

Member and guest feedback for *DJ Ahmet*

Wonderful picture of rural life with technology just creeping in. Humane and amusing with great performances from the young actors.

Bonkers, in a fun, happy, refreshing way.

Beautiful coming of age film, filled my heart with joy. The young actors were superb. As for the youngest, his smile was adorable. Great mix of tension, fun and emotional depth. As for the pink sheep ... perfect humour.

Very good, with a great message: "When you have a problem it's important not to be alone." Plus, a bonus, the story was told in under 100 minutes, just!

Wonderful film. I loved everything about it - the actors, music, humour, the gentle way the story of the grieving family was woven and the feeling of release for all at the end was so uplifting.

Another stunner. The wealth of acting talent across the world and particularly amongst the young in the films you show continues to amaze. I also like the way tough issues are addressed unflinchingly yet entertainingly. We long for a happy ending yet truth prevails. The RFS at its consistent best.

A sensitive and surprising film which I really enjoyed. The young man's voyage of discovery both about himself and his growing feelings of love towards the young woman were really well portrayed. Loving someone and taking risks that would lead to their being free was such a kind and generous act on his behalf. The understanding he showed to his young brother about the shared sadness of the loss of their mother, together with the distress their father could not show until the end of the film was a really important element in the story. All-in-all, a great choice.

A charming film that explored big topics but with lightness and humour too. The weight of expectations in a traditional community were shown well, as was the impact of the wife/mother's death and the young people exploring life. Super acting by all and a bittersweet ending.

I'll give it an Excellent, a beautiful film, gentle, timeless love story, with some subtle humour and great acting performances from the young adults. Loved it.

The situations were all too familiar i.e. cute little boy who won't talk (who we all knew would speak in the end), harsh parent who does really care, boy meets girl in a thwarted love situation, country folk vs technology, cute animal (still can't beat the yak though).

A simple story told in a relentlessly boring manner.

Can't believe this film won five awards! At the Sundance Film Festival it won in two different categories! Well, what do I know about films? Thank you for all that you do.

When it started, I didn't engage with this but as the story developed and the characters emerged, I was totally invested in it. The clash of old vs. new culture was striking, the determination of the lead female character to shirk off the expectation she had placed upon her and the poignant healing of Ahmet, his brother and father in coming to terms with their grief and loss were beautifully played by the actors. A quirky film with a fantastic energy, not a happy ending but a hopeful ending for the characters played.

[An absolutely charming film with wonderful touches of understated humour.](#)

Another wonderful film, with a great storyline, incredible actors, beautifully filmed and a happy ending! Well done to the Committee.

[A thoroughly engaging story with some really nice touches of humour. Probably the most uplifting film screened by RFS since Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom a couple of seasons ago.](#)

Loved this film! Thank you for choosing such a delight - at long last! Beautiful cinematography, storytelling and an insight into such a different culture. The little boy was so endearing as was the brothers' relationship. The audience's spontaneous applause at the end said it all!

[Such a heartwarming film.](#)

Old and new worlds collide in this very moving and funny film, beautifully composed both visually and musically and with interesting sound throughout. The film explores personal sacrifice, personified by the central figure of the son and his much younger brother, who's silence 'says it all' and also the women, silenced by an ignorant 'honour bound' male world but happily feminist freedom wins in the end!

[Loved it - the juxtaposition of the inclusive rave culture vs. traditional rural life \(something I have personal experience of in the Middle East\) mixed with comedic elements whilst tinged with sadness and grief. Top film!](#)

Lovely film! Enjoyed the scenery, the insight into the difference between the have and have-nots and the frequent humour. A happy ending also very satisfactory. But where do they find these heart string tugging young child actors? I just wanted to hug the poor mite!

[Joyful and subtle film. Not a new theme - the loss of a wife leaving an aching and hardened father too overwhelmed by grief to see what is happening to his children. But executed beautifully and with great tenderness. I loved the light touches and the contrast of the thumping electronic music with the quiet simplicity of life and nature in a remote village. The many close ups of the faces of the actors were exquisite, much said without saying much. "Please just never make Baklava again!" - brilliant!](#)

A film with all the ingredients to create an engaging, thoughtful and funny film. Not too hard hitting but nonetheless, an in-person experience of life in rural farming communities in North Macedonia facing the draws of modern life on their young people. Tender and believable acting from some young actors.

An original story which blended humour and sadness to provide insight. Beautiful cinematography and well-paced to engage throughout. I loved the film!

