Wild Violet Vol. VII Issue 2 - Vernal Urge



Shadows

Directed by Milcho Manchevski, 2007 Cast: Sabina Ajrula, Filareta Atanasova, Salaetin Bilal, Dime Ilijev.

By Rada Djurica

Manchevski is known to the Western audience for his previous films, directing the well-known British actor Joseph Fiennes in Dust and the celebrated native Serbian actor, Rade Sherbedzija, in his debut, Before the Rain.

Young Lazar lives a great life. He is educated, beautiful, and he is called Lucky. Lucky has everything but real happiness, basically because his life is only about meeting the expectations of other people. After a car crash, he starts to see and hear dead people. And after he actually falls for a dead woman, he realizes that he owes something to the tormented souls of the afterlife.

Very skillfully, Manchevski draws from the beautiful, rich folk heritage of the Macedonians, capturing the fantastic natural beauty of Macedonia, even noting the exile of Egey Macedonians, a half century ago, in a very effective and clever way. He springboards off the classic haunted house story, creating a surreal, nightmarish bigbudget picture, and simultaneously makes an impressive attempt to capture the beauty of his homeland. For that reason, this would be a perfect film for tourists, introducing them to Macedonia, its natural beauty and its cultural history.

More details about the film and Milcho Manchevski's work are at his official site.

Belgrade International Film Festival 2008

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