

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
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## ***Summer Holiday / Boogie (2008)***

RADU MUNTEAN

### OVERVIEW

*Auteur* Radu Muntean (b. 1971) is a Romanian film director and screenwriter and a prominent figure of the Romanian New Wave that emerged after the fall of the communist regime in Romania in 1989. The son of a reputed director, filmmaker and TV producer, Muntean obtained his film directing degree from the Theatre and Film Academy (Bucharest) in 1994. Apart from his highly valued work in the cinema (documentaries, short movies and feature films), Muntean has also applied his artistic expertise to the advertising industry and directed numerous commercials for which he has won national and international awards in industry-related festivals.

Radu Muntean's movies are made in a minimalist style, with a minimalist plot, which resonates, however, with deeper meanings and subtle references to the pressures of an ever changing society. The movie camera captures glimpses of ordinary individuals' inner struggles and inability to adapt to new realities and life stages. Muntean's statement of personal aesthetics is that he seeks to give viewers 'food for thought' by examining authentic and relatable themes. He masters the art of turning an apparently banal story into a close-knit narrative that is gradually constructed through the characters' dialogues and interrelation with one another. Muntean creates an inwards-to-outwards perspective on the characters' world and internal conflicts, addressing questions, but leaving them open to viewers' further interpretation. Tudor Lucaciu, a director of photography, who has worked with Radu Muntean, remarks, 'He always has the scene in mind and does not waste time and energy filming it from different angles. Not all directors have such precision in movie making...It is difficult to work with others once you have worked with Radu'.

Muntean's movies have gained him not only national but also international recognition: the Film Festival Cottbus Grand Prize and Special Prize for Best Director and Namur International Festival of French-Speaking Film for *The Paper Will Be Blue* (2006); Best Director Romanian Union of Filmmakers Award, Best Screenplay at Hamptons International Film Festival for *Summer Holiday* (2008); Jury Prize at Sarasota Film Festival and Best Feature at Adelaide Film Festival for *Tuesday, After Christmas* (2010); Cannes *Un Certain Regard* Award Nomination and Special Citation by National Society of Film Critic Awards, USA for *One Floor Below* (2015); Namur International Festival Jury Special Prize and Carmel Award at Haifa International Film Festival for *Intregalde* (2021). His other productions (*The Rage*, 2002; *Alice T.*, 2018) have also received several special international mentions, accolades and nominations.

*Film* Apart from the Romanian Union of Filmmakers Awards (Best Director, Best Actress and Best Actor) and Hamptons International Film Festival award, the movie also won a Special Mention at Palic Film Festival and nominations by Zurich Film Festival and C.I.C.A.E. Award (Arthouse Cinema Awards). *Summer Holiday* is a Romanian production released in 2008. Romania is the omnipresent background character, which is still in transition from a former totalitarian regime to democracy in the early 2000s. It is also the period with great waves of migration of Romanians towards Western Europe countries in search of a better life. The movie projects a rather grim atmosphere, which is heightened by the characters' nostalgia, disillusioned remarks about once popular seaside resorts and entertainment places that are now left to decay because more and more Romanians prefer to spend their summer holiday in Bulgaria or Turkey. There is a hint of bitter irony here because just like these two countries, the Romanian Riviera also stretches along the Black Sea coast.

### CINEMATIC NARRATION

The movie narrative unfolds in a minimalist mode. The characters' dialogues are short, alternating grave with comical notes to heighten the tension or fun moments that the protagonists share at a specific time of

the story. The male characters' foul language and sex jokes are not censured, which adds to the movie's realistic rendition of their personal dilemmas and dissatisfaction with their life. It is worth noting that the camera zooms-ins often show the characters in a moment of tension whereas the zoom-outs, relaxing on the beach (Bogdan and his family), or having fun out (Bogdan and his two friends). There are overtones of the time's state of confusion and longing for the social stability people imagined they had during communism not only in the characters' lines, but also in the dingy locations in which some of the story events unfold (the street food shop, the dimly-lit hotel room) and the time setting (most of the action takes place during one night). The movie offers viewers an unresolved ending because of the main male protagonist's conflicting attitudes, which also increases the dramatic effect, overall. On the intradiegetic level of the narrative, Bogdan is shown returning to his family in the morning after a night out and acting as a devoted and caring father, but, on the extradiegetic level, viewers have witnessed a detailed account of his night-out escapade with his friends and Ramona, the prostitute, and know that his behavioral derailment is unlikely to remain dismissed as if nothing had happened for long.

