

40th Anniversary

The Chicago International Film Festival
Presented by Cinema/Chicago October 7-21, 2004

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Maria

Based on a true story, this three-time winner at the Locarno Film Festival (Special Jury Prize, Best Actress and Actor) deftly blends black comedy, grim realism, and anarchic Balkan-style energy



to tell a cautionary fairytale set in chaotic post-Ceausescu, pro-capitalist Romania. Maria is a young mother coping with seven children and a boozing, abusive, recently pink-slipped husband in a squalid basement flat. After he skips out, she's offered \$5000 for her youngest baby. Unable to sell her child, she turns to the only option available: selling herself. But even this solution is short-lived; she is caught in the act and made into a media cause célèbre. *Maria* depicts a topsy-turvy world, shared by baby-brokering nuns, opportunistic politicians, lunatic entrepreneurs and truckstop hookers, where everything, and yet nothing, has changed.

Maria

When does this film screen?

How do I buy tickets?

Categories: Balkan Cinema
International Competition

Country: Romania

Language: Romanian, English,
French, and Russian
Subtitles: English

Director: Peter Calin Netzer

Running Time: 97 min.