenwriter**

RADU JUDE (1977) graduated from the filmmaking Department of Media University in 2003. He worked as an assistant director. He directed the short films “The Tube with a Hat” (2006) (winner of more than 50 international prizes in Sundance, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Uppsala, etc.), “Alexandra” (2007) (selected in Clermont-Ferrand, awarded in Oberhausen) and more than 150 commercials. His debut feature film, “The Happiest Girl in the World” (2009), winner of NHK/Filmmaker Award in Sundance and Hubert Bals grant, was awarded the CICAIE prize in Berlinale-Forum 2009. It was selected in more than 50 film festivals including Toronto, New Directors/New Films (NYC), Thessaloniki, Sarajevo and London. The film was released in cinemas in France, UK, Austria and Spain. In 2011, he directed and produced the independent medium length “Film for Friends.”

“Everybody in Our Family” (2012), his second feature film which premiered in Berlinale-Forum, received the Heart of Sarajevo Film Festival, Le Bayard d’Or for Best Film and Best Actor at Namur IFF, CinEast IFF Grand Prix and was selected in more than 30 film festivals around the world and released in cinemas in France, Holland and Hungary.

His two recent short films “Shadow of a Cloud” (2013) and “It Can Pass Through the Wall” (2014) were selected in Cannes - Quinzaine des Realisateurs section. The latter was awarded with a Special Mention.

World premiered in the 65th Berlinale Competition, Radu Jude’s third feature, “Aferim!” (2015) was awarded the Silver Bear for Best Director in Berlin, Best Film at IndieLisboa, FIPRESCI Prize at Jameson CineFest Miskolci, Audience Award at LET’s CEE Film Festival and Bayard D’Or for Best Photography at Namur IFF.

In 2016 Radu Jude made his debut as a theatre director, in the National Theatre of Timișoara adapting for stage Ingmar Bergman’s “Scenes from a Marriage”. In November of that year, he premiered in Bucharest “Ali: Fear Eats the Soul,” a theatre adaptation upon Rainer Werner Fassbinder’s script.

His fourth feature, “Scarred Hearts” (2016) received the Special Jury Prize in Locarno Film Festival as well as the Don Quixote Award offered by the International Federation of Film Societies (IFSS), Silver Astor for Best Director, Signis Award for Best Film in Competition and ADF Award for Best Cinematography in Mar del Plata International Film Festival as well as Special Mention at Haifa IFF. “Scarred Hearts” was also selected in Sarajevo International Film Festival’s Competition and BFI’s “Dare” section.

“The Dead Nation” represents his debut in documentary film and it premiered internationally at Locarno IFF, Signs of Life Program, and was selected in the BFI Documentary Competition, as well as Haifa IFF, Namur IFF, Hamptons Film Fest, Viennale, Astra IFF and IDFA.

“I Do Not Care If We Go Down in History as Barbarians” is his sixth feature and world premiered in the Official Competition of Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, where it won the Crystal Globe for Best Film.

### **ADA SOLOMON, Producer**

Since setting up Hi Film, Ada Solomon has produced award-winning shorts by Cristian Nemescu (“Marilena from P7”) and Radu Jude (“The Tube with a Hat”), debut features by Radu Jude (“The Happiest Girl in the World”), Răzvan Rădulescu (“First of All, Felicia”), Paul Negoescu (“A Month in Thailand”), and documentaries by Alexandru Solomon (“Kapitalism, Our Improved Formula,” “Cold Waves”). Ada produced “Best Intentions” by Adrian Sitaru, winner of two awards at the Locarno IFF 2011 and two Romanian Gopo Awards, as well as Radu Jude’s “Everybody in Our Family,” winner of the Heart of Sarajevo 2012, Bayard d’Or for Best Film and Best Actor at Namur IFF and “Aferim!”, selected in more than 30 festivals and awarded with prestigious prizes such as Silver Bear for Best Director, Best Film at IndieLisboa, FIPRESCI Prize at Jameson CineFest Miskolci, Audience Award at LET’s CEE Film Festival and Bayard d’Or for Best Photography at Namur IFF.

She has been working in the film business for 20 years, serving as a line producer for foreign international projects such as Franco Zeffirelli’s “Callas Forever,” Hermine Huntgeburth’s “Tom Sawyer” & “Huck Finn,” Maren Ade’s “Toni Erdmann,” Dominik Graf’s “Die Zielfahnder” and Arnaud des Pallières’ “Orpheline.” Her films have received awards in the most prestigious festivals such as Locarno, Sundance and Berlin. She is the producer of the Golden Bear winner “Child’s Pose” (2013), directed by Călin Peter Netzer.

