

# Eva

*Directed by Adrian Popovici*

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## **VERY SHORT SYNOPSIS**

Eva meets Tudor on her 16th birthday and he becomes the love of her life. But their relationship suffers through his constant mysterious departures and reappearances. In Tudor's absence, she meets and marries Oswald. But when Tudor returns, Eva's love for him is rekindled and they spend an unforgettable summer together—leaving Eva pregnant and her marriage ruined. War is bringing the world to its knees and Europe's borders are collapsing. Tudor returns to Eva to find tragedy at every turn: the loss of a child, political assassinations, raids ..... When Tudor emerges into her life for the last time, it is then that Eva learns the secrets of his past.

A love torn apart by secrets. A life torn apart by passion. A world torn apart by war.  
An epic story about love in uncertain times.

## **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION...**

### *THE INSPIRATION*

During the high school a novel had a big influence over our generation. The kind of story that inspire you dreaming at the period during the war, at all the stories so brutally interrupted. Thinking at that book, in 2004 Radu Aneste Petrescu and Adrian Popovici

started to write a script. We contacted a screenwriter in UK... we wanted so much a film spoken in English. Not in a Romanian language translated in English. And Steve did a great job polishing the script and coming with new ideas.

During the second World War Romania changed, in a way that nobody could understand. We knew from our grandmothers these changes. We heard about many people whose lives torn apart by secrets, by passion, by war. After the war, many Romanians leave the country for United States, not trusting the new changes. And they were right.

“I tried to stay focus on the love story. It’s not a film about war; it’s a film about an interrupted love and the destiny of a young woman” – says the director.

### *DEVELOPING THE FILM*

“In 2005 we had the script ... ok, but what to do with it”? In Romania is not easy to find money for such a production. “We submitted the script to the Romanian National Center of Cinema and fortunately the law was changed and we could raise some money. Then, we submitted to the advertising agencies” , says the Producer.

Producer Cornelia Palos stayed focused on the production and trying to convince people to come abroad.” Many said that we will not get a chance to do such film in Romania”. She contacted Jeremy Zimmerman and together with him she started find actors. Not easy at all. Good actors, coming in Romania to shoot in a 100% Romanian production, without any American partner. Not easy at all.

But the script helped very much. All the actors’ managers loved the script and they accepted to send them in Bucharest with not so many demands. They were the first to give us a chance. Michael, Patrick, Emily and Vincent, all wonderful people and great actors. Then in London after a long casting we choose Amy Hayes. This was her first role. She is a wonderful actress and she will have a great career.

Despite the complexities in getting EVA ready for camera the next 60 days of shooting were great. First time working with foreign actors, first time 60 days of shooting (long period), knowing that we cannot pass not a single day this program. This was our first time using special effects in a film and almost the first time with everything which was so new for us, even if we had produced more than 12 films. But this one was different. We had a strong script loved by everybody. We shot in 35 mm, then we scan at 2 K ... nobody in Romania was doing this for a Romanian film.

### *TELLING THE STORY*

Eva meets Tudor on the day of her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is Tudor who is to make her feel whole as a woman. He becomes for her a source of both love and suffering through his

constant mysterious departures and reappearances. When he is gone, Eva keeps a special place for him in her heart.

Amy Hayes knew how to play the 16 years old girls but also the 30 years old woman. "As a producer, the most exciting part for me was to stay near an artist so focused on to tell the story". "And Michael stood near us and was so good to us. Why he is playing only negative roles when he is such a wonderful person? "

The actors helped so much, with so much kindness and so much friendship. "I wanted to tell a story about someone's love. With all coming and leaving that sometime destroy a relation. Eva knows that even Tudor promised her every time that he will call her, that he will return in a month ... she knows never such thing will happen. But every time she is accepting him back."

### *THE CAST & CHARACTERS*

Casting for this film was a challenge. Having a very good casting director helped us. The character of Eva was especially important to cast correctly. "Eva is so naïve at the beginning, she is so much in love and hope that Tudor will be there for her all her life".

Jeremy organized a casting session and that was it...Amy Hayes was decided to be EVA. Vincent Regan played Tudor. A wonderful actor whose face and eyes are so expressive! Tudor became very human, having many sorrows whenever he left Eva alone, but a man of duty. He had to sacrificed his love hoping that Eva will wait for him . In some way she did that.

Michael Ironside /Alfonse and Patrick Bergin/Oswald... big actors, wonderful people ... They played exactly the characters. They were Alfonse and Oswald! Alfonse is her uncle. A bad person ... Oswald was the man who transformed her into a woman "the spoiled baroness". He brought the quiet in her life. He married her, but Tudor came back...Dustin Milligan/ Lucien remember her of the moment she knew Tudor. Lucien is getting in love with her and when he realized that she will always accept Tudor's coming backs he decided to go to war.

Emily Hamilton/Betty is her sister. In the scene when she is telling Eva about her nightmares lived in the house she was great.

It was harder for the Romanian actors to speak such a long period and to act in another language... that's why we considered them great actors. Maia Morgenstern in Maria's role remembered us of her role from THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST (directed by Mel Gibson).

