

## Synopsis

A small city in Northern Romania. Despite growing debts and an entangled personal life, Florin Ispas - a police detective - is determined to solve a hard case no one seems to care about. Ordered to put down the file, the cop continues his off-the-record investigations, soon turning up a strong lead for two hotel fires that resulted in several deaths. The suspect is Bănel, a security guard of Roma descent, but he denies everything. Faced with the refusal of the Police Chief to support his inquiry, the mistrust of his colleagues, and his own inner demons, the cop is forced to come up with a convoluted plan and take extraordinary measures in order to bring it to its inevitable conclusion. Under the appearance of a sharp, tightly woven detective movie, the film is a story that speaks on issues in the police system, power abuse, sexism, masculinity and prejudice.

## Director's Statement

At first sight, *Unidentified* is a genre film, combining and subverting several successful popular cinema archetypes: the policier/detective movie, the action film, the anti-hero character type, film noir. At the same time, all these purely filmic elements work by supporting and complementing a very strong, original central story set in a unique and specific place: the world of the small town in Romania. The synergy which results from the combination of these different approaches makes this particular story a calculated challenge. It is a film which flows like a thriller but gets the audience deeply involved not with cliché, cardboard-cut characters but with authentic, genuine people, places and relationships, free from any easy genre conventions and cinematic tropes.

In tandem with the intense – sometimes frantic – plot line, this movie gradually reveals itself as an introspective film which looks inwardly rather than outwardly. It is, ultimately, a story about the interior landscape of the human mind and soul, a film about life-defining choices which spring from hidden desires and internal conflicts, pride, ego, unseen secrets, vices, unfulfilled dreams and inner demons. The film speaks about the private balance within each of us, a balance far less stable than we all imagine to be and which sometimes needs the smallest of triggers to unleash an internal implosion with devastating external consequences.

The spiritual voyage of the central character underlines a world in which the moral and ethical codes have been replaced by simple laws designed to ensure the survival of the individual at the expense of the larger society.

## Director's biography - BOGDAN GEORGE APETRI

Bogdan George Apetri is a Romanian filmmaker based in New York. In 2010, he directed and co-wrote the feature film *Periferic (Outbound)*. The film was shown and won awards at some of the best festivals across the world (Locarno, Toronto, Warsaw, Rotterdam, New

Directors/New Films, Thessaloniki, Viennale). His second feature, ***Neidentificat (Unidentified)*** recently has premiered in Warsaw International Film Festival, won Special Jury Prize, and has started its festival circuit with stops in Thessaloniki, and Goa. Bogdan had already shot his third film, ***Miracol (Miracle)***, to be released in 2021.

As a producer, Bogdan co-produced *3 Backyards* by Eric Mendelsohn (Best Directing Award at Sundance), *Advantageous* by Jennifer Phang (Jury Prize at Sundance), *Song Without a Name* by Melina Leon (Cannes Official Selection) and *Blaze*, directed by Ethan Hawke (Best Actor Award at Sundance).

He teaches Film Directing at Columbia University.

### **Producer's biography - FLORIN ȘERBAN**

Florin Șerban studied Film at Columbia University in New York, holds a BFA and MFA in Film Directing, a BA in Philosophy and an MA in Philosophy of Culture and Hermeneutics. With his first feature film ***If I Want to Whistle, I Whistle (2010)***, Florin Șerban received the Silver Bear – Grand Prize of the Jury and the Alfred Bauer Award for innovation in cinema at the 2010 Berlin International Film Festival, along with many other international awards. His second movie, ***BOX (2015)*** won the FIPRESCI Award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. His third feature film ***Love 1. DOG (2018)***, the first part of The Trilogy of Love, premiered in August 2018 at the International Sarajevo Film Festival, where it won the ART CINEMA and the CINEUROPA awards. ***Love 2. America (2020)***, the second part of The Trilogy of Love has recently premiered in Romania. Currently Florin is involved in the production of ***Unidentified*** and ***Miracle***, two feature films directed by Bogdan George Apetri. He directs commercials and teaches at The Acting School in Bucharest, Romania.

### **Company profile - FANTASCOPE**

Fantascope is a production company based in Bucharest, Romania, founded in 2011 by Florin Șerban after his feature film debut, ***IF I WANT TO WHISTLE, I WHISTLE (2010)***, received the Silver Bear – Grand Prize of the Jury, as well as the Alfred Bauer Award for innovation in cinema at the 2010 Berlinale. The company is being runned by Florin Șerban and Minodora Șerban. Fantascope produced Florin's second feature film project, ***BOX (2015)***, a co-production between Romania, Germany and France that premiered in the official competition of Karlovy Vary, and received the FIPRESCI Award. After this Fantascope produced Șerban's third feature, ***Love 1. DOG (2018)***, the first part of The Trilogy of Love, which premiered in August 2018 at the International Sarajevo Film Festival, where it won the ART CINEMA and the CINEUROPA awards. ***Love 2. America (2020)***, the second part of The Trilogy of Love it is a Fantascope production as well. The latest movies produced by FANTASCOPE are ***Unidentified (2020)*** and ***Miracle (postproduction)***, two feature films directed by Bogdan George Apetri, ***Hamlet (in postproduction)***, directed by Florin Șerban. The company also produced several short films.