

**POETESS ANGELA BACIU OR... ABOUT CULTURE, BEAUTY, GENEROSITY**

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**Angela Baciu** - is a poetess, prose writer, publicist, trainer.

Member of PEN CLUB Romania.

Member of the Writers' Union of Romania - Iași Branch.

\* She has published 18 books, among which: *Maci în noiembrie / Poppies in November* (Dacia Publishing-house, 1997), *Trei zile din acel septembrie / Three Days of that September* (Limes Publishing-house, 2003, afterword by Laurentiu Ulici), *Tinerețe cu o singură ieșire / Youth with One Way Out* (Dacia Publishing-house, 2004, Romanian-English-French edition), *De mâine până mai ieri, alaltăieri / From Tomorrow to Yesterday, the Day Before Yesterday* (Limes Publishing-house, 2007, presented by Mircea Petean), *Poezii Poems / Versek* (Limes Publishing-house & AB ART, 2009, Romanian-Hungarian edition), *Mărturii dintre milenii / Statements between Millenia* (Limes Publishing-house, 2012), *Despre cum nu am ratat o literatură grozavă / About How We Did Not Miss a Great Literature* (Junimea Publishing-house, 2015), *4 zile cu Nora / 4 days with Nora* (Charmides Publishing-house, 2015), *Mai drăguț decât Dostoievsky / More Lovely than Dostoievski* (Polirom Publishing-house, 2017, with illustrations by Ion Barbu), *Charli. Rue Sainte-Catherine. 34* (Integral Publishing-house, 2017, Romanian-English edition, translator: Lidia Vianu), *Hotel Camberi / Camberi Hotel* (Tracus Arte Publishing-house, 2017).

\* She has received awards from the Writers' Union of Romania: Iași, Alba and Bacău – Romania, at poetry and journalistic sections

\* "Woman of the Year" Excellence Award from "Avantaje" Magazine (Romania) for social involvement and community projects

\* 2016-2017:

- The Grand Prize at "Lucian Blaga" International Literary Festival, Sebeș Lancrăm - Romania

- 1st Prize - World Poetry Day Contest – "Nostalgia" Section - organized by Accademia Internazionale Francesco Petrarca, Italy

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- BALCANICA Prize for Romanian Poetry at the "Festival of Balkan Poets", 10<sup>th</sup> edition, Brăila (Romania - Turkey)

- 1st Prize at "Lidia Vianu Translates" Contest - after which the bilingual poetry volume *Charli. Rue Sainte-Catherine. 34* was published

\* She has published books of interviews with cultural personalities such as: Laurențiu Ulici, Radu G. Țeposu, Eugen Simion, Mircea Sântimbreanu, Mircea Zăciu, Cornel Regman, Mircea Horia Simionescu, Nora Iuga, Ana Blandiana, Nicolae Breban, Barbu Cioculescu, Cezar Ivănescu, Gabriel Liiceanu, Emil Manu, Nina Cassian, Fănuș Neagu, Leo Butnaru, Adrian Alui Gheorghe, Liviu Ioan Stoiciu, George Vulturescu, Constantin Abăluță and others.

\* Humanitarian campaigns; in the last 15 years she has been involved in numerous humanitarian campaigns dedicated to children, elderly people and people with disabilities.

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Alina Cheșcă: Mrs. Angela Baci, you are now in a promotion tour for a new poetry book which has been very appreciated by literary critique. This is written on the cover of "Camberi Hotel" poetry book published at "Tracus Arte" Publishing-house: "*Write about people's lives*", a flower girl in her poems tells her at some moment. And this is exactly what Angela Baci does: she writes about the lives of the people in a Danubian village, gathering in the little biographies that she builds significant amounts of time (there are almost two centuries in her prints), of space (the people described here wandered about the whole world) and, above all, of humanity. It is a very human world, the world of Jean Bart passed through the American biography - implicitly warm, attachable and convincing. "(Radu Vancu). Where has the book been released so far?

Angela Baci: The book was released at "Gaudeamus" Book Fair, "Cărturești Verona" Library of Bucharest, at "Humanitas" Library of Brașov, "Ștefan Petică" Municipal Library of Tecuci and there will be other releases in Galați, Iași, Sibiu, Brăila and others. I would like to thank the writers Radu Vancu and Simona Popescu for writing about the book, the poet and book editor Teodor Duna, the editorial team and the photographer Simona Andrei for the book cover and pictures taken in Sulina, where the book's action takes place.

Alina Cheșcă: Last year, your book - "Charli. Rue Sainte - Catherine 34" - came out at "Integral" Publishing House, following a competition. On the publisher's website, we find the following presentation: "The small group of poems written by poetess Angela Baci in one breath, in several hours, during a few days' trip to Brussels, in "Charlie" boulangerie on Rue Sainte-Catherine 34, contains immediate impressions, flashes, as if the author took dozens of selfies to immortalize herself in a colourful world of shades, of unique expressions on our Romanian lands. It seems that the only safety belts in this age of paradise and catastrophe are: the smell of freshly baked bread, the croissant taste and the image of Grandma Sofia ... as a guarantee that the world is everywhere the same."