### *DIRECTOR'S NOTES*

“It’s not very easy to be the director and producer in the same time. Sometimes I wanted more, as director.... But as producer, I renounced in the next minutes thinking to the budget”. He did a great job because he let every actor feel free and on the shooting place. They did not “feel” the dialogues... no problem, they were free to use other words. And this was great. He accepted the ideas and that thing made the actors feel good.

All the crew was excellent and did a great job. And the film shows it. After two years of hard work we did it. And we are proud of it.

“I am proud of what we did”. For the first time Adrian was co-scripter, author of the score and director. This is his third film “but you will not notice that when you will see the film” (Cornelia Palos / Producer)

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS...**

### **ADRIAN POPOVICI** (Director / writer/ Composer/Producer)

Born in Timisoara, having both German and Romanian citizen, Adrian is at his 3<sup>rd</sup> feature film and first as co-screenwriter. His second film “A roof overhead” was in the official selection of many festivals like Warsaw, Mannheim-Heidelberg, Munich, Bradford, Regensburg. Even if he frequented the courses of the Hyperion Academy, Directing Faculty he did not wanted to give his diploma. He was a professional musician playing piano and classic guitar.

He started first as producer. He co-produced over 12 films by now, together with Cornelia Palos. In 2003 together with Cornelia they produced [Maria](#) by Calin Peter Netzer, the first feature of the new Romanian generation of filmmakers honored in many festivals. In Locarno Festival they received Special Prize of the Jury. Adrian is in the post production with the 4<sup>th</sup> “54 hours and more”, a film about young generation problems.

Soon he will start to prepare the next feature “Brancusi from Eternity”, script that received in 2009 Atlantis Award at Moondance International Film Festival. From 2003 he is member for the European Film Academy.

### **RADU ANESTE PETRESCU** (Writer)

A well known Romanian screen writer, he has more than 20 Romanian films produced after his scripts. Professor and journalist he wrote also some plays.

### **STEVE ATTRIDGE** (Writer)

Well known script writer from UK. He received a nomination in 1994 for BAFTA TV Awards for the script *The Boot Street Band*. In 2008 he received The Writers Guild Award (of GB) for the 23th season of *The Bill*.

**CORNELIA PALOS** (Producer/ Executive producer)

She is in this business from 1999 and, together with Adrian Popovici she produced over 12 films, features, shorts and one documentary. She is a member of the European Film Academy from 2003. She is president of Artis Foundation which principal activity in the last years is the International Film Festival in Romania. She initiated and made the New Act of Cinema in Romania. Between the years of 2005-2007, she was personal counselor of the ex Secretary of State from the Minister of Culture and Religious Affairs. Cornelia finished in 1985 Economic Studies with a diploma in Cybernetics and Economy.

**MIHAIL SARBUSCA** (Director of Photography)

Born in 1969, in Bucharest, Romania, he graduated in 1998 from the University of Drama, Faculty of Film, Bucharest, Romania - Bachelor of Arts in Cinematography. He made several shorts, including "Maria" for which he received Best Cinematography - "Eastman Kodak Student Award" for the cinematography of "Maria" on the occasion of The International Student Film Festival "Cinemalubit" 1997 and Best Cinematography - "Student Camera Award" for "Maria" on the occasion of The Munich International Festival of Film Schools 97.

In 2002 he was DP for the feature "Maria" directed by Calin Peter Netzer, produced by Artis Film Romania/Pandora Film Gmbh/CineManufacture , Special Prize of the Jury in Locarno, Best debut in Cottbus, selected to European Film Academy, nomination for Best Actress to EFA. He was DP for "A roof overhead" directed by Adrian Popovici and produced by Cornelia Palos; the film was selected in many festivals. Other features: "Exchange" and "American Fiancees" directed by Nicolae Margineanu

**CRISTIAN NICULESCU** (Production Designer)

A very well known production designer, having more than 20 features and more than 10 tv films. He was art director to "Cold Mountain", "Highlander: Endgame". He signed as production designer "Blood Creek" directed by [Joel Schumacher](#). In 2008 he was awarded with Excellency Prize by Art Directors Guild for "Pu-239" directed by Scott Burns, TV film. The film was also awarded with *Best Edited Miniseries* by American Cinema Editors. He signed as production designer the much awarded film "Train of Life" directed by Radu Mihaileanu.

**VIORICA PETROVICI** (Costume Designer)

A very respected costume designer, with more than 10 films. "Le concert" directed by Radu Mihaileanu ,

"The last drop" directed by Coli Teague. As art director she signed Miramax Films production, directed by Scott Spiegel, "My Name is Modesty: A Modesty Blaise Adventure". She made costumes for Peter Weller, Tom Berenger and Daryl Hannah in "Diplomatic Siege", directed by Gustavo Graef- Marino. She signed also as costume designer the awarded film "Train of Life" directed by Radu Mihaileanu.

