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**“Profane**

*In some parts of the world, you probably could be beheaded for possessing a copy of “Profane,” let alone watching it in mixed company. That’s because writer/director Usama Alshaibi uses the Koran as a tipping point in his drama about a Jordanian-born dominatrix, Muna, who’s struggling to find a way to bridge the sacred and profane elements of her life. When she isn’t whipping the backsides of hooded johns in the high-rise apartment buildings lining Chicago’s Lake Shore Drive, Muna studies the Koran and prays according to Muslim law. Even though she believes that she’s being targeted by Djinnns hoping to steal her soul, Muna (Manal Kara) isn’t about to quit a job she enjoys or stop ingesting drugs and alcohol. What she wants more than anything is to find someone to help her read the Koran and understand where it should be taking her. To this end, Muna befriends a devout Chicago cabbie, Ali (Dejan Mircea), who believes he can save her, even knowing how she makes her living. Ali is far from a fundamentalist, so it’s easy to understand his embarrassment and anger when Muna and her lover, Mary (Molly Plunk), insult an imam with their nakedness. Muna’s is one story among millions of others about Muslims attempting to find a niche in communities where they’re distinctly in the minority. She knows all too well how her decidedly liberal approach to sexuality would be received if she were to return home. If the Koran offers guidance on how a woman most people would consider to be promiscuous could square her sex drive with her religion, she hasn’t found it. “Profane” doesn’t offer any answers, either. It only makes sense to think the Djinnns will find a way to use her appetite for drugs and dangerous sex to knock her off the tightrope she’s been straddling since arriving in the U.S. The DVD adds deleted scenes and brief interviews. – Gary Dretzka*