

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Cosma Ioana, PhD

TWO STEPS / PASO DOBLE (*Pas în Doi*) (1985)

DAN PIȚA

Contents (Overview-Synopsis-Characters-Character Analysis-Themes-Scenes)

OVERVIEW

Auteur Dan Pița was born in 1938 in Dorohoi, Romania. He is one of the most gifted directors of the Romanian golden age of cinematography, with an impressive number of artistic films, such as *Paso Doble* (1985), *November, the Last Ball* (1989), *Top Hotel* (1992), *Pepe and Fifi* (1994) or *Second Hand* (2005), to name just a few. In 1986, he was awarded Honorable Mention for *Paso Doble* at The Berlin Film Festival.

Film Released in 1985, *Paso Doble* is a drama on the lives of workers in communist Romania. The film focuses on the character of Mihai, as opposed to any principle or value set forth by communist ideology. The film's title alludes to dancing with two partners, that is, Mihai dating Monica and Maria at the same time. It could also be taken to refer to the ironic subtext of the movie – while presenting some of the communist achievements – the working class hero, the devoted party member, etc – the film also subtly mocks them. The working-class hero, embodied by Ghiță, is a shy, inward man, who is rough and has very poor social skills. However, the film achieves its severest criticism of Communism through the character of Mihai. Mihai is utterly different, rebellious, artistic, free-minded, aware of the world he lives in, and jocular like a trickster. He is the character Communism tried to stifle the most. Through the killing of Mihai, Dan Pița shows that Communism killed all that was valuable and beautiful in the era preceding it.

Background The film was made during the Communist era in Romania. The movie's setting is reminiscent of the dorms and social life of working people during Communism. Most of the time, they had to work a lot. There was no outside entertainment of music, books or films. For their parties, they had to improvise their own music or secretly play the music they smuggled from abroad. This is what we see in the disco scene, where Mihai and Ghiță are playing the DJs. At the time, there were also many movies that glorified work in factories and those workers that were devoted to the Communist Party. The film is a bitter and sarcastic commentary on those types of movies. Therefore, Dan Pița took a huge risk when he directed this movie, knowing he might be punished should anyone comprehend his ironical allusions. Luckily, no one from the party did, and the film won a prize at the Berlin Film Festival.

SYNOPSIS

Mihai, a worker and math student, lives in a dorm with Ghiță and other co-workers. Mihai dates Monica, a girl from a well-off family. All is well until Maria appears. First of all, Ghiță falls in love with Maria, but is unsuccessful. Then Mihai attempts to seduce Maria and succeeds. Mihai dates both women at the same time, committing to each. However, this state of affairs does not last long, as the two find out about each other. In a fit of rage upon seeing how Mihai has harmed Maria, Ghiță beats Mihai to death.

CHARACTERS

Mihai	The film's main character.
Ghiță	Mihai's best friend.
Monica	Mihai's lover.
Maria	Also Mihai's lover.
Master Anton	The director of the factory.
Iulian	A co-worker of Mihai's.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Mihai (*Open, Sensitive, Creative, Friendly, Irresponsible, Disloyal*)

He is the main character of the movie. He is an original young man, who does things a bit differently than anyone else. He could be defined as rebellious, were he not hard-working and respectful, too. He could be labelled a womanizer, were he not completely devoted to the two women he loves. He could be defined as cruel and insensitive, were he not a lover of art and music and all things beautiful.

Sensitive Mihai is a sensitive young man. He is easily wounded by the unkindness of others and responds by mocking or ironizing them. He likes art, plays the flute, and has chosen a sport to play: he fences. He seems empathic to the needs of the two women he loves, and he cares a lot for his friend, Ghiță. He embodies the Christian ideal of courage and sensitivity (there are scenes where he wears a crown of thorns), which is brutalized in the hands of intolerance and misunderstanding.

Creative Mihai is also very creative, not only in his sports and flute playing, but in all aspects of life. At work, he entertains and makes his colleagues laugh, such as in the scene where Ghiță throws him and another colleague apples. He also participates in pillow-fighting and organizes the dance for the workers at the factory. He is creative in everything he does and questions every single cliché.