#### **JEREMY ZIMMERMAN** (Casting)

Jeremy was casting director for many well films. "Vivaldi" (pre-production) with Joseph Fiennes and Andy McDowell, a film directed by Boris Damast, "Dead Man Running" directed by Alex de Rakoff with Brenda Blethyn, 50 Cent and Danny Dyer. In 1995 he was nominated for an Emmy Award *Outstanding Individual Achievement in Casting* for [Joseph](#), directed by Roger Young with Ben Kingsley, Martin Landau, and Leslie Ann Warren.

#### **CONSTANTIN FLEANCU** (Sound Mixer)

As sound mixer or editor he worked with almost all the new Generation of Romanian directors. "[4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days](#)" directed by Cristian Mungiu (2007, Golden Palm in Cannes), "[The Death of Mr. Lazarescu](#)" directed by Cristi Puiu (2005, Un Certain Regard Award, Cannes). With "EVA" he continued his long time collaboration with Cornelia Palos and Adrian Popovici. He participated to all the films directed by Adrian and most of the films produced by Artis Film Romania.

#### **ABOUT THE ACTORS...**

##### **VINCENT REGAN** ("Tudor")

Regan has over 15 stage roles to his credit, most recently as [Achilles](#) in [Troilus and Cressida](#) at the [Edinburgh International Festival](#). In association with The [Royal Shakespeare Company](#), the festival presented director [Peter Stein](#)'s strongly cast and visually striking production. He is best known for the films "[300](#)", in which he played the Captain, and "[Troy](#)", where he played [Eudorus](#), Achilles' second in command.

Regan is also a screenwriter and director, developing projects for his own film company. His script, *Come Like Shadows*, is an accessible but classic interpretation of [Macbeth](#) that will start shooting in 2007 with [Sean Bean](#) and [Tilda Swinton](#), will be directed by John Maybury. In 1999 Regan received an Irish Best Actor nomination for his co-starring performance in the award-winning miniseries [Eureka Street](#).

##### **AMY HAYES** ("Eva")

Hayes is a [British actress](#). She was born in [Abergavenny, Wales](#), but grew up in [England](#). She made her screen debut in the 2009 [Doctor Who](#) episode "The Stolen Earth". The same year she was cast in a lead role in the [ITV](#) drama "[Whatever It Takes](#)". She recently starred in "[Micro Men](#)", a [BBC](#) made film charting the rise and fall of the home computer industry in the United Kingdom in the early 1980's.

#### **MICHAEL IRONSIDE** ("Alfonse")

Ironside is a Canadian actor. One of his first roles was a memorable turn as evil telepath Darryl Revok in "[Scanners](#)", an early film by [David Cronenberg](#). His breakthrough role was in the television miniseries "[V: The Final Battle](#)" as Ham Tyler. He is also known for his roles in "[Top Gun](#)" as [Naval Aviator Lieutenant Commander](#) Rick 'Jester' Heatherly, "[Extreme Prejudice](#)" as Major Paul Hackett, and "[Total Recall](#)" as Richter (the murderous henchman of [Ronny Cox](#)'s villain Cohaagen). Ironside played the villainous General Katana in the sci-fi sequel "[Highlander II: The Quickening](#)" and, after a brief stint in "[ER](#)" inaugural season, he was tapped to replace [Roy Scheider](#) as captain of the high-tech submarine [seaQuest](#) in the third season of "[seaQuest DSV](#)" as Captain Oliver Hudson. However, [NBC](#) cancelled the series after only thirteen episodes with Ironside as the star. He starred as [M. Emmet Walsh](#)'s brother in [David Winning](#)'s thriller "[Killer Image](#)", "[Starship Troopers](#)", "[The Perfect Storm](#)", "[The Machinist](#)" and "Common Grounds." More recently he stars in "The Beacon".

#### **PATRICK BERGIN** ("Oswald")

Bergin is an [Irish](#) actor. He is perhaps best known for playing the menacing husband of [Julia Roberts](#)' character in the thriller "[Sleeping with the Enemy](#)." Bergin also appeared as [Robin Hood](#) in a 1991 [TV movie](#). He recently played the role of [psychotic Provisional Irish Republican Army](#) gunman in "[Johnny Wa](#)", opposite [Vinnie Jones](#) and [Roger Daltrey](#)

#### **MAIA MORGENSTERN** ("Maria")

Internationally known from Theo Angelopoulos's "Ulysses' Wife", Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" and from "Balanta" by Lucian Pintilie. A very powerful Romanian Actress.

#### **EMILY HAMILTON** ("Betty")

A wonderful UK actress! Known for many films, including [He Died with a Felafel in His Hand](#) by [Richard Lowenstein](#) and [The Ruby Ring](#) by [Harley Cokliss](#).

#### **DUSTIN MILLIGAN** ("Lucien")

Dustin has performed in numerous films including [In the Land of Women](#) ( starring Kristen Stewart, Meg Ryan and Adam Brody), [The Messengers](#) starring once again

Kristen Stewart, Dylan McDermott and Penelope Ann Miller, and starred alongside “The O.C.”’s Kelly Rowan in the CTV Movie of the Week “Eight Days to Live”. His episodic credits include guest stars on “Dead Like Me”, “The Dead Zone”, “Supernatural”, the short-lived CW drama “Runaway”, and he’s all over Season One of “90210”.