

A N T S



If you spend too much time being someone else, who is going to
be you?

LOGLINE

After a homophobic police detective and a trans woman team up to investigate a murder, they dig into their deepest secrets and life regrets.

SYNOPSIS



Zvonko, a former police detective, along with his friends, finds a dead body of a trans woman in a local tavern on his first day of retirement. This is a scandalous case for their traditional and homophobic neighborhood. The chief of the police, who is running for a mayor tries to hide the case in order not to get a bad reputation among the locals. The next day Zvonko sees another trans woman near the tavern and suspects that she's the murderer. Driven by his gay son's suicide that happened many years ago and his hatred for the LGBT people, Zvonko decides to chase this woman. He and his former partner try to track down the suspect. After they find the trans woman Damjana, Zvonko realizes that she's not the killer, but opposite, a close friend of the victim.

Scared of the chief of the police, his partner gives up, but Zvonko teams up with Damjana in order to find the real killer. They struggle with their relationship because Zvonko is homophobic, but for the sake of the investigation they come up with some ground rules. One of them is that he must accept Damjana as a woman! She carries a recorder on which she records ideas for her novel. They visit a local ecstasy dealer to who the victim owed money to. He tells them that she already paid him with the money from her insurance because she had an illegal sex-change surgery. Zvonko and Damjana go to find the surgeon but their car breaks down on their way. In the middle of nowhere they find a camp trailer where a fortune teller lives with her daughter. After she starts talking about Zvonko's past and his dead son, he nervously leaves. Damjana realizes that there's something hidden in Zvonko's past.

Meanwhile Zvonko's friends from the tavern wonder where he is. Mule, his partner is not telling anyone anything, although he knows that Zvonko is trying to solve the scandalous case of the trans woman murder.

When Zvonko and Damjna finally find the surgeon in a small village, he turns out to have dementia and have trouble remembering the victim. However, he reveals that when she visited him, the victim came with another man and had bruises all over her body. In the end, because of his condition, he mistakes Damjana with another patient and tries to amputee her ear, but Zvonko saves her. While Zvonko and Damjana are waiting for the bus, they start playing a game where they come up with ideas for her novel by reading the posters at the bus stop. When Zvonko sees an obituary with a young boy on it his mood suddenly changes. While riding in the bus Damjana opens up to Zvonko and shows him her bruises, too. She explains that there is a gang that constantly beats up people like her. Zvonko suspects that maybe they're the murderers. Damjana asks him about his son, and Zvonko tells her that he's feeling guilty for his son's suicide.

The next day, Zvonko uses Damjana as a bait to track down the gang of bullies. When he finds them, he realizes that they are some of his younger neighbors. When he steps up to help her, they start bullying him too, saying he's also a fag. Zvonko steps back and leaves. Damjana is confused.

He goes back to his neighborhood trying to live his old life and forget about Damjana and the case. But the bullies spread the rumor to all the locals that Zvonko has a trans woman as a friend, so everybody starts avoiding him. When he goes to have a drink at the tavern he realizes that he's not welcomed there either. One of the bullies, who is also at the tavern, mentions Zvonko's dead son as a joke. Zvonko explodes and starts to beat him up. Damjana visits Zvonko and they have a huge fight. He's denies her sexual identity and says that because of her, he's an outcast in his neighborhood. She says that she and the people like her are the real outcasts, but that they will keep struggling like **ants**, working hard to survive.

The next day Zvonko goes to the club where Damjana works as a performer and asks for forgiveness. There is another trans woman, a colleague and mutual friend of Damjana and the victim who tells them that she had an address of a store that is owned by the victim's mysterious boyfriend. Zvonko and Damjana visit the store and realize that the owner of the store is the chief of the police. Turns out that he is secretly gay and had an affair with the victim. But because he was ashamed of his relationship with her he didn't help her while she getting abused by the bullies. That's why he and his girlfriend, the victim, had a huge fight that ended up with him choking her to death.

The police arrest the killer. Zvonko dresses up and takes Damjana to the local tavern. This is a big scandal for that enviornment. The bullies come to the tavern and beat up Zvonko real bad.

Damjana visits her father and asks if she can visit sometimes, but he leaves her without an answer. Zvonko is in a wheel-chair as a result of the beating. Damjana moves in with Zvonko in his dead son's room and publishes a book based on their relationship. The book is called "**ANTS**" and Zvonko and Damjana host a book promotion together.

