

Created by Dmitrii Cucer

# Tatiana Iazăr

**Remarkable Women Photo-Essay Contest**

**"In tears, I was leaving the country that didn't offer me a decent life. Decent, in my opinion meant only bread on the table and a little money so I could send my children to school"**

**Tatiana Lazăr**

# TATIANA LAZĂR

is a Moldovan actress, well-known for her roles at the National Theatre "Mihai Eminescu".

Since childhood she adored acting, therefore she became an actress, even though she had to face a lot of barriers in her life.

One of them I'm gonna present in this photo-essay.







Separated couples, poor and unhappy children, mothers who were forced to leave the country in order to get money – the reality of every second family in the 90's.

In 1991, the Republic of Moldova got its independence, but entered a profound crisis. Inflation and poverty happened. Back then, even the smallest salary wasn't given to people, which forced families to fall apart, emigrate, or in Tatiana Lazăr's case (and in the majority of cases) – to flee the country in order to earn money.



"*Dragoste la pachet*" (*Love in the box*) – a heartbreaking mono-play written and performed by Tatiana Lazăr. In this play she retells 12 years of her life that she lived in Italy, where she made not to travel, but to earn money. As a compensation of the lack of the unity at home, she would mail boxes with clothes and candies back to Moldova.

The boxes with Italian goods become a material substitute for family love, which seems to bring Italy in front of the children, thus, the mother imaginary comes home every time.





*"My daughters sent me letters – how are you doing, mom? Have you found a job? I replied to them that I am okay, that it's very beautiful in Italy and that on Sunday they will get a new box from me..."*







*The real racism is faced by the poor ones.*

Working in Italy is not as perfect as you can imagine. In most of the cases, emigrants were getting the hardest and the most painful jobs.

In one of the hotels Tatiana lived, she worked as a maidservant. Salvatore (the owner of the hotel), he considered that all Romanians are thieves. Once after watching one more story on TV about the robbery happened in Italy, Salvatore shouted "See? You all are animals here! Go back to the customers, get the money and don't forget to smile! They are customers who pay me money, including the water you use in the toilet"

*"When you have no money, you have no place to return"*

Instead of taking care of her family and friends, Tatiana was being considered as the trash of society there in Italy.

Once during a weekend she was going through a dark street in Italy, when suddenly 2 men pushed her and she fell right on the ground. She got her wallet and phone stolen.

"Did they speak Romanian?" - the policewoman asked her.

For the first time, Tatiana felt ashamed of her own nation...







Over time, the mother becomes a voice on the phone, children are partially orphaned, the relatives consider her a successful woman, but actually she lives suspended between two worlds, with the guilt of not being near the children, with the communication breakdown, with the feeling that she is the sacrificed woman whom no one is waiting for at home. Her life is compared to a box that she cannot jump out of.

*"...You won't tell anyone how afraid, how hungry, how cold you were in Italy. Because that's not what they expect from you. You are envied! It worked for you! You are legalized! You make money! And you will smile and say that it is very beautiful in Italy..."*

*"My daughters finished the university, but I remained a voice on the phone that was sending money"*

Tatiana's play is also a story about aging, about the need to return home, a "home" that almost doesn't exist anymore.

In the end of the play, she finally gets home. Entering the yard she hears her mom talking to chickens. *"I wasted 12 years in Italy pleasing chunky men, and now my mother is talking to chicken"* – she said to herself.

When her mother notices her, she tells her "Go back to Italy..."





*"Can a voice out of the phone replace a mother?"*

The most terrible part of this is that these stories are not invented. Moldovan women are still fighting for a coin, abroad, far away from their children. They go to the never-seen-before places and endure everything. From calling names to robbery and rape.

Sincerely, there are so many remarkable women in the world and I'm sure that someone has already written about Cardi B, Ariana Grande or Kim Kardashian, but I know none has written for our mothers...



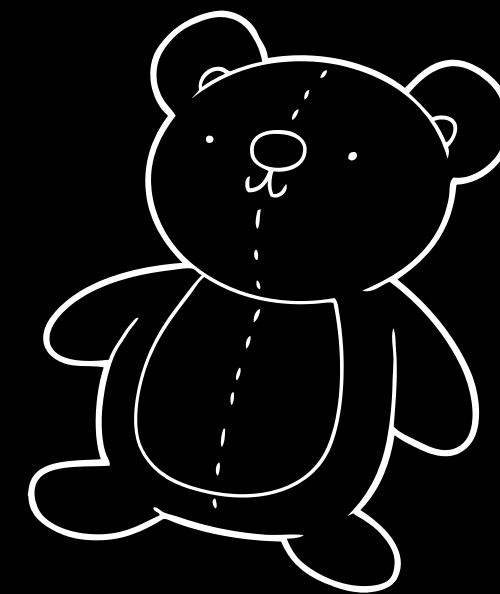




*"When awful things happen all the time,  
they begin to be considered as the  
normal ones"*

Our mothers' stories deserve to be heard. I believe think that Tatiana Lazăr is a true warrior. She became the voice of those mothers, whose voices are not heard. No plays, no movies or monuments will be enough to commemorate the strength and love of Moldovan mothers who unfortunately continue to sacrifice their lives for children.





# LOVE YOUR MOTHERS!

Sincerely, Dmitrii Cucer



# PHOTO SOURCES:

*timpul.md*

*tnme.md/actori/tatiana-lazar/*