



Fjord Review: Stan and Reinsve Star in Culture War Drama

Description

Cristian Mungiu's film "Fjord" explores the complexities of intolerance in Norway, a country often regarded as one of the happiest in the world. The story follows Mihai Gheorghiu, a Romanian software engineer, who relocates his family from Bucharest to Stranda after the death of his parents.

Mihai and his wife Lisbet, who grew up in the area, hope to raise their five children in a serene environment. However, their strict parenting methods clash with the liberal values of their new neighbours. Despite their efforts to fit in, the couple faces challenges. Schoolmaster Markus looks at Mihai's parenting, particularly his disciplinary tactics, with disapproval.

Tension escalates when the Norwegian Child Welfare Service intervenes due to concerns over minor bruises on their eldest daughter. Authorities take all five children into custody while they investigate. This move prompts a strong emotional response, as it feels like an unjust action against the family. The scene depicting the government taking the children away is both shocking and heart-wrenching.

As the story unfolds, Mihai is forced to engage with his conservative beliefs amid a society that prides itself on freedom and acceptance. The film, while examining cultural clashes, raises important questions about parenting, accountability, and community values. The Gheorghius face harsh realities as they seek to navigate their new life, highlighting the struggles of assimilation in a foreign land. "Fjord" premiered at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival and is set for theatrical release later this year.

Vocabulary List:

1. **intolerance** //ɪn'tælərəns// (noun): not accepting people or ideas different from you
2. **relocates** //ri:'ləʊkeɪts// (verb): moves to live in a different place
3. **liberal** //'lɪbərəl// (adjective): open to new ideas and change
4. **disciplinary** //'dɪsəplɪ,nəri// (adjective): used to punish or control a person's behavior
5. **custody** //'kʌstədi// (noun): official care and control of a person
6. **assimilation** //ə,sɪmə'leɪʃən// (noun): becoming part of a new culture or society

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What is the primary theme of Cristian Mungiu's film 'Fjord'?
 - Option: Intolerance
 - Option: Happiness
 - Option: Parenting
 - Option: Freedom
2. Where does Mihai Gheorghiu relocate his family after his parents' death?
 - Option: Oslo
 - Option: Stranda
 - Option: Bucharest
 - Option: Bergen
3. How many children do Mihai and Lisbet have?
 - Option: Three
 - Option: Four
 - Option: Five
 - Option: Six
4. What does schoolmaster Markus disapprove of?
 - Option: Mihai's job
 - Option: Lisbet's cooking
 - Option: Mihai's parenting tactics
 - Option: The family's new home
5. What organization intervenes due to concerns about Mihai's eldest daughter?
 - Option: Norwegian Police
 - Option: Norwegian Child Welfare Service
 - Option: Social Services
 - Option: Community Organization
6. In what year did 'Fjord' premiere at the Cannes Film Festival?
 - Option: 2024
 - Option: 2025
 - Option: 2026
 - Option: 2027



True-False

7. Mihai Gheorghiu is originally from Norway.
8. The story portrays Mihai and Lisbet as very liberal parents.
9. The film 'Fjord' is based on a true story.
10. All five of Mihai and Lisbet's children are taken into custody by authorities.
11. Mihai is portrayed as someone who embraces Norwegian cultural values without conflict.
12. The film was set for theatrical release after its premiere at Cannes.

Gap-Fill

13. Mihai Gheorghiu is a Romanian _____ engineer.
14. Mihai and Lisbet hope to raise their children in a _____ environment.
15. The authorities took all five of their children into _____ while they investigated.
16. The film raises important questions about parenting, accountability, and _____ values.
17. 'Fjord' explores the complexities of _____ in Norway.
18. The scene depicting the government taking the children away is both shocking and _____ heart-wrenching.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Intolerance 2. Stranda 3. Five 4. Mihai's parenting tactics 5. Norwegian Child Welfare Service 6. 2026

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. software 14. serene 15. custody 16. community 17. intolerance 18. heart-wrenching

CATEGORY



1. Entertainment - LEVEL4

POST TAG

1. culture war drama
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. fjord review
5. Level 4
6. Renate Reinsve
7. Sebastian Stan

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Author

aimeeyoung99

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