Friendly Mihai is good friends not only with Ghiță, but with all of his co-workers, with the exception of Iulian, whom everybody hates. He is cordial and pleasant, he has a good word or a joke to share with everyone, is supportive and helpful with Ghiță. He is not envious or jealous and is happy when Ghiță receives the Golden Hands medal.

Irresponsible However, Mihai is also irresponsible, as we can see in his treatment of Monica and Maria – he promises each of them, at the same time, that he has serious intentions (i.e. marriage) with them. He probably doesn't do it because he is manipulative and wants to deceive, but simply because he cannot stand to lose either of them. Thus, Mihai is irresponsible in the sense that he avoids making the decision on whom to choose between the two women.

Playful Mihai has a very playful nature, he tells jokes and pokes fun at his friends. As a lover, he is equally playful, as we can see in the scenes with Monica, where he pulls her by the hair, becoming, however, increasingly violent in this act. Monica naturally gets scared but plays along, pulling him by his hair, too. Playful in his work, love-making and friendship, he has a ludic, almost law-defying character.

Disloyal This playfulness is so strong in Mihai that it circumvents higher principles such as not betraying a friend. Knowing that Ghiță is in love with Maria, he, nonetheless, invites her to dance and later seduces her. This pains Ghiță greatly. But Ghiță accepts this with stoicism, hoping that his friend would bring happiness to Maria. Mihai does not act up to these high moral standards and cheats both on his friend and on Maria.

Ghiță (*Closed, unimaginative, Loyal, Insecure, Angry*)

He is the typical working-class hero of communist Romania. He receives a medal for his merit at work. He is helpful with his colleagues and his friends and respects their boss. He also has strong principles of work and life. However, he is shy and insecure, which brings him only bad luck in his love life.

Unimaginative Unlike Mihai, who is highly imaginative, Ghiță is somewhat the opposite of that. He is a man of few words, curt, and to the point. He wears his heart on his sleeve and is, at times, even rough. We see this roughness in the scenes where he tries to seduce Maria by enforcing his feelings on her. He only manages to scare her off.

Loyal Ghiță is a very loyal friend, despite the tragic end he brings to Mihai. When he learns that Mihai is dating Maria, he simply says, if it had been another but you, I would have killed him. When Iulian tries to pick on Mihai, Ghiță immediately intervenes and threatens to beat Iulian. He is always there for his friend and we can see he is very attached to Mihai.

Hard-working Ghiță is also a very serious and hard worker. He receives the gold medal for merits in his line of work and is very appreciated by Master Anton. He really cares for his work and he invests everything he has in it. He does not want to go study like Mihai and is quite content with the job he has. In this sense, he epitomizes the ideal of the working-class man in Communism.

Insecure However, Ghiță is very insecure. When it comes to expressing his thoughts or feelings, he loses his train of thought and keeps silent. This is what happens when he is awarded the gold medal but is unable to say anything. However, he had prepared a whole speech which he is able to utter under the shower, all dressed up. Ghiță's insecurity comes from his sensitivity and shyness.

Angry When his principles and ideals are trampled, Ghiță becomes angry. For instance, when he hears that Iulian will not help Maria with their baby, he corners Iulian and threatens to beat him should he fail to take care of Maria and the baby and accept his responsibilities. All his anger is channeled into his boxing and we witness its final outburst in the beating to death of Mihai.

Maria (*Open, Sensitive, Cautious, Determined, Calm*)

She is a sensitive yet strong young woman, who has decided to keep a baby without being married in a world which condemns such a thing. She is principled and does not content herself with the pity of others. Like everybody else, she wants to love and be loved in return. She tragically falls in love with Mihai, who is unable to offer her what she seeks.

Sensitive Maria is a sensitive young woman, as we can see in the scene where she confesses her love for Mihai. She says that no man can ever understand the way a woman can love a man. Therefore, her love for Mihai is great and she suffers immensely from it. Her whole demeanor is that of a sensitive woman, delicate and unaggressive.

Cautious After her failed engagement with Iulian, Maria has remained cautious in her approach to men. On their first date, Maria tells Mihai that she does not trust men and clearly shuns Ghiță, who is way too forward for her sensitivity and experience. She resists Mihai in the beginning but, given his insistence, she eventually gives in.

