

A black and white photograph of a man in a suit sitting at a desk. He is looking off to the side. On the desk are several papers and a lamp. The background is dark and out of focus.

Digital Interactive Arts and Documentary Filmmaking Masters Program,
Faculty of Theater and Film, Babes-Bolyai University, presents:

JENŐ JANOVICS AND HIS CLUJAN STORIES

A 360 video walk

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JENŐ JANOVICS AND HIS CLUJAN STORIES



UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI
BABEȘ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÄT



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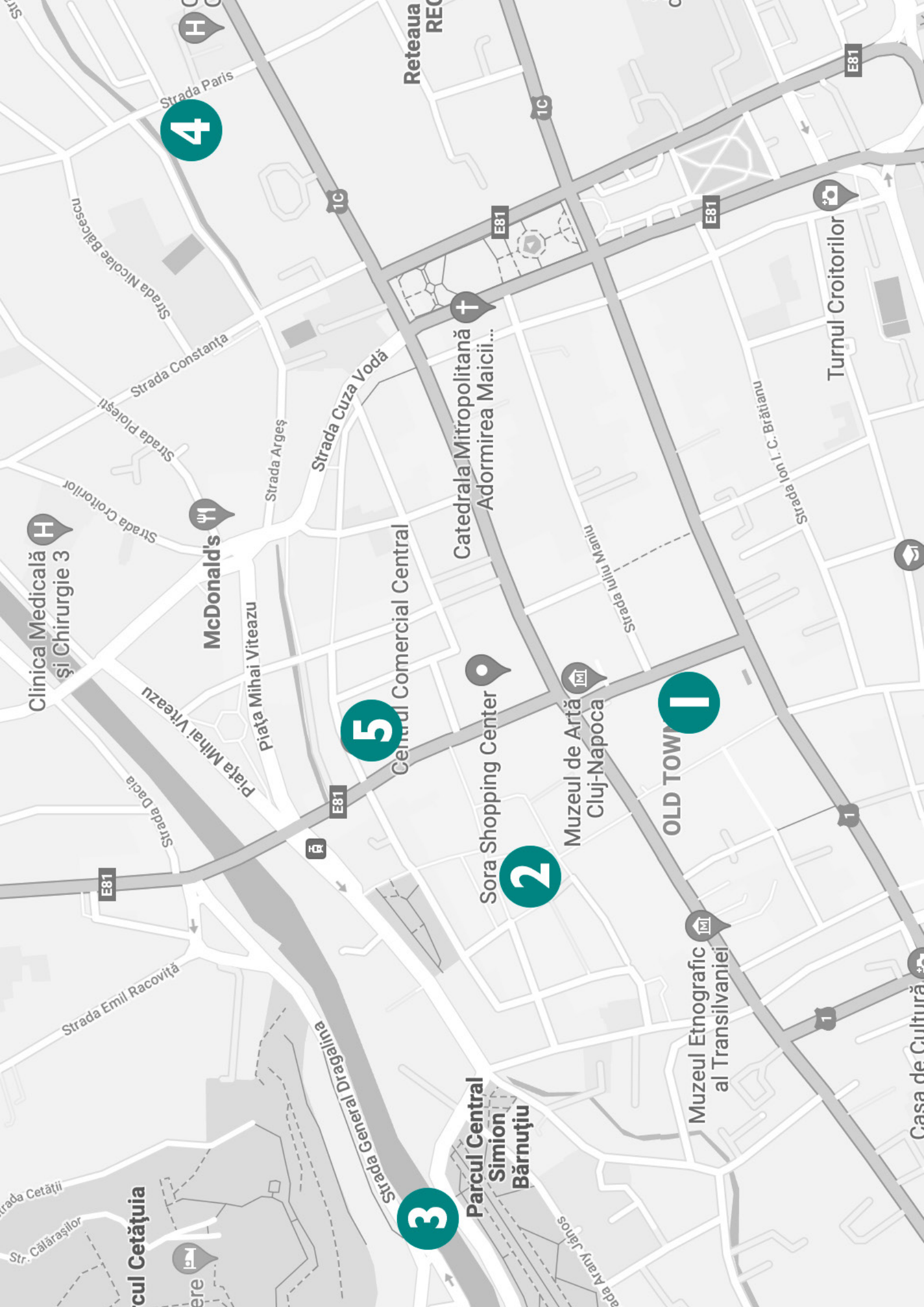
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Clinica Medicală
și Chirurgie 3

McDonald's

Catedrala Mitropolitană
Adormirea Maicii...

Sora Shopping Center

Muzeul de Artă
Cluj-Napoca

OLD TOWN

Muzeul Etnografic
al Transilvaniei

Parcul Central
Simion
Bărnuțiu

Parcul Cetățuia

Turnul Croitorilor

Casa de Cultură

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Unirii Square

A story about **Matei Corvin's** youth

The first location of the journey is at the King Matthias Corvinus statue situated in the center of Unirii Square in Cluj-Napoca. The statue was built by János Fadrusz and Lajos Pákey and it was unveiled on the 12th of October 1902. In 1900, it won the grand prize at the Exposition Universelle in Paris. The monument consists of five statues representing King Matthias on a horse (equestrian) and his four generals. The equestrian statue of Matthias Corvinus is distinguished by the positioning of all four horses' hooves on the ground, which, according to tradition, means that the character on the horse died a natural death, not in battle. In recent years, the Matei Corvin Monument has been considered the central point of the meetings of young people in the city. "At the horse's tail", behind the statue, as this place is also called, the young people from Cluj Napoca meet regardless of whether it is day or night. János will tell you a story with the King at the forefront.





