

NORA EL KOUSSOUR ILIAS ADDAB

OFFICIAL SELECTION

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TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2016



Layla M.

a film by
MIJKE DE JONG

BETA CINEMA PRESENTS A TOPKAPI FILMS PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH NTR MENUET CHROMOSOM SCHIWAGO A MIJKE DE JONG FILM WRITTEN BY JAN ELANDER **LAYLA M.**
NORA EL KOUSSOUR ILIAS ADDAB MOHAMMED AZAAY ESMA ABOUZHARA HASSAN AKKOUCH NEZHA KARIM AYISHA SIDDIQI HUSAM CHHADAT
CASTING REBECCA VAN UNEN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DANNY ELSSEN SBC PRODUCTION DESIGN JORIEEN SONT EDITOR DORITH VINKEN NCE COSTUME DESIGN JACQUELINE STEJLEN MAKE UP & HAIR TRUDY BUREN
PRODUCTION SOUND JOOST ROSKAM SOUND DESIGN MARK GLYNNE COMPOSER CAN ERDOGAN FIRST AD ANNE VAN DONGEN LINE PRODUCERS JET CHRISTIAANSE CHANTAL NISSEN RULA NASSER
CO-PRODUCERS MARINA BLOK DIRK IMPENS ALEXANDER WADOUH MARCOS KANTIS PRODUCERS FRANS VAN GESTEL ARNOLD HESLENFELD LAURETTE SCHILLINGS

TOPKAPI ntr: [MENE] CHROMOSOM SEHIWAGO FILM MACANARUM FILM FONDS CO-PRODUCTION SCENTIVE COBO VAF FILM SCREEN FLAARER Belfius AMARAFKA ONT M IEN EUNYFACES GEFINANCIEERD DOOR DE NEDERLANDSE OVERHEID EN DE NEDERLANDSE FILM PRODUCTIE INCENTIVE medienboard FFA

THIS FILM IS SUPPORTED BY THE NETHERLANDS FILM FUND & THE NETHERLANDS FILM PRODUCTION INCENTIVE. DEVELOPED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME - MEDIA OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

Director Mijke de Jong
DoP Danny Elsen
Cast Nora el Koussour
Ilias Addab
Genre Psychological Drama
Language Dutch, Arabic & Moroccan
Length 98 min
Produced by Topkapi Films in co-production with
Menuet, Chromosom Film, Schiwago
Film and NTR



LAYLA M.

SYNOPSIS

Layla is an 18-year old girl, born and raised in Amsterdam. Layla is smart, witty and stubborn – and of Moroccan background. In the times of constant terrorist threat, she struggles with the increasing suspicion towards girls with headscarves and boys with beards that she witnesses every day. While her frustration grows, her faith intensifies. She joins a group of radical Muslims who fight for their practise of Islam. Layla posts films online depicting the horrors in Syria and Gaza and makes political flyers. And she flirts with the charismatic Abdel.

When her peaceful brother and she are arrested by the police, Layla, feeling hurt and isolated in her anger, is left with only one option: to leave home. She chooses marriage, with Abdel. After their wedding, Layla and Abdel roam the country together, perform 'missionary work', and raise money for the good cause. But then they get involved in a shootout between a group of young jihadists and the Belgian police, they have to flee, to the Middle East. Layla encounters a world that nurtures her ideas initially, but finally confronts her with an impossible choice.

THE DIRECTOR

For almost twenty years, the films by Mijke de Jong show great social involvement, from her first feature film *Love Hurts* (1992; Toronto International Film Festival – Special Jury Award Locarno) to *Layla M.*

De Jong's international breakthrough came with *Bluebird* for which she won a number of awards, e.g. the Crystal Bear at the 2005 Berlinale. *Bluebird* was followed by *Stages* (Special Mention Locarno) and *Katia's Sister* (2008; official Berlinale, Toronto and Locarno selections).

Award winning feature film *Joy* (2010) was shown around the world and got the Best Feature Film Award in The Netherlands. Feature film *Frailer* (2014) premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. Last year she worked together with the theatre collective Wunderbaum on the film *Stop Acting Now*, which had its premiere during the 2016 edition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam. *Layla M.* will be de Jong's 9th feature film.

