

The Other Bank

Salisbury International Arts Festival
Salisbury Arts Centre 1st June 2010

The Other Bank, a film by George Ovashvili, is set in Georgia and Abkhazian. This is an area of Russia I knew very little about, but I now understand much more, having seen the film and listened to a very interesting discussion session afterwards.

The film definitely opens your eyes to what conditions are like there. It tells the story of a 12 year old boy who is a refugee from the civil war and who goes on a long and dangerous journey to find his father. I found the ending really abrupt and quite surprising, as there was a complete change of location which left you wondering about what happened next to the boy.

Patrick Bliss opened up a discussion after the film, which was being shown in the Festival for the first time in the UK. It was interesting to hear from a member of the audience who had lived in the area and who said life there was just as it was portrayed in the film. Although it was not an easy film to watch, I would happily go to see another by this director, or go to see a sequel.

Kevin Follett

as told to Gill Roberts