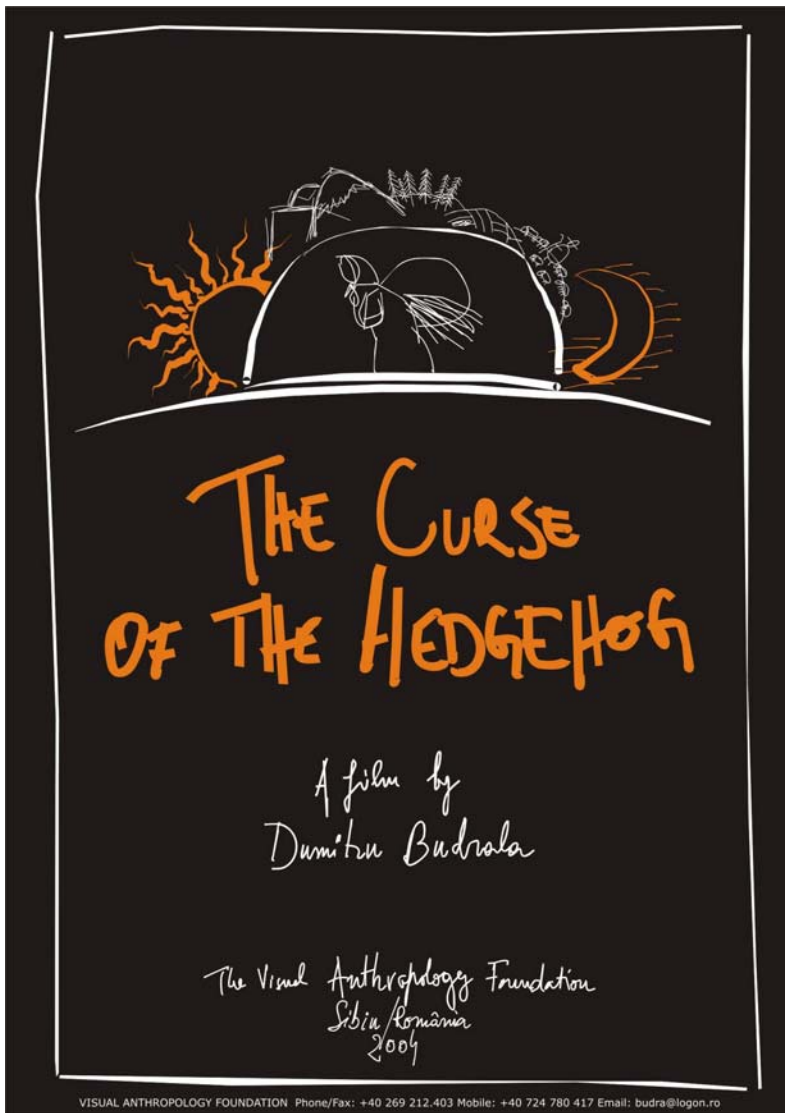


**The Curse of the Hedgehog**, 93 min, Dvcam, 2004

**Blestemul Ariciului**

A film by Dumitru Budrala

Original language: Romanian, with English, Spanish, Hungarian, French subtitles



“I cared for my donkey more than I do for my own man and kids. But now it’s dead. If I had a donkey now, I would live like a Member of Parliament.” concludes Turica, one of the main characters in the film. She and her relatives wander from village to village, carrying on their backs handmade brooms and baskets, which they try to trade for food.

The film follows an extended extremely poor Roma family from the south Carpathians for a period of a whole year. They are shown in their way from their mountain dwelling to villages in the valley, where they sell their handmade goods to get some food and money. For them these are the winter survival trips as they have no other income whatsoever.

However during the film minutes we come to know many details not only about how they gain their existence, but we also learn why they reject to work the land and how they relate to the the Romanian shepherds, and to the rich Baesii from their village who make big fortunes by selling fake rings abroad. We discover how mitological thinking along with religiousness is activated in their everyday life.

By watching this film one can understand all the absurdities and pain resulting from the far too many hardships in their lives living at the outskirts of the society and can admire for their wit and humour with which they deal with them.

