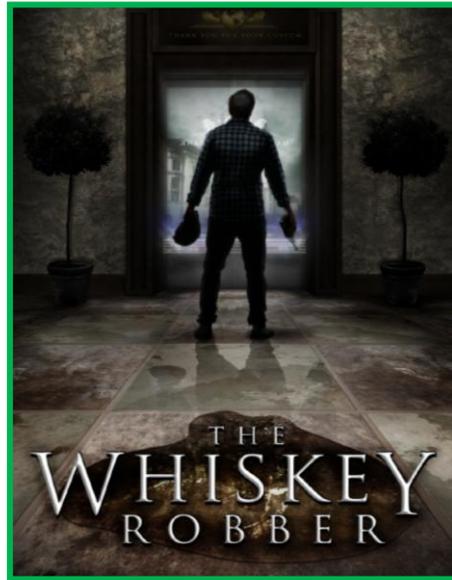
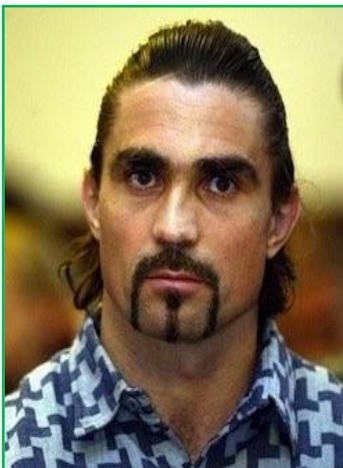


THE WHISKEY ROBBER – BASED ON A TRUE STORY



SET IN HUNGARY IN THE 1990'S



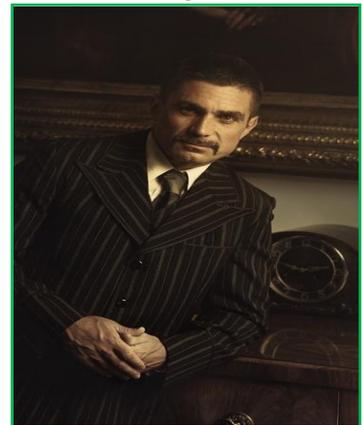
Attila Ambrus, like many Hungarians, found himself trapped in communist Romania before fleeing to Hungary. However once finally making it “home”, he realised that the transition to fast-Westernising Hungary was going to be no easy task and so he sought his fortune through other methods. He became a Hungarian folk hero by masterminding the most outrageous crime spree that Hungary had ever witnessed, which he played out like a serialised satire of the corrupt political and banking systems of blossoming capitalist Hungary. There was a section of the Hungarian public, however, who did not view him as a thief. Indeed given the turbulent state of the country’s political structure and economy at the time, Attila’s reputation was enhanced, if anything, by good media publicity. One editorial in the Hungarian Daily, Magyar Hirlap, for example, suggested that Attila was simply attacking a system that was already corrupt, and that

he was just performing “a peculiar redistribution of wealth, which differed from the elites only in its method”.

At the height of his fame Attila Ambrus was the lead story in both the news and sports sections of the Hungarian press because, at the peak of his criminal activity, and in what can only be described as life being stranger than fiction, Attila became the top goalie for his beloved UTE hockey team. Upon his arrest in 1999, Hungarians were shocked to discover that their hero, UTE’s goalkeeper, was none other than The Whiskey Robber.

ATTILA’S CHARM

Whilst at large for almost seven years, Attila was known for his “charm”. He would often present the female tellers of the institution he was robbing with flowers, and would politely thank them for their assistance, and would even mail wine to the investigators of his crimes. On one occasion he masqueraded as the Head of the Budapest Metropolitan Police Force’s Department tasked with dealing with his crimes. However Attila was not immune to the fear of carrying out the robberies that he so meticulously planned, and was often witnessed having a double shot of whiskey across the street from his next ‘hit’ in order to derive sufficient courage to perform the task ahead of him, and was often reported by his victims as having a strong smell of whiskey on his breath. Attila’s story is an almost ordinary story of the quest for happiness, which ultimately leads to perfect unhappiness and loneliness. This is the story of one man’s daring raids and hilarious adventures during his seven year criminal “career”



THE EXCITEMENT OF THE CHASE



You can imagine the scene. The police clad in bullet proof vests and armed with submachine guns, blockade the main roads leading out of the capital and comb the bus and railway stations. Helicopters circle overhead, searching for their prey. The M1 and M7 motorways are closed to traffic. Car boots are opened and searched. The fast train to Bucharest is boarded by 50 officers under order to open fire if the fugitive sought is armed. Such scenes are familiar in cinema screens, and here we have all the trappings of a great fictional feature film: the cunning criminal, who has escaped the clutches of the forces of law and order, running rings around them; one man defying the

establishment, in spite of the odds being firmly against him, making a mockery of the technical superiority and sheer numbers of his pursuers. Only such a notorious villain could demand such expenditure of effort and of public funds, and cause quite such a stir. This film is going to be naturally eventful and action-packed. The bank robberies are exciting,



as is the investigation, the chase, the catch and the interrogation too. Yet, on a more human level, there is the intrigue of how the personal relationships of the ever more successful bank robber develop, how they fall one by one, and how The Whiskey Robber, by the end of it all, remains perfectly alone. His exciting story also gives a strong insight into some the changes that have occurred in Hungary since the collapse of Communism.