Angela Baci: The book was published in bilingual edition (translator: Professor Lidia Vianu) after winning the Poetry Contest entitled "Lidia Vianu Translates" held every year, in May. The contest is organized and sponsored by the Music Society and supported by the Romanian Cultural Institute, the British Council and the Writers' Union in Romania.

Alina Cheșcă: You have had an absolutely impressive evolution in literature. What was the beginning of your writing like?

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Angela Baci: I have mentioned this before, but I love to go back in time and remember those years... I started writing during school time, like any other teenager. I loved poems and compositions. In 1986 I made my debut with a group of poems in "Amphitheatre" Magazine where our dear and late literary critic Radu G. Țeposu wrote about me. I was only 16 years old. Then followed various competitions and festivals, national awards, a literature circle, readings. At the age of 24, I published my first poetry book "Fragments from a Cavatina", "Porto Franco" Publishing-house. So...32 years have passed since my literary debut.... I do not know whether they are many or few. I am just saying that my work can be seen. Since then, many other books of poetry, prose and journalism have come out.

Alina Cheșcă: Which are the most beautiful moments of this beginning?

Angela Baci: There are many, but I especially value those moments when I had the chance to meet great personalities of our literature, to learn from them. And I always remember those who are no longer with us: Radu G. Țeposu, Cezar Ivănescu, Fănuș Neagu, Emil Manu, George Astaloș, Constantin Ciopraga, Dan Alexandru Condeescu, Emil Iordache, Cornel Regman, Mircea Sântimbreanu, Mircea Horia Simionescu, Laurențiu Ulici, Mircea Zăciu and others.

Alina Cheșcă: Could we say that your poetry is autobiographical?

Angela Baci: I think all artists express themselves best talking about themselves, the portrait of the artist in one's youth, or in old age, whether we talk about life and death, love and passion, longing and grief, after all, our experiences and lives reach us from times gone by. But we do not talk only about ourselves, but also about the lives of those around us, about the joy of living, about known and unknown lands, about seas and realms, we can spin a yarn about...so many stories...

Alina Cheșcă: You have some remarkable books of interviews that can be considered a history of Romanian literature in the contemporary period. Can you select several writers who are role models for your career?

Angela Baci: I do not know whether I have ever had role models, but there have been special people in my life that I learned from, people who made everything look easier. As I have previously mentioned those who are in the angels' world, I will now recall those I have recently interviewed: Nora Iuga, Norman Manea, Ana Blandiana, Constantin Abăluță, Liviu Antonesei, Leo Butnaru, Adrian Popescu, Adrian Alui Gheorghe, Lucian Vasiliu, Gellu Dorian, Mihail Gălățanu, George Vulturescu, Angela Furtună, Horia Gârbea and many others. Some of these interviews can be found in the book "About How We Did not Miss a Great Literature" (Junimea Publishing-house, 2015).

Alina Cheșcă: You have a special collaboration with the poetess, prose writer and translator Nora Iuga, with whom you have already written two books.

Angela Baci: Yes, I have had the great chance of being close to her and enjoying a true school of literature. After our conversations and the interviews that I took her in Galați and Brăila, when she came from a tour in Satu Mare and Iași, when we met at various festivals and we traveled by train, in a sleeping car for many hours. This is how the book "4 Days with Nora" was born ("Charmides" Publishing-house, 2015), a book that was released all over the country and had more than 14 chronicles in specialized revues. In this book you can find not only interviews, but also impressions, thoughts, literary portraits - we talk about Virgil Mazilescu, Mariana Marin,

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Turcea... oneiric poets...holidays on the beach of 2 Mai, about family (husband - poet George Almosnino - and son, principal ballet dancer – Tiberiu Almosnino), the period of imposed silence, censorship... but also about translations, fellowships abroad or the love for Rapid...

Alina Cheșcă: Shortly thereafter a new book was born...

Angela Baci: From our "play" with words something fancy was born. Why shouldn't we write on notes the words that come to our mind, the pieces of sentences we hear around us, the news on TV, or even the dreams? This was the birth of an experiment book entitled "More Lovely than Dostoievski" published at Polirom Publishing-house and written together with Mrs. Nora Iuga. Ion Barbu also came into our story as he made the exceptional graphics and the cover. We wish the text in this book could be put on stage, we are now talking about this idea with a director, let's see what will come out of it.

Alina Cheșcă: What are you working on right now?

Angela Baci: For a while I have been preparing a story book written by writers about other writers. I would like it to be a funny, easy-to-read book, but also with a smack of documentary, a formula by which I will try to make the readers know our writers in a different way. And I have started a new poetry book, I do not know what will come out of it...

Alina Cheșcă - Thank you very much!  
(August 2018)