## SYNOPSIS

Set in the early 2000s, the story revolves around the Ciocazanu family (Smaranda, Bogdan and their four-year-old son, Adi) that spends the Labor Day holiday in Neptun, a resort on the Black Sea coastline. One afternoon Bogdan runs into Penescu, an old schoolmate and friend, who tells him that their common friend, lordache, has recently returned from Sweden and has been trying to get in touch with him. In the evening, they have dinner together, drink wine and chat excitedly about their past shared adventures while Smaranda listens politely and takes care of Adi, who keeps running around the table. When the time comes to take the boy to bed, Bogdan tells Smaranda that he will join her a little later as he would like to spend some more time with his friends. Bogdan and his friends drink, go bowling, and make jokes about how life has changed them. lordache and Penescu continue the evening in the disco while Bogdan returns to the hotel. Frustrated that her husband has left her alone, Smaranda criticizes his behavior and friends, which makes him react strongly. Their fight escalates and Bogdan decides to go out again and find his friends. The three friends spend the rest of the night drinking, smoking and having sex with a prostitute. The next morning, when Bogdan returns to the hotel room, Smaranda apologizes for her behavior. They both agree that they should not keep their feelings bottled up in the future and they make up.

## MAIN CHARACTERS

<i>Bogdan Ciocazanu (Boogie)</i>	A furniture manufacturing entrepreneur
<i>Smaranda Ciocazanu</i>	Bogdan's wife
<i>Adrian Ciocazanu (Adi)</i>	Bogdan and Smaranda's four-year old son
<i>Penescu</i>	Bogdan and lordache's former high school mate and friend
<i>lordache</i>	Bogdan and Penescu's former high school mate and friend
<i>Roxana</i>	A marketing surveyor
<i>Ramona</i>	A prostitute

## CHARACTER ANALYSIS

### ***Bogdan***

In his thirties, Bogdan, or Boogie, as his friends call him, comes across as an accomplished hard-working man, with a seemingly happy family. Throughout the years, he has managed to expand his furniture manufacturing business and create a 'good' standard of living for his family. He is charismatic and outgoing in the company of his friends, but quite dominant, and at times, even insensitive in relation to his wife.

***Affable*** Bogdan's easy-to-talk-to nature comes out in his interactions with Penescu and lordache. Feeling at ease with Bogdan, each of his friends confides to him that things in their lives do not go as well as they wished. The bowling scene in which Roxana approaches their table is another moment when

Bogdan's friendly and laid-back attitude overshadows his two friend's presence by attracting the young woman's attention in conversation only to him.

*Frustrated* Bogdan's deviant behavior during the night out with 'the boys' and his hostile reaction to Smaranda's reproaches are indicative of the frustration that has accumulated over the years of hard work to support his family and very little time for fun. He gets annoyed because Smaranda cannot understand that he needs 'a little fun with the boys'. When she accuses him of being a hypocrite and of bringing her and Adi to the seaside only to meet his friends, he loses his temper, dresses up again and goes out again to continue the party.

*Domineering* Bogdan psychologically dominates his wife even though he initially comes across as a caring and devoted husband. Aware of his great contribution to the family's wealth and well-being, Bogdan uses his hard work as an excuse to Smaranda's accusations and his night out as a well-deserved reward. When he comes back to the hotel in the morning, it is actually Smaranda who apologizes for her breakdown. He accepts her apology without, however, admitting to his own faults.

### **Smaranda**

Smaranda is a caring mother, but quite a possessive wife. She is quiet, polite and self-controlled in public, but when alone with Bogdan, she takes her bottled up frustrations out on him. She appears to be an introvert, who avoids discussing things openly and in due time, often using sarcasm on referring to Bogdan's behavior and friends.

*Introverted* Smaranda comes across as rather quiet and serious. When Bogdan takes a seat by her on the beach and asks her why she is upset, she pretends that nothing is wrong with her. However, once they run into his friends, her constantly sarcastic comments on his present but also previous behavior point to her tendency to keep her feelings to herself until she cannot tackle them any longer.

*Frustrated* Smaranda's sarcasm and accusations are signs of the frustrations she has gathered in time, but kept to herself. During their fight, Bogdan also remarks that her discontent regards problems that are not connected to their current situation and reminds her that her frustrations are unfounded since being a home stay mom was her own choice.

