

usa

08.09.2010

EYEWEEKLY.com

Mothers

Dir Milcho Manchevski w/ Ana Stojanovska, Vladimir Jacev. Sep 12, 8:30pm, Lightbox 1; Sep 13, 9:15pm, Scotia 4; Sep 18. 3:15pm, Scotia 3. Special Presentations.

BY CHRIS BILTON September 08, 2010 15:09

Macedonian director Manchevski returns to the three-story structure used in his award-winning debut *Before The Rain* for this frustrating yet nuanced interplay among a narrative triptych. Shifting from a short and spare opening vignette centred on two girls falsifying a report about a flasher, to the emotional tug-of-war between a trio of documentary filmmakers exploring abandoned villages, and then again to a terrifying documentary about journalist-turned-serial killer Vlado Taneski, the film approaches the idea of storytelling (and, in turn, filmmaking) in a way that's both intensely critical and defiantly ambiguous. So engrossing is the middle story – especially the unspoken conflict between Stojanovska and her filmmaking partners – that when Manchevski embarks on the lengthy Taneski doc, one wonders if it is intended as another project by the former characters. An actual documentary contained within a narrative feature about documentarians is a bit of a mindfuck, but Manchevski's deft handling of the various materials is both conceptually challenging and thoroughly satisfying.