

BETA CINEMA presents  
a production of PARADA FILM, CINÉMA DEFACTO, GAÏJIN and VOLOS FILMS

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# FAMILIAR

Directed by  
Călin Peter Netzer



**Supported by**

The Romanian Center of Cinematography, Taiwan Creative Content Agency, Taiwan's International Co-funding Program (TICP), Aide aux cinémas du monde - Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée - Institut Français

**Co-funded by**

Creative Europe MEDIA of the European Union

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# FAMILIAR

## **Starring**

Emanuel Pârvu  
Iulia Lumânare  
Ana Ciontea  
Adrian Titieni  
Victoria Moraru  
Vlad Ivanov

## **Directed by**

Călin Peter Netzer

## **Written by**

Călin Peter Netzer, Iulia Lumânare

## **Director of Photography**

Barbu Bălășoiu, Andrei Butică

## **Editor and Sound Designer**

Dana Bunescu

## **Sound on set**

Dana Farzanehpour

## **Costumes**

Judy Shrewsbury, Ioana Covalcic

## **Make up and hair**

Gabriela Crețan, Cristina Temelie

## **Co-producers**

Sophie Erbs, Pierrick Baudouin, Stefano Centini

## **Producers**

Călin Peter Netzer, Oana Iancu

# Logline

A film director investigates the darkest secrets intoxicating his family and tries to neutralize them by transforming them into movie material.

## Short Synopsis

*Familiar* follows the story of Dragoş, a 46-year-old Romanian film director, who decides to make a movie about his family's emigration to Germany in the 1980s, done under suspicious conditions. While researching for the film, Dragoş' already dysfunctional relationship with his parents becomes even more strained. His collaboration with a former girlfriend, Ilinca, brings them closer together, which complicates his relationship with his fiancée Alina. As Dragoş delves deeper into his family's past, secrets come to light, leading to new conflicts and revelations. Soon Dragoş loses his footing and finds himself trapped in his own story. With Alina's pregnancy and the prospect of a new film, Dragoş must make a decision that will impact the future of everyone involved.

## Director's Statement

*Călin Peter Netzer*

The film is built with the thoroughness of a detective investigation, and invites the spectator to be a witness to the intolerable intimacy of the Binder family, a witness who always seems to be on the tail of the characters and of what they know and hide. But, as secrets unfold, the spectator soon surpasses the characters in terms of awareness. Privileged by being an outside observer, the spectator is able to understand the contamination of the present with the past and thus to identify the paradox of good intentions doubled by the emotional needs, which alter Dragoş' reality.

Using the present as a tool that makes the past intelligible, Dragoş instinctively recreates the mise-en-scene of the past. Playing the part of the culprit, the director recreates the love triangle his parents once had formed – Valeria, Emil, Stern – and that had led to the never reconciled disruption of the family. Unaware of himself, he re-enacts the past through the present, assigning the role of the cheated father to Alina (his girlfriend), the ingrate role of the lover to Ilinca (former girlfriend and collaborator, with whom things have never been clear), while he himself takes up the role of his mother – the culprit who doesn't acknowledge guilt and who never admits to anything without a concealed reason.

On this road, and being his mother's son, Dragoş doesn't let the voice of his own guilt stop him from hurting people he cares about. If he would do so, then he couldn't use them anymore. And he needs to use them to find the truth about himself and ultimately to make the movie. To him, the truth in art is worth every sacrifice, including self-sacrifice. Painfully, he must first sacrifice everyone around him, before he may finally sacrifice himself. Because, underneath it all, he hopes to spend the remaining time with his parents as it was before Stern entered the stage, in a childhood paradise.

# Producer's Note

*Oana Iancu*

The backdrop of *Familiar* is post-communist Europe, where the ones who were kept under the Iron Curtain have to reinvent their identity and fight for their livelihood. The film centers around a family crisis and delves into the personal identity search of the main character, Dragoș, a director who writes a fictional film based on a real episode from his parents' life. We become witnesses of this process, which forces Dragoș to see himself: the man who hurts and uses others around him, in order to bring his art to life.

Călin has the gift of creating an extraordinarily vibrant and unmediated connection with the audience. In *Familiar*, as in his other films, you feel that he is revealing, as well as creating something of true substance that the audiences can instantly connect to. The public is being led in a deep exploration of human relationships, and the bruises we leave on each other.