Ada is founder of NexT Cultural Society. She is a member of the Board of European Film Academy and the Romanian National coordinator in EAVE. In 2013, Ada received the co-production Prix Eurimages, an award acknowledging the decisive role for co-productions in the European film industry.

Her latest productions include the documentary “Tarzan’s Testicles” by Alexandru Solomon, Daniel Sandu’s debut feature “One Step Behind the Seraphim” and Ivana Mladenovic’s debut “Soldiers: A Story from Ferentari.”

### **MARIUS PANDURU, RSC, Director of Photography**

Marius Panduru is one of the most active directors of photography, working with the most acclaimed directors of the Romanian New Wave, such as Cătălin Mitulescu, Corneliu Porumboiu, Florin Șerban, Nae Caranfil and Tudor Giurgiu. His filmography includes more than 20 features and several shorts selected and awarded in Cannes, Berlinale, Locarno and Thessaloniki, including: “Bucharest – Wien,” “Traffic,” “How I Spent the End of the World,” “Loverboy,” “Liviu’s Dream,” “12:08 East of Bucharest,” “Police, Adjective,” “If I Want to Whistle, I Whistle,” “The Rest Is Silence,” “Box” and “Why Me?”. He teamed up with Radu Jude in for the awarded shorts “The Tube with a Hat” and “It Can Pass through the Wall” as well as for the features “The Happiest Girl in the World,” “Aferim!” and “Scarred Hearts”.



“Album”, directed by Mehmet Can Mertegolu, the latest Turkish-Romanian co-production he worked on, was premiered in the Semaine de la Critique section in Cannes 2016.

### **CĂTĂLIN CRISTUȚIU, Editor**

He studied editing at The National Theatre and Film University in Bucharest and started working ever since with his colleague Cristian Nemescu for the international acclaimed shorts “Mihai and Cristina,” “C Block Story,” and continued their collaboration for the medium length “Marilena from P7” and the feature “California Dreamin’ (endless).”

His credits include the following titles: “If I Want to Whistle, I Whistle” (directed by Florin Șerban, awarded at Berlinale 2009 with The Alfred Bauer Prize and Jury Grand Prix), “Medal of Honor” (directed by Călin Peter Netzer, selected in more than 30 festivals around the world and awarded with Silver Alexander and four other prizes at Thessaloniki IFF in 2009), “Somewhere in Palilula” (directed by Silviu Purcărete), the animated documentary “Cruic - The Path to Beyond” (directed by Anca Damian, awarded in Locarno, CPH:DOX, Annecy, Jihlava IFF), the documentaries “Apocalypse on Wheels” and “Cold Waves” (both directed by Alexandru Solomon) as well as a number of shorts.

He teamed up with Radu Jude starting with “The Tube with a Hat” and continued working together for all his later projects: “Alexandra,” “In the Morning,” “The Happiest Girl in the World,” “Film for Friends,” “Everybody in Our Family,” “Shadow of a Cloud,” “It Can Pass through the Wall,” “Aferim!”, “Scarred Hearts” and “The Dead Nation.”

### **DANA BUNESCU, Sound Designer**

She graduated from The National Theater and Film University in Bucharest and she has been the most sought-after editor and sound designer in the Romanian film industry ever since.

Her credits include, among many others: “California Dreamin’ (endless)” by Cristian Nemescu (2007), “The Autobiography of Nicolae Ceaușescu” by Andrei Ujică (2010), “First of All, Felicia” by Răzvan Rădulescu and Melissa de Raaf (2009), “Love Sick” by Tudor Giurgiu (2006), “The Death of Mr. Lăzărescu” by Cristi Puiu (2006), the Palme d’Or winner “4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days” (2007) and “Beyond the Hills” (2012) by Cristian Mungiu, “Tales from the Golden Age” (2009), “The Great Communist Bank Robbery” by Alexandru Solomon (2004), “Everybody in Our Family” (2012), the Golden Bear winner “Child’s Pose” (2013) by Călin Peter Netzer, “It Can Pass through the Wall” (2014), “Aferim!” (2015), “Scarred Hearts” (2016), “The Dead Nation” (2017) by Radu Jude. In 2017, Bunescu receives the Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution for the editing of “Ana, mon amour”, Călin Peter Netzer’s latest feature.