Determined Though she is in a precarious position as a single mother, Maria does not accept Iulian's offer to marry her because she does not love him anymore and, in fact, despises him. To improve her position, she gives up her job at the factory after one of the directors hit on her. She becomes a shop assistant in a store.

Calm Even when she sees that Mihai is troubled and might no longer love her, Maria keeps her calmness and does not reproach him anything. She simply says that he does not love her as much as she loves him. Although she is under a lot of stress – being a single mother, being assaulted by men – she is ever serene and peaceful.

Monica (*Open, Adventurous, Sensitive, Calm, Playful*)

Monica is the type of dreamy and somewhat naïve young woman, who is also in love with Mihai. She comes from a well-off family and she has not been exposed to the harsh realities of life. She is like a child, serene and playful and loving.

Adventurous Monica is adventurous, having an affair with Mihai before marriage, which was a bit risky during Communism. She has this affair without her parents' knowledge or permission, which she eventually receives after she decides to introduce Mihai to the family. Her adventurous nature matches Mihai's, but she is much more 'realistic' in the sense that she knows that this affair will have to end up in marriage.

Sensitive Monica is equally sensitive, she is very much in love with Mihai and tells him so. She says her dream life is to marry Mihai and have him by her side all the time. When she sees Mihai with Maria, she is devastated and scolds and pushes Mihai and then leaves him. She is very hurt and shocked by Mihai's cheating on her.

Calm Monica is also very serene, like a child who has no worries in the world. Mihai tries to force her to see the harsh reality around her in the park when he shows her people who are not happy. However, she continues to believe they are happy. She is adamant in preserving the serene and peaceful perspective she has on life, which only a child from a well-off family could have.

Playful Monica is as playful as Mihai is. When they make out, they have a playful way of loving each other, as in the scene where they pull each other's hair. The director highlighted the beauty and carefree nature of youth and love in the depiction of these lovers' gestures.

Master Anton (*Rational, Calm, Confident*)

Master Anton is the chief of the department where Mihai and Ghiță work. He is competent and skillful and a good team leader. He manages the team very well, is responsible, confident and calm.

Calm There is an overall calmness surrounding Master Anton, which he instills in his subordinates too. Even when he is upset, like the time when he tells off Mihai for cheating on Maria, he keeps his calm and simply tells Mihai that what he is doing is not right. Master Anton is equally calm in the quarrels that appear among his employees.

Confident Master Anton solves all the problems with confidence, such as when Iulian tries to blackmail Ghiță. He asks Ghiță what the matter is and confidently asks him to solve the problem. He is responsible and takes care of all his employees. When he sees that Ghiță is upset, he asks him to go out with him for a beer.

Iulian (*Disagreeable, Uncooperative, Stingy*)

Iulian is an insensitive, merciless man, who cares only for his interests. He is the father of Maria's child, yet he does not contribute in any way to the raising of the child. He is stingy and unpopular among his co-workers.

Uncooperative Iulian is the most uncooperative of the workers in the factory. He refuses to help his co-workers. When they ask for their things back, he refuses to return them. He tries to appear calm and ironic, but he is very frustrated and envious of his colleagues' well-being. He does not get along with Mihai and Ghiță and there are always quarrels among them.

Stingy Iulian is also a very stingy man. He goes to propose to Maria only for the purpose of making her accept the declaration that she does not require anything from him for the baby. He really has no scruples, is manipulative and selfish.

THEMES

SOCIETY (Class, Gender)

Class Class is thematized in the movie through the focus on the working class living in communist Romania. The director is keen on revealing this class's hopes, dreams, aspirations, as well as harsh reality. Mihai, Ghiță, Maria, as well as most of the other characters in the movie, belong to the working class. Dan Pița wanted to expose the difficult and menial conditions in which this class lived – they all lived in a dorm; they had little money; and very few went to university. However, they managed to enliven their lives through parties, pillow fights, flute playing and fencing. There are a few scenes in the movie of pure artistic beauty as we see the integration of elements of art with elements of everyday life in the factory. Being a worker was somewhat of an honor at that time, as we can see in the decoration of Ghiță with the distinction of Golden Hands by the leadership of the factory. We can also witness this when Mihai is accepted by Monica's father, who says that being a worker is something to be proud of. But Pița shows the inherent tragedy and limited life of this class of people in communist Romania.

