

Dear festival programmers,

The film SNAKE is set in rural Macedonia, a place where patriarchal tradition still shapes ideas of proper men and women. Here, everyone who does not fit the norm is regarded with utmost resentment, especially people in the LGBT+ spectrum.

With SNAKE I wanted to explore how children are raised from a very young age to fit perfectly within the norms of this society. As a gay man that was raised in a Macedonian small town, it seemed urgent to reflect on how my earliest understanding of what is right and wrong were created.

As a child I was fascinated with the natural world and found all creatures in it wonderful. I will never forget how my parents tried to teach me that certain animals are simply disgusting - like mice, toads and especially snakes. There was no room for two opinions on this, just like there was no doubt that gay people are inherently atrocious.

As this film is a love letter to my childhood, I shot it in the region where I grew up, with local children that had never acted before. The only professional actors in the film are the adults playing the parents. Inspired by the Polaroid pictures from my childhood I decided to shoot the film in a square 1:1 frame, that felt much more intimate for a film centered on children.

I hope you will enjoy previewing the film and wishfully, find it relevant for your program.

You can find more information about it on its webpage volkashin.com/snake/

Sincerely, Andrey Volkashin

