EASY LESSONS

a film by Dorottya Zurbó

ÉCLIPSE FILM

SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE
LOCARNO FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL COMPETITION
SARAJEVO FILM FESTIVAL 2018

EASY LESSONS

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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Syndicado
FILM SALES

World Premiere
Locarno Festival 2018
Semaine de la Critique

Regional Premiere
Sarajevo Film Festival 2018
Documentary Competition

EASY LESSONS

Original Title: Könnyű leckék
English Title: Easy Lessons
Genre: documentary
Duration: 78 min.
Year of Production: 2018
Country of Production:Hungary
Screening Format: DCP 2K Flat 1998x1080 1:85:1 colour 25P; 5.1 sound
Language: Hungarian, Somali
Subtitles: English

EASY LESSONS

Short Synopsis

Easy Lessons is a poetic journey of a beautiful, young girl, Kafia who on the brink of adulthood breaks up with everything she grew up with in Somalia. Cultural values, taboos and dogmas fall apart in the most casual situations while trying to adapt to a new life in Europe, Hungary. Her Mum helped her escape her fate but how can she explain the changes she lives through to her most loved one? She wants to do it for a sense of duty or a desire of resurrection, but how... This inner struggle becomes the film itself and maybe the only form of confession.

Long Synopsis:

EASY LESSONS

Kafia is 17 years old. Two years ago, she fled to Europe, Hungary on her own, escaping from a child marriage in Somalia. She has been living in a state children's home in Budapest ever since. She learns the language, goes to high school, prepares for the Hungarian graduation exam and starts a modelling career. On the surface, everything seems fine. However, behind that beautiful and confident appearance lies a heavy heart. Her repetitive daily routine revolves around constant dilemmas and self-doubt about leaving behind her Muslim culture and everything else she grew up with. As she lets the camera get closer to her the film slowly becomes an intimate confession. What does it mean, on the brink of adulthood, to break with your past and fully give yourself up to a new self in order to live in Europe?

EASY LESSONS

Director:	Dorottya Zurbó
Cast:	Kafiya Said Mahdi
Producer:	Julianna Ugrin
Cinematographer:	Natasha Pavlovskaya
Editor:	Péter Sass
Music:	Ádám Balázs
Sound design:	Rudolf Várhegyi H.A.S.E.
Production manager:	Ágnes Böjte
Colorist:	Levente Salma

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Biography of the Director:

EASY LESSONS

Dorottya Zurbó (Budapest, 1988) graduated from the first edition of DocNomads Joint Master for which she was awarded full Erasmus Mundus scholarship in Lisbon, Budapest and Brussels. She is also an honours graduate in film theory and history from ELTE, Budapest. Currently she is a D.L.A. student at the University of Theatre and Film Arts in Budapest where she is also a lecturer in the field of transmedia and documentary. Her short films have won several awards and have been screened in many festivals (Verzió, One World, Doclisboa, Zagrebdox, Jihlava). She co-directed a documentary (The Next Guardian; 2017) shot in Bhutan which was premiered at IDFA in the First Appearance Competition and participated in many international festivals so far. Easy Lessons is her first directorial debut alone supported by the Incubator Program of the Hungarian National Film Fund. She was invited to the IDFAcademy Summer School 2015. She was part of Sarajevo Talent Campus 2015. She was awarded with a scholarship for young emerging artists from the Hungarian Academy of Arts for one year in 2015.

Dorottya Zurbó

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Filmography of the Director: Dorottya Zurbó

2018 EASY LESSONS (Hungary | HD | documentary | 78 min. | Éclipse Film)
• world premiere: 2018 Locarno Festival – Semaine de la Critique
• regional premiere: 2018 Sarajevo Film Festival – Documentary Competition

2017 THE NEXT GUARDIAN (Bhutan-Hungary | HD | documentary | 74 min. | Éclipse Film – Sound Pictures | co-director)
• premiere: 2017 IDFA – First Appearance Competition
• 2017 Five Flavours FF; 2018 True/False FF; 2018 Ambulante IDFF; Cambodia IDFF; 2018 One World IDFF; 2018 Salem FF; 2018 Hungarian Filmweek, 2018 Mediawave FF; 2018 Zsigmond Vilmos FF: Best Documentary Award; 2018 San Fransisco IDFF; 2018 DOK.fest München: SOS-Kindersörfer Weltweit Award nomination; 2018 Against Gravity IDFF; 2018 Seoul IWFF; 2018 Buddhist Art FF; 2018 Le Grand Bivouac FF; 2018 Duhok IFF; 2018 Bhutan Film Association: Best Documentary Award; 2018 Mostra La Ploma

2016 DISTANCE / Távolság (Hungary | HD | documentary | 9 min. |DocNomads Joint Masters)
• 2017 Jihlava IDFF; 2016 DocLisboa IDFF; 2018 Zsigmond Vilmos FF: Best Experimental Documentary Award

