

International Conference
Images of Witchcraft: Cinema, Theatre, Visual Arts
Cluj-Napoca
Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University
17-19 October 2019

The IWACTA research group (<https://teatrufilm.ubbcluj.ro/iwacta/>) belonging to the Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, announces the international conference with the theme:

Images of Witchcraft: Cinema, Theatre, Visual Arts

The conference will take place from 17 to 19 October 2019 at the Babeş-Bolyai University from Cluj-Napoca, gathering experts from various fields in an attempt to propose a multidisciplinary approach to the iconography of witchcraft at the cross points between cinema, theatre and visual arts. The aim is to open new research and reflection perspectives, publishing the most significant studies resulted in the peer-reviewed journal *Studia UBB Dramatica*, nr. 1/2020 (the instructions for authors will be sent to participants in due time).

The organizing committee is opened to various lectures in images of the witch and of witchcraft/magic. Here, the notion of the word “image” is meant to encompass broad meanings: mental images, socially mediated (which would be included within the concept of *imaginary*) as well as aspects that psychoanalysis reunites under the concept of *imago* will be approached, but the emphasis will be on images imbedded on various supports (cinema, painting) or materialized in specific spaces (theatre). One of the main aims of the conference will be to explore the anthropological bases of the formation of artistic representations and, in this sense, witchcraft represents a seminal field of study. In its context arts intercross on most levels with social and mentalities phenomena, with political representations, but also with the logic of refusal, of repression and of violence.

The themes of the conference are (but are not restricted to):

- images of witchcraft in cinema (with an emphasis on the horror and fantasy genres, but also comedy or animated film);
- images of witchcraft in television series;
- magic, witchcraft, occultism, Satanism in silent cinema;
- witch and witchcraft in theatre, from the Greek tragedy to Shakespeare, from Romanticism to Ghelderode and up to contemporary theatre;
- images of the witch and of witchcraft in the European arts of the XV-XVIII centuries;
- images of the witch and of witchcraft in modern and contemporary arts (Avant-garde, Leonor Fini...);
- witches and witchcraft in Romanian traditional culture (spells, incantations, rites, images, beliefs, myths, social representations);
- witches and witchcraft in other European traditional cultures (comparative perspectives);
- witchcraft/magic and psychoanalysis;
- images of occultism, magic, divination in theatre, cinema and visual arts;
- cinematic/theatrical/poetic values of incantations and charms;
- auxiliary figures to the imaginary universe of magic and witchcraft: vampires, poltergeist, genie, elves, ghosts, spirits of the dead, ectoplasms, apparitions in film and theatre;
- witches and sex: Satanic copulation/*mixtura carnalis*: anthropology and art;

- figures of the witch in popular tales;
- cinematographic tales with witches;
- from the tales with witches to the derived “products” (book illustrations, advertising campaigns and brands, cartoons, puppetry etc.);
- legendary witches in theatre, cinema and visual arts: Medea, Circe, Hecate, Canidia, Baba Yaga, Lilith etc.);
- witches, witchcraft, occultism in video games;
- witches, witchcraft, occultism in rock music;
- witches and witchcraft in the online medium: new dimensions of popular religion.

The proposals, sent as an abstract of 10 lines, accompanied by a list of 5-10 keywords and by a short presentation of the author will be sent to:

ioancurseu@yahoo.com

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Deadline: 1 June 2019.

The languages of the conference will be English, French and Romanian. The presentations in French and Romanian, organized in separate panels, will require additional PowerPoint presentations in English. Articles accepted for publication will be written in English or French.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent by 1 July 2019, accompanied by the instructions for authors and all other necessary information for participants.

No participation fee will be perceived.

Organization team:

Main organizer: Ioan Pop-Curșeu

Organization committee: Delia Enyedi, Daria Ioan, Rareș Stoica, Valer Cosma