

# KAYMAK

by Milcho Manchevski

PRESS BOOK TEXT VERSION

Golden Lion winner and Academy Award® nominee Milcho Manchevski returns with another masterpiece - to provoke and surprise.

The Japan Times: “Bawdy satire”

A Good Movie to Watch: “Unique, tragi-comic experience for anyone lucky to see it”

<https://agoodmovietowatch.com/projektor/milcho-manchevski-interview/>

ODG: “Refined, with a presence of a distinct directorial voice... The film also has the courage to be daring.”

<https://www.odgmagazine.com/lamore-per-adulti-kaymak-di-milcho-manchevski/>

\*link in Italian language

SDK: “Piece of art that transcends pure uncontained emotion that touches deep”

<https://sdk.mk/index.php/kultura/tri-od-karti/>

\*link in Macedonian language

Kaymak had a dream start with it’s world premiere at the Tokyo International Film Festival in October, followed by the Golden Horse in Taipei.

Right after that the film had it’s home gala premiere and was greeted by a standing ovation - ahead of a record launch in Macedonia, in 30 cities. Kaymak was the box office hit of the year in all domestic cinemas.

Many more festival selections are already in line for 2023.

## **FESTIVALS TO DATE:**

2022: TOKYO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, JAPAN

2022: TAIPEI GOLDEN HORSE FILM FESTIVAL, TAIWAN

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## Short synopsis

Two couples go down the rabbit hole of unconventional erotic relationships, respectable at the beginning, happy at the end. Underneath its exploration of the eternal search for love, KAYMAK tackles darker social issues – surrogate parenting, infidelity, woman’s role in family and society, human trafficking, sexual freedom...

## Synopsis

Kaymak is an irreverent, unconventional and poignant love story - or, rather, two love stories.

Eva and Metodi are young, rich and successful. He wants to have children, but she fears pregnancy. One day Eva drives to the village her family came from. There she arranges for a relative with intellectual disability to move in with them. She has a plan.

Danche and Caramba live in a crumbling house below Eva’s and Metodi’s luxury high rise. They are late middle-aged and feeling left behind. Every day Caramba comes home with fresh kaymak - soft cream cheese. Danche does not suspect that Caramba has fallen for the cheese monger at the green market until she finds them having sex in her marital bed.

The quiet rebellion of ordinary women and men against roles imposed on them by society makes them heroes of a story where everybody is both a victim and a perpetrator.

Underneath its lighthearted exploration of the eternal search for love and happiness, Kaymak tackles more complex social issues – human trafficking, surrogacy, infidelity and sexual liberation.

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## Milcho Manchevski

Writer|Director

The New York Times included Milcho Manchevski's *Before the Rain* on its list of the best 1,000 films ever made; Rolling Stone magazine included his video for Arrested Development's Tennessee on its list of the best 100 music videos of all time.

He has directed seven features (*Before the Rain*, *Dust*, *Shadows*, *Mothers*, *Bikini Moon*, *Willow* and *Kaymak*), 50 short forms and an episode of *The Wire*, winning over 50 international awards (Golden Lion in Venice, an Academy Award nomination, Independent Spirit, FIPRESCI, Silver Palm in Valencia, *Raindance*, film of the year in several countries, and awards for experimental films, music videos, commercials, etc).

His films are part of the curricula at scores of universities.

In addition to his performance and conceptual art work, he has also published fiction, essays and three books of photographs.

[www.manchevski.com](http://www.manchevski.com)

## Director's Notes

Knowing that every film is a political film, I wanted to tell a love story for grown-ups.

Life is too rich, too full of possibilities, people love in too many different ways for us to accept the hypocritical fairy tale of boy meeting girl, boy losing girl, boy getting girl, then living happily ever after in a missionary position.

Who gets to decide what is right and what is wrong? What is normal?

Is it society, the family, the individual? The "progressive" West or the "primitive" East?

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## Producer's Notes

“Kaymak” is a ‘glocal’ film - a provocative exploration of globally relevant themes through a culturally specific lens. And although the story is told through local specifics, the meaning of the film is universal.

It is poignant and profound, funny and sad - sometimes at the same time. Under the motto “Taboo or Not Taboo”, it is an inspired vessel for an engaged and critical exploration of gender, sex and social conventions.

The script is quintessential Manchevski - humane and humorous, profound yet accessible, moving but twisted. Pure cinema.

Set in contemporary Skopje (the self-proclaimed ‘Capital of Kitsch’ per the New York Times), which is being constantly re-shaped by the ‘urban mafia’ at will and with no planning whatsoever, “Kaymak” speaks to a world of ‘haves and have-nots’ - and hence, with its humor, wit and originality, resonates with audiences globally.

Social norms that perpetrate the gender-related stigma are deeply rooted in contemporary society to the degree that they are taken for granted. How do women (and men) rebel against normalized patriarchy in their everyday life, in their pursuit for happiness? How do they go beyond expectation and judgment?

