

**PROFANE**  
**Written and Directed by Usama Alshaibi**  
**Starring Manal Kara, Molly Plunk, Dejan Mircea**  
**Producer Kristie Alshaibi**  
**Music by Hasan Samad**  
**An Artvamp Production (2011; HD video; color; 78:00)**

Profane is a feature length motion picture about a young Muslim Pro Domme in the midst of a spiritual crisis.

**AWARDS**

Best Film of the Year for 2011, Badlit.com

Best Experimental Film, Minneapolis Underground Film Festival

Best of Fest Feature, Boston Underground Film Festival

Best Director, Best Feature, Best Cinematography, Sexy International Film Festival

**PRESS**

*"This is one of the most heretical and daring visions of sexuality ever filmed, transgressive in a way comparable to how Last Tango in Paris was 40 years ago and Shortbus five years ago. Iraqi-American filmmaker Usama Alshaibi probes the psyche and milieu of Muna, a Muslim dominatrix for whom extreme kink and piety are blended seamlessly into her life. Manal Kara gives what is simply one of the most courageous and sexually penetrating performances ever filmed. It's on a par with the sexual breakthrough performances of the iconic films of Nagisa Oshima (In the Realm of the Senses, Taboo). Moreover, erotic guilt-driven fantasies of the American soldier comprise an added fascinating layer to this magnificent work. Arguably the best movie ever to be set in Chicago." - Lavender Magazine*

*"Like a bargain-basement version of Gaspar Noé's Enter the Void, this Chicago-shot feature by Usama Alshaibi (Nice Bombs) uses a panoply of shock tactics—rapid editing, blurry superimpositions, drug use, and S-M—to evoke nauseous fascination with the sexual underworld. And like Noé, Alshaibi seems as curious about religious transcendence as degradation. The heroine, a Jordanian immigrant, works contentedly as a dominatrix but wants to reconnect with her Muslim roots; scenes of her lurid career alternate with a sweet subplot in which she befriends a religiously devout Middle Eastern cabdriver. Though certainly not for the squeamish, the movie is a striking story of life in the Arab diaspora, aided rather than undermined by its occasional narrative incoherence." - Chicago Reader*

*"A deeply felt journey into psychosexual horror" -Time Out Boston*

*"Profane is an extraordinary visionary work from an accomplished filmmaker who is clearly now at the top of his game." -BadLit.com*

*"Torn between ecstasy and submission, Muna takes an unorthodox path to enlightenment, one that Profane dramatizes with documentary methods and psychedelic imagery... Alshaibi demonstrates that true reverence sometimes requires transgression." -The Boston Phoenix*

## **SCREENINGS**

Fetisch Film Festival (Germany) October 29, 2011  
Porn Film Festival Berlin (Germany) October 26-30, 2011  
Lausanne Underground Film & Music Festival (Switzerland) October 18 to 23, 2011  
Brisbane Underground Film Festival (Australia) October 14 , 2011  
New Filmmakersat Anthology Film Archive (New York) October 12, 2011  
Sydney Underground Film Festival (Australia) September 9, 2011  
B Movie and Trash Film Festival (Netherlands) September 7, 2011  
Chicago Underground Film Festival, (USA) June 3 & 8 2011  
Boston Underground Film Festival (USA) March 2011  
Directors Lounge in Berlin (Germany) February 13, 2011  
Sexy International Film Festival, Melbourne (Australia) November 24, 2010

## **DESCRIPTION**

*Profane* is a feature length motion picture about a young Muslim Pro Domme in the midst of a spiritual crisis. It explores the idea of submission from a religious, psychological and sexual perspective. It is also a horror film about possession by a jinn. Jinn are the Islamic equivalent of demons. According to the Quran, Allah (God) created humans from clay, angels from light and jinn from smokeless fire. They are equally good and evil, and it is said that each of us has one of our own. *Profane* is an inverted exorcism. The main character, Muna, has lost her jinn and is trying to bring it back into herself in order to feel whole again. She also struggles to understand the culture and religion from which she has been alienated. In the meantime, she journeys through a maze of indulgence, excess, and altered reality to find that her true self has been whispering to her all along.

## **CONTACT**

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