

BERLIN 2019 EFM

Monsters. shines bright on Alpha Violet's line-up

by FABIEN LEMERCIER

23/01/2019 - The French firm will be at Berlin selling the feature debut by Romania's Marius Olteanu, which will be premiered in the Forum, as well as the Israeli-German co-production Chained, in Panorama



Monsters. by Marius Olteanu

Paris-based international sales agent Alpha Violet, a company that has enjoyed a regular presence on the line-up of the selections at the major festivals for the last few years, will be springing into action once again at the European Film Market of the 69th Berlin Film Festival (7-17 February 2019), with two brilliant trump cards set to be showcased there.

(The article continues below –Commercial information)

Indeed, the slate being promoted by Virginie Devesa and Keiko Funato's team includes Monsters, by Romanian director **Marius Olteanu**, which will be world-premiered in the Forum. It is the feature debut by a filmmaker who served as assistant director on Cristi Puiu's *Sieranevada* [+], but who is also a renowned photographer. "For us, this film was totally a case of love at first sight and a real shock, particularly visually, because he plays with the screen format: the ratio is widened and shrunk in accordance with the intensity of the narrative, which recounts the story of a couple who completely reassess their values over the course of 24 hours," Virginie Devesa explains.

The story of Monsters., written by the director, revolves around Dana (**Judith State**) and Arthur (**Cristian Popa**), a wife and husband in their forties, who have been together for almost ten years. They are a couple that society, their family and their friends seem to love together, but despise separately because of their needs, their beliefs, their life options and their inner monsters. The day comes for them to decide whether letting go is the biggest proof of love. Production duties were handled by Parada Film (**Claudiu Mitcu** and **Carla Fotea**) and Marius Olteanu himself, while Wearebasca (**Robert Fita** and **Ioachim Stroie**) is credited as a co-producer.



firm *The Post Republic*, with backing from YES, the Israel Film Fund, ZDF/Das Kleine Fernsehspiel and Arte. The second chapter in the trilogy revolves around a character caught between his job and his personal life. Rashi has been a police officer for 16 years, a guardian of others and the law, always in control. Despite his constant exposure to violence, he dearly hopes to have a child with his wife, Avigail. Then Rashi's world is shaken. He is accused of sexual assault and suspended from the force owing to his conduct during a standard police check on some privileged boys. While defending his innocence at work, he finds himself clashing at home with his Lolita-like step-daughter, who is as assertive and stubborn as he is, defying his authority. His wife gradually becomes distant. Helpless and chained by his need to dominate, he becomes a danger to himself and his loved ones.

At the EFM, Alpha Violet will also be unveiling the very first images of two films in post-production: *Uncle* by Denmark's **Frelle Petersen** and *Motherland* by US filmmaker of Lithuanian descent **Tomas Vengris**.

Also of note are the market premieres set to take place for *Irina* [+] by Bulgaria's **Nadejda Koseva** (Special Jury Prize at Warsaw and Best Actress Award at Cottbus) and *Hanalei Bay* by Japan's **Daishi Matsunaga**, while the company will continue touting the Mexican-US co-production *The Chambermaid* by **Lila Avilés** (unveiled at Toronto, on the Discovery programme, and subsequently taking part in the New Directors section of San Sebastián, among other gatherings, and awarded at Marrakesh, Morelia and Palm Springs).

(Translated from French)

Did you enjoy reading this article? Please subscribe to our newsletter to receive more stories like this directly in your inbox.



◀ previous

next ▶

related news

25/01/2019
Berlin 2019 – EFM

The 2019 European Film Market focuses on "Diversity and Inclusion"

24/01/2019
Berlin 2019 / EFM / Sundance 2019

Le Pacte pins its hopes on Monos and System K

25/01/2019
Trieste 2019 – WEMW

REPORT: When East Meets West 2019

24/01/2019
Trieste 2019 – WEMW

Brotherhood wins the ninth WEMW

25/01/2019
Trieste 2019 – WEMW

MIDPOINT Feature Launch 2019 wraps its first workshop in Trieste

23/01/2019
Berlin 2019 – EFM

Picture Tree International and m-appeal gearing up for the EFM

[all news](#)

