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
Benjamin Sikou
Cécile Cassel
Marie-Sohna Condé
Chantal Lauby
Nicolas Briaçon
Djani Bouzyani
Martine Gomis
Emir Seghir
Renaud Astegiani
Selim Clayssen
Math Samba
Gladybs Gambie
Abel Jafri
Cheïna Correa Lafaure
Zohra Benali
Leila
Gabriel
Alexandra
Tina
Valérie
Brice
Momo
Kaïna
Agib
Angelo
Souleiman
Fidèle
Glawdys
Abdellatif
Sally
Zhora

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
Gladybs 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
Cinéma Image 4
With the support of
I'ANGO A-AGIC OA
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-naïve 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
LE COSE CHE RESTANO
Géalidine NAKACHE & Hervé MIMRAN
2008 A PROPHET
MESRINE, PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER 1
Gianluca Maria TAVARELLI
Jacques AUDIARD
Cannes Film Festival - Grand Jury Prize
Jean-François RICHET
César - Best Director & Best Actor
2007 DES POUPÉES ET DES ANGES
Nora HAMDI
2006 PARIS JE T’AIME
Gurinder CHADAH
2005 SHEITAN
Kim CHAPIRON
2005 BAD FAITH
Roschdy ZEM

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

CÉCILE CASSEL
2008 BARBAROSSA
EX
YOU’LL MISS ME
NUIT BLEUE
Renzo MARTINELLI
Fausto BRIZZI
Amanda STHERS
Ange LECCIA
2007 MY LAST FIVE GIRLFRIENDS
THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE
Julian KEMP
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
HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
EVERYBODY IS A KILLER
Tristan AUROUE & Gilles LELLOUCHE
John DUGAN
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 Sikou
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 Salvet
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 Sikou
(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 Sikou
- Cécile Cassel
Lyrics by V. Pallavicini
Music by T. Cutugno and P. Losito
French adaptation by P. Delanoe
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UN AUTRE MONDE
Performed by Marie-Sohna Condé - Sandra Nkaké
(J. L. Aubert / J. L. Aubert – L. Bertignac
- R. Kolinka – C. Martineau)
© Editions Téléphone Musique
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(Fabrice Guion-Firmin, Bruno Lopes,
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J’ATTENDRAI
Performed by Cécile Cassel
(Holland/Dozier/Holland/Konyyn)
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SAUVER L’AMOUR
Performed by Emir Seghir
Lyrics and Music by Daniel Balavoine
© Warner Chappell Music France and
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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 Sikou
Martine Gomis - Gladys Gambie - Selim Clayssen
(J. Brel)
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