

AGAT FILM presents

He's my Girl

A FILM BY
JEAN-JACQUES ZILBERMANN



SYNOPSIS AND DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Château Rouge Metro station is like Africa in the center of Paris.

From the moment you step out of the Metro into the whirlwind of colorful flowing robes, you're plunged into the heart of Africa with its street traders hawking vegetables and exotic fruit, sunglasses and black-market cigarettes.

A modern apartment block rises up incongruously from this overpopulated neighborhood. On a balcony, we find Simon Eskénazy, 10 years after «Man is a Woman».

Soloist and virtuoso clarinetist, he is unable to finish his record.

His mother is sick and seems prepared to do anything to persuade Simon to take her into his apartment that is clearly too big and too empty for one man.

But she's not the only one. His ex-wife Rosalie and their 10-year-old son have suddenly reappeared in Simon's life. There are his musicians and his agent, the insistent Arlette Grossman who wants to force him to work. There is his current lover Raphaël with whom he dreams of conducting a great love affair.

But most importantly, there is the amazing Naïm, a young Arab who becomes Rose by night, a waitress at the "Paradise" cabaret. Naïm is both fragile and violent, loving, funny, proud, arrogant and provocative...

Simon pushes him away. Naïm doesn't fit with his world; he's scary and elusive, arousing but dangerous. They are worlds apart.

This film is a love story, a swirling comedy in which Simon will have to let go of all his preconceived ideas, his conventions and his fears.

This is a love story which at first glance seems impossible. Naïm is an Arab,



Simon an Ashkenazi Jew. Naïm is both deeply Muslim and someone who, in a heartbeat, can transform himself into a femme fatale; the artist of his own life, inventing all kinds of different characters. Meanwhile, Simon is still looking for himself, when his own desire takes him by surprise. He never thought he'd fall madly in love with such an extravagant, wise, crazy man/woman.

About a year ago I began looking for an actor capable of handling the role of Naïm, and I chose him from over 300 candidates for the role.

This story has nothing to do with the stories of "transvestites" we've previously seen on the screen. The humor doesn't come from the caricature of a man who dresses up as a woman, but from the emotion and from the twists and turns of a man who disguises himself because he's seeking his own truth, and is never happy with any of them, never ceasing to search.

I chose Mehdi Dehbi, who finishes his last year at the Conservatoire National this year, for the grace and emotion he conveys.

"Naïm has no surname?" Mehdi asked me during one session.

No, just like Molière's Scapin or Harlequin from the Italian Commedia dell'Arte, those servant actors who, lightly, airily and with such comedy, pull all the strings of the plot...

JEAN-JACQUES ZILBERMANN

CAST & CREW:

A film by Jean-Jacques Zilbermann

Produced by Nicolas Blanc & Dominique Barneaud - Agat Films

Cast: Antoine de Caunes, Elsa Zylberstein, Mehdi Dehbi





INTERNATIONAL SALES:



88 rue de la Folie Méricourt, 75011 Paris France

Tel. 33 1 53 53 52 56 Fax. 33 1 53 53 06 70

Camille Neel Mob. 33 6 84 37 37 03 Mail. c.neel@bacfilms.fr

Gilles Sousa Mob. 33 6 77 24 85 26 Mail. g.sousa@bacfilms.fr