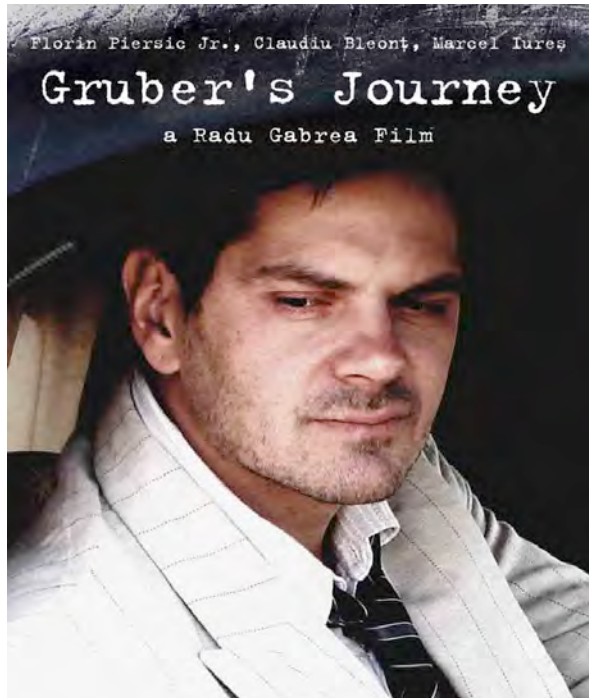


☆ New Release – Now Available ☆

Gruber's Journey

Călătoria lui Gruber

A Film by Radu Gabrea



“Perfect yet subdued.”

- Claus Mueller, International Film Exchange

WINNER Best Director (Radu Gabrea), 2009
Levante International Film Festival (Italy)

Romania | 2008 | 100 minutes | Romanian, German & Italian w/ English Subtitles
35mm, Digibeta, DVD

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Films By Radu Gabrea
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- FEAR NOT JACOB
- GOLDFADEN'S LEGACY
- ITZIK MANGER
- RUMENYE! RUMENYE!

Gruber's Journey

A Film by Radu Gabrea

Romania | 2008 | 100 minutes | Fiction Feature Film
Romanian, German & Italian w/ English Subtitles
35mm; Digibeta; DVD

Festivals & Broadcast

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

- San Francisco Jewish Film Festival 2010 (upcoming)
- Caracas (Venezuela) Jewish Film Festival 2010 (upcoming)
- New York Jewish Film Festival, Lincoln Center 2010
- Levante International Film Festival (Italy) 2009
- Vancouver Jewish Film Festival 2009
- Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival 2009
- Contra Costa International Jewish Film Festival 2009
- Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival 2009
- European Union Film Festival, Chicago 2009
- Atlanta Jewish Film Festival 2009
- Toronto Jewish Film Festival 2009
- Romanian Film Festival, New York 2008
- Klezmer Festival Buenos Aires, Argentina 2008
- Jerusalem Film Festival 2008
- Transylvania International Film Festival 2008

Synopsis

In June 1941, Curzio Malaparte (Florin Piersic Jr.), an Italian journalist and member of the Fascist party, arrives in the Romanian city of Iasi on the way to cover the Russian front for an Italian newspaper. Suffering from severe allergies, he is referred to Josef Gruber (Marcel Iures), a local Jewish doctor. Desperate to find the missing doctor, Malaparte must navigate the outrageous and increasingly sinister bureaucracy of Nazi-occupied Romania. What begins as an absurdist wild goose chase leads directly to the heart of the final solution, and the disastrous fate of the local Jews.

Gruber's Journey, directed by veteran Romanian filmmaker Radu Gabrea (**Fear Not Jacob**), is the first Romanian fiction feature film to explore the Holocaust and the murder of the Romanian Jews. The film is based on Curzio Malaparte's real wartime experiences chronicled in his 1944 novel *Kaputt*, which editor Edwin Frank calls "a terrifying report from the abyss...an insider's dispatch from the world of the enemy that is as hypnotically fascinating as it is disturbing."