## CAST

Emanuel Pârvu

*As Dragoș Binder*

Pârvu is a Romanian film and theatre actor, director and writer. He was born in Bucharest in 1979 and graduated from the National University of Theatrical Arts and Cinematography in 2006. In 2009 Pârvu starred in "Tales from a Golden Age", directed by Hanno Höfer, which was nominated at the Cannes International Film Festival. In 2016 he took on a role in Christian Mungiu's Palme d'Or nominee "Graduation", for which Mungiu received an award as Best Director in Cannes. And in 2021 he played the leading male character alongside Ioana Bugarin in "Miracle", directed by Bogdan George Apetri. The film received various nominations in prestigious international festivals, including the Venice Film Festival.



## Iulia Lumânare

*As Ilinca*

Iulia was born in 1983 and studied acting at the National University of Theatrical Arts and Cinematography in Bucharest. She starred in the TV series “Rămâi cu Mine” and “La Urgență” and feature films like “Caravana cinematografică” directed by Titus Munteanu and “Pororoca” directed by Constantin Popescu, for which she received the Gopo Award, which is the most prestigious award in Romania, for Best Actress. In 2017 she starred in Călin Peter Netzer’s previous feature “Ana, mon Amour”. The film received two nominations at the Berlin International Film Festival, including Best Film. Beneath her acting career, she is also a highly respected theatre actress.



## Adrian Titieni

*As Emil Binder*

Adrian Titieni is a famous Romanian film and theater actor. He was born on June 6, 1963 in Bistrita, Romania and graduated from Institute of Theatrical Arts and Cinematography in 1988. Some of his most notable roles include “Child’s Pose” (2013) by Călin Peter Netzer, “Graduation” (2016) by Cristian Mungiu and “Ilegitim” (2016) by Adrian Sitaru. He plays on the stage of the theatres Odeon and National I.L. Caragiale in Bucharest. He is a rector and university professor at the National University of Theatre and Cinematographic Art I.L.Caragiale. In 2016, he was awarded the Bayard Award for Best Actor at the International Francophone Film Festival in Namur, Belgium and the Silver Hugo Award for Best Actor at the Chicago National Film Festival. In 2012, he was awarded the Gopo Award for Best Male Performance.

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## Ana Ciontea

*As Valeria Binder*

Ana Ciontea is a Romanian film and theatre actress. She was born on in 1959 in Hunedoara, Romania and she graduated from the Institute of Theatrical Arts and Cinematography in 1982. She had roles in notable films like "Sieranevada" (2016) by Cristi Puiu, "Bad Luck Banging or Loony Porn" (2019) by Radu Jude and has played in numerous shorts and TV films. She plays on the stage of the National Theatre I.L. Caragiale in Bucharest. In 2017 she received the Gopo Award for Best Actress in a supporting role and has three UNITER awards for Best Theatre Actress in a supporting role.



## Victoria Ecaterina Moraru

*As Alina*

Victoria Ecaterina Moraru is a Romanian actress, born on 13 June 1997 in Vaslui, Romania. In 2019 she graduated from the University of Theatrical Arts and Cinematography. She played in short films and TV commercials, and in the feature film "Tigre" (2023) that premiered in Rotterdam IFF.





# Vlad Ivanov

*As Harald Stern*

Vlad Ivanov's versatility has established him as one of Europe's great character actors, and he has received many domestic awards in Romania for his work in both stage and screen. He speaks English, French, Russian and Italian. His notable film work includes: the leading role of Oszkar Brill in "Sunset" from Oscar-winner Laszlo Nemes; Balint Kenyeres's "Hier"; Maren Ade's "Toni Erdmann"; "Graduation" by Cristi Mungiu; "Dogs"; and Piotr opposite Jim Carrey in "Dark Crimes". Prior to this, Vlad played the role of Franco The Elder in "Snowpiercer" directed by Oscar winner Bong Joon-Ho; Grossmeier in "Into The Fog"; and the role of Dinu Laurentiu in "Child's Pose" - which won the Golden Bear at the Berlinale. Vlad won the LA Critics Award for his brilliant portrayal of abortionist Dr. Bebe in "4 Months, 3 Weeks And 2 Days". Other notable films include: "Police", "Adjective"; "Tales From The Golden Age"; "The Concert" which was nominated for a Golden Globe; "The Whistleblower"; "Principles Of Life", and "Servants" by Ivan Ostrochovský. In 2005, Vlad was awarded a Medal for Cultural Merit, presented by the President of Romania. Vlad played the lead role of Cristi in Corneliu Porumboiu's "The Whistlers", which was in competition at Cannes Film Festival. Vlad's recent work includes: the international sci-fi thriller series "Infiniti", directed by Thierry Poiraud for Canal+; and "Metronom" directed by Alexandru Belc, which premiered in Un Certain Regard at Cannes.



