

Alina Șerban



Actress, writer and Romania's first Roma film and theatre director.

Founder of Untold Stories Company, a platform that promotes Roma culture and sheds light on untold and marginalized Roma stories, from a Roma perspective.

EDUCATION

2011-2012 **Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London** MA

2009 **Tisch School of Arts, New York University** Spring at Tisch - Undergraduate program

2006-2009 **Academy of Theatrical Arts and Cinematography (UNATC), Bucharest** BA

FILM

WRITER AND DIRECTOR

2023 **Fearless** short doc

2022 **I am Nicu** short doc

About us - Vanessa short doc

Amare Paramiță folklore doc

2021 **I matter** short film

2020 **Letter of Forgiveness** short film

2019 **The Great Shame** video-art

Get Real - One World Romania video-art

2018 **My existence is resistance** video-art

2017 **Justice for the Roma Holocaust survivor** video-art

2011 **Roma Investigation** short doc
(co-dir.: Vlad Petri)

2010 **We all need education** video-art

THEATRE

WRITER, DIRECTOR, LEAD ACTRESS

2022 **The best child in the world**

2018 **The Great Shame**

2013 **I declare at my own risk**
(co-dir.: Jamie Harper)

2013 **HOME - AFS**

2010 **Givisarde Paramiță**

WRITER, DIRECTOR

2023 **We are heroes**

2015 **Romo Sapiens**

(dir.: Kincses Reka, Alina Nelega)

SCRIPT CONSULTANT, LEAD ACTRESS

2023 **Housekeeping for beginners** feature film
(dir.: Goran Stolevski)

2017 **Gipsy Queen** feature film
(dir.: Huseyin Tabak)

Alone at my wedding feature film
(dir. Marta Bergman)

2016 **Written/Unwritten** short film
(dir. Adrian Silișteanu)

WRITER

2021 **Acasa/Home** audiobook version

PUBLICATIONS

2024

- **The Great Shame**, a theater play based on an extensive research on the Roma slavery, Selected by the prestigious EURODRAM, will be published in France in 2024 by Harmatia Collection. University of Strasbourg.

2021

- **Home - audio-video book** - the first Roma audio-book for children, translated in six languages (Russian, Spoitoreste, Spanish, French, English, Rromanes). The book was created as pandemic support for the Roma children.
- **“Letter of Forgiveness”** film, part of **Challenging the Roma Structural Discrimination: Deterritorialization Practices in Romanian Cinema** by Simona Mitroiu
- **“I declare at my own risk”** and **“The Great Shame”** published in **The Palgrave Handbook of Theatre and Race**

2019

- **“I declare at my own risk”**, published in **A History of Romanian Theatre from Communism to Capitalism** by Cristina Modreanu

2018

- **“I declare at my own risk”** and **“The Best Child In The World”**, published by **Jatekter magazine**, Hungarian translation by Adorjan Beat.

2017

- **Journal of Poverty and Social Justice: Gender, ethnicity and activism: ‘the miracle is when we don't give up...’**. Authors: Alina Serban, Anna Daróczi, Angéla Kóczé, Jelena Jovanovic, Sarah Judith Cemlyn, Violeta Vajda, Vera Kurtić and Lisa Smith

2016

- Published **“Auntie Veta’s Roma fairytales”** - conserving Roma oral history

EXHIBITIONS

2023

- Exhibitor at **Barvalo Exhibition by MUCEM** (Museum of Civilizations of Europe and the Mediterranean), Marseille, France. “Letter of Forgiveness” and “Gipsy Queen” - part of the exhibitions plus screenings

2022

- Exhibitor at **Venice Biennale, Roma Pavilion**, Venice, Italy. “The best child in the world” video-art, “Letter of Forgiveness” and live-performance “Eating sunflower seeds”

2018

- Exhibitor with **“My existence is resistance”** at **UNITED NATIONS**, New York, United States. Video-art for **“SUKAR”** exhibition.

2015

- **Moderna Museet**, Stockholm, Sweden. “I declare on my own risk” performance, part of the exhibition “A Good Home for Everyone”, in the Pontus Hultén Study Gallery.
- Exhibitor at **Turner Contemporary, Margate**. Performance and video-art creator of **“RISK”**.

ACCOLADES

2023

- Biennale Cinema, Venice, Queer Lion Award for “Housekeeping for beginners” film
- “Housekeeping for beginners” film represents Macedonia’s choice for the Oscars
- Representing Romania at The Francophonie Games, Congo
- Selected Alumni at Berlinale Talents, Berlin
- Untold Stories - Winner of Best Project Manager Award at ‘The Administration of the Romanian National Cultural Fund’ Gala
- Winner of “Best Producer of a Romanian short film Award” at Independent Producers Indie Film Festival (Romania, Bucharest)

2022

- Exhibitor at Biennale di Arte, Roma Pavilion, Venice
- Becoming the first Roma woman director to enter the permanent repertoire of the National Theatre of Bucharest with “The best child in the world” theatre play
- Winner of “Best Short Film” for “Letter of Forgiveness” film at Ake Dikhea International Festival of Romani Film, Berlin

2021

- Winner “Best Short Film” at Torino Short Film Market, for directing “I matter” film

2021-2020

- 4 times Winner of Best Actress Award for the leading role in "Gipsy Queen" including Best Actress Award at the German Actors Guild Awards, Best Actress Award at Nuremberg Film Festival, Nominated at German Academy Awards, 2019 (LOLA).