LEAD CAST

(examples)



ZVONKO

When you hate
someone, you actually
hate who you are.

DAMJANA

You should try to
understand people,
especially if you are
seeking understanding
your whole life.





**ZVONKO'S PARTNER
MULE**

Follow your instincts,
not your superior.

**THE HEAD OF THE POLICE
JOSIF**

You can hide
everything, but not
your soul.



LOCATIONS EXT.

(examples)



LOCATIONS INT.

(examples)

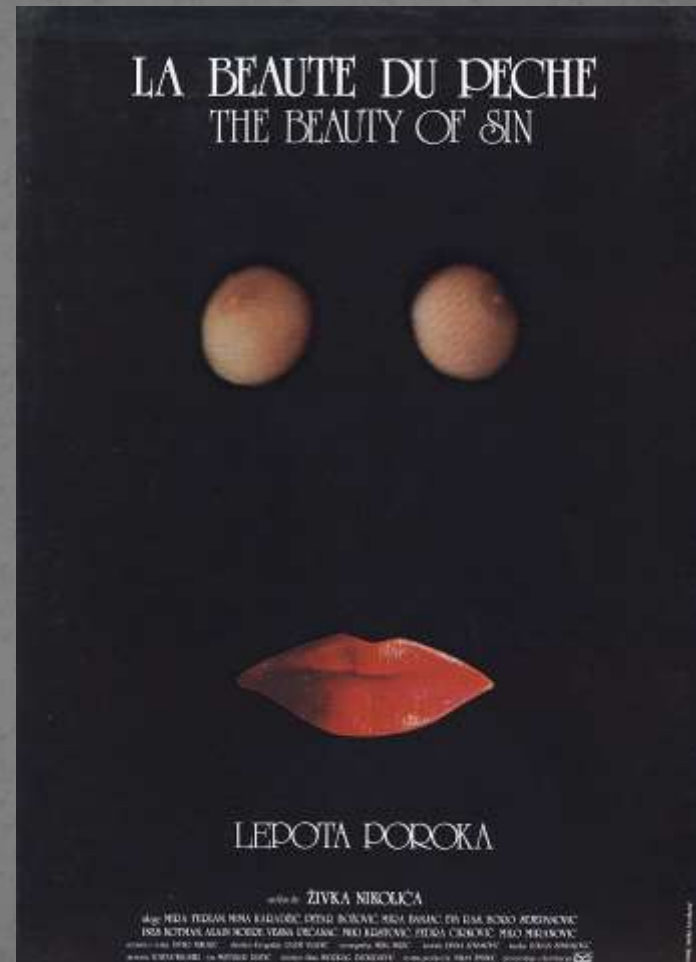


COLOR PALETTES

(examples)



FILM INSPIRATIONS



Writer's Bio



- Nikola Kuzelov is born in Macedonia in 1992. He studied acting at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Skopje and is currently getting his MA in Screenwriting. He has written many short scripts and three feature screenplays. His film "Horse Riders" won two awards for best feature fiction, and his short script "WE ARE ALL PARROTS, EXCEPT THOSE WHO ARE NOT or A LIGHT THAT NEVER GOES OUT" was a semi-finalist at 2019 Hollywood Casting and Film (HCF) Screenplay Competition (Los Angeles) and at Los Angeles FEEDBACK Film & Screenplay Festival 2020. In 2021 he published his first sci-fi novel "Naraka".

Director's Bio



- Marjan Gavrilovski was born on October 9, 1983 in Skopje, Macedonia. After attending film school in Sofia, Bulgaria he directed his first short documentary movie Macedonian Pastorage (2010) followed by five more short titles: Homeless (2010), Life AfterLife (2011), Just An Ordinary Day (2012), Dream It (2013) and Elevation 404 (2021). Horse Riders is his first full length movie released in May 2017. His second feature I love you, I swear is currently in post-production and is expected to be released by the end of 2021. The experimental short Razored Mind had an online premiere in January 2021.

WHY "ANTS"

Creator's note

The point where the deepest human's emotions meet the deepest problems of the society is where "ANTS" is born.

It's not just a story, but a problem and a solution packed in a screenplay that will come to life as an imitation of reality.

Sadly, a very transparent imitation!

It would be nice if this was fiction, but many will recognize today's society in this film.

That's why "ANTS"!

To recognize!

To feel!

To think!

To act!

To change!