

IF YOU ARE A HAMMER, STRIKE.

“Grabs you with its suspense and punk rock energy”

DARREN ARONOFSKY

TRAITORS

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SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION PRESENTS A KASBAH FILMS / WHITE LIGHT WHITE HEAT PRODUCTION TRAITORS
CHAIMAE BEN ACHA SOUFFIA ISSAMI MOURADE ZEGUENDI DRISS ROUKHE MUSIC BY NATHAN LARSON EDITED BY SABINE HOFFMAN
DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY BENOIT PEVERELLI & NIKO TAVERNISE PRODUCED BY KARIM DEBBAGH SEAN GULLETTE AUDREY ROSENBERG
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY SEAN GULLETTE

TRAITORS: SYNOPSIS



Malika is the leader of the all-female punk rock band Traitors, with a strong vision of the world, her hometown of Tangier, and her place in it.

But when the job gets complicated, the challenge will put Malika's rebel ethos to the test, and to survive will demand all her instincts and nerve.

When she needs money to save her family from being evicted, and to realize her dreams for the band, Malika agrees to a fast cash proposition: a smuggling run over the mountains for a dangerous drug dealer.



TRAITORS: DIRECTORS STATEMENT

The night we screened the 2010 short film version of TRAITORS for the cast and crew saw the largest political protest in Tangier since 1956. The actors snuck out of their parents' homes, and made their way to the Cinematheque de Tanger through a city where the breaking glass, burning cars, and confrontations with authority in the streets echoed across the region. For better or for worse, young people across the Arab world had woken up from the region's post-colonial hangover, pissed-off.

Tangier is many things — a legendary crossroads of civilizations, “the City of the Dream” which seduced artists for

centuries, and a waiting room for clandestine immigration to Europe. The region is also a hub for billions of euros a year of narcotics: the Rif Mountains are one of the world's main sources of hashish. Far more grave: since the Shengen treaty and 9/11 tightened Europe's borders, hard drugs from abroad have entered the Moroccans' expert smuggling pipelines, with predictable consequences. The character of Amal in TRAITORS is based on a true story.


Malika seems closer to a superhero; but many adolescents are superheroes. Certain young people have the power to change their destiny and their



environment. They act strongly, confident that their intentions are pure, and their power can be transcendental, smart and ruthless. It's no coincidence that music, politics, and the edges of crime are central to the experience of youth on fire: all three can expand our powers in miraculous ways. Adults may regard that fire with condescending smiles. But when young people like Malika confront the

established logic of the 'adult' world, their actions — sometimes heroic, sometimes tragic — can rewrite many stories, not just their own.

Sean Gullette, Tangier, August 2013

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt. Her eyes are closed or looking down, and her expression is somber. The lighting is dim, creating a moody atmosphere. The background is blurred, showing some vertical light streaks.

**“If you are a nail,
endure the knocking.
If you are a hammer,
strike.”** Moroccan proverb

TRAITORS: CAST



CHAIMAE BEN ACHA

Malika

Chaimae Ben Acha's first film role was Sean Gullette's 2010 short TRAITORS. Before shooting the 2013 feature TRAITORS, Ben Acha played the title role in Abdesslam Kesai's MALAK, for which she was named best actress at the Tangier National Film festival, and the Festival of African Cinema at Khouribga.

"I like my work very much, because it allows me to take on roles different from my own personality, which is rather calm and serious. I invest myself in character research, physical and mental preparation, textual work, and private rehearsal. With every role I feel that I am transformed as an actress and I am keen to continue this evolution."



SOUFIA ISSAMI

Amal

Soufia Issami won international attention in the lead role of Leila Kilani's 2011 fiction film ON THE EDGE (SUR LA PLANCHE) which premiered in Cannes at that year's Director's Fortnight, and went on to international release, awards including best actress at the Brussels Film Festival and critical praise. Soufia's performance in TRAITORS built on her life adventures and her five years with the regional theater troupe Chourrok.

"I found my life in this profession. Now that I have started to know the cinema, I want to study it, give my life to it. I want to make characters that are meaningful to people like me." SOUFIA



NADIA NIAZA

Rokia (Malika's Mother)

Nadia Niazi is well-loved by Moroccan audiences for films including SATAN'S ANGELS, THE LOVERS OF THE RIF, and THE END and her television roles.



DRISS ROUKHE

Haj

Driss Roukhe has appeared in more than 15 movies, including SYRIANA, BABEL, THE GREEN ZONE, RENDITION and BLACK GOLD. He is also an active presence in contemporary Moroccan theater.



MOURADE ZEGUENDI

Samir

Mourade Zeguendi is a Belgian actor best known for his roles in TAXI 4, THE BARONS, JCVD and GO FAST.



Everybody in this country is waiting.



I'm tired of waiting.



TRAITORS: CREW

SEAN GULLETTE

Writer-Director

Sean Gullette is a writer, actor, and filmmaker. After making films with Darren Aronofsky at Harvard, he played the lead role, and shared story credit, in the latter's debut feature Pi. Gullette has since acted in two dozen films including Requiem for a Dream and Brad Anderson's Happy Accidents. Gullette's screenplays for independent and studio productions have included the adaptation of Nobel-prize winning Japanese author Kenzaburo Oe's novel Nip the Buds, Shoot the Kids.