*Possessive* The triggering point that makes the fight between Smaranda and Bogdan escalate is her expectation that he devoted his free time and attention entirely to his family. On a low dry tone, she says to him, 'Bogdan, let's get this straight...What I care about is, if you go someplace with me, then you stay with me and the kid'.

### **lordache**

lordache is in his thirties and comes across as a cheerful fun-loving man. In his interactions with his friends he often displays a clownish behavior, which shows that he has not matured emotionally over the years.

*Easy-going* lordache acts as if he had no worries. When Bogdan remarks that he has 'grown bald and fat', lordache does not get upset. On the contrary, he replies cheerfully: 'I see you have grown some grey hair yourself'. He appears to fully enjoy the reunion with his old friends whom he keeps nudging towards 'bar hopping', drinking and chatting up young women.

*Garrulous* lordache often monopolizes the friends' conversation with his energy and jokes. Out of the three, he is the one in the most expansive mood, but this is also probably due to his overdrinking during the boys' night out. At the disco, for example, lordache leaves Penescu alone for a while since he finds some women to chat up there.

*Frustrated* lordache expresses his disappointment and frustrations when he talks to Bogdan about his life in Sweden and his plan of getting married to Inga, his Swedish partner: 'You can't make it on your

own there. Everybody looks at you like you're a piece of sh\*t. It's hard...I don't like it. I don't feel right.' When Bogdan suggests he should come back home to set up his own car repair business, lordache bitterly rejects the idea, explaining that he has not got the financial means to do it: 'My folks didn't even have enough to send me to college'.

### **Penescu**

Penescu has a rather bland personality, who appears to liven up after he has had some drinks with his friends. He lacks the charm and language to attract beautiful women like Roxana, which provokes some kind of jealousy (towards Bogdan) and frustration in him.

*Complacent* Also in this thirties, Penescu he has not achieved much up to that age, as emerging from the conversations he has with his friends. He has been working in a travel agency for about ten years, which he finds tedious. When he tells Bogdan that he is considering a change, he does not sound very convinced about it.

*Frustrated* Penescu is quite frustrated when it comes to women. As lordache remarks, he cannot have a relationship to last longer than three months. In the bowling scene, for example, when Bogdan offers to help him with that aspect, but ends up flirting with Ramona himself, Penescu says indignantly: 'Boogie, please don't hook me up again. I'm getting another bottle to recover'.

*Ironic* In the hotel room scene, lordache shares the news of his intention to marry Inga, which makes Penescu comment ironically: 'Well, let me know ahead of time. I'll have my best tuxedo dry-cleaned and all'. He annoys lordache even more when he adds, 'It was you who said she was stupid and boring.' lordache reminds him of Inga's hospitality when he visited them in Sweden, but Penescu cannot refrain from being ironical again, 'Right...You're marrying her because she was nice to me?'

### THEMES

**1. PERCEPTION** Muntean's movie focuses on perception from two different angles: on the level of the characters and society. When Smaranda and Bogdan fall out, she accuses him of spending long hours at work to avoid his familial responsibilities. In her view, Bogdan would rather play on the computer in his office than come home to spend more time with her and their son. As for the social level, there is a general perception that those who have migrated to a Western country lead a worry-free and fulfilling life there. Bogdan finds out about lordache's return back home from Penescu. When Smaranda sarcastically comments, 'Guess it didn't work out for him there', he does not share her opinion by saying that she 'cannot know that for sure'. In his view, 'He's just back visiting his folks'. Another widespread perception is that the Bulgarian or Turkish seaside resorts are better than the Romanian ones, some of which have been left in disrepair. On a slightly envious tone, Smaranda tells Bogdan, that her friend, Iulia, has gone to Varna even if she initially wanted to come to Neptun, too. Bogdan replies the Romanian and Bulgarian coasts are the same, and that a reason to boast would be if one went to Turkey or somewhere else.