Gender The problem of gender is equally important in the movie. We see it in the men's treatment of Maria. First of all, there is Iulian, the father of her child. He pretends he wants to be with her and to take care of the child, while, in fact, all he wants is Maria to relinquish all rights to the baby. Ghiță, who is very much in love with Maria, fails to impress her because of his gross manners. When he treats her a bit forcefully, she retorts by saying that all men are the same and that they want the same thing. Thus, even if he is well-meant, Ghiță offends Maria through his very rough ways. Lastly, Mihai plays with Maria's heart, knowing the suffering she has been through and knowing she is a single mom. Were it not for his complete irresponsibility, we could say that Mihai is equally an abuser. Thus, we get three examples of how women were treated at the time in Romania – as mistresses, which entailed romantic involvement but lack of commitment, and as wives, which most of the time did not imply love, but came with commitment.

JUSTICE

Crime There are two crimes present in the movie. The first one is Mihai's cheating on the two women and making them believe he has serious intentions with them (which he does, but he is unaware he cannot have both). The second crime is Ghiță's beating Mihai to death. In the first case, it is a crime of morality and ethics; in the second case, it is a crime of vengeance and punishment. Mihai is a complex character, very artistic and free; yet he is not incapable of love and affection, which he happens to have for both women. However, he is wrong in making them believe, at the same time, that he will stick by their side. In this respect, both Ghiță and Master Anton are right in telling him that

he is not doing the right thing. In this chain of events, Ghiță is caught between his tremendous love for Maria and his great friendship for Mihai. He simply takes the side of what is right, in particular, when he sees Mihai with Monica in their room. Moreover, when he realizes that Maria has found out about Monica, he loses his mind and beats Mihai to death. Thus, Pița subtly balances a crime which is not a legal crime, but is immoral, with a crime which is a crime by the book, yet takes the side of righteousness.

Revenge The theme of revenge drives Ghiță's beating of Mihai as a way to make up for the shame he has brought on Maria. At the time, Maria had already made a risqué move by not marrying the father of her child. A new, failed relationship would be disastrous for her reputation. And all the co-workers had witnessed the night she had been taken home by Mihai, as well as the moment when Monica visited Mihai in the dorm. Knowing all this, Ghiță becomes very angry and tells everyone to go mind their own business. But what he sees is crystal clear – Maria's reputation has been destroyed for good. This and the love he still feels for Maria make him kill his best friend.

RELATIONSHIP

Friendship Much of the narrative centers around the friendship between Mihai and Ghiță. They are really the best of friends, have many things in common: work, sports (Mihai practices fencing and Ghiță boxing), and music. Moreover, they seem to like and dislike the same people. They are truly a team, as we can witness in the scene where they play disc jockeys. However, they have another attachment in common, which will cause the termination of their friendship – a woman, who is their co-worker, named Maria. However, even in their most tense moments, as towards the end of the movie when Ghiță tells Mihai off for betraying Maria, they find affectionate words for each other. In particular, Mihai promises he will make things work. In these conditions, Ghiță's decision to beat Mihai is truly tragic.

Love While friendship is the nucleus of the movie, love is its kinetic force. There is, on the one hand, the love of Mihai for Monica and Maria. Then there is Maria and Monica's love for Mihai. And finally, Ghiță's love for Maria. The movie makes a point that men's love is different from women's love, through the words of Maria. We get the impression that the two women love Mihai more than any man might love either of them. True, Ghiță's love is great but it's also abusive and Maria rejects him several times; and he still does not back off. The most complex and superficial at the same time, is Mihai's love. He loves like a child or like an artist would, mainly for love's sake and maybe a little for the love of himself. This is why he cannot choose between the two women and claims he wants both. Maria and Monica each love Mihai truly, as each of them confesses. In the end, it is a modern tragedy of love, fomented by betrayal, deception and jealousy.

