

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MOVING IMAGE PRESENTS WEEKEND RETROSPECTIVE OF ROMANIAN FILM DIRECTOR ANDREI UJICA**

***Programs on October 1-2, 2011, include an appearance by the director and other guest speakers***

Andrei Ujica is one of the most remarkable filmmakers to emerge during the current resurgence of Romanian filmmaking. Using existing archival and news footage, he explores the nature of political power and media, and the transformation of his country at the end of the Cold War. His masterpiece to date is the singular three-hour film *The Autobiography of Nicolae Ceausescu*, which has been praised as “transfixing, illuminating and haunting” (*Time Out London*). Ujica will be the subject of a weekend retrospective at Museum of the Moving Image on October 1 and 2, 2011, including all three of his films—*The Autobiography of Nicolae Ceausescu*, *Videograms of a Revolution*, and *Out of the Present*—each accompanied by a guest speaker, and a personal appearance by Ujica at a panel discussion about his work.

Alongside Ujica, other participants on the October 2 panel discussion include author Ian Buruma (*Murder in Amsterdam*), a frequent contributor on culture and politics to *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*; film critic Kent Jones, executive director of the World Cinema Foundation; and author Norman Manea, currently writer in residence at Bard College, who writes about daily life in a Communist state, exile, and the Holocaust. The panel will be moderated by David Schwartz, Chief Curator of Museum of the Moving Image.

Romanian-American political scientist and sociologist Vladimir Tismaneanu will introduce *The Autobiography of Nicolae Ceausescu* on October 1 and Dennis Lim, editor of *Moving Image Source*, will introduce *Videograms of a Revolution* and *Out of the Present* on October 2.

*The Autobiography of Nicolae Ceausescu* is a fascinating, multilayered essay in the form of a collage of official newsreels and home movies. It established Ujica on the international scene as a major director with a unique approach to exploring history. While his films reveal the contradictions and tensions behind the curtain of Soviet-era Communism, they also examine the nature of reality and politics in today’s media-saturated Western world. His 1992 film *Videograms of a Revolution*, co-directed by Ujica and Harun Farocki, examines the stunning 1989 uprising that led to the capture and execution of Ceausescu. Ujica’s first film, *Out of the Present*, juxtaposes scenes of

a cosmonaut floating in outer space with scenes of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, which was taking place on the ground at the same time.

The series is presented in collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute, New York.

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### **SCHEDULE FOR 'ANDREI UJICA,' OCTOBER 1–2, 2011**

All screenings take place at Museum of the Moving Image (36-01 35 Avenue, Astoria, NY). Unless otherwise noted, screenings are included with paid Museum admission.

This schedule is also available online at

<http://www.movingimage.us/films/2011/10/01/detail/andrei-ujic-2/>.

#### ***The Autobiography of Nicolae Ceausescu***

##### **Introduced by Vladimir Tismaneanu**

Saturday, October 1, 5:00 p.m.

Dir. Andrei Ujica. 2010, 180 mins. A deftly composed montage, edited from thousands of hours of archival footage—both state-sanctioned and private—documenting the rise and fall of the socialist Romanian leader, and the traumatized nation he left after his execution in 1989. This work is an astonishing study of the intoxicating and corrupting effects of power and the ways that world leaders attempt to stage-manage history. The screening will be introduced by Romanian-American political scientist and sociologist Vladimir Tismaneanu, who is also the director of the University of Maryland's Center for the Study of Post-Communist Societies.

#### **Cinema, History, and the Films of Andrei Ujica: A Panel Discussion with Andrei Ujica, Ian Buruma, Kent Jones, and Norman Manea**

Sunday, October 2, 2:00 p.m.

Author Ian Buruma (*Murder in Amsterdam*) writes frequently about culture and politics for *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*. Film critic Kent Jones is the executive director of the World Cinema Foundation. Norman Manea is a prolific and acclaimed author of short fiction, novels, and essays about daily life in a Communist state, exile, and the Holocaust, and is a writer in residence at Bard College. The panel will be moderated by Chief Curator David Schwartz.

#### ***Videograms of a Revolution***

##### **Introduced by Dennis Lim**

Sunday, October 2, 4:00 p.m.

Dir. Andrei Ujica and Harun Farocki. 1992, 106 mins. Using amateur video, footage shot by the state film industry, and excerpts of broadcasts from a demonstrator-controlled Bucharest TV studio in late December 1989, this chronology of the Romanian uprising that overthrew dictator Nicolae Ceausescu shows how media technology not only records but fosters historic change.

## ***Out of the Present***

### **Introduced by Dennis Lim**

Sunday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.

Dir. Andrei Ujica. 1999, 96 mins. Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev spent ten months aboard the space station Mir, while below him, out of sight, the Soviet Union was disintegrating. Ujica intercuts between the tumult in Moscow and scenes of Krikalev floating in free space to poetically portray a world in transition.

### **MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be open on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Columbus Day (October 10), and on December 26 and January 2. On Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) and New Year's Eve (Dec. 31), the galleries will close at 5:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving (Nov. 24) and Christmas Day (Dec. 25).

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-18. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).