

INDYCA with RAI CINEMA, NEUE BIOSKOP, TARANTULA,
BIM PRODUZIONE, MOMENTO FILM
present



SAMIA

A FILM BY YASEMIN ŞAMDERELI
in collaboration with DEKA MOHAMED OSMAN

Based on the book
DON'T TELL ME YOU ARE AFRAID by Giuseppe Catozzella

2024 – ITALY, GERMANY, BELGIUM – DRAMA – 102'

SYNOPSIS

Samia defies taboos by racing through the streets of Mogadishu, in a society where a woman is not supposed to run. Her passion will one day take her to the Olympic Games.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

How much you burn for something. How much you love and believe in something can be seen in how long you are willing to fight for it. How much you are willing to sacrifice to make it happen. Samia has been my absolute heart project for more than six years. There is no project I believe in more and no story I have fallen so much in love, like the life story of the Somali athlete Samia Yusuf Omar. For no project did I fight so hard and so long for after my cinema debut ALMANYA.

The story is based on the novel NON DIRMI CHE HAI PAURA by Guiseppe Catozzella, who again became aware of the fate of this remarkable Somali woman through a newspaper article and then, after much research, and after long conversations with Samia's sister Hodan, wrote the novel. The novel tells the life story of Samia Yusuf Omar, who came from the poorest of backgrounds and made it to the Olympic Games in Beijing. Samia did not let herself be stopped by the misogynistic bans and reprisals of the Islamists, who do not even want to grant a woman the right to do sports.

The book not only gives a touching insight into Samia's family history, but also manages to impressively portray the major and fundamental problems of this region and to outline why people have to flee Africa. Why they leave their homeland and repeatedly risk the perilous journey across the Mediterranean to start a new life in Europe. What their hopes are and why Europe means the last chance for many. A chance for a life worth living. A chance to help themselves and their own family. A chance to be allowed to be oneself.

We faced great challenges in the TRANSFORMATION INTO A MOVIE SCRIPT, because it was clear that the film as such must of course do justice to the visual art. We wanted to celebrate the life of this young athlete. We wanted to show what this young woman was capable of and why the Islamists feared and fought her so much. Samia was an inspiration to many and simply wanted to become a great athlete, which she managed to do - despite all the obstacles. We focused on the aspects that are inspiring, upsetting but absolutely captivating. I think we succeeded in doing that in the script.

A new element that we used in the script and that certainly runs through my projects somehow like an ARTIST'S HANDWRITING are Samia's poetic fantasies. In many situations we see what Samia imagines or wishes. For example, her father is her faithful mentor who continues to fulfill this role even after his death. For it is her fantasies that give her courage and keeps her believing in herself and her goals. She continues where many others would surely have given up. Great cinema gives strength, gives courage. Samia's story stands for exactly that.



Yasemin Şamdereli

ABOUT DIRECTOR YASEMIN SAMDERELI

A graduate of the Munich Film and Television College, Yasemin directed the television films *Alles Getürkt* and *Ich Chef du nix* and was a co-writer on the series, *Turkish for Beginners*. Her debut feature film, the family comedy *Almanya* co-written with her sister Nesrin, enjoyed enormous success and received numerous prizes and awards. She also has extensive experience assisting on international productions directed by Jackie Chan, Teddy Chan, and Stanley Tong.

Filmography

Samia, 2024, Feature film

Barfuß durch Australien, 2023, TV movie

Die Nacht der Nächte, 2018, Documentary

Almanya, 2011, Feature film

Ich Chef du nix, 2007, TV movie

Alles getürkt! 2002, TV movie

ABOUT THE CAST

Ilham Mohamed Osman - SAMIA

Born in Turin in 1997, Ilham has a Somali background and is fluent in Somali, Italian (mother tongue), English, Spanish, German and Korean.

She has experience in organizing cultural events for the theatre association Almateatro, a multicultural theatre group founded in Turin, where she also attended workshop and courses focusing on emotional awareness. She has also worked as a cultural and educational animator in children's and youth groups.

SAMIA is her acting debut.

CAST

Ilham MOHAMED OSMAN	Samia
Riyan ROBLE	Young Samia
Fathia MOHAMED ABSIE	Ayaan
Fatah GHEDI	Yusuf
Mohamed ABDULLAHI OMAR	Said
Amina MOHAMED AHMED	Hodan
Armaan HAGGIO	Yassin-Ahmed
Elmi RASHID ELMi	Ali
Zakaria MOHAMMED	Young Ali
Kaltuma MOHAMED ABDI	Miriam
Shukri HASSAN	Young Hodan
Armaan HAGGIO	Yassin-Ahmend
Waris DIRIE JONES <i>as special guest</i>	Saado

CREW

Director	Yasemin SAMDERELI
in collaboration with	Deka MOHAMED OSMAN
Screenplay	Yasemin SAMDERELI, Nesrin SAMDERELI, Giuseppe CATOZZELLA
Producer	Simone CATANIA, Dietmar GÜNTSCHE, Anja-Karina RICHTER, Michele FORNASERO, Francesca PORTALUPI, Martin ROHÉ, Joseph ROUSCHOP, Riccardo RUSSO, David HERDIES, Michael KROTKIEWSKI, Iman ISMAIL, Christoph FISSER
Executive Producers	Piergiuseppe "Beppe" SERRA, Karim CHAM, Michael KÖLMEL
Impact Producers	Danielle TURKOV, Amy SHEPHERD
Creative Producer	Thomas WARTMANN
Delegate Producer	Claudio ESPOSITO
Line Producer	Simone FRATTARI
Director of Photography	Florian BERUTTI
Editor	Mechthild BARTH
Production Designer	Paola BIZZARRI
Sound Engineer	Antoine VANDENDRIESSCHE
Sound Designer	Andreas VORWERK
Costume Designer	Sophie OPRISANU
Music	Rodrigo D'ERASMO
Music Publisher	Edizioni Curci

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