Caring The movie also explores the theme of caring, through Ghiță's affection for Maria. In almost all the instances in which they appear together, Ghiță is tender and caring towards Maria. He tells her she should find a father for her baby. He goes to Lulian to ask him to respect his responsibilities as a father. He proposes to Maria when he sees that Lulian won't and, finally, he warns Mihai not to mess with Maria. In one of the movie's final scenes, after he has hit Mihai, Ghiță holds the crying Maria in his arms protectively. His is a love that verges on caring and tenderness. He truly respects and adores Maria and will even fall out with his best friend for her sake.

Sexuality Premarital sexuality seems to be common in this society. Maria had premarital sex with Julian and had an "out of wedlock" pregnancy. Monica also has premarital sex with Mihai.

PSYCHOLOGY

Otherness The theme of otherness is subtly problematized in the movie through the character of Mihai. Mihai represents the type of man who is hard to label or put into a typology. He is a factory worker, but he is also a student of Math. He is a swordsman and a flute player at the same time. He sees two women at the same time, yet he claims he loves both. He could be dismissed quickly by saying that he is simply immature and reckless. However, the director wanted to portray the image of otherness in Communism, of what it meant to be truly rebellious, artistic and authentic. While the other characters in the movie fall easily into stereotypes, Mihai is harder to categorise. This is because of the complexity of his character, which admits the coexistence of love and betrayal, which wants to push the boundaries of all established norms, as he avows in one of the scenes with Monica. Thus, Mihai personifies complexity and otherness, which were tragically misunderstood and punished during Communism.

FLAW

Pride From a certain angle, Mihai could be accused of excessive pride. This is because he is so self-confident and content with himself that he causes trouble in the lives of Monica, Maria and Ghiță. For the director, pride signifies the incapacity to empathize and the prioritization of the self over other people in one's life. Pița shows that this can lead to terrible consequences in the lives of people. Pride is also an ancient flaw in Greek tragedy which always leads to an unhappy ending. The director seems to have created a modern tragedy in this way.

Jealousy Ghiță is the character who becomes jealous in the movie. Seeing that his best friend, Mihai, leaves with the woman he loves, Maria, he becomes consumed with jealousy. Jealousy is one of the triggers of the unfortunate events at the end of the movie, but not its main catalyst. Jealousy appears mainly to show how the friendship between Mihai and Ghiță begins to erode.

Anger Ghiță also represents anger in the film. He may not be as complex as Mihai, yet he is very sensitive and has a heart of gold. He is immensely frustrated because he is too shy and does not have the means to express his feelings or ideas. We see this in the scenes where he goes, all dressed up, into the shower and says what he should have said at the formal event. Otherwise, he expresses his anger through boxing and by bullying the occasional co-worker. His anger appears as an expression of his frustration in his inability to express feelings and emotions.

APPEARANCE

Lies, Dishonesty Mihai is duplicitous and dishonest because he lives in a society which forces him to be something other than what he is. In communist Romania, if a man dated a woman and, moreover, slept with her, he was more or less obliged to marry her. This is why he agrees to marry Monica, although he now loves Maria, too. He lies to Maria about Monica, knowing that the former would never accept the presence of the latter. And he simply does not want to lose either. But this is an impossible situation in Romania and therefore he is punished for trying to be different.

SCENES

BACHELORS IN DORMITORY

THE PILLOW FIGHT Back in the dorm where he lives, Mihai meets with friends from work, who also live there. They start a pillow fight, having a lot of fun. It is a jocular scene, where we see the ludic personality of the characters present.



THE LAUNDRY ROOM Ghiță is with some colleagues from work. They are washing the laundry by hand. Ghiță is listening, while the others are speaking. One of them is saying what he intends to do when he meets the girl of his dreams. When they are done, Ghiță walks through the washing basin his colleagues were cleaning their clothes in and exits.



MIHAI AND GHIȚĂ HAVE A NEW ROOMMATE In this scene, Mihai and Ghiță are with their colleague from work who has been thrown out of the house by his wife. He has married recently but things do not seem to work out. He tells the boys about his problems.