In 2010, Gullette's 30-minute film Traitors debuted at the New York Film Festival. Sean's next project will be "Tangier", a thriller with Kristin Scott-Thomas and Jeremy Irons, produced with Aronofsky's Protozoa Pictures. Gullette's 212 Society is a US non-profit which fundraises to support cultural and educational projects in Morocco, including the Cinematheque de Tanger, founded by his wife, the artist Yto Barrada.

KARIM DEBBAGH

Producer

Karim Debbagh is an award winning Moroccan film producer, with some 27 films to his credit. In 1997 he went to

Germany to study Film Production at the Film Academy Baden-Wuerttemberg. He received his degree in 2002, and worked for a few years as Line producer and Unit production manager in Germany, he returned to his hometown Tangier in 2003. There he founded his Production company Kasbah-films tangier GmbH, which has produced and coproduced many international films including Kronos, Shadow Line, and The Two Lives of Daniel Shore.

AUDREY ROSENBERG

Producer

Audrey is an Emmy-nominated Executive Producer, along with Steven Soderbergh, on the HBO documentary HIS WAY, about legendary Hollywood producer Jerry Weintraub. She is an Executive Producer on the Emmy-winning HBO documentary BY THE PEOPLE: THE ELECTION OF BARACK OBAMA with Edward Norton's Class 5 Films. Audrey was part of the producing team on Douglas McGrath's Truman Capote film INFAMOUS (Killer Films/Warner Independent), starring Sandra Bullock, Daniel Craig, Toby Jones, and Sigourney Weaver. She founded 2 theater companies in NYC: The Art Party with Alan Cumming, producing a sold out run of Genet's ELLE at The Zipper



Theater, featuring Alan Cumming, Stephen Spinella, and Anson Mount; and The Fire Dept Theatre Company with such talent as Janeane Garofalo, Josh Lucas, Kathleen Chalfant, and David Strathairn. Audrey has an exciting slate of upcoming features and documentaries with such collaborators as James Franco, Douglas McGrath, Rachel Weisz, Killer Films and Protozoa Pictures.

SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

Filmmaking Grant

Sharjah Art Foundation supports the flourishing arts environment in the Gulf by nurturing artistic opportunities and actively pursuing both a regional and international programme of cultural collaboration and exchange.

Since Sharjah Biennial 6 in 2003, the programme has been led by Foundation President Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, a practicing artist who received her BFA from the Slade, and an MA in Curating

Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art, London.

BENOIT PEVERELLI

Cinematographer

Benoit is a photographer, well-known for the images he creates for prestigious magazines, ad agencies and brands. He has also shot a half-dozen motion picture projects, including HOTEL YUGOSLAVIA and TRAITORS.

NIKO TAVERNISE

Cinematographer

Niko started taking photos during his years on the road touring with rock bands. Years later, he has shot stills and in-depth 'making-of' films documenting the creation of nine auteur motion pictures including THE WRESTLER, BLACK SWAN, THE MESSENGER, MOONRISE KINGDOM and most recently NOAH.

TRAITORS: CREW

SABINE HOFFMAN

Editor

Film Editor Sabine Hoffman A.C.E. has extensively collaborated with Rebecca Miller (Personal Velocity, The Ballad of Jack and Rose, and The Private Lives of Pippa Lee). She edited Morgan J. Freeman's Desert Blue and Hurricane Streets as well as The Day the Ponies Come Back and Harlem Aria. Other credits include the multi-award winning Brother to Brother, Saving Face, Off the Black and The Dry Land. She recently completed Cherien Dabis' May in the Summer and

Sean Gullette's Traitors and is currently editing The Last Five Years, directed by Richard LaGravenese. Hoffman has served as a consultant and story advisor and also edited numerous documentary films, including Academy Award® nominated FerryTales, as well as The Party Is Over and The Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela. Ms. Hoffman serves as adjunct professor at Columbia University and is a mentor at Reelworks, a filmmaking program for at-risk teenagers.



TRAITORS: MUSIC

NATHAN LARSON

Composer

Nathan is an American guitarist, singer, songwriter, and author widely known for his numerous film score compositions. He is married to Nina Persson, the lead singer of the Swedish pop group, The Cardigans. In May 2011, Larson's debut novel entitled The Dewey Decimal System was published by Akashic Books. The second book in the series was published summer 2012, and is entitled The Nervous System. Larson is formerly the lead guitarist for the 1990s band, Shudder to Think, as well as the original bassist for the hardcore punk band, Swiz.

Larson is also a composer of music for films and has contributed to over 25 movie scores to date, including The Messenger (2009); Dirty Pretty Things (2002), Boys Don't Cry (1999), Lilja 4-ever (2002), A Love Song for Bobby Long (2004), Emanuel and the Truth about Fishes (2013), and Margin Call (2011), as well as Todd Solondz Storytelling (2001) and Palindromes (2004).

MOBDYICK

Moroccan rap artist Mobydick contributed his hit "Titiza et moi," to TRAITORS.

SAVAGES

"The all-female four-piece have been a band for less than two years (their debut gig was January 2012), but they have built their reputation as a must-see band after a series of hauntingly dark performances which drew comparisons to Nick Cave, the Slits and Joy Division." TIME MAGAZINE

TALK NORMAL

Brooklyn-based no-no wave duo Talk Normal are earning an international reputation for minimalist noise-pop based on their tours with Sonic Youth, Thurston Moore, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Lydia Lunch.

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Info

TRAITORS

2013, 86 mins
Morocco / USA
Arabic / French
16:9



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WHITE LIGHT WHITE HEAT

