

Title: Disappointed Teenagers: Suicide and Trickery in Ernest Iasan's Youth Films
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In many youth films in the 1970s and early 1980s, the young protagonists' disappointment with the school system and the rules of the adult world may be interpreted as the overall attitudes in Soviet society during the Brezhnev era. In my paper, I argue that the teenage characters in Ernest Iasan's youth films—*Please, Blame My Death on Klava K.* (*V moei smerti proshu vinit' Klavu K.*, 1979) and *Passion and Anger Will Come* (*Pridut strasti-mordasti*, 1981)—are disillusioned as a result of experiencing ineffective interactions with adults and observing their parents' inability to understand and to help their children. As represented in these films, the teenagers may react differently to injustices and disappointments of the current order. The two films offer two different scenarios, which come from this disappointment: suicidal thoughts in *Please, Blame* and an active mocking and playing with the representatives of the authority in *Passion and Anger*. Thus, through various Aesopian strategies, such as allegories, ellipses, allusions, wordplay, and circumlocutions, Iasan links his young protagonists' behavior to the possible scenarios for Soviet people's behavior during the Brezhnev administration.

In my paper, I argue that, in *Please, Blame*, the young protagonist's suicidal intentions, which eventually become public, implicitly hints at the overall pessimistic moods and the increased suicide rate in the Soviet society at the time of Brezhnev's government. I also rely on Mark Lipovetskii's, Aleksandr Prokhorov's, and Marina Balina's ideas regarding the importance of the trope of trickery in the Brezhnev culture. The allegory of trickster may help to understand better a specific cultural and ideological situation in the late-Soviet period, when some cynical attitudes were allowed to be displayed as long as they were directed toward a specific set of problems in the society, and not toward the system in general.