# The Director

## Călin Peter Netzer

*Familiar* will be the fifth feature film directed by Călin Peter Netzer. Born in 1975 in Petrosani, Romania, Călin Peter Netzer is one of the most acclaimed Romanian directors. In 2003, his first feature film “Maria”, was screened at many prestigious festivals, won awards in Locarno (Grand Prix, Leopard for Best Actor and Leopard for Best Actress) and was nominated for the European Film Awards. In 2009, his second feature, “Medal Of Honor”, was selected to more than 30 international festivals and awarded in Thessaloniki, Turin, Miami, Durrës, Los Angeles and Zagreb. In 2013 “Child's Pose” won the Golden Bear for the Best Feature Film at the Berlinale, thus becoming the first Romanian film to ever receive this prize. In 2017 Călin returned to the Official Selection of the Berlinale with “Ana, Mon Amour” and won the Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution. His films have also been very well received by the public, setting box office records in Romania and selling to more than 25 territories.





# DoP

## Barbu Bălășoiu

Barbu Bălășoiu is a Romanian cinematographer. He graduated Nicolae Tonitza High School of Arts and the University for Film and Theatre I. L. Caragiale - Photography section, in Bucharest. He was the cinematographer for several features, including: "Sieranevada" (2016) by Cristi Puiu, "A Higher Law" (2021) by Octavian Chelaru and "Tigre" (2023) by Andrei Tănase.

## Andrei Butică

Andrei Butică is a Romanian cinematographer, born on May 13, 1979. He is at his third collaboration with Călin Peter Netzer, after working together on "Child's Pose" (2013) and "Ana, Mon Amour" (2017). He has also worked with Radu Jude on "A Film For Friends" (2011) and "Everybody In My Family" (2012) and with Bogdan Mirică on "Dogs" (2016). His filmography includes numerous shorts, features and TV series.

# EDITOR

## Dana Bunescu

Dana Bunescu is a Romanian editor and a sound-designer. She studied Physics at the University of Bucharest and Editing, Sound and Animation in the Multi-media Department of the National University for Theater and Film, Bucharest. As editor and/or sound-designer she collaborated with numerous directors, relevant for the New Romanian Wave such as Cristi Puiu ("The Death Of Mr. Lazarescu"), Cristian Mungiu ("4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days", "Tales From The Golden Age"), Calin Peter Netzer ("Child's Pose", "Ana, Mon Amour"), Andrei Ujica ("The Autobiography Of Nicolae Ceausescu"), Radu Jude ("Everybody In Our Family", "Aferim!", "Scarred Hearts", "I Do Not Care If We Go Down in History As Barbarians", "Bad Luck Banging or Loony Porn"). She is co-author for two documentary movies: "The Distance Between Me And Me", together with Mona Nicoara and "The Chalice. Of Sons and Daughters", together with Catalina Tesăr. She was awarded with the Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution at the Berlinale 2017 for "Ana, Mon Amour".

# The Production Company

## Parada Film

Parada Film was founded in 2010 and began as a distribution company, promoting and releasing in Romanian cinemas acclaimed Romanian and international art house productions such as Wim Wender's "Pina" and Golden Bear winner "Child's Pose".

The production activity of Parada started with Claudiu Mitcu's documentary "Two of Us", the first Romanian documentary on LGBT issues and with Daniel Sandu's ironic social short "The Counting Device" (awarded at Leyden IFS, selected to various international festivals including Sarajevo, Cambridge, Montpellier, Bristol Encounters and sold to German broadcaster ZDF).

Parada Film also produced Călin Peter Netzer's "Child's Pose" and "Ana, Mon Amour". These features were awarded the Golden Bear and Silver Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and were among the most successful box office hits in Romania.

The main aim of the company is to produce and distribute high quality art-house cinema reaching a significant audience.

