

THE MAGICIAN/ LE MAGICIEN/ MAGICIANUL/

Short feature film, animation, 2025,

Romania - Croatia - France

24 minutes

Produced by: Kinotopia, în co-production with "MINYA Film and Animation" (Croatia) and "Promenons-nous dans le bois" (France).

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/1091552452>

Producer: Bogdan Mureşanu (Kinotopia)

Co-producers: Viorel Chesaru (Chainsaw Europe), Étienne Jaxel-Truer (Promenons-nous Dans Les Bois (Studio Ejt-labo), Miljana Dragicevic (Minya Film And Animation)

Executive producers: Dan Burlac, Adriana Bumbuş

Associated Producers: Theo Nissim, Ruxandra Şerban, Alexandra Svet

International distribution: Eduardo M. Escibano Solera (Mailuki Films)

Directed & written by: Bogdan Mureşanu

Artistic director: Alexandru Talambă („Tamba”)

Animation: Mihnea Buzatu, Octavian Chiriac, Alexei Gubenco, Alexandru Pop

Voices: Cosmin Şofron, Mihai Gruia Sandu, Ionut Achivoaie, Ioana Flora, Luca Toma, Valeriu Andriuţă, Dana Vulc, Claudiu Trandafir, Ştefan Velniciuc, Constantin Florescu, Virgil Aioanei, Ionuţ Grama, Adriana Titieni, Constantin Bărbulescu, Tudor Istodor, Olimpia Melinte, Oltin Hurezeanu, Sebastian Ioan Lungu.

Editor: Mircea Lăcătuş şi Andrei Bălăsoiu

Composer: Didier Falk

International premiere: Annecy Film Festival

Romanian premiere: Transilvania International Film Festival

Synopsis

Sulina, 1910. It's the inauguration of the first power station in this Romanian port city. Amid the jubilation of a modern, cosmopolitan crowd, Ilarion, a magician from another era, tries to play his last card.

Director's statement

"I wanted to revive a bygone world and the technique of animation allowed me to recreate, from stills, the settings in which the action of the movie takes place, but I also wanted to get to the essence of the story. And here I think animation was a medium that suited my intention: not to illustrate the glory of a bygone world, through the fate of a once exuberant and cosmopolitan port, now reduced to the dimensions of a forgotten small town, but to represent the substance of the story I wrote many years ago," says Bogdan Mureşanu.

"Film, especially animated film, which is supposed to be a total visual invention, has to produce an image that, at best, then hangs on the walls of those 'dark corridors' in the viewer's mind.", adds the director.

Why Sulina?

Sulina is:

- One of the oldest settlements in Romania
- The only port city in the country, both on the Danube and the Black Sea.
- The easternmost city of Romania, but also of the European Union.

- Free port, free international port between 1870-1931, through which goods landed or in transit were exempt from customs obligations, a status that would bring the city economic development and particularly favorable social changes.
- The first electrically-lit city in Romania.
- A cosmopolitan Rashi, a maritime Babylon where all the world's languages were spoken
- Nicknamed Europolis by Jean Bart or "Little Venice"
- Home to people of 27 nationalities
- A city with 7 consulates and 8 international banks
- A former haven for pirates of various nationalities, especially Greeks and Maltese.

The magic and the Magician

What if there really is magic, as he believed as a child? What if he wants something with all his being, with all the life he has left to live, with all the heart that still will it happen?

This melancholy man walks the thin wire between two worlds: an old one, full of poetry and often fatal illusions, and a new one, of progressive aspirations, dry and without magic, symbolized by the installation of a decidedly modern power station. An illusory character who fades under a cruel light, a wandering between two worlds, a diffuse reality, like the discussions between the magician and his alter ego, a world between life and death, in which we are never sure we are not already dead.

During the day depicted in the movie, Ilarion wanders through Sulina with the aim of restoring the meaning of the term 'magic', of rediscovering the childlike and fairy-like look he loves in the face of the universe, eclipsed by this 'modern' future described as bright and dazzling.

The Director

Bogdan Mureșanu is the writer, director and producer of the feature film "The New Year That Never Came", nominated last year at the European Film Awards (European Discovery 2024 - Prix FIPRESCI) and winner of 23 international awards including the Best Film Award in the Orizzonti section and the FIPRESCI Award for Best Film (Venice International Film Festival), Silver Atlas and Youth Jury Prize at the Arras Film Festival; Grand Prize/ Golden Pyramid Award for Best Film at the Cairo International Film Festival; SILVER PEACOCK Award for Best Direction at the Goa International Film Festival, Grand Prize and International Critics Award - FIPRESCI at the Luxembourg City Film Festival.

"The New Year That Never Came" won 10 trophies at the Gopo Awards, four of them for Bogdan Mureșanu - Best Feature Film, Best Debut Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay.

He debuted as a screenwriter in 2008 with the screenplay for "The Human Torch" (Best Romanian Short Film at the TIFF Screenplay Competition), and has written the screenplays for "Opinci" (2019) - animated short film directed by Anton and Damian Groves (Best Romanian Short Film at TIFF 2019, Young Audience Award at Clermont Ferrand) and "Where is Sofia? " - Best Screenplay at the OAXACA Film Festival, Mexico 2012, then he wrote and directed the short films "Trimmed, Shaved and Milled" (2013), "Spid" (2016), "Negruzzi 14" (2016) and "Sammelweis Reflex (2016)". The short film "The Christmas Present", released in 2018, won the European Film Academy Award in 2019, had over 200 festival selections and 72 awards (including Grand Prix at the Clermont Ferrand

International Film Festival, France; Best European Short Film at Alcine, European Film Festival, Spain) and was shortlisted for Oscar nominations.

The Artistic director

Alexandru Talambă ("Tambă") is a renowned Romanian author, illustrator and comic strip artist. He became very popular in France with the album "Sidi Bouzid Kids" (2012), in Romania with "Elabuga" (2011) and "Mila 23" (2012), which still remain reference names of the new generation of cartoonists.