

Ivan Stanev's film debut is the most enchanting, extraordinary Bulgarian film to come about in years. A depiction of a world which is simultaneously set in the present and not quite, *Moon Lake* is a fascinating amalgam of exquisite, dreamlike imagery, stunning young faces, and entrancing poetry.

There are films which are so deliberately strange, that they leave behind a touch of epiphany, rather than the habitual musings about the script, the actors' presence or the predictable ending. Feel warned – *Moon Lake* is a surreal voyage through a moribund world, a beautifully sombre tale told in seven languages, the cornerstone of which is the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. One can see them pass through in the film, as a ravishing young couple wandering about the meadows of Kamen Briag. He has an electric guitar on his shoulder; her locks are blown by the wind. Thereabouts, by the sea shore, another nameless couple – a lookalike of Orpheus and Eurydice (or their contemporary double) is riding on a tandem bike.

Moon Lake does not have a well-defined storyline, logically coherent cues or a straightforward message. It is like an hour-and-a-half long road movie – with dreamy landscapes of the Black sea, melancholy love scenes, and Sebastian Meissner's ambient soundtrack, which fits in excellently. Passing through the film one can also see the bearded brothers Karl and Marx, a welder, dismantling a rust-eaten shipwreck, about fifty or so motley Gypsies celebrating a wedding, a group of students reciting Plato's *The Republic* in ancient Greek, Arabel von Karajan and her band, as well as a professor lecturing on T.S. Eliot's *The Hollow Men*. The latter's verse acquires an astonishing relevance: *This is the way the world ends / This is the way the world ends / This is the way the world ends / Not with a bang but a whimper.*

Nikola Shahpazov
погръдата

An ALTERA DELTA ENTERTAINMENT/STANEV FILMS BERLIN/SOFILM co-production

Principal cast YASNA BOZKOVA (EURYDICE), VASIL CHITANOV (ORPHEUS), GLORIA PETKOVA (GIRL IN LOVE), SIMON TODOROV (BOY IN LOVE)

Director and Screenwriter Ivan Stanev / *Director of Photography* Stefan Ivanov

Editor Remco Schuurbiers / *Music* Sebastian Meissner

Production designers Yovo Panchev, Ralitsa Russeva and Ivaylo Mitev

Producer DONKA ANGELOVA in association with STANEV FILMS BERLIN

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Country Bulgaria, Germany / Duration: 90 min / COLOUR / Languages: Bulgarian, English, French, Russian, Ancient Greek, Esperanto / Subtitles: English / Format: 1.85 : 1 / Sound: Dolby Digital SR 5.1 Filming / Shooting Format: 35 mm/ Region: PAL



MOON LAKE

This is the way the world ends...



MOON LAKE

Written and Directed by IVAN STANEV
Producer DONKA ANGELOVA

...not with a bang but a whimper