



FIDELITE FILMS PRESENTS

LEILA BEKHTI BENJAMIN SIKSOU CÉCILE CASSEL

LEILA

DIRECTED BY
AUDREY ESTROUGO

FRANCE • 1H27 • 35MM • SCOPE • 5.1 DOLBY SR SRD DTS • COLOUR

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SYNOPSIS

Gab, a young slacker from a wealthy Parisian family, falls passionately for Leila, a beautiful French Arab law student deeply engaged in the struggle of illegal immigrants. Their love grows, despite all opposition from a society that will do everything in its power to keep them apart...

CAST

Leila Bekhti	<i>Leila</i>
Benjamin Siksou	<i>Gabriel</i>
Cécile Cassel	<i>Alexandra</i>
Marie-Sohna Condé	<i>Tina</i>
Chantal Lauby	<i>Valérie</i>
Nicolas Briçon	<i>Brice</i>
Djanis Bouzyani	<i>Momo</i>
Martine Gomis	<i>Kaina</i>
Emir Seghir	<i>Agib</i>
Renaud Astegiani	<i>Angelo</i>
Selim Clayssen	<i>Souleiman</i>
Math Samba	<i>Fidèle</i>
Gladys Gambie	<i>Glawdys</i>
Abel Jafri	<i>Abdellatif</i>
Cheïna Correa Lafaure	<i>Sally</i>
Zohra Benali	<i>Zhora</i>

CREW

Director	Audrey Estrougo
Screenplay	Audrey Estrougo & Juliette Sales
In collaboration with	Aline Méhouel
DP	Guillaume Schiffman - AFC
Editor	Sophie Reine
Sound	Cyril Moisson
Mix	Emmanuel Croset
Costume Designer	Emmanuelle Youchnovski
Art Director	Bertrand Seitz – A.D.L
Choreographer	Gladys Gambie
1st Assistant Director	Thomas Trefouel
Casting	Marion Toutou
Continuity	Céline Breuil
Line Producer	Sina Frifra
Stills Photographer	Jean-Marie Leroy
Original Music	Baptiste Charvet
Production Manager	Samuel Amar
Executive Producer	Christine de Jekel
Producers	Olivier Delbosc Marc Missonnier
Coproduced by	Wild Bunch Mars Films France 2 Cinéma
With the participation of	Orange cinéma séries
In partnership with	Cinémage 4
With the support of	I'ANGO-AGICOA
International Sales	Wild Bunch

DIRECTOR'S INTENTION NOTE

Musical: *Theatre genre mixing comedy, singing and dancing, accompanied by live music.*

I have analysed this definition for a long time, from my perspective as a young film maker, committed to a quasi-naive doctrine where cinema can only exist when it is fed by real life. I've often told myself that this notion of pure entertainment that is a musical could only take me away from my convictions. But no one ever told me that an author couldn't both entertain and convey a message, so I just went for it...

Musical according to A. Estrougo: *Cinema genre where comedy, dance and music are mixed to create a charged, hard-hitting and absolutely contemporary picture of our society.*

My story will be first and foremost political, but not just political. The storylines of musicals are built on a classic dramatic framework: the love story. From WEST SIDE STORY to MOULIN ROUGE, musicals have been rooted in passionate and impossible love stories. That's certainly the case here when Gab, a child of privileged Parisian society, meets Leila, a beautiful girl from the rough 18th arrondissement. Their conflicting worlds will collide and confront each other, the better to accept each other in the end. My story's second inspiration comes from political commitment – around this whirlpool of love, the terrible reality of illegal immigration and deportation rises. There is also the question of social injustice and exclusion.

I do not deny that I consider cinema to be a serious and useful medium, much more than just entertainment, and I regard this film as a tool for reflection and assessment of a situation.

The story's main concern is the future, and it brings together a galaxy of characters that bear witness to our world today. Younger and older characters revolve around Gab and Leila: Africans, Arabs, Parisian bourgeois... a real portrait of a multicultural and multiracial Paris.

The Music.

It seems to me that the music, the film's heart, must both carry and sublimate the story's ambitions. I chose covers of French standards. It allowed me both to reach a far greater number of people by appealing to their collective unconscious, and to expand the 'second degree' aspect of the film. I was free to make multiple allusions, to take risks when using certain 'sacred' lyrics that might be old-fashioned and uncool to some. We have covers of songs by Khaled, Françoise Hardy, M, Claude François, Joe Dassin, Nino Ferrer, Jacques Brel, Michel Berger...

