

THE DOCUMENTARY FILM AND THE HUMAN LIVING TREASURES PROGRAMME

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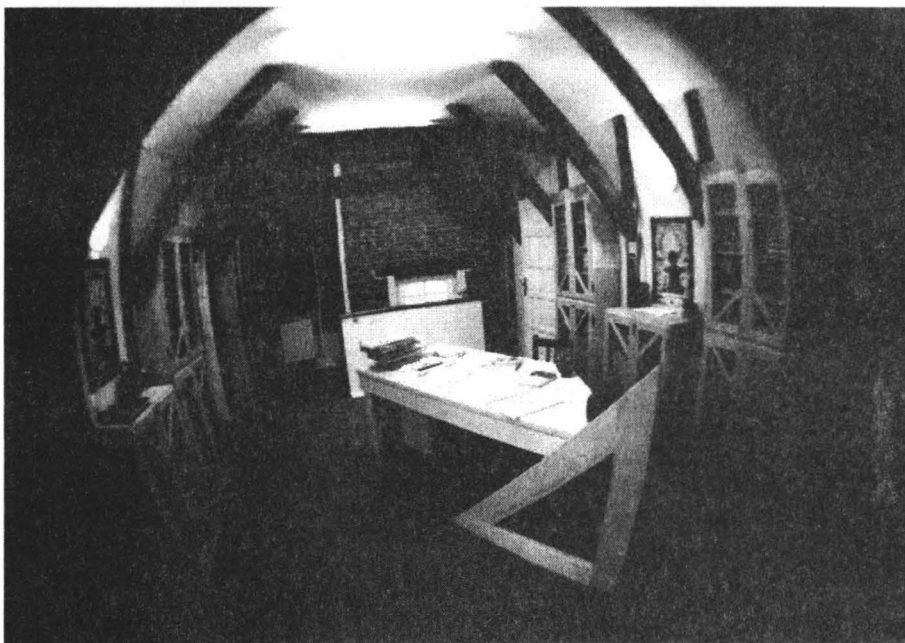
The *Human Living Treasures* UNESCO programme has as objectives the maintenance of the intangible cultural heritage by developing, at national and international levels, of certain long-term strategies that would preserve it - in collections, recordings and archives - and the revival of traditional values - by encouraging the exchange of information, knowledge and abilities between generations.

The "human living treasures" are the people who have, at the highest level, the abilities and the necessary techniques in order to create certain aspects of the cultural life of a nation and to maintain the existence of their cultural tangible heritage. The concept of "human living treasures" involves all the authentic artisans of folk culture who have the deepest respect for the customs of their native region and the keepers of this work, both by keeping these values

(texts, songs, rituals, mentalities, techniques of creation) into memory and by practicing them.

The intangible cultural heritage - which includes plastic arts, mechanical arts and interpretative arts - represents one of the fundamental sources of our ethno-cultural identity. The intangible cultural heritage is very vulnerable; it risks to be replaced with a standard culture because of both social and economical modernisation and of the progress of the information technology. That's why, it is necessary to stop and prevent the future losses by preserving its values, by making it as easy as possible to communicate the knowledge and the abilities, especially by recording them in tangible forms.

One of the departments of the National Museum Complex in Sibiu, the Astra Film Studio, which started its activity in 1991, has the important role of producing ethnographic documentary



films, of creating a visual data base with an emphasis on the phenomena of the traditional life in the south-east of Transylvania. It collects documentary films that forms and enriches the Studio's archive.

The Astra Film Studio began producing films on video, first on SVHS, then on professional format BETACAM SP and on digital format. Most of the films are focused on the cultural politics of the ASTRA National Museum Complex, especially on the concept of *museum vivum* and on the *Human Living Treasures* UNESCO programme.

The Films made within the program are:

* *Human Living Treasures, 2000*
BETACAM SP, 27 min

The Astra Museum, in Sibiu. In a generous natural setting, this Museum of traditional folk civilization from Romania displays 326 technical and folk-architecture monuments and also almost 20.000 of valuable objects. The Museum of Sibiu emphasizes both the quality of technical and architectural creations, although far from being a passive collector, it equally focuses on crafts, trades, industry, habitat, life style, art and spiritual life. The Astra Museum has become one of the most important open air museums in Europe for the richness of its heritage and for its organising, but especially for the programs initiated in order to revive the traditional culture.