Film poignant in reflecting family and class relationships. Interesting to see country terrain.

Excellent by way of its charm and humanity. A touching tale, so well-acted by the three protagonists. At times it was almost a version of magical realism, particularly the music festival scene in the forest. I felt so sad at the end as the young woman sped away in the bus towards a new life, leaving the young man and child to their rural fate.

Brilliant acting.

A heartwarming and beautifully acted film that raised issues of generational change as well as dealing with loss with a rare lightness of touch and subtlety and of course well-placed humour. A wonderful film.

Interesting to learn about life in North Macedonia but this film was not for me. Banal and a bit boring but the return of the pink sheep to its flock during the final credits was sufficient reward for enduring all the dreadful music. Had I realised that D J was not Ahmet's real initials I would have avoided this.

Serious subjects but good to see humour used as part of the drama.

Visually beautiful; we were there on the farm in Macedonia. Delightful in its depiction of the fellowship of two brothers navigating the loss of their beloved, music-loving mother. This film acknowledged some darkness - the sinister and exploitative practices of the 'healer,' the repression of an unwanted, arranged marriage - without tipping into overt depictions of violence which allowed the audience to hope for what eventually, brilliantly transpires. Moments of wonderful humour: the imam's sound system broadcasting Microsoft Windows tones over the fields, a vibrant pink sheep suddenly appearing, a dancing girl spontaneously reappearing on stage and going all out for broke. Ultimately, a gorgeous, culturally rich, life-affirming, sweet and hopeful coming-of-age love story.

Great film, superb acting and perfect presentation of atmosphere and cultural sensitivities of the time and place. Made me want to discover more.

I really enjoyed the film. It was feel good with a combination of humour, sadness and trepidation. I enjoyed the acting, scenery and music. An excellent choice, thank you.

Wonderful story with plenty of lighter moments. Loved the pink sheep!

Excellent film. Very tender. Very funny. Amazing acting from the kind and loving relationship of the two brothers, the mendacious witch doctor, with best supporting actor definitely going to the pink sheep.

It was great!

I thought this film was excellent with hidden depths covering several tropes - loss, bereavement, coming of age, different cultural identities.

A lovely film which had a great deal of humour in it but still managed to convey the hardship and narrow lives of the village. A good choice!

Intense but moving with some moments of light relief. I particularly enjoyed the dance scenes.

Loved the movie and its insight into a corner of Europe that for me is not very well known. Praise the lord for the non-techy Muezzin (afaik the person appointed at the mosque to lead and recite the call to prayer).

Brilliant and beautiful film. Spectacularly touching performances by the two brothers and Ada and also the father of the boys. The young brother was a stand out. Such a simple but redemptive, life affirming and beguiling story with wonderful humour. We loved the pink sheep and the Imam at the mosque whose broadcasts were hilarious. Such a great way for Ahmet to buy time for Ada to leave by using the mosque for his broadcast. It was also interesting to see North Macedonia and the traditional costumes of the women and to understand more of its oppressive culture.

I enjoyed the film and felt that the two boys in it were particularly great actors. Although it had its comedic moments it was a desperately sad representation of a family in grief. It broke my heart that the father was so "closed off" and hard with his sons. Having said that I loved the cinematography and the colourful costumes that the local women and girls wore. I also loved the music!

Although the storylines were a little far-fetched the humour was constant and ever present. I loved the acting, optimistic finish and the filming.

It was refreshing to be laughing at an RFS screening. I loved being transported to remote Northern Macedonia for an hour and a half. DJ Ahmet is a beautiful 'feel-good' movie with impressive performances from the three young leads. The cinematography is breathtaking.

A lovely, gentle film.

Enjoyable film - the scenery and bright costumes made me keen to visit North Macedonia. Though there was a lot of humour in the film, it also highlighted more serious issues. We were left wondering how rural life is going to survive if the young

people hanker after the attractions of modern life in the cities. It was also a very moving portrayal of unspoken grief. I'm glad to have seen this film.

Rather predictable relationship between Ahmet and his father but very touching one between Ahmet and his (beautifully played) young brother. Some excellent comic interludes, particularly surrounding the technological "upgrade" to the calls to prayer from the local minaret. Also enjoyed the crowd reactions to the girls' dance routine. The girls' costumes, worn throughout, were gorgeous.

