

DEFECTIVE CAT

A reverse love story.

A film by
Susan Gordanshekan

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or even first

feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

Technical Information

Working Title: Defective Cat
Director: Susan Gordanshekan
Screenplay by: Susan Gordanshekan & Gregor Koppenburg
Nationality: German / Iranian
Genre: Drama
Length: 90 min. approx.
Shooting Location: Iran / Germany

Director's Biography

Susan Gordanshekan (born in 1978) is a German filmmaker of Iranian origins. She first studied Communication Design in Germany and France. After working for a North German TV Station and a film production company in Berlin, she decided to study film at the University of Television and Film in Munich. Over the years, she has made several documentaries and two short fiction films. Notably, her documentary **Garçons manqués** and the short fiction **Eisblumen** were screened at numerous films festivals worldwide. **Eisblumen** premiered at 61st Berlinale in the Section *Perspektive Deutsches Kino*.

Eisblumen, 30 min., 2011
Garçons manqués, 34 min., 2008
Tarof 15 min., 2005
Can you see music? 52 min., 2003

SYNOPSIS

Mina's family has introduced her to several potential husbands in Iran. She has rejected them all until she meets Karim, a surgeon who has travelled from Germany in search of a wife. It's not love at first sight but the appeal of life in Europe that makes her consent.

In his mid-thirties, Karim, a successful Iranian immigrant, is desperate for a wife to make his life appear complete. He eagerly takes his 19-year-old bride home, but marriage to a virtual stranger is more difficult than either imagined. Mina finds herself completely isolated in a foreign country with a husband who is always away at work.

To ease her loneliness, Mina brings home a cat and befriends two German couples whose marriages, while different, run parallel to her own. Karim, on the other hand, finds his life turned upside down and he does not know if it's because of his much younger wife or the cat that is wreaking havoc on his orderly life.

“Defective Cat” is a love story in reverse. Two virtual strangers thrown together into a marriage must overcome many differences and obstacles in the hope of finding love.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

I was born and raised in Germany to Iranian parents and have always lived with the duality of these two cultures. In traditional Iranian culture, a woman is introduced to potential husbands by her family. A set of meetings are arranged for the young “couple” to converse and decide if they would like to marry.

Having grown up in the west, where the idea of arranged marriages is shunned, I was surprised to realize that these marriages are no more or less happy than marriages in the west, no more or less likely to succeed or fail. They only happen in reverse.

“Defective Cat” places the oriental marriage in an occidental context as a way to highlight their similarities as opposed to their differences. Each has the right to exist as individuals pursue their attempts to find and understand love on their own terms.

SYNOPSIS

La famille de Mina l'a présentée à plusieurs maris potentiels en Iran. Elle les a tous rejetés jusqu'à ce qu'elle rencontre Karim, un chirurgien qui arrive d'Allemagne pour trouver une épouse. Ce n'est pas le coup de foudre, mais l'idée de vivre en Europe la fait accepter.

La trentaine, Karim, immigrant iranien qui a réussi professionnellement, cherche désespérément une femme qui pourrait le combler. Il retourne impatient chez lui accompagné de sa nouvelle épouse de 19 ans, mais le mariage à un étranger virtuel est plus difficile que l'on peut imaginer. Mina se retrouve complètement isolée dans un pays qu'elle ne connaît pas, avec un mari toujours absent pour son travail.

Pour soulager sa solitude, Mina ramène à la maison un chat et se lie d'amitié avec deux couples allemands dont les mariages, bien que différents, sont comparables à sa situation. Karim, d'un autre côté trouve sa vie chamboulée, et il ne sait pas si c'est sa femme beaucoup plus jeune ou le chat qui bouleverse sa vie ordonnée.

« Defective Cat » est une histoire d'amour à l'envers. Deux inconnus virtuels jetés ensemble dans un mariage doivent surmonter de nombreux obstacles et leurs différences dans l'espoir de trouver l'amour.

NOTE D'INTENTION

Je suis née et j'ai grandi en Allemagne. De parents iraniens, j'ai toujours vécu avec la dualité de ces deux cultures. Dans la culture traditionnelle iranienne une femme est présentée aux maris potentiels par sa famille. Une série de rendez-vous est organisée pour le jeune *couple* afin qu'il parle et décide s'il souhaite se marier.

Ayant grandi à l'ouest, où l'idée des mariages arrangés est boudée, j'ai été surprise de constater que ces mariages ne sont ni plus ni moins heureux que les mariages à l'ouest, avec autant de chances de réussir ou d'échouer. Ils ne se réalisent que dans le sens inverse.

« Defective Cat » place le mariage oriental dans un contexte occidental comme un moyen de mettre en évidence leurs similitudes plutôt que leurs différences. Chacun a le droit d'exister en tant qu'individu pour trouver et comprendre l'amour à ses propres conditions.