

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2017

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About ARCS: <http://www.arcsproject.org/>

PRESS PHOTOS: <http://www.arcsproject.org/press>

American Romanian Cultural Society Sponsors Film, Jazz, Book, Architecture & Children's Events This Fall

SEATTLE, WA –The American Romanian Cultural Society (ARCS) celebrates Romanian culture and heritage by presenting a series of fall events and educational opportunities. Estimates are that Washington State boasts over 16,000 residents of Romanian origin and Romanians represent the 4th largest ethnic group of Microsoft employees. Fall activities culminate with the highly anticipated 4th annual Romanian Film Festival (presented in partnership with SIFF) from November 17-19, 2017. Romanian actor **Andi Vasluianu** (*Of Snails and Men, The Paper Will be Blue, California Dreamin'*) is the special guest. Seattle-based Bulgarian filmmaker **Bogdan Darev** screens his film *This Baba* and interviews are available upon request. Photos for all activities and film stills are available online in the coming weeks.

Romanian in High School

Registration open now. Placement test September 23

Kids age 14+

University of WA Main Campus

Romanian in High School is a unique program for high school students age 14 and up. Open to anyone, the program is designed specifically for students aiming to perfect their Romanian language skills to earn the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy and the required 4 credits for college admission.

The Romanian Identity, Royalty and Architecture Exhibition

September 27 – November 27, 2017

FREE

Opening Night Reception - October 5, 5.30 PM

University of WA Main Campus - 2nd and 3rd floor Odegaard Library,

The exhibit offers a chronological survey of Romanian architecture from 1870s to 1948 with a focus on the Royalties' contribution to the modernization of the country and creation of a national style. It was at the beginning of the 20th century that the capital Bucharest was called "The Little Paris", due to the French influence. After WWI, King Ferdinand and Queen Mary sponsored the implementation of the national style in their effort to put Romania on the map of the world. The exhibit identifies Queen Mary's contribution to Romanian architecture landmarks as well as her visit to Seattle. The exhibit, is authored by three major architecture professors: Augustin Ioan, Marius Marcu Lapadat,

and Ionel Stoicescu, in collaboration with CREART, Bucharest. The UW Ellison Center for Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies is sponsoring the event.

Club Piticot Storytime

October 14, 2017, 3-5 pm

FREE – Kids age 3-13

Bellevue Library, 1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA

Elizabeta Iliescu hosts story time at the Bellevue Library for children ages 3-13. Club Piticot supports children and their families in developing communication skills in Romanian while also preserving cultural heritage. October features Halloween themed games and stories including George Toparceanu's "Ballad of a Tiny Cricket" and Adina Rosetti's "Why do Witches Fly on a Broom and 10 Other Fantastic Questions."

Songs from Afar – in collaboration with Earshot Jazz Festival

November 10, 2017 at 7:30 pm

Tickets \$17-\$35

Seattle Art Museum

Celebrating the music of Romania this concert event is an amalgamation of Transylvanian folk with jazz and improvisation. Featuring Lucian Ban's ELEVATION Quartet; master saxophonist Abraham Burton; Transylvanian singer Gavril Tarmure; and the Angela Draghicescu Ensemble paying tribute to famed composer George Enescu with a new arrangement of the Romanian Rhapsody.

Book Signing & Romanian Film Event: *Cristi Puiu* by Monica Filimon

November 16, 2017, 6:30 PM

FREE

Univ of WA Seattle Campus, The Ellison Center / Thomson Hall Room 317

New York-based film critic, and professor, Monica Filimon will sign copies of her new book on *Cristi Puiu* (University of Illinois Press 2017). She talks about the beginnings of New Romanian cinema with a specific focus the black comedy *The Death of Mr. Lazarescu*. In *Cristi Puiu*, Filimon explores the works of an artist dedicated to truth not as an abstract concept, but as the ephemeral revelation of the fuller ungraspable world beyond the screen.

Romanian Film Festival – in collaboration SIFF

November 17-19, 2017 (times vary)

Film Tickets \$9-\$14

SIFF Cinema Uptown (lower Queen Anne)

More than a half dozen Romanian films are featured during this three-day festival. The Opening Night Gala includes special guest Andi Vasluianu and his film **Breaking News** (1h 21 min). Directed by Iulia Rugină is the Winner of the Special Jury Mention for the Best Newcomer at Karlovy Vary IFF 2017, the film follows reporter Alex Mazilu (Andi Vasluianu) who is working on an *in memoriam* piece for a colleague, whose tragic death he indirectly caused. Alex becomes very close to the daughter (Voica Oltean) left fatherless and puts together puzzle pieces of this man's life, all seen through the eyes of his troubled 15 year old girl.

A complete list of films will be announced in the coming weeks. Confirmed films include **This Baba** (31 min) **The New Gypsy Kings** (59 min) about the astonishing world of Romania's super-rich Gypsy popstars; and **Back Home** (1h 31 min) the story of Robert's (Alexandru Papadopol) return to his native village to reconnect with his father, old friend and teenage sweetheart.

About ARCS

This Seattle-based non-profit promotes a better understanding of Romania's rich culture and traditions by organizing community-building educational, visual, performance, and literary arts events.