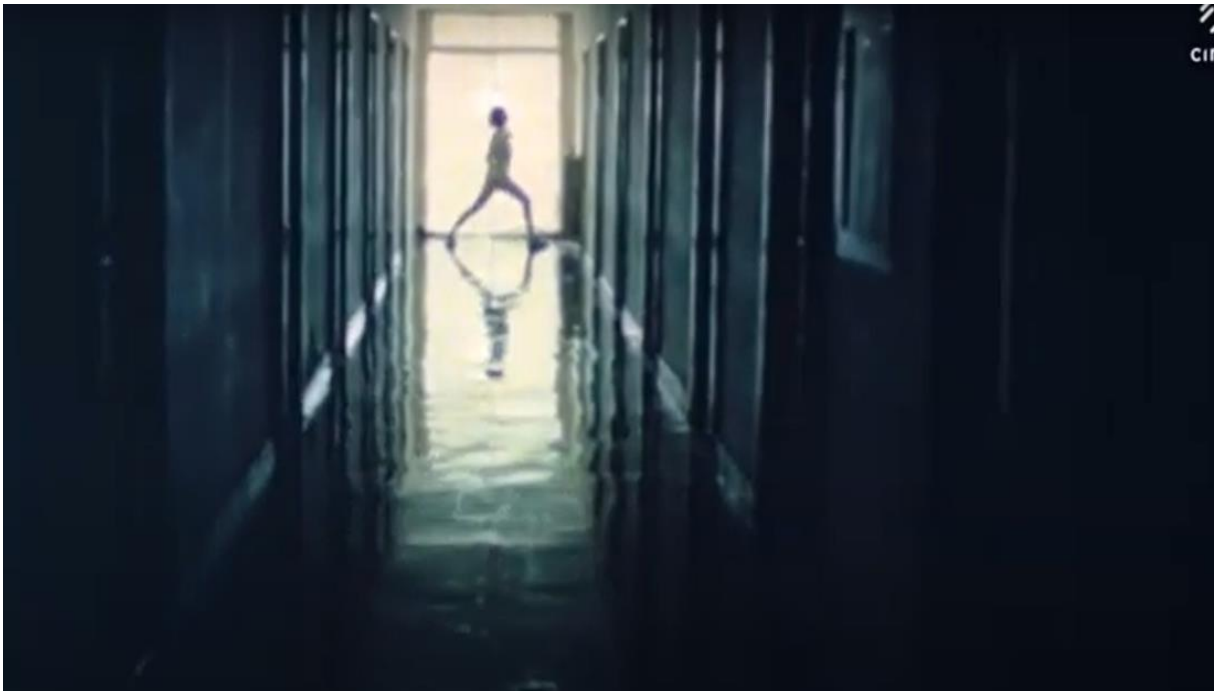


SPORTS

THE BOYS GO OUT FOR A BIKE RIDE Mihai, Ghiță and colleagues from work go out for a bike ride. Mihai and Ghiță's new roommate tells them how he got into trouble with his wife. She has taken interest in a young painter and has taken up painting. As they ride, a bus with young women who wave at them passes by..



THE SWORDSMAN The film opens with Mihai's practicing fencing moves in the dorm where he lives. The beauty and nobility of this sport contrast with the dark and cold halls of the dorm. Mihai appears as a beautiful young man who executes the moves in dance-like fashion



MIHAI AND GHIȚĂ PLAY SPORTS Next, we see Mihai and Ghiță, the two friends, play sports – Mihai is fending, while Ghiță is boxing. Mihai is shouting as he pushes forward, while Ghiță is concentrated on hitting the boxing bag. They seem to be training for some sort of event..



MUSIC

THE BOYS PREPARE FOR THE PARTY Mihai starts rehearsing for the party. He and Ghiță are to be DJs there. Mihai plays the flute, which is another one of his passions. He impresses everyone with his artistic skills.



THE DANCING PARTNERS One of the co-workers comes to the DJ's desk to ask for help: he has seen the woman of his dreams and wants to invite her to dance but does not dare. Mihai and Ghiță urge him to do so and he goes and invites her to dance. The two seem to like each other.