Credits

Director: Radu Gabrea

Production - Romania: Radu Gabrea, Victoria Cocias, Tudor Serban

Production - Hungary: Laszlo Kantor

Script: Razvan Radulescu, Alexandru Baciu

Cinematographer: Dinu Tanase

Editor: Melania Oproiu

Starring: Florin Piersic Jr., Marcel Iures, Udo Schenk, Alexandru Bindea, Claudiu Bleont, Razvan Vasilescu, Andi Vasluianu

Director: Radu Gabrea

1969	Director	Feature Film	"Too Little For Such A Big War"
1970	Director	TV Series	"The Chase"
1973	Director	Feature Film	"Beyond The Sands"
1981	Director & Co-Producer	Feature Film	"Fear Not, Jacob!"
1984	Director & Co- Writer	Feature Film	"A Man Like Eve"
1985-86	Writer	TV Series	"Nonni"
1986	Director	TV Film	"The Strange Object Of Love"
1987	Writer & Director	TV Film	"Surprise Travel"
1989	Director & Producer	Feature Film	"The Secret Of The Ice Cave"
1993	Writer, Director & Producer	Feature Film	"Rosenemil"
1994	Co-Producer	Feature Film	"Under The Sign Of Love"
1994	Writer & Director	TV Film	"Summit Conference"
2001	Director	Feature Film	"Noro"
2000	Director	TV Film	"Struma"
2004	Director	TV Film	"Goldfaden's Legacy"
2005	Director	Documentary	"Itzik Manger"
2006	Writer & Director	Documentary	"Rumenye! Rumenye!"
2006	Writer & Director	TV Series	"1000 Faces In 7 Decades"
2007	Writer & Director	Feature Film	"The Beheaded Rooster"
2008	Director	Feature Film	"Gruber's Journey"
2008	Director	Documentary	"Rumenye! Rumenye! - Part 2"
2009	Director	Feature Film	"Red Gloves"

Historical Background

The treaties that followed World War I more than doubled the territory and population of Romania. The 1930 Romanian census recorded 728,115 persons who identified themselves as Jewish, comprising approximately 4 percent of the population.

Traditionally, Romania had strong ties to France but tried (under its ruler King Carol II), to remain neutral in the 1930s. With the fall of France in June 1940, Nazi Germany supported the revisionist demands for Romanian territory of the Soviet Union, Hungary, and Bulgaria. During the summer and autumn of 1940, Romania lost about 30 percent of its territory and population. The Soviet Union demanded and received Bessarabia and northern Bukovina from Romania on June 28, 1940. On August 30, 1940, under German and Italian arbitration, Romania was forced to cede northern Transylvania to Hungary in the so-called Second Vienna Award. In September, Romania ceded southern Dobruja to Bulgaria.

Even before Romania fell into the orbit of Nazi Germany, Romanian authorities pursued a policy of harsh, persecutory antisemitism--particularly against Jews living in eastern borderlands, who were falsely associated with Soviet communism, and those living in Transylvania, who were identified with past Hungarian rule. Right-wing social revolutionary movements, like the fascist Iron Guard, found significant popular support and some official sympathy for their demand that the Jews of Romania be removed from alleged places of power and then expelled from Romania. However, their call for a social revolution against the political and economic establishment and their use of violent protest led to extreme hostility from the Romanian authorities. By 1938-1939, the Romanian police and the Iron Guard were locked in a state of virtual terrorist civil war.

THE "NATIONAL LEGIONARY STATE," 1940-1941 In September 1940, King Carol II was forced to abdicate after the loss of northern Transylvania to Hungary. A coalition government of radical right-wing military officers, under General Ion Antonescu and the Iron Guard, came to power and requested the dispatch of a German military mission to Romania. On November 20, 1940, Romania formally joined the Axis alliance.