* *Rudăria, 2000, BETACAM SP, 22 min*

Thousands of mills along the river represent a miracle of the traditional civilization survival. In the middle of the XX century, there were still in function 885 of these installations. In some of the mounty villages, the people kept them until today and built some new ones. The Mills of Rudăria are, probably, the first mills built by men at the end of the 2nd century B.C.

* *Traditions in Festival, 2001, DVCAM, 32min.*

The first edition of the National Festival of folk Traditions, an event produced by the ASTRA National Museum Complex, having as purpose the promotion of the traditional life values. Having the example of the greatest folk festival of the world, organised, each year, in Washington D.C., on the Mall, the National Festival of Folk Traditions of Romania invites, each year, three counties, each one representing a historical province. The first edition took place in September 2001 and had as participants the counties Gorj, Vrancea, Sibiu.

* *National Festival of Folk Traditions, the 2nd edition, 2004, DVCAM, 39'*

Organised since 2001, joins exemplary practitioners representing the traditions from three regions, each being a different historical province (Transylvania, Walachia and Moldavia); every edition of the festival hosts a group of folk artists from the Republic of Moldova. The seven sections of the festival cover religious arts, folk literature, traditional crafts, music and dance, folk technique and gastronomy.

The festival is a good opportunity for all keepers of the folk traditions to feel encouraged to practice their crafts; a vital mean to face the contemporary challenges. People from Maramures, Suceava and Vilcea counties came to Sibiu for the Traditions Folk Festival.

* *National Festival of Folk Traditions, the 3rd edition, 2004, DVCAM/BETACAM, 29'*

A hot July afternoon in the main square from the old centre of Sibiu. Very soon the centre of the city will be overcrowded because of the people gathered here to see the guests in their traditional costumes. For the third time the city of Sibiu invites the people from all over Romania to the great National Festival of Folk Traditions. For a whole week, the Museum will be a host for 350 participants from Bistrita - Nasaud, Botosani and Buzau counties and, also,

for a couple of thousands participants.

* *The National Children's Contest "Traditional Handicrafts", 2004, DVCAM, 19'*

It's been a while since The ASTRA National Complex has the role of promoting and maintaining the most important aspects of every day life of the traditional villages. Within this program, the National Contest "Traditional Handicrafts" is dedicated to promote, by schools, the tradition of the handicrafts. This contest brings into attention the eternal values of the Romanian civilisation and the folk art along with the improvement of the skills and abilities of those who embrace these values. Devoted to children between 6 and 18 years, the contest has both local and county stages and it has as objective the promotion of traditional values and the preservation of customs and crafts such as pottery, weaving, sculpture, and painting. The Olympiad is the national contest of the most gifted young artisans.

* *Folk Artisans Fair 2004, DVCAM, 32'*

It has been organized since 1983, in the open air Museum from Dumbrava Sibiuului around 15th of August and it has great success becoming a social phenomenon. The fair keeps the original trait of the old fairs from the Romanian villages, having also a commercial function, an educational one (through the live show of the craftsmen), an artistic

one (the beauty of the traditional costumes) and also a social one which allows meetings of the craftsmen and the public.

People and things, old and new are gathered together. The fair is full of temptations, which you cannot resist. Every year in the month of August, more and more people come to see the authentic folk art. The Museum's fair is alive because the Romanian folk art is alive.

The Astra Studios collection of documentary films contains over 2000 of documentary and anthropologic films that covers large and diverse fields, many of them awarded at the great international festivals.

The Astra Film Studio archive contains a valuable storage of images stored on high quality devices (about 1000 hour of material) and about 20.000 photographs resulting from the field researches. The images are recorded on the studio visual database.

The archive has a very important collection of photos, which contains thousand of images.

The Films made at the Astra Film Studio have won many awards, and the photos from the archive have been part of many successful national and international exhibitions.