**2. MIGRATION** The 1989 Revolution entailed not only the fall of the communist regime in Romania but also a mass migration of its citizens to the Western Europe countries in particular. This is also the case of lordache, who immigrated to Sweden some years before, but he has not managed to fully adapt to the life and weather there. He is in a relationship with Inge, a Swedish woman older than him, which could be interpreted as his deliberate attempt to be integrated into the Swedish society as their equal and not as a migrant. During his dinner with his friends, Bogdan brings up the subject of his aunt's purchasing a huge quantity of Fluocinolone cream tubes to take back with her to Germany where she lives. The three friends laughingly say they should go into a Fluocinolone business together to help the Romanian community abroad. The movie addresses the phenomenon of migration also as a growing trend among those who have not left the country permanently, but whose social status seems to be measured by the summer holiday destinations they can afford. Bogdan and Smaranda have booked a summer holiday in Antalya. Penescu suggestion of other good destination such as Greece or Hong Kong points to the Romanians' increasing desire to travel.

**3. MARRIAGE** Smaranda and Bogdan's marriage appears to have lost its sparkle. At the beach, Bogdan asks Smaranda why she is upset, she pretends that everything is fine instead of talking openly about her feelings. A little later, however, Bogdan makes a last minute decision to have a swim and Smaranda can no longer hide her frustration with him. On a sarcastic, but at the same time, resigned tone, she tells Bogdan 'to have it his way', explaining then to Adi that 'Mommy is very upset with daddy' because 'It is very cold and he is not allowed to go into the water'. The tension existing between them surfaces in further during the dinner scene in which Bogdan prefers staying a little longer with his friends to returning to the hotel room with her and their son. Later at night, Smaranda and Bogdan's unresolved tension escalates into a fight, with each making accusations against each other. For instance, to her accusation that he 'is ignoring her', Bogdan responds, 'I will ignore you, 'cause I don't like you – the way you are'. Their relationship is clearly at an impasse since neither of them is able to compromise: Bogdan decides 'to go back to drinking' and 'have some fun' while Smaranda feigns unconcern and says, 'Go ahead. I'm not keeping you', to which he sneers, 'Wouldn't that be something?'

**4. PARENTHOOD** Both Smaranda and Bogdan appear to be good parents to Adi. The first scene shows Bogdan building a sandcastle and flying a kite with his son at the beach. Then Smaranda plays with Adi, takes a photo of him, which she shows to Bogdan, and they both agree that he is 'very cute with his little shovel'. As the story events unfold and the tension between Bogdan and Smaranda builds up, their accusations against each other reflect a poor communication of their expectations of each other as parents. For example, as they are having dinner with Bogdan's friends, Smaranda calls her husband aside and sarcastically thanks for 'bringing her to the seaside to babysit the boy', which sounds as if she was doing a job. Similarly, when they argue in their hotel room, she blames him for leaving her to do the parenting alone, 'You gave me a child that you're now messing up'. Smaranda implies that he spends long hours at the workshop 'probably playing computer games' only to avoid the company of his family. Bogdan is angered by her accusations and reminds her that he has had to work hard to buy her the house and car that she wanted, and that it was her decision to stay at home to take care of the child instead of hiring a babysitter. On the other hand, Bogdan is patient and gentle in his interactions with his son. In the last scene in which he returns to the room after a night out with the boys, he gives up his sleep to play with Adi, who wakes up just as he gets ready to go to bed.

**5. LUST** One of the most illustrative scenes of the men's lust for beautiful young women is when the three friends go bowling and some women dressed up in body-flattering short white dresses come in the hall. Lordache rubs his face, groaning, while Penescu sighs, using dirty language to refer to his physical reaction when seeing such beauties. Lordache then explains to Bogdan that Penescu unsuccessfully tried to chat 'the brunette' up the night before. Bogdan then offers to 'hook him up' with her. Penescu waves in the women's direction, and soon, Roxana, the brunette, approaches their table, surprised to see Lordache and Penescu there again. When she asks them if she can have their attention for a minute, the men smile at her eagerly. In a seductive tone, Penescu says, 'You can impose on us as long as you like'. After a brief chat and dismissing Lordache and Penescu's silly jokes, Roxana's attention is drawn to Bogdan. After having him fill in a prize raffle form, she dials up his phone number to check its validity. Her gesture makes Lordache complain jealously that she did not do the same for them the night before. Later at night, perhaps in an attempt to deal with unresolved sexual frustration, Lordache finds a prostitute whom he invites to join them to Penescu's hotel room.

