

I am a filmmaker, animator and researcher interested in identity, memory and the materiality of images. My art blends mixed-media and live action, balancing personal authorship with collaborative creation. I aim to spark dialogue about diversity and inclusion through visual storytelling.

EDUCATION

"I.L. Caragiale" National University of Theatre and Film 2025 ↗ present
Bachelor's in Film and TV Directing, Film Faculty

"Saint Sava" National College 2021 ↗ 2025
Humanities profile, Philology specialization

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Prayer for Ana (early development, [pitch deck here](#)) **Director, Screenwriter, Animator** 2025 ↗ present

- **Best Pitch Award at YOUKI! International Youth Media Festival**, won a three week residency at the Medien Kultur Haus in Wels, Austria
- **Talent Camp Swiss Youth Film Festival**, won a week residency in Zürich
- **Best Pitch Prize at ABlFF**, 1000 euro grant

From: Nora (2024, 19') **Director, Producer, Screenwriter, Animator, Editor** 2023 ↗ 2024

- Experimental narrative film, combining **live-action with mixed media animation**
- **Coordinated a team of 15 people from different departments over the course of a year**

Selections:

International Teen Film Festival, Shanghai | YOUKI! International Youth Media Festival, Wels (AUT) | The Swiss Youth Film Festival, Zürich | KOSO Film Fest, Berlin | Tianjin International Academic Film Fest (CHN) | Sick Chick's Film Festival (USA) | Balkans Beyond Borders Film Fest, Istanbul | Ginkgo Film Fest, Beijing | Directed by Women International Film Fest, Istanbul

Awards: Best Editing & Organizing Committee's Director Award (International Teen Film Festival Shanghai)

Nominations: Best Director (Tianjin International Academic Film Festival) & Best Director (Directed by Women Istanbul)

Self-portrait II (2024, 1'30'') **Director, Animator, Screenwriter** 2024

- Experimental mixed media animation (cutout, embroidery and stop-motion)

Selections:

Paris International Animation Film Festival | Animest International Animation Film Festival (RO) | VAFI&RAFI International Film Fest (HR) | 24FRAMES Future Film Fest Bologna | First Cut Youth Film Festival Cork (IE) | Koolifilm Fest Tallinn (EE) | REX Animation Stockholm (SE) | Experiments in Cinema Youth (US) | REELpoetry (US) | Gawler Women's International Film Fest (AU) | Platforma BD Festival (RO) | Festival Animanie (CZ) | TRKFilm (CZ) | Animator FEST (RS) | Northern Festival of Illustration (EN) | Young Hearts Film Festival (PL) | **Mill Valley Film Festival California** | Avenues Film Festival New York

Awards: Best Animation VAFI&RAFI International Film Fest (HR)

Nominations: Best Film REELpoetry (US) & Best Film Young Hearts Film Festival (PL)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Junior Programme Curator 2025 ↗ present

at The Animation Incubator, the youth branch of Animest International Animation Film Festival, the biggest platform for artistic education dedicated to teenagers from Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Bulgaria

Responsibilities:

- **Research**

I am the first author of ***Animating the Margins: A Peer-Led Short-Term DEI Intervention with Teenagers***
Academic paper published in *Proceedings of the 2026 ACM Conference on Creativity and Cognition*
I did a sociological case study regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion awareness

- **Cineclub moderating**

Hosting monthly animation screenings dedicated to teenagers

- **Youth workshop coordinator**

For Animest Teen Jury & Animate the Festival!

Workshops dedicated to teenagers at Animest International Animation Film Festival

- **Film Programming**

Curation of the cineclub programme and the Fresh Frames teenagers' production block at Animest International Animation Film Festival

- **Film Distribution**

Distribution of The Animation Incubator productions to international festivals

Internship at The Animation Incubator

Animest International Animation Film Festival 2023 ↗ 2024

- Founded and coordinated The Animation CineClub, dedicated to teenagers
- Intensive research training

Film market participation

Le Marché du Film - Cannes Film Festival

- Cannes Students Classics accreditation via UNATC May 2026
- 3 days in Cannes accreditation May 2025

The European Film Market (EFM) - Berlinale

- Student Accreditation via International Teen Film Festival Shanghai February 2025

First Assistant Director 2025 ↗ present

- The Journey (2025, 7') dir. Ada Cristian, produced by UNATC
- Clouds (2026, 15') dir. Ada Cristian, produced by UNATC
- Burning (2026, 12') dir. Iana Moraru, produced by UNATC

JURIES

Student Jury, Paris International Animation Film Festival January 2025

Teen Jury, Animest International Animation Film Festival October 2023

High School, Jury One World Romania Documentary Film Festival April 2023

WORKS IN EXHIBITIONS AND MAGAZINES

Cuib Zine no. 2, collage and poetry August 2025

Tuș Zine no. 6, collage June 2025

VAGon Gallery at Malmaison, collage October 2023

Rebels With A Cause at Learnity, mixed media July 2022

SELECTION OF FILM WORKSHOPS (PARTICIPANT)

Pitching Workshop with Stella HÄNDLER, Swiss Producer, at Swiss Youth Film Festival March 2026

Curatorial and Film Programming Practices with Ikoro SEKAI, Curator of the Toronto International Film Festival, at Swiss Youth Film Festival March 2026

Pitching Workshop with Stephan HERZOG and Andrea E. ARNOLD, Austrian Producers at YOUKI! International Media Festival November 2025

Film Cinematography Workshop with Andrzej BARTKOWIAK, internationally acclaimed cinematographer, at International Teen Film Festival Shanghai April 2025

Let's Go Digital Film Workshop with Alexandru POPESCU and Andrei INIZIAN, at Transilvania International Film Festival June 2024

Documentary Workshop with Dana BUNESCU, Neil COLTOFEANU and Andra TARARA, at SUPER Youth Film Festival August 2022

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

ENGLISH C2 | CZECH A2 | SPANISH A2 | GERMAN A2 | FRENCH A2

REFERENCES

Kar BĂLAN - researcher - Project Lead, The Animation Incubator
kar.balan@animest.ro

Doru NIȚESCU - professor and filmmaker, President of The Senate of UNATC
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