



 **34th** **WARSAW**
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
12-21 OCTOBER 2018


Best Director
WARSAW FILM FESTIVAL

MOON HOTEL KABUL

a film by
ANCA DAMIAN

Synopsis:

A cynical investigative journalist skillfully mixes truth with fiction in his reports. Then comes a day when something similar occurs in his own life. The film asks questions about truth and love, and the price we decide to pay for them.

Long synopsis

Ivan Semciuc is a cynical investigative journalist. He is skillfully combining truth and fiction in his reports. Then comes a day when something similar occurs in his own life: at the end of a mission in Kabul, he has a one night stand with Ioana, the translator. The event is seemingly meaningless, but the next day, back to Bucharest, Ivan finds out that Ioana died with her wrists cut. The unshakable routine of his personal life enters a profound revolution, as Ioana is haunting him, more present in her death than she was during life. The film is raising questions about truth, love and the price we decide to pay for them.

Director's statement

Most of my films have been preceded by journalistic researches, *Crulic: The Path to Beyond* and especially *The Magic Mountain*. On such occasions, I met various investigative journalists. During our conversations, their ambiguous relationship with the truth and

their cynicism regarding what they envisage to be the “real” image of contemporary reality has marked me. But I am still convinced that cynicism is not the solution, and that carrying on with the search for a solution is not a naïve undertaking.

What is our real relationship with the truth? How much of our personal comfort are we willing to give up for it? Which truth is "dangerous" to others?

Ivan Semciuc is the main character: charismatic, cynical and an impeccable journalist, he allows himself to be convinced to manipulate the stories he recounts for the benefit of the others and he buys into the idea that the search for truth is only harmful. It can only destabilise people and make them conform to what they really are. Ioana, even after her death, will save Ivan. She is much stronger than Ivan because she is not afraid to feel love - the essential emotion of life. Her choices are dictated by her ideals: helping and supporting her family, staying in Kabul for not surrendering to denial. She doesn't want to abandon her passion for truth, for discovering the ill-doings of the war (fuelled by the Power - Weapons - Money triangle). Is she naive and somewhat pathetic? Maybe. But characters like her are trying to change the world.

Original title: **MOON HOTEL KABUL**

Directed by: **Anca DAMIAN**

Country: **Romania, France**

Year of production: **2018**

Running time: **90 min**

Category: **Fiction feature**

Genres: **Drama, Thriller**

Process: **Colour**

Target public: **Adults, Young adults**



Anca DAMIAN

Biography

Anca Damian had her directorial debut with “Crossing Dates” that premiered in Busan IFF. Then she came to the attention of the public with her second feature film as director, screenwriter and producer, “Crulic – The Path to

Beyond" (2011) selected at over 150 festivals including Locarno, Annecy, Telluride, New Directors, New Films... and awarded with the Cristal in Annecy 2012 and more than 35 prizes at other festivals.

"A Very Unsettled Summer" (2013) premiered in Warsaw IFF and screened in London and Goteborg,

"The Magic Mountain" (2015) had the world premiere in Annecy 2015, and the international premiere in Karlovy Vary 2015 where it received a Special Mention of the Jury. This movie was selected in more than 60 festivals like San Sebastian, Leipzig, and won 11 prizes, including Audientia Award Eurimages.

Her short "The Call" (2018) premiered in Annecy and was selected in Toronto 2018 and Sundance 2019.

"Moon Hotel Kabul" (2018) is her newest feature which premiered in Warsaw 2018 where it received The Best Director Award.

Filmography

Crossing Dates, 2008 Director Screenwriter, Producer

Crulic --- The Path to Beyond, 2011, Director Screenwriter, Producer

A Very Unsettled Summer, 2013, Director Screenwriter, Producer

The Magic Mountain, 2015, Director Screenwriter, Producer

The Call, 2018, Director Screenwriter, Producer

Moon Hotel Kabul, 2018, Director Screenwriter, Producer

Cast

FLORIN PIERSIC JR. - Ivan Semciuc

OFELIA POPII - Ioana Preda

ADRIAN TITIENI - Radu

ALEXANDRU NAGY - Mitu

RODICA NEGREA - Mrs. Preda

RICHARD BOVNOCZKI - The Monk

CRISTINA FLOREA - Adela

DORINA CHIRIAC - The Woman in mourning

ILONA BREZOIANU - The Prostitute

Credits

Director - ANCA DAMIAN

Screenwriters - LIA BUGNAR, ANCA DAMIAN

Composer - ROMAIN TROUILLET

Cinematographer - DOMINIQUE COLIN

Production designer - SIMONA PADURETU

Costume designer - CIRESICA CUCIUC

Editor - BASILE BELKHIRI

Sound - FREDERIC THÉRY

Mixing - CRISTINEL SIRLI

Producer - ANCA DAMIAN

Co-Producers - TOM DERCOURT, SOPHIE HERBS

The logo for 'aparte' features the word in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters 'a', 'p', and 'r' are black, while 'a', 'r', 't', and 'e' are a vibrant blue. The 'a' and 'r' are bolded, and the 't' has a distinctive shape with a horizontal bar.