**6. FRIENDSHIP** The movie focuses on the moment Bogdan, Penescu and Lordache, former high school mates and friends run into one another at the seaside during the Labor Day holiday. Three years have passed since they lost contact, so they are very excited about their unexpected reunion and decide to have dinner together. Their night out highlights the dynamics of their relationship as still reliant on their past memories of fun. Their loss of contact and silly and immature actions during the night together point to their inability to take their friendship to the next level and behave like the adults they are now. Lordache lives in 'cold' Sweden, Penescu is fed up with his travel agency job and considering a change, and Bogdan is a married man with family responsibilities, but their friendship has not evolved to keep up with these life changes, as their actions demonstrate, since all they do together is drinking, smoking and chatting beautiful women up 'like in good old times'. Bogdan even gets very upset and defends his friends when Smaranda calls them 'losers' and remarks that he prefers to 'bar hop' with them than spend the little

free time he has with his family.

7. **NOSTALGIA** A mood of nostalgia affects the main characters to a greater or lesser degree. First, it is Smaranda, who sits quietly on the beach, watching Adi and Bogdan thoughtfully from some distance. She does not admit to her feeling lonely and most probably overwhelmed by the thought of having a second baby soon in the absence of a father, 'who leaves home when the child (Adi) is still sleeping and comes back late in the evening when he has fallen asleep again', as she laments when they fight. Bogdan's nostalgic mood first emerges when he recalls in Smaranda's presence that the seaside where they are used to be frequented by Polish girls who would sunbathe naked. For Bogdan, adulthood has come with responsibilities that, even if he does not admit to it, he has not fully embraced. His attitude when his youth's fun mates suddenly turn up in his life again stands proof of it. He completely ignores Smaranda's sensitive state of mind, and goes out with 'the boys to have fun' as if just to spite her and show her that his hard work to buy her a house and car entitles him to 'having a drink and fun with the boys' whenever he pleases. Iordache, freshly returned from Sweden, is quite disappointed with the immigrant's reality that he has to endure there. He is the one who suggests they should have a boys' night out as they used to. As for Penescu, he is the one who refers to the Romanian's recent travel tendencies. When having dinner, the friends get nostalgic when they talk about some former fun spots that neither exist nor they are functional any longer.

8. **ADULTHOOD** Muntean's movie also looks into the main characters' struggle with a new life stage, which is their coming of adult age. For Bogdan, it has come with long hours of hard work in order to be able to afford to buy a good brand car and a house. His pursuit of wealth, however, has taken its toll on his relationship with Smaranda. As for Smaranda, she is a stay-home home, but, as emerging during her fight with Bogdan, she is not at peace with her choice. She complains about 'having a hard time to put Adi to bed, an 'effort' that Bogdan is not 'making much'. Being pregnant again and feeling that Bogdan 'leaves her to manage things alone', Smaranda is irritable and frustrated. Her assumptions go so far to reproach him for 'playing computer games at work' till late at night only to avoid his family. Iordache and Penescu, on the other hand, have neither got married nor managed to figure out what they want from life. Iordache has emigrated to Sweden to find his fortune, but his experience there has bitterly disappointed him: he washes the dishes in a restaurant there, he is in a relationship with an older Swedish woman whom, by the way he behaves and talks about her, he does not love, and he hates the cold in a country which he feels has not accepted him as an equal citizen. Penescu is also still a bachelor, with a blasé air and weary of his current job.

## SCENES

**At the beach** The Ciocazanu family (Bogdan, Smaranda and their son Adi) spend Labor Day (May 1) at the Neptun beach on the Black Sea. Bogdan and Adi build a sandcastle together, but the boy keeps ignoring his father's suggestions as he wants to do it in his way. After a little while, Adi pokes the sandcastle with a stick. Bogdan loses his patience, so he leaves his son to play alone.



**Bogdan's observation** Bogdan goes to sit next to Smaranda, who has been watching him and Adi play from some distance. He complains that the boy has got no patience, to which Smaranda insinuates that Adi takes after him, 'I wonder who he takes after'. She tells him that he should check his phone because he received a call from work.





**Smaranda's denial** As Bogdan and Smaranda are sitting on the beach, he asks her if she is all right because she looks upset. She says everything is fine, but Bogdan does not seem to believe her. She then smiles reassuringly and insists that everything is fine. Bogdan calls the office to clarify some aspects related to a customer's order.



**Playing together** Smaranda and Adi play together in the sand for a while. Smaranda takes a photo of Adi and shows it to Bogdan to see how 'cute' their son is. Adi gets bored and starts running around the towel while Smaranda gently asks him to stop. While sitting next to them, Bogdan watches a group of youngsters who try to push one another into the sea.





