

Baboussia (2003)

It is increasingly difficult for me to record the post viewing discussions. The taking of notes proved to be biased whoever is doing it and the transcription of the audio recording too tedious and time-consuming.

I have over the years adopted the practice of asking the members to voice their first 'gut reactions' to the film trying not to be influenced by what others have said before them.

As mentioned in the main post I previewed the film with another member of the group and wrote about our unfavourable reactions to it. However an uncomfortable feeling about Tosia's passivity intrigued and disturbed me. I read carefully Brobova's interviews and attribute this to the view of grandmotherhood as a state of acceptance and self-sacrifice.

J.G. first comment that the director was confused reflects, I think, a confusing mixture of themes tackled, a mixture that gave rise to the other responses that were very varied.

S.T. who had visited the Soviet Union in the 60s found the film profoundly depressing because of the contrast between ideals of her youth and Russia today.

R.G. thought that the story could have taken place anywhere in the world.

J. L. found deep personal resonances with her childhood and the grandmother who had 8 children. Found that the film dragged a bit.

S. W. also found resonances with her childhood and her Russian grandmother.

M.G. who is reading about Russia and had not known either grandmothers found the film fascinating as a document about Russia today.

A.R. experienced the family tensions about the taking charge of the old woman. She also recounted that she had to accompany her other grandmother who suffered from Parkinson disease on a long journey by plane to be looked after by her youngest daughter. She identified with the young modern woman.