



**BORDERLINES
FILM FESTIVAL**

NORWEGIAN DREAM (15)

Director: Leiv Igor Devold

Starring: Hubert Milkowski, Karl Bekele Steinland, Edyta Torhan, Øyvind Brandtzæg

Norway/Poland/Germany, 2023, 1 hour 37 minutes, English/Norwegian/Polish + English subtitles

Hubert Milkowski shines as Robert, a closeted 19-year-old Polish immigrant working at a Norwegian fish processing factory. Robert's escape from a homophobic attack in Poland lands him in the middle of a factory worker's strike. While grappling with his own sexuality and the subtle homophobia of his colleagues, he falls for Ivar, the factory owner's openly gay son. Robert's dilemma deepens as he must choose between love or his family's financial security. –

Queer Screen

Throughout, director Leiv Igor Devold keeps both his actors and the stunning, chilly Norwegian landscapes around them under tight control. Devold and cinematographer Patryk Kin blend the raw beauty of a Scandi noir with the intimate, small-scale intensity of *God's Own Country* — a film with which *Norwegian Dream* shares more than a passing resemblance. The end result is a film that feels very familiar, but also wonderfully fresh at the same time. –

Metro Weekly

Director Leiv Igor Devold lets the dilemma rest with his actors and favours an even-handed natural approach. Milkowski carries the film with a compelling introspective performance. He leans into Robert's necessity to keep a low profile. Robert is observant and introspective, and one sees how he studies Ivar's moves, yearning to be free. Steinland, meanwhile, makes Ivar a confident and carefree presence. – **That Shelf**

Preview courtesy of Signature Entertainment

Notes compiled by Holly Dennison

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