The "National Legionary State" established by Antonescu and the Iron Guard quickly promulgated a number of restrictive measures against the Jews of Romania. In addition, Iron Guard thugs arbitrarily robbed or seized

Jewish-owned businesses. They assaulted, and sometimes killed, Jewish citizens in the streets. Iron Guard confiscations and corruption threatened to disrupt the Romanian economy and led to tension with Antonescu and the Romanian army. The Iron Guard rose against the regime on January 21, 1941. During a three-day civil war, eventually won by Antonescu with support from the German army, members of the Iron Guard instigated a deadly pogrom in Bucharest, the capital city. Particularly gruesome was the murder of dozens of Jewish civilians in the Bucharest slaughterhouse. After the victims were killed, the perpetrators hung the bodies from meat hooks and mutilated them in a vicious parody of kosher slaughtering practices.

ROMANIA AND THE NAZI-SOVIET WAR, 1941-1944 Led by Antonescu, Romania participated fully in the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. Within days of the invasion, Romanian authorities staged a pogrom against the Jewish population in the city of Iasi, the regional capital of Moldavia. Romanian police officials shot hundreds of Jews in the courtyard of police headquarters. Hundreds more were killed on the streets or in their homes. In all, at least 4,000 Jews were murdered in Iasi during the pogrom. Thousands more were arrested, packed into freight cars, and deported by train to Calarasi and Podul Iloaei, towns located southwest of Iasi. Many of these deportees died en route from starvation or dehydration.

Following the invasion of the Soviet Union, Romania reannexed Bessarabia and northern Bukovina, which had been seized by the Soviets a year earlier. After the conquest of the Ukraine by German and Romanian troops in July and August 1941, Romania was given the territory between the Dniester and Bug Rivers. Romanian authorities established a military administration there and dubbed the region "Transnistria."

Both in support of German SS and police units and on their own initiative, Romanian army and gendarmerie (police) personnel massacred thousands of Jews in Bessarabia, northern Bukovina, and Transnistria. Romanian and German units began systematic shootings of the Jewish residents of Kishinev, the capital of Bessarabia, shortly after occupying the city in July 1941. Survivors of the initial massacres, about 11,000 people, were herded into a ghetto and conscripted to perform forced labor under harsh conditions. In October, those left alive were deported to camps and ghettos in Transnistria, as were most of the surviving Jews in Bessarabia and northern Bukovina. Many Jews died of exposure, starvation, or disease during the deportations to Transnistria or after arrival. Others were murdered by Romanian or German units, either in Transnistria or after being driven across the Bug River into the German-occupied Ukraine.

Romanian authorities established several de facto ghettos and two concentration camps in Transnistria. Among the most notorious of these ghettos (which the Romanians referred to as "colonies") was Bogdanovka, on the west bank of the Bug River, where thousands of Jews were interned. In December 1941, Romanian troops, together with Ukrainian auxiliaries, massacred almost all the Jews in Bogdanovka; shootings continued for more than a week. The Romanians also massacred Jews in the Domanevka and Akhmetchetskha camps. Typhus-devastated Jews were crowded into the "colony" in Mogilev. Romanian authorities established concentration camps at Pechora and Vapniarka in Transnistria in the winter of 1941-1942. Vapniarka was reserved for Jewish political prisoners deported from Romania proper. Of its several thousand prisoners, very few were able to survive.

The Soviet army overran most of Transnistria in the spring of 1944. Bessarabia was conquered in the first weeks of the summer offensive. As Soviet troops massed on the Prut River, which separates Moldavia from Bessarabia, a group of opposition politicians, supported by King Michael, overthrew Antonescu and signed an armistice with the Soviet Union on August 23, 1944. Romanian troops then fought alongside Soviet troops through Hungary and into Germany.

Between 1941 and 1944, German and Romanian authorities murdered or caused the deaths of between 150,000 and 250,000 Romanian and Ukrainian Jews in Transnistria. At least 270,000 Romanian Jews were killed or died from mistreatment during the Holocaust. Antonescu and several other officials of the Romanian wartime regime were tried after the war. Antonescu was convicted and executed. However, most Romanian perpetrators were never brought to justice.

*Material above about the history of Romania and the Holocaust, including background on the 1941 Iasi Pogrom at the heart of **Gruber's Journey**, is taken from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website: <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005472>*