

Honeyland (Members' Choice)

Directors: Tamara Kotevska, Ljubomir Stefanov

Macedonia, 2019. 89 min. (12A)

With Hatidze and Nazife Muratova, Hussein and Ljutvie Sam



Hatidze and her mother are the last inhabitants of an abandoned village in North Macedonia, where she uses ancient methods to eke out a livelihood from harvesting the honey of wild bees. Their peaceful way of life is disrupted by the arrival of new neighbours.

The directors stumbled upon Hatidze's beehives whilst researching an environmental documentary. They were intrigued by her beekeeping traditions and went on to shoot more than 400 hours of footage over the course of three years, working in rough conditions. Hatidze lived in a small, ramshackle hut with no electricity. Stefanov and Kotevska would visit for a few days at a time and sleep in tents. Their only plan was to wait for compelling shots.

What started as a short nature documentary evolved into a dramatic narrative, connecting an unfamiliar and remote way of life to a worldwide audience through the protagonists' body language, relationships and emotions. The film's Oscar nomination for best international feature is proof, says Kotevska, that fiction and nonfiction work should not be judged separately. "Our understanding of film is that it shouldn't have boundaries. Good storytelling is good storytelling."

Post-screening Q&A with film journalist and video essayist Leigh Singer.

"Shot with the backdrop of the dwindling bee population, looming climate change, and the demands of worldwide consumerism, Honeyland screams with environmental urgency." Casey Cipriani, *Bustle*

The most awarded film of the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. 2 Oscar nominations: the first film ever to compete for Best Documentary and Best International Feature Film.

You can rate the film by a show of 1 - 5 fingers (5 = top) at the door on the way out. A committee member will be noting the scores.

You can also comment on: Twitter @wfc screenings ; the WFC Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WimbledonFilmClub/> ; or by email to info@wimbledonfilmclub.com

Please dispose of these notes yourself or take them with you. Thank you!