What better tool to illustrate France than a well-protected heritage in desperate need of rejuvenation?

The arrangements are faithful to the tone of the film: urban pop, with African and Eastern undertones and a splash of elegance.

I want this film to make the audience dream as well as think, sing as well as dance. To startle as well as dazzle. All in all, a true work of cinema.

- Audrey Estrougo

FILMOGRAPHIES

AUDREY ESTROUGO

NAYAN (work in progress) - Screenplay

REGARDE-MOI - Director & Screenplay

IAM, ENCORE UN PRINTEMPS (Documentary for Canal+) - Screenplay

LEILA BEKHTI

2009	TOUT CE QUI BRILLE	Géraldine NAKACHE & Hervé MIMRAN
	LE COSE CHE RESTANO	Gianluca Maria TAVARELLI
2008	A PROPHET	Jacques AUDIARD
	MESRINE, PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER 1	<i>Cannes Film Festival - Grand Jury Prize</i> Jean-François RICHET <i>César - Best Director & Best Actor</i>
2007	DES POUPÉES ET DES ANGES	Nora HAMDI
2006	PARIS JE T'AIME	Gurinder CHADAH
2005	SHEITAN	Kim CHAPIRON
	BAD FAITH	Roschdy ZEM

BENJAMIN SIKSOU

2009	À BICYCLETTE (short)	Jean DOUCHET (<i>starring Claude Chabrol, Xavier Beauvois, Jean Douchet</i>)
2007	DADDY COOL	François DESAGNAT & Thomas SORRIAUX
2007	LARGO WINCH	Jérôme SALLE

CÉCILE CASSEL

2008	BARBAROSSA	Renzo MARTINELLI
	EX	Fausto BRIZZI
	YOU'LL MISS ME	Amanda STHERS
	NUIT BLEUE	Ange LECCIA
2007	MY LAST FIVE GIRLFRIENDS	Julian KEMP
	THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE	Rémi BEZANÇON
2006	LES AMOURS D'ASTRÉE ET DE CÉLADON	Eric ROHMER
2005	O JERUSALEM	Elie CHOURAQUI
2004	FOON	Les Quiches
	MA VIE EN L'AIR	Rémi BEZANÇON
2003	NARCO	Tristan AUROUE & Gilles LELLOUCHE
	HEAD IN THE CLOUDS	John DUGAN
	EVERYBODY IS A KILLER	Dominique DERUDDERE
2002	WITHOUT HER	Anna DE PALMA
2001	LA BANDE DU DRUGSTORE	François ARMANET
2000	ALIVE	Sandrine RAY

SOUNDTRACK

POUR UN FLIRT AVEC TOI

Performed by Benjamin Siksou
Lyrics by Michel Delpech
Music by Roland Vincent
© Warner Chappell Music France – 1971
(p) 2010 Fidélité Films

LE TEMPS DE L'AMOUR

Performed by Leila Bekhti - Marie-Sohna Condé
- Chantal Lauby
Lyrics by Lucien Morisse-André Salvat
Music by Jacques Dutronc
© Editions Musicales ALPHA
(p) 2010 Fidélité Films

TOUT LE MONDE

Performed by Gladys Gambie
(Zazie / arr. : P. Jaconelli - C. Voisin)
© Larsen Sarl
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LA BONNE ÉTOILE

Performed by Leila Bekhti - Benjamin Siksou
(Matthieu Chedid/ Jérôme Goldet)
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Jérôme Goldet
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ET SI TU N'EXISTAIS PAS

Performed by Leila Bekhti - Benjamin Siksou
- Cécile Cassel
Lyrics by V. Pallavicini
Music by T. Cutugno and P. Losito
French adaptation by P. Delanoë
© Edizioni Curci Srl / Asso Edizioni
(p) 2010 Fidélité Films

UN AUTRE MONDE

Performed by Marie-Sohna Condé - Sandra Nkaké
(J. L. Aubert / J. L. Aubert – L. Bertignac
– R. Kolinka – C. Marienneau)
© Editions Téléphone Musique
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J'ATTENDRAI

Performed by Cécile Cassel
(Holland/Dozier/Holland/Konyn)
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SAUVER L'AMOUR

Performed by Emir Seghir
Lyrics and Music by Daniel Balavoine
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(Catalogue: Les Editions Musicales Bicycle) 1985
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QUAND ON N'A QUE L'AMOUR

Performed by Leila Bekhti - Benjamin Siksou
Martine Gomis - Gladys Gambie - Selim Clayssen
(J. Brel)
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Jacques Brel
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