

ma mère

a film by Géraldine Zosso



Géraldine Zosso

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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.

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Technical Information

Working Title: ma mère
Director: Géraldine Zosso
Screenplay by: Géraldine Zosso
Nationality: Swiss
Genre: Drama
Format: Digital
Length: 90 min.
Shooting Location: Armenia, Switzerland

Production Company: Tipi'mages Productions, Geneva

Director's Biography and Filmography

Géraldine Zosso was born in Geneva, Switzerland. She grows up in a time and place where migration is a major reason for political and social debates. Driven by her own experiences and those of her friends, she becomes interested in the fate of people trying to establish a new life far away from home, in a new and different culture – perhaps even facing a hostile environment. She begins as a photographer, documenting the everyday lives of people around the world, before studying cinema at the ZHdK in Zurich – continuing to explore the power of the visual image.

Main previous work:

mak, 18 min, 2010

Special Prize of the Jury, Premier Plans, Angers, France

Best European Short Movie, Short Film Festival, Lyon-Villeurbanne, France

Nominated for the Swiss Film Award, Switzerland



synopsis

Courant dans le vent avec son cerf-volant, Loussine zigzague entre les moutons. Elle a 7 ans et vit depuis toujours avec ses grands-parents dans une petite ferme en Arménie. Arrachée à son doux monde de l'enfance, elle est amenée illégalement auprès de sa mère dans un nouveau pays, la Suisse. Bien que mère et fille, aucun lien affectif les lient. Cachée, invisible, seule, Loussine apprivoise le monde de sa mère, en enregistrant ses sons inhabituels, en en détournant les objets. Elle découvre sa mère, une femme qui lutte pour poursuivre son rêve professionnel quitte à renier son statut de mère. Mais Loussine construit son monde intérieur avec ses rêves, ses peurs et sa magie et fera basculer involontairement le cours de l'histoire, la couleur des sentiments.

synopsis

As she runs with her kite in the wind, Loussine dodges sheep. She is 7 years old and still lives with her grandparents on a small farm in Armenia. The gentle living of childhood is stripped away when she is smuggled to her mother's side in a new country, Switzerland. Although mother and daughter, there is no emotional attachment between them. Hidden, invisible and alone, Loussine learns to tame her mother's world by recording its strange noises and transforming its objects. She slowly becomes familiar with her mother, a woman who fights to follow her dream profession even if it means having to turn her back on being a mother. Loussine, however, is creating her own life internally, made of dreams, fears and magic; quite accidentally, this life will disrupt the flow of history, the flow of love.

note d'intention

Je suis une pionnière. La première de ma lignée à pouvoir articuler un choix, décider de ma profession, être à la poursuite de mon propre bonheur. Tournant la tête vers mes aïeules, je perçois encore leurs désirs inassouvis, leurs joies, leurs sacrifices. La maternité était leur seul rôle. Je ressens envers elles la responsabilité de faire un pas en avant, de m'émanciper.

C'est par les yeux de l'enfance, ceux de sa fille Loussine, que je raconterai l'histoire de cette mère, arménienne souvent maladroite qui tente à la force de ses mains, de ses doutes et de ses luttes de s'inscrire dans la société suisse, mon pays. Cette femme saura nous toucher par sa volonté et son authenticité. Car il n'y pas de mani-

director's note

I'm a pioneer. The first of my line able to make choices, decide my profession, pursue personal happiness. When I look to my older female relatives, I perceive their unfulfilled desires, their joys and the sacrifices they made. Motherhood was their only role. I feel a responsibility towards them to take a step forwards, to emancipate myself.

It's through the eyes of childhood, through those of the young girl Loussine, that I will tell the tale of a mother, Armenian, often awkward who, by the strength of her hands and with her doubts and through her struggles, tries to assimilate into Swiss society, the country I come from. This woman will touch us by her willingness and her authenticity; for there will be no

pulation, pas de chantage, pas de marché, elle aime et elle veut vivre tout simplement. Les circonstances extérieures dont la précarité liée à son statut de sans papier, la poussent à faire un choix. Mais son prix est douloureux : oublier le passé, renier son statut de mère pour poursuivre son rêve. Loussine la petite fille dans son univers magique de l'enfance sera plus libre, plus forte pour combattre ce monde et retrouver l'amour de sa mère.

manipulation, no blackmail and no deal: she is a woman who loves and who simply wants to live. External circumstances including the vulnerability of living without valid documentation force her to make a choice. But the price of that choice is pain: she must renounce the past and give up her status of mother if she is to follow her dream. Loussine, in the magic world of childhood, will be freer and stronger to take on the world and get back her mother's love.