

Sorella di clausura

Review by Sofia Racco

Original article: <https://triestefilmfestival.it/tsff-academy/>

What does it actually mean to be a successful and fulfilled woman in a society perpetually in crisis?

Sorella di Clausura by Ivana Mladenović tries to portray different answers to this question by crafting a hilarious and challenging modern tale about our collective twisted vision of success, happiness and loneliness.

Sorella di Clausura tells the story of Stela, a 35-year old Romanian woman obsessed with a Serbian folk singer since she was a child. Her consuming love for the celebrity seems to be the only thing keeping her going in a lonely and extremely precarious life: living in a tiny apartment with her family with no job, Stela spends her days chasing the singer and writing obsessive love e-mails that are never sent and hate comments on the Facebook page of Vera Pop, a peculiar and charismatic character that swings between aspiring pop star and controversial TV personality. The plot pivots around celebrity culture and the way it is used to feed delusions that can fill the social, cultural and economic void created by the same system of which the culture of success and idols is the direct emanation. The parasocial relationships harvested by contemporary celebrity culture become the replacement for authentic human connection and a way to negotiate with complicated and intimate subjects such as love, sex, intimacy.

Sex becomes one of the main themes and aesthetic motif: but rather than being a truly empowering and transformative moment it appears on screen as a capitalist imperative, a product to be sold, a gawky and rather solitary experience where the pressure of a constant performance outweighs the sensual and vulnerable part of exploring sexuality.

Sorella di Clausura is a chaotic and provocative satirical collage of dreams, obsessions and dashed hopes capable of subverting every expectation and stereotype while bravely exploring complex themes such as obsession, desire, ambition and how they can manifest in our socioeconomic reality.