

**Avé – Bulgaria, 2011**

**Director: Konstantin Bojanov**  
**Writers: Arnold Barkus, Konstantin Bojanov**  
**Runtime: 86 minutes**



Road movies come in many shapes and sizes and *Avé*, from Bulgarian director Konstantin Bojanov, is a gentle expression of the form. And at the end of the movie, you may even be forgiven for wondering if it was a road movie at all or rather an advanced study in how the young try and make sense of the world.

The film tells the story of Kamen (played by Ovanes Torosian), a young art student based in Sofia who sets out to hitch-hike to a small town in Bulgaria to attend his best friend's funeral. Along the way he encounters a mysterious 17-year old girl named Avé (played by Anjela Nedyalkova) whilst waiting for a ride. This seems like a meeting of kindred spirits, as she is also hitch-hiking and tells Kamen she is visiting her grandmother who is terminally ill. However, Kamen soon comes to realise that Avé has a very "fluid" relationship with the truth and as their journey progresses this becomes even clearer.

Avé is a charming movie – offering some interesting images and experiences of Bulgaria old and new as well as an enjoyable journey of discovery for two young people with very different outlooks and ways of dealing with life.

At times gentle and reflective and other times laugh out loud funny it uses the journey and the impending funeral to develop their relationship and to examine whether the best way to deal with the challenges of life are to be always honest and truthful or whether the truth something to be bent to help you get what you want out of life.

Two interesting points on the film. Firstly, the film clearly has autobiographical elements for Bojanov, who says that he based the character of Kamen on a friend of his and that some of the scenes in the film come directly from the experiences of his and his friend's lives. Secondly, at a Q&A with Bojanov he said that Anjela Nedyalkova, who plays Avé, was originally planned for a much smaller role but didn't turn up for the casting, she then bumped into Bojanov and again failed to turn up for a later casting making a number of implausible excuses. It was then that they decided she was ideal for the lead role!

### **FORTHCOMING FILMS**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February – We need to talk about Kevin

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Sarah's Key

### **SPRING SOCIAL/DISCUSSION EVENING**

Don't forget the Spring social/discussion evening on 7<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm at Moulsham Mill in Chelmsford

### **SPECIAL NOTICE – IN DARKNESS Q&A**

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April we will be screening In Darkness and there will be a special Q&A after the film with Henry Marguiles, the son of two of the survivors depicted in the film. There will be more details on the website soon.

Please note that to accommodate the Q&A we will be starting screening at the earlier time of 7.30pm