
Postgraduate Certificate in Romanian Literature and Culture

Romanian Cinema and Theatre

Romanian Cinema and Theatre Glossary

Acting

Acting refers to the art of portraying a character in a performance, whether on stage or screen. In Romanian cinema and theatre, acting is a crucial element that requires skill, training, and emotional depth. Actors must embody their characters convincingly to engage the audience and bring the story to life.

Avant-Garde

Avant-garde in Romanian cinema and theatre refers to innovative and experimental works that challenge traditional norms and conventions. Avant-garde artists often push boundaries and explore new techniques to create unique and thought-provoking pieces of art.

Bacalaureat

The Bacalaureat is a high school diploma in Romania that students must pass to gain access to higher education. In the context of Romanian cinema and theatre, having a Bacalaureat can be a prerequisite for pursuing a career in the arts, as it demonstrates a certain level of academic achievement.

Black Comedy

Black comedy is a genre that combines humor with dark or taboo subjects, such as death, violence, or tragedy. In Romanian cinema and theatre, black comedy is often used to satirize societal issues or challenge the audience's perceptions of morality.

Censorship

Censorship refers to the suppression or control of information or artistic expression by a governing body. In Romanian cinema and theatre, censorship has been a significant issue throughout history, particularly during the communist era when artistic freedom was heavily restricted.

Cinematography

Cinematography is the art of capturing images on film or digital media. In Romanian cinema, cinematography plays a crucial role in creating the visual language of a film, setting the tone, mood, and atmosphere of the story through lighting, framing, and camera movement.

Costume Design

Costume design involves creating costumes for characters in a film or theatre production. In Romanian cinema and theatre, costume designers work closely with directors and actors to develop costumes that reflect the time period, setting, and personality of the characters.

Directing

Directing is the process of overseeing all aspects of a production, from interpreting the script to guiding actors and crew members. In Romanian cinema and theatre, directors play a pivotal role in shaping the artistic vision of a project and bringing it to fruition.

Documentary

A documentary is a non-fiction film that presents factual information or explores real-life events. In Romanian cinema, documentaries have been used to shed light on social issues, historical events, and cultural traditions, offering audiences a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Dramaturgy

Dramaturgy is the art of dramatic composition and the structure of a play. In Romanian theatre, dramaturgy encompasses the development of the script, including plot, character development, dialogue, and themes, to create a compelling and engaging theatrical experience.

Experimental Theatre

Experimental theatre involves innovative and unconventional approaches to storytelling and performance. In Romanian theatre, experimental works often challenge traditional narrative structures and staging conventions, inviting audiences to engage with the art form in new and unexpected ways.

Film Festival

A film festival is an event that showcases a selection of films from various genres and countries. In Romania, film festivals such as the Transilvania International Film Festival (TIFF) and the Bucharest International Experimental Film Festival (BIEFF) celebrate local and international cinema, providing a platform for filmmakers to share their work with a wider audience.

Genre

Genre refers to the categorization of films or theatre productions based on stylistic and thematic elements. In Romanian cinema and theatre, genres such as drama, comedy, horror, and historical fiction offer audiences a variety of storytelling experiences to choose from.

Independent Film

Independent film refers to films that are produced outside of the major studio system, often with lower budgets and greater creative freedom. In Romanian cinema, independent filmmakers have played a significant role in pushing boundaries and exploring new storytelling techniques, contributing to the diversity of the country's film industry.

Irony

Irony is a literary device that involves using language to convey a meaning that is opposite to its literal interpretation. In Romanian cinema and theatre, irony is often used to create humor, satire, or social commentary, challenging the audience to think critically about the issues presented on screen or stage.

Jury

A jury is a group of individuals who are tasked with evaluating and awarding films or theatre productions at festivals or competitions. In Romanian cinema, juries play a crucial role in recognizing and promoting artistic excellence, providing filmmakers with the opportunity to showcase their work to a wider audience.