**Bogdan's spontaneous decision** Smaranda lifts her T-shirt for Adi to talk to his unborn sister, and then they sing a children's song for her. Bogdan suddenly decides to go for a swim as May 1<sup>st</sup> cannot go 'without a dip in the water'. She gets annoyed with him for that because she thinks it is too cold for swimming.



**The first signs of discontent** Smaranda picks Adi's toys and packs the bag to leave the beach while Bogdan talks with his assistant on the phone, giving her some instructions. Adi runs around unsupervised by his father, which makes Smaranda comment out loud about his lack of involvement as Bogdan is still in the call.



**An old friend** Bogdan is waiting for Smaranda to come out of the pharmacy and playing with his son on the pavement. Penescu, an old friend, passes by and tells him that lordache ('the Swedish') is also in town and has been trying to contact him. Penescu calls lordache and passes the phone to Bogdan. They all establish a meeting at the amphitheater for later in the evening.



**Bogdan's nostalgic moment** While Adi is on a merry-go-round, Bogdan recalls the times he used to watch the Polish girls who came there and how the place 'has gone to the dogs' in the meantime. Smaranda says that her friend, Iulia, initially wanted to come to Neptun (the Black Sea resort where they are), but changed her mind and went to Varna (Bulgaria). Bogdan remarks acidly that there is no difference between Romania and Bulgaria.





**Dinner out** The three friends order wine and start to excitedly share youth memories of their adventures together. Smaranda listens to their conversation rather awkward and unimpressed by the stories that the two friends tell about her husband's past wild behavior. Adrian is fidgeting around, so Smaranda tells Bogdan that the child needs to be taken to bed. Bogdan says he will stay with his friends a little longer.



**Smaranda's reproach** Smaranda and her son leave the table for the hotel room, but she remembers she has not got the keys. She asks Bogdan to bring them over to her, some steps away from the table, and on a sarcastic low tone, she 'thanks' him for 'bringing her to the seaside to babysit the kid'.



**Back to the dinner table** Now only the three of them, the friends drink and make nasty jokes about lordache and his urge to call an ex-girlfriend. lordache hands Bogdan the packet of cigarettes, but the latter says he gave up smoking three months before when Smaranda got pregnant with their second child. Penescu is curious to find out if Bogdan also gave up drinking.



**Changing the place** Bogdan takes his friends to the villa where he and his family stay for the short seaside holiday and shows off his Swedish car. They all get in the car to admire the leather upholstery. They remember the chemistry teacher that lordache hated. Bogdan plays an old drinking party song and they all start singing happily.





**Going bowling** The three men go bowling. Bogdan gets a phone call from his mom, which annoys him. From the way he answers her back, she is surprised to find out that he is not with Smaranda and the kid, but out with friends. When Penescu asks how his mother is, Bogdan replies that she is 'as nagging as always'. After some time they sit around a table, drinking and making dirty sex jokes.



- Loser pays for the wine.  
- I've already paid for this one.

**Roxana** Penescu waves at Roxana who has just entered the hall with some colleagues. She comes to their table and the men start flirting with her. She flirts back with Bogdan and gives him a form to fill in for a prize raffle. After she leaves, Penescu and Lordache want to continue the party at the disco, but, despite their protests, Bogdan decides to return to his room.



**The fight** Bogdan and Smaranda start arguing because she is frustrated that he stayed behind with his friends to have fun while she had to take after the child. She reproaches him that instead of spending the time with her and Adrian, he goes 'bar hopping' with his friends. The fight escalates, and Bogdan goes out 'to have some fun'.





