



MIHAELA PANAINTE

Opera & Theatre Director

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full name: Mihaela Panainte

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Nationality: Romanian

Date of birth: 10 July 1982

PRODUCTIONS DIRECTED

2026 — Long Day's Journey into Night, by Eugene O'Neill

"Lucian Blaga" National Theatre, Cluj-Napoca

2024 — In the Penal Colony, multimedia performance based on Franz Kafka

Project funded by the Ministry of Culture, in partnership with Goethe-Institut, Bucharest

2023 — Sissi, Băile Apollo, based on Sissi by Pavel Șușară

Project funded by the Ministry of Culture

2023 — Lost Relatives, by Nava Semel

Jewish State Theatre, Bucharest

2022 — The King, the Jester and the Rat Lords, based on Matei Vişniec

Deva Theatre of Art

2021 — La Bohème, by Giacomo Puccini

Odesa National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, Ukraine

2021 — Mefistofele, by Arrigo Boito

Ruse Opera, Bulgaria

2021 — Pagliacci

Deva Theatre of Art

2020 — Gianni Schicchi, by Giacomo Puccini

Ruse Opera, Bulgaria

2020 — The Double Bass, by Patrick Süskind

Theatre of the West, Reşiţa

2019 — Bizarre Scenes, based on Urmuz

Theatre of the West, Reşiţa

2018 — The Lowlands, based on Herta Müller

National Theatre, Iaşi

2017 — The Trial, based on Franz Kafka

National Theatre, Cluj

2016 — The Book of the Elders, based on the poem by Szilágyi Domokos

Hungarian State Theatre, Cluj

2015 — Manifest Zadia

Performance staged at the stadium in Bistriţa

2014 — Medio Monte

Performance, Painters' Colony, Baia Mare

2013 — The New Tenant, by Eugène Ionesco

Municipal Theatre, Baia Mare

2013 — Iona, by Marin Sorescu

Turda Salt Mine, Turda

2011 — The Book of the Elders, by Plugor Sándor and Szilágyi Domokos

Sala Mică Theatre, Independent Cultural Centre Fabrica de Pensule, Cluj

2010 — The Chairs, by Eugène Ionesco

“Antares” Chair Factory, Cluj

2009 — Delirium in Two, Three... As Many as You Like, by Eugène Ionesco

Sala Mică Theatre, Independent Cultural Centre Fabrica de Pensule, Cluj

2007 — Cavalleria Rusticana, by Pietro Mascagni

Hungarian Opera of Cluj-Napoca

Graduation production

2006 — The Human Voice, by Francis Poulenc

Casa Tranzit, Cluj

EDUCATION

2021–2023 — Doctoral studies in Music, West University of Timișoara

2019–2021 — Professional development scholarships in Theatre Directing through the Erasmus+ Programme in Vienna, Berlin and Brussels

2003–2007 — Bachelor’s Degree in Musical Directing

“Gheorghe Dima” National Academy of Music, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Graduation project: Cavalleria Rusticana, by Pietro Mascagni, produced at the Hungarian Opera of Cluj-Napoca

2000–2003 — Classical Vocal Studies

“Gheorghe Dima” National Academy of Music, Cluj-Napoca

1997–2001 — “Dinu Lipatti” Music High School, Bucharest — Vocal Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026 — Employed Opera Director

Opera Brașov

2021–2023 — Employed Theatre Director

Jewish State Theatre, Bucharest

2019–2020 — Employed Theatre Director

Deva Theatre of Art

2008–present — President

Uthopia Theater Association, non-profit cultural association, Cluj-Napoca

FESTIVALS, RESIDENCIES AND PUBLICATIONS

2023 — Launch of the book Plays from Romania: Dramaturgies of Subversion, as part of the Interferences Festival, Hungarian State Theatre of Cluj

2022 — Assistant Director for the production Eden, by Joyce DiDonato

Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels

2021 — Plays from Romania: Dramaturgies of Subversion

Edited and translated by Jozefina Komporaly

Published by Bloomsbury Academic, London

2020 — Participation in the FEST-FDR Festival, Timișoara, with the production Bizarre Scenes, based on Urmuz

Theatre of the West, Reșița

2020 — Coordinator of the Deva Performing Arts Festival, Inside Out! edition

Deva Theatre of Art

2020 — Curator of the children's festival Lumea Poveștilor

Theatre of the West, Reșița

2019 — Curator of the New Wave Theater Festival

Theatre of the West, Reșița

2019 — Curator of the children's festival Lumea Poveștilor

Theatre of the West, Reșița

2019 — Resident at the Cultural Management School within SocolArt – cultural incubator

2018 — Participation in the conference Art and Technology in Contemporary Culture\

Cinetic Laboratory, Bucharest

2017 — Participation in the National Theatre Festival, with the production The Trial, based on Franz Kafka

National Theatre, Cluj

2015 — Participation in the FEST-FDR Festival, Timișoara, with the installation-performance Medio Monte

Baia Mare

2014 — Participation in the National Theatre Festival, with the production The New Tenant, by Eugène Ionesco

Municipal Theatre, Baia Mare

2014 — Participation in the Interferences International Theatre Festival

Hungarian State Theatre, Cluj

Performance Medio Monte

2014 — Participation in the National Theatre Festival for Young Audiences, Iași, with the production Iona, by Marin Sorescu

2014 — Participation in the Bucharest Independent Theatre Marathon – Frige, at the National Museum of Contemporary Art

Performance Medio Monte

2014 — Directing concept for the concert opera La Traviata, by Giuseppe Verdi\

Municipality of Baia Mare

2013 — Directing and set design concept for the Opera Gala organized by the Romanian National Opera, Bucharest

2011 — Participation in the Atelier Festival 2011, Baia Mare, with the production Delirium in Two, Three... As Many as You Like, by Eugène Ionesco\

Directing Award granted by the Liga pentru Teatru Foundation, Baia Mare

2011 — Participation in the International Studio Theatre Festival, Pitești, with the production Delirium in Two, Three... As Many as You Like, by Eugène Ionesco