
Postgraduate Certificate in Romanian Literature and Culture

Romanian Cinema and Theatre

Romanian Cinema and Theatre Key Terms and Vocabulary

Romanian Cinema

Romanian cinema has a rich history that dates back to the early 20th century. It has produced many acclaimed filmmakers and films that have garnered international recognition. Let's explore some key terms and vocabulary related to Romanian cinema:

- 1. New Wave:** The Romanian New Wave refers to a movement in Romanian cinema that emerged in the early 2000s. It is characterized by a focus on realistic storytelling, minimalist aesthetics, and social commentary. Filmmakers like Cristian Mungiu, Cristi Puiu, and Corneliu Porumboiu are associated with this movement.
- 2. Cristian Mungiu:** A highly influential Romanian filmmaker known for his work in the Romanian New Wave. Mungiu's film "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days" won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 2007, bringing international attention to Romanian cinema.
- 3. Cristi Puiu:** Another prominent figure in the Romanian New Wave, Puiu is known for his film "The Death of Mr. Lazarescu," which won the Un Certain Regard prize at Cannes in 2005. His films often explore dark themes and human relationships.
- 4. Corneliu Porumboiu:** A filmmaker known for his unique storytelling style and use of dry humor. Porumboiu's films, such as "12:08 East of Bucharest" and "Police, Adjective," have received critical acclaim for their social commentary and innovative approach to filmmaking.
- 5. Golden Age of Romanian Cinema:** Refers to a period in Romanian cinema during the 1960s and 1970s when filmmakers like Lucian Pintilie, Liviu Ciulei, and Sergiu Nicolaescu gained international recognition. This era produced some of the most iconic Romanian films that are still celebrated today.
- 6. Lucian Pintilie:** A pioneering Romanian filmmaker known for his bold and politically charged films. Pintilie's works, such as "Reenactment" and "The Oak," challenged the conventions of Romanian cinema and pushed boundaries in storytelling.
- 7. Romanian Film Fund:** An organization that supports the development and production of Romanian films. The fund provides financial assistance to filmmakers and helps promote Romanian cinema on the international stage.
- 8. Cannes Film Festival:** One of the most prestigious film festivals in the world, held annually in Cannes, France. Romanian filmmakers have achieved great success at Cannes, with several films winning top awards and gaining critical acclaim.

9. Palme d'Or: The highest prize awarded at the Cannes Film Festival. Romanian filmmakers have won the Palme d'Or multiple times, solidifying the country's reputation as a powerhouse in world cinema.

10. Romanian Film Critics Association: An organization dedicated to promoting Romanian cinema and supporting film criticism in the country. The association plays a vital role in recognizing and celebrating the achievements of Romanian filmmakers.

Romanian Theatre

Romanian theatre has a long and vibrant tradition that reflects the country's cultural heritage and artistic innovation. Here are some key terms and vocabulary related to Romanian theatre:

1. Avant-garde Theatre: A movement in Romanian theatre that emerged in the early 20th century, characterized by experimental techniques, non-traditional storytelling, and a focus on social and political issues. Avant-garde theatre challenged the conventions of traditional theatre and pushed boundaries in performance art.
2. Eugen Ionescu: A renowned Romanian playwright known for his contributions to the Theatre of the Absurd. Ionescu's works, such as "The Bald Soprano" and "Rhinoceros," are celebrated for their surreal and existential themes.
3. Marin Sorescu: A prominent Romanian playwright and poet who explored themes of human existence, absurdity, and social critique in his works. Sorescu's plays, such as "Jonah" and "The Door," are considered classics of Romanian theatre.
4. Teatrul National Bucuresti: The National Theatre of Bucharest, one of the oldest and most prestigious theatres in Romania. The theatre showcases a diverse range of productions, from classical plays to contemporary works, and has played a significant role in shaping Romanian theatre.
5. Teatrul Bulandra: A renowned theatre company in Romania known for its innovative productions and commitment to artistic excellence. Teatrul Bulandra has staged works by both Romanian and international playwrights, earning critical acclaim for its performances.
6. Teatrul Mic: A smaller theatre company in Bucharest that focuses on experimental and avant-garde productions. Teatrul Mic provides a platform for emerging artists to showcase their work and explore new forms of storytelling.
7. Romanian National Theatre Festival: An annual event that celebrates Romanian theatre and showcases the country's top talent. The festival brings together theatre companies from across Romania to perform a diverse range of plays and engage with audiences.
8. Acting Techniques: The methods and approaches used by actors to bring characters to life on stage. Romanian theatre actors often employ a range of techniques, from Stanislavski's method to physical theatre and improvisation, to create compelling and authentic performances.
9. Set Design: The visual elements of a theatrical production, including the set, props, and costumes.

Romanian theatre is known for its innovative set designs, which often reflect the themes and tone of the play and enhance the audience's experience.

10. Directorial Vision: The creative vision and interpretation of a director in shaping a theatrical production. Romanian theatre directors play a crucial role in translating the playwright's text into a compelling and visually stunning performance, often infusing their unique style and perspective into the production.

By familiarizing yourself with these key terms and vocabulary related to Romanian cinema and theatre, you will gain a deeper understanding of the rich cultural heritage and artistic innovation of Romania's film and stage industry. Whether you are a student of Romanian literature and culture or simply a fan of world cinema, exploring these terms will enhance your appreciation for the creative talents and storytelling traditions of Romania.