A lovely, charming film with excellent acting, particularly from the young actors. I really enjoyed the girls' dance routine and the look on some of the older generation's faces as they watched in disbelief. Nice to have applause at the end.

A gem.

A brilliant film which explored many things in a fascinating landscape. It juxtaposed the life of a traditional Muslim community in Macedonia and its values with the technology and emphasis on individual freedom of the modern Western world. Sometimes this resulted in funny episodes - as with the loudspeaker at the Minaret; at other moments it almost resulted in tragedy. The story of Ahmet as a teenager falling in love was beautifully done and the tension between him and his father was sensitively portrayed. We weren't given the conventional happy ending of boy meets girl who, after overcoming challenges, marry - and the film was all the stronger for that. The happy endings of this film were a young woman liberated from an arranged marriage which she didn't want and her leaving home for freedom and a new life; Ahmed's bravery in helping her achieve this, even though it meant he lost her; his mute little brother suddenly talking; and the healing of Ahmed's family so that it was, once again, a loving unit despite the loss of the mother. Let's hope Ahmet eventually made it as a DJ!

Ten out of ten! It's what a film should be all about - ENTERTAINMENT. The Director should get 80% of the praise - it was he who crafted it. The humour in particular was excellent. The actors + photography + everything else were also good. Did the sheep steal the show?

I enjoyed this film from start to finish. A great choice- thank you.

Superb!!

What a touching story - a window on a culture I was unfamiliar with. Loved the exquisitely embroidered coat/dresses. Plus, the nod to "The Graduate" as Aya fled into the future by bus. Plus, the prodigal 19th pink sheep - every flock must have.

A very interesting glimpse of life in rural North Macedonia, with a 'sweet' theme but also showing the somewhat darker side and restrictions of culture, engrained attitudes and habits. A very good choice, thank you!

The film was charming and funny and provided a glimpse into a country and society which is unfamiliar to me. I thought the two young actors were wonderful and gave very natural and believable performances. At the start of the film, I thought that it might be a cliched tale of "star cross'd lovers," but there was more depth to the story and characters than I anticipated. I was also surprised at how comical some of the scenes and dialogue were. The ending was satisfying as the two young characters found their own freedom, albeit not together. A lovely film which I continued to think about several days after the screening.

I found the themes a little confusing in the early stages but once it got into its stride it was a delight.

An interesting coming of age film, with excellent acting from the two lead characters. It also portrayed well the society that these young people have to live in, with the attendant problems. The moments of humour were also welcome. Glad that Ahmet's father saw the error of his ways and that the girl managed to get away in the end!

Very entertaining, quirky yet engaging film.

When giving marks to these films, I wonder if I do so when trying to assess as objectively as possible the film's worth or what overall impact the film had on me on that particular evening. The President's Cake may well have been a "better" film than DJ Ahmet but I liked this one more. Teenage travails, arranged marriages, trying to forge your own path in life, family trauma, this film had everything yet enveloped in a warm humour. The first North Macedonian film I have seen, (I had no idea there was a Turkish minority in the country), this turned out to be an interesting linguistic and ethnic geography lesson. Added to which, following Hindi the Cockerel's star turn in the previous offering, we even had a pink sheep, although I am not sure if it was dyed pink at the rave or is just a (clumsy) metaphor the director used. Postscript: To cut a very long story short, after I had sent in my last review, I met at a function a woman originally from Iraq, who almost became apoplectic when I mentioned I had seen The President's Cake, claiming it was totally fabricated. It turned out her whole family were Baathists and coming from the then higher echelons of Iraqi society, she admitted she knew nothing about the poverty-stricken Marsh Arabs depicted in the film. So not quite that fabricated after all. More saliently, she did say it was a mistake trying to import liberal democracy into such a country, a point I remember one of your reviewers making.

Great film about a culture I knew nothing about, the costumes, scenery and music were wonderful and two main actors were brilliant. Glad it ended with her getting away from a forced marriage but sad she could not be with Ahmet, a shocking insight into the lives of many young women.

Very enjoyable, even if I sometimes hadn't much idea what was going on. The pink sheep and the mixed messages from the minaret were two of the more memorable features.

I enjoyed this charming film. Arif Jackup as Ahmet and Dora Akan Zlatanova as Aya, whom Ahmet worships, give wonderful natural performances but their love story is doomed by their conservative patriarchal society, as her father has arranged a marriage to an older man she cannot stand. Agush Agushev was delightful as Ahmet's younger brother, Naim.