

IF I WANT TO WHISTLE, I WHISTLE

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. This film has been described as “raw” and “authentic.” How do the filmmakers achieve this effect? Consider the script, casting, cinematography, sound design (and music), location, costumes and editing.
2. Why is Silviu so intent on his brother remaining in Romania? Is this imperative what drives his actions? What other motives might he have?
3. This film – and the play from which it was adapted – positions the audience *within* the penitentiary. What do we gain from this inside perspective? Is your concept of the ‘outside’ or ‘outsiders’ (us) changed after viewing the film?
4. Discuss the film’s ending. What do you think the future holds for Silviu? What about his brother, Marius?
5. WHISTLE is considered part of the cinematic movement known as the Romanian New Wave, which includes the recent films, *The Death of Mr. Lăzărescu* by Cristi Puiu, *12:08 East of Bucharest* and *Police, Adjective* by Corneliu Porumboiu, *The Way I Spent the End of the World* by Cătălin Mitulescu (a Film Movement title), and the best-known example, *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days* by Cristian Mungiu. If you have seen these films or others from the Romanian New Wave, discuss the themes and aesthetics that unite them. Do you agree that WHISTLE belongs within this movement?
6. What is your interpretation of the title, IF I WANT TO WHISTLE, I WHISTLE?