Kinematograf

Kinematograf is the Romanian word for cinema or movie theater. In Romania, kinematografs are popular venues for watching films, both domestic and international, and are an important part of the country's cultural landscape.

Lighting Design

Lighting design involves creating the atmosphere and mood of a production through the use of light. In Romanian theatre, lighting designers work closely with directors and set designers to enhance the visual storytelling, creating dynamic and evocative environments that bring the performance to life.

Method Acting

Method acting is a technique in which actors draw on their own emotions and experiences to portray a character authentically. In Romanian cinema and theatre, method acting is a popular approach that requires actors to immerse themselves fully in the role, often resulting in powerful and emotionally resonant performances.

Narrative

Narrative refers to the structure and sequence of events in a film or theatre production. In Romanian cinema and theatre, narratives can take many forms, from linear and chronological storytelling to non-linear and fragmented approaches, each offering a unique perspective on the characters and themes of the work.

Opera

Opera is a form of theatre that combines music, singing, and drama to tell a story. In Romania, opera has a rich tradition dating back to the 19th century, with performances of classic works by composers such as George Enescu and Nicolae Bretan captivating audiences in theaters across the country.

Playwright

A playwright is a writer who creates scripts for theatre productions. In Romanian theatre, playwrights play a vital role in shaping the stories and characters that come to life on stage, using dialogue, plot, and themes to engage audiences and provoke thought.

Queer Cinema

Queer cinema refers to films that explore LGBTQ+ themes and characters. In Romania, queer cinema has emerged as a powerful platform for storytelling and activism, challenging societal norms and advocating for greater visibility and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community.

Realism

Realism is a stylistic approach in art and literature that aims to depict life as it is, without idealization or exaggeration. In Romanian cinema and theatre, realism is often used to explore social issues, political realities, and the everyday struggles of ordinary people, creating a sense of authenticity and immediacy in the storytelling.

Screenplay

A screenplay is a script for a film, outlining the dialogue, actions, and scenes that will be filmed. In Romanian cinema, screenplays are written by screenwriters who work closely with directors to bring the story to life on screen, ensuring a cohesive and engaging narrative that resonates with audiences.

Theatre of the Absurd

Theatre of the Absurd is a genre that explores the meaninglessness and absurdity of the human condition. In Romanian theatre, works of the absurd challenge traditional notions of logic and coherence, inviting audiences to confront the chaos and uncertainty of existence through surreal and unconventional storytelling techniques.

Underground Film

Underground film refers to experimental and avant-garde works that exist outside of mainstream cinema. In Romania, underground filmmakers often push boundaries and challenge conventions, exploring taboo subjects and unconventional storytelling techniques to create bold and provocative works that challenge the status quo.

Vanguard

Vanguard is a term used to describe individuals or movements at the forefront of artistic innovation and experimentation. In Romanian cinema and theatre, vanguard artists push boundaries and challenge conventions, exploring new ideas and techniques to create groundbreaking and thought-provoking works that redefine the boundaries of the art form.

Writers' Guild

A Writers' Guild is an organization that represents and supports writers in the film and television industry. In Romania, the Writers' Guild plays a crucial role in advocating for the rights and interests of screenwriters, ensuring fair compensation and recognition for their creative contributions to the industry.

Xenophobia

Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of foreigners or people from different cultures. In Romanian cinema and theatre, xenophobia is often explored as a theme, reflecting societal attitudes and prejudices towards immigrants, minorities, and marginalized groups, and challenging audiences to confront their own biases and assumptions.

Yard Theatre

Yard Theatre is a term used to describe outdoor performances or makeshift theaters in Romania. In rural areas, yard theatres are popular venues for community gatherings, festivals, and cultural events, providing a

space for artists and audiences to come together and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the country.

Zeitgeist

Zeitgeist refers to the spirit of the times or the cultural and intellectual climate of a particular era. In Romanian cinema and theatre, the zeitgeist is often reflected in the themes, styles, and concerns of the works produced during a specific period, offering insights into the social, political, and artistic currents of the time.