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PROFANE A Muslim Dominatrix

AMOS ♦ JULY 9, 2012 ♦ LEAVE YOUR COMMENT



"Profane"

A Muslim Dominatrix

Amos Lassen

"Profane" is a look at a young, female Muslim sex worker, Muna (Manal Kara). When we meet Muna she is suffering through a crisis of spiritual identity. She has ignored her identity and her culture to work first as a prostitute and then as a dominatrix. Now she is lost and really wants to reconnect with her past but she has also conditioned herself to ignore who she really is. We do not understand her and her motivations and that is what makes us try to get close to her. We want her to find out who she is even when she faces obstacles.

Kara gives quite a performance. We see her as vague and complex and even though she says that she gains power from her job in the skin trade, she seems to have a blasé attitude toward it and thinks that the only reason she does it is to make money. We see her at work as she humiliates her clients yet she is not aware that she is exploiting those who come to her and her own self-exploitation. Because of her work, she is distanced from real human interaction. She has a boyfriend but she humiliates him when he tries to get close and she makes fun of his desire and need to emotionally connect to her. She tells him that he is only there for sex.

She does have one "friend", a co-worker, Mary who says what she thinks. She is the kind of woman that Muna really wants to be and that is why she spends time with her. In actuality, Mary is her antagonist and she drives Muna into acts of sadism.

Then there is Ali (Dejan Mircea), a Muslim cab driver that both women use as a personal chauffeur. He finds himself drawn to Muna because he sees someone who

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needs help. Muna eventually asks Ali for help in her quest and he is glad to help her. He is genuine and asks nothing of her and he does not judge her.

This is a film of conflicts that director Usama Alshaibi weaves together and we get a very intense film that is both a horror film and a part psycho-sexual drama as well as a spiritual journey. This is a brave film that will most certainly help establish the director as a major force in modern cinema. His greatest accomplishment here is how he got first-time actress (and real-life atheist) Manal Kara, who plays "Muna", to create such a realistic portrayal. The other two leads, Molly Plunk ("Mary") and Dejan Mircea ("Ali"), are also rookie thespians and very good in their roles. The dialogue so believable that the lines almost seem impromptu I have learned that to make the whole thing more legitimate, the partakers in the S&M scenes are actual submissive sexual slaves in their "real" life.

"The DVD from MVD Visual has a 20 minute supplement that basically mashes together deleted scenes and behind the scenes footage from the making of "Profane"."

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