

THE POETESS

A film by Stefanie Brockhaus and Andreas Wolff

World Premiere:

Locarno Festival 2017 (Semaine de la Critique)

Screenings:

Tuesday 8 | 8 | 2017 · 11:00 · Teatro Kursaal · Sub. English

Wednesday 9 | 8 | 2017 · 18:30 · L'altra Sala · Sub. English



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This is the story of a Saudi woman who grabs the opportunity to speak against religious extremism and stands up for a peaceful Islam. This is Hissa's story.

SYNOPSIS

The Saudi poetess Hissa Hilal made headlines around the world as the first woman to ever make it to the finals of "Million's Poet", an Abu-Dhabi based Million Dollar reality television show. It is the Arab world's biggest poetry competition, and it is dominated by men. In her poems Hissa criticizes the patriarchal Arab society and she attacks one of the most notorious Saudi clerics for his extremist fatwas, live, in front of 75 million viewers.

Hissa Hilal is the voice from behind the veil: Her word is her weapon. We'll never see Hissa's face. Like the majority of Saudi women, Hissa is covered from head to toe. She is not allowed to drive a car. She doesn't own a passport. And she requires consent from her husband for any sort of activity. But then, coming out of nowhere, Hissa is suddenly breaking news in the biggest Western and Arab media. How did she gain the knowledge and the courage to step on stage and risk her life?

CREDITS

Directed by: Stefanie Brockhaus
Andreas Wolff

Produced by: Andreas Wolff
Commissioning Editors: Claudia Tronnier, ZDF/Das Kleine Fernsehspiel
Lucas Schmidt, ZDF/Das Kleine Fernsehspiel
Kathrin Brinkmann, ZDF/ARTE

Cinematography: Tobias Tempel
Stefanie Brockhaus

Film Editing: Hansjörg Weissbrich
Anja Pohl

Music: Sebastian Zenke

Sound Design: Christoph von Schönburg

Re-Recording Mixer: Michael Hinreiner

Associate Producer: Amr Alkahtani

Faculty Advisor HFF: Prof. Heiner Stadler

Sales: CAT&Docs

TECHNICAL DATA

Screening Format: DCP/25p/16:9

Shooting Format: HD (Multiple Cameras)