Casa Matthias Corvinus (Casa Matia), Strada Sextil Pușcariu 1 **A story about how the city of Cluj-Napoca was saved right at the entrance**



The second location is in front of the house where King Matthias was born. This is one of the oldest buildings in Cluj-Napoca. It was built in the 15th century in Gothic style as a small guest house. Throughout its history, the house served as a prison, hospital, and museum; it now hosts a visual arts institute. Matei Corvin's house was built by unifying three buildings, this conclusion being reached after studying the layout of the windows, the framing of the windows and the floor. It is said that the oldest of these parts of the house is the Gothic one, in which Matei Corvin was born. This part of the building corresponds to the gate and window to the left of the entrance, and a legend says that the king of Hungary was born in that room. Fun fact, this was also where the entrance to the city was and that is crucial to the story Janos will tell you! A story about how a person saved the whole city, right at the gates.



Elisabeta Bridge, Little Somesul Canal

A story about how the citizens of the city did not have access to water for a short time

A bit of walking now, the next story takes place right next to the Elizabeth bridge. Cluj has its own “Pont Neuf”, considered to be the favorite place of lovers in the past. The first project of the bridge was made in 1884 by the Hungarian historian László Kőváry (1819-1907), a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 1899, the City Hall of Cluj wanted to commemorate the death of Empress Elisabeth (“Sissi”), killed earlier in Geneva by the anarchist Luigi Lucheni, and decided to build, from its own funds and contributions from the citizens, a promenade on the Citadel hill in memory of the empress. Built shortly after 1900, Elizabeth Bridge was the place where single ladies, determined to get married quickly, waited every Sunday for soldiers on leave, hoping that the Charming Prince would save them from the ostracized status of “unmarried.” A place where the water did not flow like this for a short period of time. Play the story and find out more about it.

Old Synagogue, Paris Street 5

A story that happened in the Synagogue



The Orthodox Synagogue is the oldest synagogue in Cluj-Napoca. The inauguration of the neoclassical building, designed by György Fekete, took place on December 2, 1851, in the presence of the national rabbi of Transylvania, Abraham Friedmann, and the Catholic bishop Miklós Kovács (protector of the Jews of Transylvania). On either side of the synagogue were the houses of the rabbi, the teacher and the saktar, and the complex became the religious and cultural center of the Orthodox Jewish community in Cluj. The classicist style building is not on the list of monuments in Romania. In front of the building was in the past an urn and the inscription in Hebrew: Worship before the Eternal. During the German occupation of the city during World War II, the building was used as a garage. After the war, it was no longer used as a synagogue by the small number of Jews returning from deportation. Until 1970 it was a bread factory, then a ritual slaughterhouse and a canteen. After 1990, it was leased by the Jewish community and used as a radio studio. Today, the synagogue only retains its exterior appearance. The compartmentalized interior houses several companies. The canteen of the faithful operates in an adjoining house.





Central Shopping Center, Regele Ferdinand Street 22-26 Jenő Janovics

Now, for the last story, go to Central and hear what Jenő Janovics has to tell you about himself. After that, go inside, take the elevator to the fourth floor. And enjoy a surprise! Jenő Janovics was born in the city of Uzhhorod, then the residence of Ung County in Hungary, today in Ukraine, on December 8, 1872, as the fifth child of a Hungarian Jewish family of a modest background. Janovics' family moved to Budapest when he was five years old. In 1905 Janovics was appointed director of the National Theater in Cluj, obtained his doctorate in philology with the thesis *The Realism of Dramaturgy* by Gergely Csiky in 1900 at Franz Joseph University in Cluj and at the same time graduated as a professor. Janovics became interested in the new medium of film from the beginning, and in 1913, under the auspices of the French film company Pathé, he produced his first silent film, *Sárga Csikó*, in translation *The Yellow Foal*, which had worldwide success. Most of Janovics' productions were lost, but it remained known that he had a certain penchant for local coloring subjects and literary adaptations. Under Janovics, Cluj became for several years, at the end of the Belle Époque, an important center of film production in Austria-Hungary. Janovics founded in 1919, after the unification of Transylvania with Romania, the Transsylvania film studio in Cluj. Since the late 1930s, in the conditions of his isolation, his artistic activity has focused on literature. Although he devoted his entire life to Hungarian culture and drama, in addition, his wife, Lili Poór, was a Christian, and was not excluded from anti-Jewish laws. His brother Bandi (Andrei) was killed by representatives of the Arrow Cross Party and he escaped deportation by taking refuge with his wife in Budapest where he is hidden from friends until the liberation of the city. Surviving the war, in June 1945 he returned to Cluj where he took over the management of the Cluj theater again. Janovics died of a heart attack in preparation for the new premiere of *Bánk bán*, a play by József Katona.