It is not very often that a work of art explores this aspect of human relationships in a manner as passionate, humorous and direct as “Kaymak”, offering a subtle, humanistic and thought-provoking reflection on gender, sex and being.

More on the film in ‘KAYMAK RISING : The Making of Milcho Manchevski's Kaymak’  
Available @ <https://vimeo.com/manchevski/kaymak-rising>

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## Credits

Dosta	Sara Klimoska
Eva	Kamka Tocinovski
Caramba	Aleksandar Mikic
Danche	Simona Spirovska
Violetka	Ana Stojanovska
Metodi/Kiril	Filip Trajkovikj
Uncle Bogdan	Petar Mircevski
Written and directed by	Milcho Manchevski
Produced by	Jane Kortoshev
Executive producers	Ian Prior Milcho Manchevski
Co-producers	Mette Børch Meta Louise Foldager Sørensen Els Vandevorst Isabella Depeweg Siniša Juričić
Director of photography	Ulrik Boel Bentzen
Production designer	David Munns
Casting by	Milka Anchevska
Costumes designed by	Zaklina Krstevska
Makeup design by	Mario Michisanti
Edited by	Emiel Nuninga
Music composed by	Danish String Quartet
Additional music	Thomas Foguenne Igor Vasilev Novogradska
Sound designer and Re-Recording mixer	Herman Pieëte, CAS

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## **Sara Klimoska**

**as Dosta**

*"I want my own TV. And a baby."*

Gifted Sara Klimoska rose to prominence as one of the three astonishing leads in Milcho Manchevski's acclaimed "Willow". Since then Sara had the lead in the Focus Features' Sundance entry "You Won't Be Alone" by Goran Stolevski.

In 2020, Sara was honored with the Best Film Actress Award in Macedonia and was a European Shooting Star at the 2021 Berlinale.

## **Kamka Tocinovski**

**as Eva**

*"Is there anything more beautiful than a city park on a mountain?"*

Kamka Tocinovski's award-winning work in cinema, television and theatre spans some two decades.

She was highly praised for her powerhouse performance in Manchevski's "Willow" for her "end-of-tether naturalness". Other big screen roles include Nina in Vladimir Blazevski's acclaimed "Punk's Not Dead" which won the East of West Award at Karlovy Vary and the Audience Award in Sofia, Goran Stolevski's "You Won't Be Alone" which premiered at this year's Sundance and the US genre film "Angels Fallen".

## **Filip Trajkovikj**

**as Metodi**

*"Mom doesn't need a shrink. She needs – pardon my French – a dick."*

Filip Trajkovikj has over thirty roles under his belt at Dramski Theater in Skopje. The role of Metodi is his first lead in a film; he has previously appeared in Rajko Grlic's "Border Post" and the tv series "Hardliners" and "The Markovski Family".

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## **Aleksandar Mikic**

**as Caramba**

*"Ta-dam!"*

A legend of stage and screen in his native Macedonia, Aleksandar Mikic boasts a rich and varied career, from Shakespeare to crowd-pleasing comedies, in his home country – and beyond. His film career includes Milcho Manchevski's Venice Golden Lion winner "Before the Rain", the Thessaloniki Audience Award winner "Secret Ingredient" and Mostra de Valencia's Golden Palm winner "The Great Water".

## **Simona Spirovska**

**as Danche**

*"I was alone. He used to make me laugh."*

Spirovska received her master's degree from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Skopje, then joined the Theater for Children and Youth. She is also a member of the Artopia Association and appears in international productions, most notably in Italy, winning several international awards for her stage performances.

"Kaymak" is her breakthrough on the big screen.

## **Ana Stojanovska**

**as Violetka**

*"When my husband came home from the hospital, he said, 'I can't wait to die to stop seeing your face'."*

It would have been a miracle if Ana ended up as anything but an actor – both her parents, older sister and grandfather are prominent actors. In 2009 she was discovered by Milcho Manchevski and landed the lead in his acclaimed film "Mothers".

This led to a few international projects, such as Kristina Nikolova's "Faith Love and Whiskey", Jelena Gavrilovic's "#Just saying" and Rade Sherbedzija's "Liberation of Skopje".

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Original title: Kaymak (Kajmak)

English title: Kaymak

Year of production: 2022

Countries of production: Macedonia, Denmark, Netherlands, Croatia

Running time: 106 min

Screening Format: DCP 2K Color

Sound: 5.1

Aspect ratio: 1.85:1 (flat)

Original language: Macedonian

Subtitles: English

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## Links

Trailer

[http://bit.ly/kaymak\\_trailer](http://bit.ly/kaymak_trailer)

Photos

[http://bit.ly/kaymak\\_photos](http://bit.ly/kaymak_photos)

Scenes from the Film

[http://bit.ly/kaymak\\_scene](http://bit.ly/kaymak_scene)

KAYMAK RISING

The Making of Milcho Manchevski's Kaymak

<https://vimeo.com/manchevski/kaymak-rising>

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## Press

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