### **Film Credits**

*Research:* Dumitru Budrala, Csilla Kató

*Camera & sound, editing:* Dumitru Budrala

*Video & sound editing asistant:* Cristian Melinte, Andrei Gavrilă

*With the support of:* Open Society Institute (OSI), Roma Culture Initiative

and of: The Royal Embassy of The Netherlands in Bucharest, Foundation Deventer-Roemenie, Filmhuis De Keizer Deventer, Minicipality Deventer

*Special thanks:* Michael Stewart, Adina Vargatu

*Acknowledgements:* Lucian Semeniuc, Alexandru Tarcea, Gheorghe Budrala

*Characters:*

Ion Furdui, 27 years old

Gheorghe Furdui, 49 years old

Turica Grozav, 26 years old

Miciu Carneala, 51 years old

Genica Carneala, 49 years old

Leana Muntean, 48 years old

*Assistant director:* Csilla Kató

*English translation:* Adina Vargatu

*Revised and adapted by:* Michael Stewart

*Producer:* Csilla Kató

*A film by:* Dumitru Budrala

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### **FESTIVAL Awards**

**Best Documentary Award, Docupolis, Barcelona, 2005**

**Grand Prize at Film.doc, Romania, 2005**

**Special Acknolegment International Ethnographic Film Festival, Belgrade, 2005  
and Dialektus International Film Festival, Budapest 2007**

### **Festival Finals**

IDFA-2004, Joris Ivens competition

Astra Film Fest 2004

Zagrebdox, 2005, Croatia

Thessalonik Film Fest, 2005, Greece

Film.doc, 2005, Sf Gheorghe, Romania

Deventer, Filmhuis de Keizer, 2005, Holland

Vision du réel 2005, Nyon, Switzerland

Worldfilm, 2005, Tartu, Estonia

Mediawave, 2005, Hungary

Freiburg Film Forum, 2005, Germany

Cronograf 2005, Chisinau, Moldova

NAFA, 2005, Stockholm

Bleed vor Bleed, 2005, Amsterdam  
Golden Apricot, Yerevan, Armenia  
RAI, International Film Fest, Oxford, 2005  
Amakula Kampla, Uganda, 2005  
10 Mostra International do Filme, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil  
BalkanBlackbox Festival, Berlin, 2005  
International Film Festival of Documentary and Animated film, 2005 Leipzig  
DOCUPOLIS, 2005, Barcelona  
DokMA, Maribor, 2005, Slovenia  
Crossing Europe Filmfestival, 2006, Linz, Austria  
International Ethnographic Film Festival, 2006 Belgrad  
International Roma Film Festival, 2007 London  
Dialektus International Documentary Film Festival, 2007 Budapest  
New York Roma / Gypsy human rights film festival 2008  
Meetings in Siberia, International Documentary Film Festival, 2008, Novosibirsk  
Jean Rouch International Documentary Film Festival, 2008, Paris

For didactic and research purposes was requested

Deakin University in Australia,  
Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
University College London,  
Max Planck Institute for Social Research, Halle (Germany)  
Prescott College, Arizona USA  
Documentary Educational Resource DER, the major academic distributor in USA  
IWF, Göttingen, the major academic distributor in Europe

Broadcasted DUNA Tv, Hungary, TVR, Romania

## **Reactions**

*“The film reaches the balance, so difficult to attain, between the process of investigation of a social scientist, and the intimate approach of an excellent documentary filmmaker, to portray complex characters, and capture dramatic scenes of their lives, like no feature film can do.*

*Niel Johnson, documentary film critic (UK).”*

“A great film! A masterpiece! Within a decade only a few films arrive to be really genial, really outstanding. The Curse of the Hedgehog is the film of the decade!”

*Asen Balicki, anthropologist, documentarist, Canada*

“Wonderful film!!! The best documentary scene ever made is the scene with walking, weeping woman, who cries after her late son”.

*Garry Kildea, documentarist, Australia*

„Personally I find the films to be one of the finest and strongest contributions to socially aware filmmaking of the recent years.“

*Vanja Kaludercic*  
festival's director and programmer  
Human Rights Film Festival, Croatia