MIHAI AND GHIȚĂ PLAY THE DJS At the party, Mihai and Ghiță are the DJs and obvious leaders. Their co-workers go to them to ask for advice. Ghiță asks Maria to dance but she says she does not want to dance. Mihai bets Ghiță that Maria will not refuse him. He is right, Maria dances with him and lets him take her home after that.



GHITA IS SHY

GHÎȚĂ RECEIVES THE GOLD MEDAL In a factory meeting, Ghiță receives the Gold Medal for his hard work. This is when we see how shy and inward he is, as he is unable to say even 'thank you'. He just smiles and bows his head appreciatively. The director remarks his unresponsiveness, saying he is not very talented with speeches. Ghiță is very happy with his award.



GHÎȚĂ TAKES THE FIRST COLD SHOWER After the fiasco at the Award Ceremony, Ghiță feels ashamed and embarrassed. He goes, all dressed up, into the shower and starts giving his speech. Now that he is alone, he is able to say it impeccably.



GHITA IS IN LOVE

GHITĂ AND MARIA HAVE A CHAT At the party, Maria goes to hang around by the DJ's desk and Ghiță sees her. He asks her to dance but she refuses him. He tells her she should be careful lest she should end up alone.



GHITĂ COURTS MARIA As Maria is sitting calmly on a couch, Ghiță approaches and starts hitting on her. He becomes increasingly pushy – he embraces her and lies her down on the sofa, but she resists. Eventually, she pushes him back, saying, 'All you men want the same thing'.



GHIȚĂ MAKES ANOTHER MOVE ON MARIA In love with Maria, Ghiță makes another move on her, which is actually another faux-pas. He climbs up the tree in front of her window and, as though he were a Romeo, starts calling out to her, throwing small branches at her window. Maria eventually appears but leaves immediately telling him to leave her alone. Ghiță does not give in and tells Maria's sister to let Maria know about that night's party.



GHIȚĂ PROPOSES TO MARIA After hearing that Iulian is the father of Maria's baby and that he has no intention of marrying Maria, Ghiță decides to propose to Maria in order to save her honour and provide a father for her child. She responds by saying she does not need his pity and that she is very all the way she is.



MONICA: MIHAI'S FIRST GIRL FRIEND

MIHAI AND MONICA WALK IN THE PARK Mihai takes Monica for a walk in the park. They have a conversation, in which she tells him that all she wants in life is to have him by her side. As the two walk past people passing by or sitting on benches, Mihai forces Monica to see their unhappiness. She is unable to see those people as unhappy and cries for help.



MIHAI AND MONICA MAKE LOVE Mihai is dating Monica, a young woman from a well-off family. They seem very much in love with each other, and they make love in the shower and then in clean bedsheets. They are happy and express youth and happiness. They seem carefree and perfect for each other.



MIHAI AND MONICA WALK IN THE PARK Mihai takes Monica for a walk in the park. They have a conversation, in which she tells him that all she wants in life is to have him by her side. As the two walk past people passing by or sitting on benches, Mihai forces Monica to see their unhappiness. She is unable to see those people as unhappy and cries for help.



MIHAI VISITS MONICA'S FAMILY Mihai goes to visit Monica's family at their place. They are a well-off family, far from the troubles of the world Mihai lives in. They are happy and tranquil together listening to the father's favourite music, while the mother and daughter sit by his side, lovingly. Mihai is mesmerized and annoyed at the same time.



MIHAI HAS A CHAT WITH MONICA'S FATHER Monica's father wants to know more about Mihai and questions him about his life and his intentions towards his daughter. He praises Monica and tells Mihai that she is someone he should respect. He also adds that Monica could have any suitor she wants.



JULIAN: IRRESPONSIBLE FATHER

GHIȚĂ THREATENS IULIAN When Ghiță hears that Iulian is the father of Maria's baby, he confronts him regarding his paternity and responsibility. Iulian responds by saying it is none of Ghiță's business. Ghiță threatens to beat Iulian should he fail to live up to his responsibilities as a father.