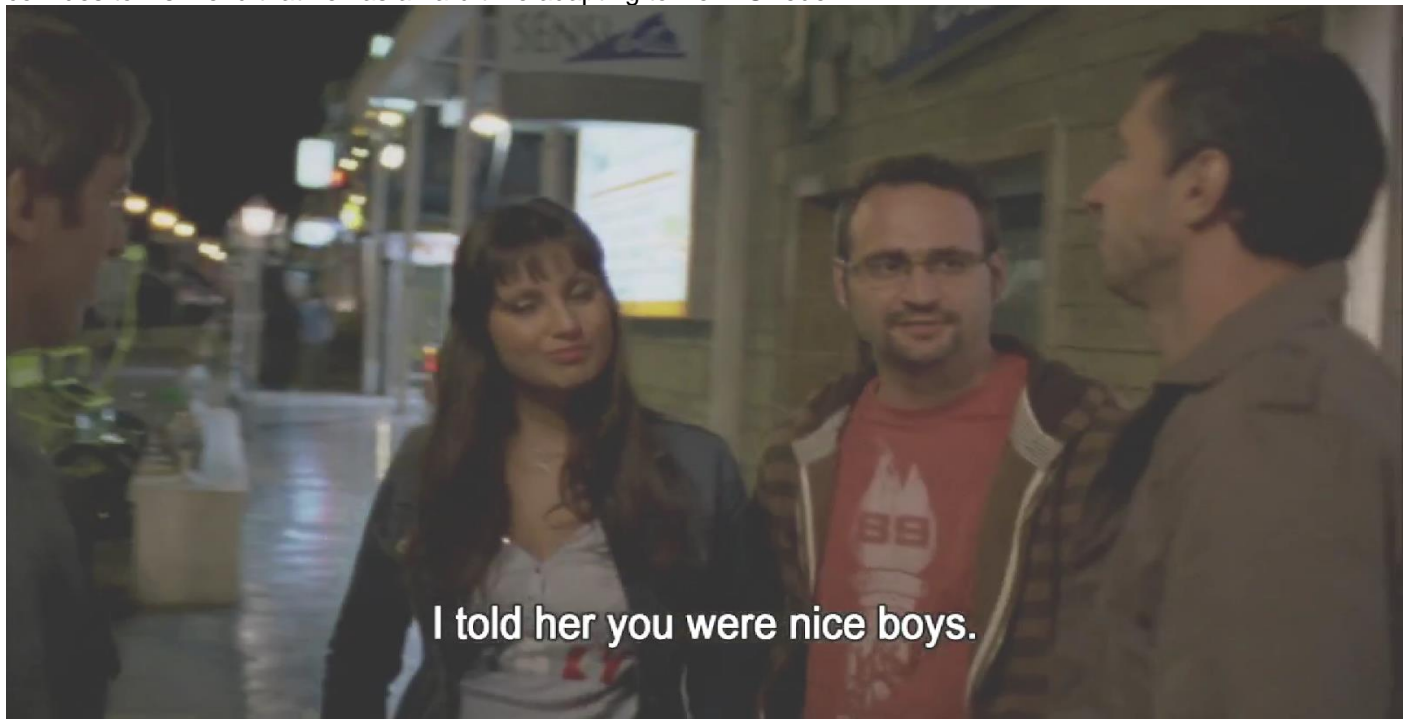
**At the disco** Bogdan calls his friends, but they do not answer. While drinking a large coffee back in the bowling hall, he gets a phone call from Penescu. Bogdan joins him at the disco club and they both leave the place. Iordache stays behind, chatting up some women.



**A catch-up** Penescu and Bogdan eat a kebab together out in front of a street food shop and talk about their lives. Bogdan complains about the long working hours and the bad debt clients like those owning the hotel where he now stays for free. Penescu says he considers changing jobs and asks Bogdan if he needs someone in the sales department.



**Ramona** lordache turns up in the company of a young woman and introduces her to his friends. They all go to Penescu's hotel room where they take turns to have sex with her. While waiting for Penescu's turn to be over, lordache and Bogdan drink wine on the balcony and talk about their lives. lordache confides to his friend that he has a hard time adapting to life in Sweden.



**Chatting with Ramona** lordache gives Ramona the money for her sexual favors and asks her about her life there on the coast. The talk gets livelier as they pour more wine, and they tell Ramona that they were high school colleagues. Hearing that they graduated in 1992 when she was only four years old, she starts laughing, wondering if they still wore 'checkered uniforms' at the time. She is also interested to find out if it is hard to find work in Sweden.



**The next morning** At dawn the men pass by what Lordache thinks is Ceausescu's seaside resort villa. Lordache climbs the fence and starts making high-pitched sounds to imitate the peacocks that were said to have been on the premises when the house belonged to the former dictator.





**The reconciliation talk** Bogdan returns to his hotel room where Smaranda apologizes for her behavior the night before. They share how they feel about each other's actions and agree that it is important not to let their frustrations build up. Adi wakes up just as Bogdan is getting ready to take a nap. Bogdan gives up his sleep and starts playing with son.