2020

- “Alone at my wedding” film nominated to Best First Feature (Magritte du premier film), Belgium
- “Alone at my wedding” film nominated to Best Film (Meilleur film) for “Alone at my wedding” film, Belgium

2019

- Official recognition by the Romanian Government for excellence in her artistic work and promoting the Roma culture
- Special Mention at Transilvania International Film Festival and Best Narrative Director Award at Female Voices Rock, USA for “Letter of Forgiveness”
- Tajsa Roma Cultural Heritage Prize for “Alina Şerban’s artistic work and for her engagement in the activism for Roma rights” by The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC)
- Winner of Best Actress at PÖFF Black Nights Film Festival for the leading role in Gipsy Queen

2018

- Representing Romania at The Cannes International Film Festival with the leading role in "Alone at my wedding"
- Exhibition “My existence is resistance” at United Nations. New York
- Recipient of Soros Art Fellowship
- Angela Award for Performance at Subtitle European Film Festival, Winner Jury Prize Best Actress at International Women Film Festival of Salé, Winner RIFF Jury Award Best Actress at Rome Independent Film Festival - for the leading role in “Alone at my wedding”

2017

- “Written/Unwritten film” - 23 wins and 6 nominations, amongst which Winner of “European Short Film” at The European Film Awards

2016

- Roma of the Year Award at the Roma Excellency Gala – The National Centre of Roma Culture in Romania

2013

- Winner of Rich Mix, Stories of London for the theatre play “Home”
- Winner of ‘My story, my rights’ – Amnesty International

2012

- The Best Romanian Student in the UK – The Romanian Embassy – 2012

2011

- Recipient of Roma Education Fund Scholarship

2009-2008

- Recipient of Roma Culture Program, Open Society Foundations Grant for Givisarde Paramiça

PROMOTING ROMA HISTORY AND CULTURE

2023

- Marché du Film Conferences with impACT x Think Film Impact Production | ROMA: What Happens Now?, Cannes
- Honorary guest speaker and performer at the 30-year anniversary event of World Bank Romania
- Co-organizing with World Bank Romania three workshops for more than 250 children, on the occasion of International Roma Day
- Commemorating International Roma Day video with Anna Akhalkatsi, Country Manager Romania and Hungary World Bank

2022

- Promoting Roma culture and history in partnership with ERIAC
- Celebrating Romanian National Minorities Day with the Screening of “Letter of Forgiveness”
- Promoting Roma oral history: Premiere of Amare Paramiça on the “The National Day of Romani Language”, at the University of Bucharest, The Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Romani Language section. Included a “Safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of the Roma” panel with Romani language teachers, historians, anthropologists and sociologists

2021

- Commemorating 165 years since the Roma were enslaved panel with public historians, anthropologists, organized in collaboration with ARCHER-American Romanian Coalition for Human and Equal Rights and The American Romanian Cultural Society.
- International Conference “From slavery to Movement and Policies by ERIAC”

- "Letter of Forgiveness" screening and Discussion on Roma Slavery, Central Europe University
- Promoting Roma slavery and remembering Roma slavery on the 20th of February
- Public discussion on Roma slavery topic, based on the "Letter of Forgiveness" film, to celebrate The International Roma Day

2017

- Reclaiming Roma Identity: Fifth Annual Roma Conference at Harvard University, Culture beyond borders - The Roma Contribution

2016

- Commemorating the abolition of Roma slavery on the 20th of February - reading-performance of "The Great Shame" in Bucharest

2011

- Celebrating The International Roma Day - Discussions on the topic of Holocaust and a screening of "Roma Investigation" short documentary

2023 - 2022

Organizer of **The Gala of the Institutionalised Youth - 1st and 2nd Edition and cultural events in public schools and universities** in Romania. Screenings of documentary films, stories of Roma youth raised in orphanages

RESIDENCIES

2023

Scriptwriting workshop at Mediterranean Film Institute
Berlinale Talents Summit, Berlin

2022

Selected for **The International Writing Program (IWP) Fall Residency**, University of Iowa, by the US Embassy in Romania

Talents Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Directors' Summit

2021

LIM (Less is More) - grant & residency for developing the feature film "I matter"

2020

FemArt, Romania - residency for developing the short film "I matter"

CONTACT

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