MIHAI AND IULIAN HAVE A FIGHT Iulian, who is the most unpopular person at work, picks on Mihai. Mihai responds, reproaching Iulian for trying to ingratiate himself with the boss by going to meetings. Iulian attacks back and tells Mihai that he does not do his job properly. Ghiță shows up and he smears, as though accidentally, soot on Iulian's face..



IULIAN PROPOSES TO MARIA The father of Maria's baby, Iulian, comes to propose to Maria. However, his real intentions are to make Maria agree to sign the declaration by which she would have no claim to custody of her baby. When she realizes that this is what he is after, she takes the sheet of paper and throws it to his face, telling him off.



MARIA HAS A CHAT WITH HER SISTER Maria meets her sister and tells her about Iulian's proposal. Her sister tells her she should consider it, given that it is difficult to be a single mom. However, Maria tells her that she cannot even think of marrying Iulian, who behaved inappropriately.



MARIA: MIHAI'S SECOND GIRL FRIEND

MIHAI MEETS MARIA'S BROTHER Mihai visits Maria and sees the place where she lives and her baby. He is very adept at holding the baby and pays a lot of attention to it. As he was feeding the baby, someone rings the doorbell. It is Maria's brother, who, seeing Mihai, thinks that he is the baby's father.



MIHAI AND MARIA'S FIRST NIGHT OUT After they dance together, Mihai sees Maria to her home. They have a conversation, where Maria tells Mihai that she is cautious about falling in love with men because she does not trust them. However, she seems willing to give a try with Mihai and the two get along very well together.



MIHAI COMMITS TO MARIA Maria feels there is something wrong with Mihai and questions him about it. This displeases Mihai, who reacts coldly. Then Maria tells him that she will never be able to understand how much she loves him. He softens up and says he will stand by her and commit to her and her child.



GHIȚĂ WARNS MIHAI Seeing that things are getting serious between Mihai and Maria, Ghiță feels the need to tell his friend he should be careful not to hurt Maria. He tells Mihai that, should he be someone else, he would beat him to death. Mihai is displeased by Ghiță's intervention and simply ignores it.



MIHAIL HAS TWO GIRL FRIENDS

THE MANY FACES OF MIHAI Mihai appears wearing a crown of thorns, much like Jesus Christ did during his Crucifixion. While Ghiță is hitting the boxing bag, Mihai is holding it with his back while saying, 'Keep hitting, keep kitting'. Ghiță does exactly that, while Mihai endures it all with stoicism.



MIHAI AND MONICA ALMOST BREAK UP Although he is now dating Maria, Mihai keeps seeing Monica, too. Monica tells him that she is about to get married as her father has found someone for her. Mihai is shocked and taken aback and insists that she should not marry another man. As Monica still loves Mihai, she accepts, but says he will have to visit her parents once again and declare his intentions towards her..



GHIȚĂ SEES MIHAI KISS MONICA While they were in their dorm room, Mihai and Ghiță receive a visit from Monica, who has come to see Mihai. When he sees her, Mihai goes to her and kisses her. Ghiță remains dumbfounded on the bed. He cannot believe his eyes that Mihai is still seeing Monica while he is dating Maria..



MARIA AND MONICA MEET As Maria and Mihai were exiting the dorm embraced and kissing, Mihai notices a woman looking at them at the bottom of the stairs: it is Monica. Mihai says good-bye to Maria telling her he would visit her later and tries to reach Monica but stops in his tracks. Maria leaves clearly disturbed and Monica scolds Mihai and cries and then leaves too.



GHITA IS ANGRY

GHIȚĂ BEATS MIHAI TO DEATH Ghiță has watched the scene from the window of his room. He rushes down to Mihai asking him to go after Maria. Mihai refuses him, which enrages Ghiță who starts beating Mihai until Mihai's head hits the pavement. Mihai starts to bleed from the head and is dizzy. Maria rushes back, screaming at Ghiță and crying.

doi (1984) 1080p



MIHAI SLOWLY FADES AWAY After he gets hit in the head by Ghiță, Mihai goes to the bathroom to clean his wound. We can tell that he is seriously injured because he stumbles and staggers on his feet. In the final scene, we see him start walking down a corridor. At the end, only the lights remain in the picture.