2013 SUNDAY LUNCH / Vasárnapi ebéd (Hungary | HD | documentary | 21 min. | ELTE & Laokoon Film Arts)
• 2015 UNICA FF: Silver Medal in the Film Students/Young Professionals Competition; 2015 Ljubljana ISFF Zoom Hungary program; 2015 Mediawave IFF; 2015 ZagrebDox IDFF; 2014 Astra IDFF: Award for the Best Documentary in the Student Competition; 2014 One World IDFF; 2014 Cinema City IFF; 2014 Febiofest IFF; 2014 Verzió IDFF; 2014 Savaria FF; 2014 MAFSZ: Best Documentary Direction Award; 2013 Faludi IFF: Pro Educatione Award

Biography of the Producer:

ÉCLIPSE FILM

Graduated from University in 2005, she started to work in the film field at Flora Film International. In 2009 she was selected to EURODOC producers workshop. From March 2009, she worked at Havas Films as producer and production manager. She established Éclipse Film, an independent film production company in 2011. She developed projects at various international workshops and pitching forums. Films produced by her were screened, nominated and awarded at festivals like SUNDANCE, IDFA, LOCARNO, DOK Leipzig, or Sarajevo IFF. Since 2013 she teaches at the University of Theatre and Film Arts in Documentary MA studies and is a DLA student there. She is part of Emerging Producers 2014 and is an EAVE graduate. She is organizer of DunaDOCK Master Class & Pitching series, member of the Hungarian Film Academy and of EDN.

Julianna Ugrin

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FILMOGRAPHY and AWARDS of Producer - Julianna Ugrin

In development / in production
Liquid Gold – doc in post-production – dir. Tamás Almási
God's Own Country – doc in development – dir. Klára Trencsényi
Afterglow – doc in production - dir. Szakonyi Noémi Veronika
Our Father – doc in development – dir. Márton Vizkelety
Above the Line – doc in development – dir. Anikó Mária Nagy
The Libel – feature in development – dir. Diana Groó
Beauty Queen – feature in development – dir. Áron Mátyássy

2018 – Easy Lessons – producer – dir.: Dorottya Zurbó Locarno
Semaine de la Critique Sarajevo IFF
2017 – A Woman Captured – producer – dir.: Bernadett Tuza-Ritter
IDFA – main competition 2017
Sundance – World Cinema Documentary Competition 2018
2017 – The Next Guardian – producer – dir.: Dorottya Zurbó and Arun Bhattarai
IDFA – first appearance competition 2017
2017 – The Letters – short – producer – dir.: Teréz Koncz
2017 – The Whisky Robber - feature - executive producer – dir. : Nimród Antal
2016 - Loop – feature – executive producer – dir.: Madarász Isti
2015 – Train to Adulthood – documentary 76' – dir.: Klára Trencsényi
DOK Leipzig 2015 – Golden Dove Award
Next Masters Competition Zagreb DOX 2016 – Special Jury prize
2015 – Song Brothers – documentary 77' – dir: Balázs Lévai
Kamera Korrektúra – best documentary award 2015
2015 – tititá – documentary 87'– dir: Tamás Almási
Sarajevo IFF – Special Jury Prize for competition programme documentary 2015
2015 – Hot Men Cold Dictatorships – documentary 90'
- dir: Mária Takács
2015 – War of Wits – feature – executive producer – dir: Béla Paczolay
2013 – Stream of Love – documentary 70' – dir.: Ágnes Sós
IDFA – main competition 2013
Trieste IFF – Best documentary award 2014 -
Espansioni award 2014
Zagreb DOX – Special Mention 2014
2013 – The Sailor – documentary 52' – dir.: András Kollmann
2012 – Pietà - short fiction 11'– dir.: Dániel Márton Szerencsés
2011 – Farewell Comrades! – 6 x 52' documentary series – dir: Andrei Nekrasov
2010 – Une île de musique au cœur de l'Europe – documentary 90' – ARTE –dir.: Laurent Hasse
2010 - The Gentleman Takes His Leave – short – assistant producer – dir.: László Nemes Jeles

COMPANY PROFILE

ÉCLIPSE FILM

Éclipse Film is a Budapest-based independent film production company, founded by Julianna Ugrin in 2011.
The company concentrates on high-quality productions with relevant, particular or artistic content. It develops and produces mainly documentaries, but also author fiction films, commercials and corporate films on an international level. However, our primary focus is on creative documentaries. Since its foundation, Éclipse Film has managed to connect young, talented Hungarian filmmakers with experienced members of the industry. Our films have participated in festivals like IDFA, DOK Leipzig, Sarajevo IFF, to name but a few. The company is also a co-organizer of DunaDOCK, EURODOC and KineDok.

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Production Company:

ÉCLIPSE FILM

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