

Mellow Mud

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FILM

“ After the sudden death of her grandmother, Raya (17) and her younger brother are left all alone. In order to stop her brother from being sent to a foster home, they decide to keep the old lady's death a secret. But how long can they keep it up? ”



Synopsis

Loneliness, disillusionment and the experience of first love reveal the character of Raya, a 17-year-old living in rural Latvia with her grandmother and her little brother Robis. A staggering turn of events shakes up their lives, and the young girl must come to decisions that even a grown woman would find difficult to make.

In his strong debut feature, director Renārs Vimba carefully handles the delicate theme of coming-of-age and accepts the challenge of telling the story through the eyes of a young girl.

Credits

Director: Renārs Vimba / **Genre:** Drama / **Original title:** Es esmu šeit / **English title:** Mellow Mud / **Country of production:** Latvia / **Year of production:** 2016 / **Length:** 105 min / **Original language:** Latvian / **Subtitles:** English / **Cast:** Elīna Vaska, Andžejs Jānis Lillientāls, Edgars Samītis, Zane Jančevska, Ruta Birgere, Rēzija Kalniņa / **Scriptwriter:** Renārs Vimba / **Director of photography:** Arnar Thorisson / **Editor:** Georgios Mavropsaridis / **Sound design:** Jonas Maksvytis / **Music:** Ēriks Ešenvalds / **Producers:** Aija Bērziņa & Alise Ģelze / **Production company:** TASSE FILM

Festivals / Awards

Berlinale, Generation 14plus - **Crystal Bear for the Best Film**; Titanic Budapest IFF, Hungary; Cyprus Film Days IFF, Cyprus - **Best Director Award**; Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival, Denmark; Ankara International Film Festival, Turkey; Cinema in Sneakers, Film Festival for Children & Youth, Poland; Festival International du Film - La Rochelle, France; Karlovy Vary IFF, Czech Republic - **Variety Critics' Choice**; Guanajuato International Film Festival, Mexico; Sarajevo FF - Kinoscope, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Giffoni Film Festival, Italy; Der neue Heimat, Freistadt, Austria - **Special mention**; Baltic Debut Film Festival, Russia - **Grand Prix for the Best Film**; IFF "East & West", Odenburg, Russia - **Grand-Prix for the Best Film, Best Actress, Russian Film Critics Prize**; Helsinki IFF - Love & Anarchy, Finland; Silk Road IFF, China; Reykjavik IFF, Iceland; CinEast, Luxembourg - **GRAND PRIX**; Filmfest Osnabrück, Germany - **Audience Award**; National Film Festival LIELAIS KRISTAPS, Latvia - **Best Feature Film, Best Actress, Best Scriptwriter Award**; Nordische Filmtage Lübeck, Germany - **Children and Youth Jury Award**; Noordelijk Film Festival, Holland; Arras Film Festival, France; Filmfest Braunschweig, Germany; Cork Film Festival, Ireland; Bratislava IFF, Slovakia - **Student Award**; Athen IFF, Greece; International Film Festival of India, Goa, India - **Best Actor (Female) Award**; Beginning Film Festival, St. Petersburg, Russia; Olympia Int'l Film Festival for Children and Young People, Greece - **Best Director, Best screenplay, Best young actress in feature film**; Baltic film Days at the Cinemateque, Oslo; Day for Night FF, UK; Palm Springs IFF, USA - **Special Mention (New Voices/New Visions section)**; Tromsø IFF, Norway; Trieste Film Festival, Italy; Bengaluru International Film Festival, India; Festival International du Film d'Aubagne, France - **Best Directing, Best Actress**; Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival, USA; EU Film Festival in L.A., USA; Seattle IFF, USA; PriFest, Kosovo - **Best European Film Award, Media Jury Award**; European Union Film Festival, Singapore; Slemani IFF, Iraq; Cottbus FF, Germany; The European Union Film Festival, Canada; AFI European Union Film Showcase, USA; Ljubljana IFF, Slovenia

More information online: <http://www.plutofilm.de/films/mellow-mud/0016>

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