

Before the Rain directed by Milcho Manchevski



This is a film that due to its structure is best to watch twice. It's told in three mini stories, but they are not told in chronological order. Nor, sometimes, are the individual stories themselves a continuous narrative. But I like that about this movie; thinking about how things worked all together after seeing it made me feel intelligent for figuring things out and in the second viewing little details that helped complete the story jumped out at me and I felt even better for having noticed them and placed them correctly in the narrative. Or as least I think I put them in the right spot. This movie makes you think and rearrange things, and I really appreciated it. Manchevski makes you actively watching his movie, removing the passivity that comes over us so often with watching something else.

[Before the Rain](#)'s three parts are each segments of the full story being told, that of a Eastern Orthodox family hunting down a Muslim Albanian girl, but all three viewpoint are not told from the girl's view point nor of those hunting her down. That's not to say they aren't involved; we are given access to the thoughts of the monk hiding her, the photojournalist who after working in Bosnia returns home to Macedonia, and his co-worker that follows him. And you find yourself fully involved in these characters, even as their own personal plots only brush the main circle of violence that is evident in all three parts of the film.

The film is beautifully constructed, and despite the order it is also not very confusing. Plus the acting is wonderful. Especially on the behalf of Gregoire Colin. Colin's character, Kiril, is a monk who has taken a vow of silence, and yet without speaking you get such a great sense of character from him. Not to mention, there is also the beautiful scenery; the film is from Macedonia and was shot there.

But yes, a wonderful movie you won't get tired of.