

MACONDO

A film by Sudabeh Mortezaei

Austria 2013, 98 min

German and Chechen with English subtitles



'superb performances, authentic context and impressive filmmaking'

Jessica Kiang, *Indiwire*

'Ramasan Minkailov is a natural born actor who has no fear or shame in front of the camera...or else is the exact copy of the character he plays. Either way, the result is utterly convincing, because his unforced facial expression, grave, mischievous or remorseful, and his natural body language are more eloquent than anything written.'

Dan Fainaru, *Screen International*

Eleven-year-old Ramasan has come to Austria from Chechnya with his mother and two younger sisters. They live in the Viennese neighbourhood of Macondo, where numerous refugees and asylum seekers await a better life, under the close control of Austrian authorities. His father was killed in the conflict with the Russians, or at least that's what they believe happened to him. Ramasan tries his best to take his father's place, by looking after his sisters or tucking his mother's stray hair back underneath her headscarf for instance. When he accidentally meets Isa, a friend of Ramasan's father from the old days, Ramasan's life is thrown into disarray as he is both attracted to this new father figure and worried that he will get too close to his mother.

In her first feature-length drama, Sudabeh Mortezaei portrays a Muslim boy caught in the divide between his ideals and the reality that surrounds him. A carefully observed, nuanced film that goes beyond the mere observation of refugees' life to raise more profound issues regarding the notions of tradition, belonging, and guilt.

CAST

Ramasan Minkailov (Ramasan)
Aslan Elbiev (Isa)
Kheda Gazieva (Aminat)
Rosa Minkailova (Rosa)
Iman Nasuhanowa (Iman)
Askhab Umaev (Askhab)
Hamsat Nasuhanow (Deni)
Champascha Sadulajev (Champascha)

CREW

Written and directed by Sudabeh Mortezaei
Cinematographer Klemens Hufnagl
Editor Oliver Neumann
Sound Design Atanas Tcholakov, David Almeida-Ribero
Sound Atanas Tscholakov
Production Design Julia Libiseller
Costumes Carola Pizzini
Casting Eva Roth
Production Manager Sabine Moser
Producers Oliver Neumann, Sabine Moser