

BEN X

By Ani-Eva Fisher

Ben X is a little confusing but at the same time very touching. Dutch filmmaker Nic Balthazar gives parents an opportunity to look into what their kids see in virtual games on today's Internet sites, and kids to think about the part the Internet plays in their lives.

Ben gets bullied a lot because of his Asperger syndrome, and he uses the online game *Archlord* as a way to escape.

Balthazar shows how high school is one of the hardest things in life to get through, and that having Aspergers doesn't make it any easier. We are able to see from this film why teenagers can sometimes think there is only one way out! The film is a love story, too, sending the message that others may not think the way you do, and may not live the way you do, but we are all still human.

Ben X will definitely bring a tear to your eye, and for some it might even bring a sense of déjà vu. Don't be scared to shed that tear; it will be hard not to.