## Co-Production Companies

### GAÏJIN

GAÏJIN is a French feature film production company dedicated to the emergence of talents, and of new forms of cinematographic proposals. It was created in 2009 by Valérie Massadian, director, and Sophie Erbs, producer. Since 2023, Sophie Erbs dedicates her work fully to GAÏJIN, after having produced some 25 feature films, all of them selected in A-Class festivals. The production team also counts with Pierrick Baudouin, who dedicates to emerging talents. The track-record of the team includes titles such as "Nana and Milla" by Valérie Massadian (Best First Film and Jury Prize at Locarno), "Costa Brava, Lebanon" by Mounia Akl (Venice Orizzonti 2021), "Los Perros" by Marcela Said, "The Load" by Ogjnen Glavonic and "Familiar" by Călin Peter Netzer. The development slates include features, coproductions, and series, projects by Pia Marais, Adina Pintilie, Ogjnen Glavonic, Mounia Akl, Nathalie Álvarez Mesén and Boo Junfeng.

### Cinéma Defacto

Cinéma Defacto is a French, author-driven production company at human scale, created in 1996 by Tom Dercourt and based in Paris. The company's track-record totals more than 45 features, most of them premiering in A-class festivals.

Focusing now on international productions as a lead producer but also as a coproducer, the ambition of the company is to reach a wider market with crossover titles and to forge links with major independent players abroad.

#### Selective Filmography

"The Cow Who Sang A Song Into The Future", by Francisca Alegria, 2023

"Blind Willow, Sleeping Women" by Pierre Foldès, 2023

"Costa Brava, Liban" by Mounia Akl, 2022

"Rabiye Kurnaz V. George W. Bush" by Andreas Dresen, 2022

"Olga" by Elie Grappe, 2021

"As Happy As Possible" by Alain Raoust, 2019

“Territory Of Love” by Romain Cogitore, 2019  
“The Harvesters” by Etienne Kallos, 2018  
“The Assistant” by Christophe Ali & Nicolas Bonilauri, 2015  
“The Page Turner” by Denis Dercourt, 2006

## Volos Films

Volos Films was founded in 2018 by Stefano Centini, an Italian-Taiwanese producer based in Taipei, Taiwan, member of EAVE and alumnus of the Berlinale Tokyo Talents.

Volos Films is committed to producing international content across Europe and Asia, bringing the voice of emerging talents in different genres to audiences between the two continents. Completed works include Amazon Original “In My Mother’s Skin” (Sundance Midnight Screening, Rotterdam Harbor), “The Settlers” (Cannes UCR 2023, sold to MUBI), Eduardo Williams’ “El Auge del Humano III” (Locarno Main Competition), Jow Zhi-Wei’s first feature “Tomorrow Is A Long Time” (Berlinale Generation 14Plus), Wang Chun-Hong’s feature debut “Far Away Eyes” (Visions du Réel Burning Lights competition, Golden Horse FF) and Elvis Lu’s second feature documentary “A Holy Family”, (Visions du Réel Intl Feature Competition), winner of four awards at the 24th Taipei Film Festival, including Best Documentary, Best Editing, Audience Award and the Festival Grand Prize as well as Canal+ Award at Fipadoc 2023.

## World Sales

### Beta Cinema

Beta Cinema is a subsidiary of Jan Mojto’s European media group Beta Film, a world sales and co-financing company for quality feature films that combine great stories, commercial viability and artistic integrity. Beta Cinema’s footprint ranges from Oscar® winners to worldwide B.O. and streaming hits, such as “The Lives of Others”, “Il Divo”, “Downfall” and two time Oscar®-nominee “Never Look Away”, to Netflix hit “Calibre” and multiple award-winning B.O. successes like “Woman at War”, “System Crasher” and Oscar shortlisted “I’m Your Man”.

Recent highlights include “The Offing” with Helena Bonham Carter and political thriller “Hammarskjöld” with iconic actor Mikael Persbrandt in the lead. Beta Cinema currently also sells Komplizen Film-produced Berlinale entry “When Will It Be Again Like It Never Was Before”, inspiring Tromsø- and Goteborg-Audience Award winner “Let The River Flow”, Nordic thriller “Operation Napoleon”, starring Iain Glen and Ólafur Darri Ólafsson and award-winning discovery “One Last Evening” (Rotterdam IFF Tiger Competition, winner Best Director at Max Ophüls Preis).

Beta Cinema has been attached for World Sales to both Călin Peter Netzer’s previous films, “Child’s Pose” and “Ana, Mon Amour”, selling both films to numerous territories around the world.

# Technical Details

Drama / Romania - France - Taiwan / 2023 / Running Time 100 min / Screening Format Dcp /  
Image Ratio 1:2.39

## **WORLD SALES**

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