

CROSSING

A FILM BY JACQUELINE VAN VUGT

D O W E E V E R T R U L Y R E A C H E A C H O T H E R







D I R E C T O R S S T A T E M E N T

In the film CROSSING three 'love stories' are intertwined. The relational tensions between the characters tell us that they each want to be seen for what and who they really are and yet find the connection and belonging with the other. The universal tension in love. Crossing over without losing yourself. In directing this story I was fascinated by the link between authenticity and real intimacy. On the one hand there seems to be a price to pay for full authenticity and yet isn't this also the path to genuine intimacy. To me CROSSING invites viewers to feel for what is most real in themselves and to bring that across. No voyage leaves you unchanged, just like the crossing over to another can mean an enrichment of ourselves in unexpected ways.

In making a film I connect events and tensions at the micro-level with an overarching macro-level tension. Similarly in CROSSING. On the macro-level, the three storylines are connected to the larger political question of 'Fortress Europe'. Immigration from Africa to Europe is seen as one of the biggest problems of our time. I grew up in Africa and have worked on many films there. For me Europe is authentically connected with Africa. By the current ban on immigration we have become estranged from ourselves and humanity, while creating heartbreaking situations from which we all suffer.

I hope you will embark with me on this journey. The vessel and its progress keeps the unity of time and place, the use of only one lens increases the unity but in using it I also sought for a slight feeling of claustrophobia, of isolation, and ultimately of despair. CROSSING is a moment in time, and yet the events tell us so much more. They look back in time, whilst also appearing to be enclosed in eternity.

Like in life the tensions in this film are connected with several layers: hidden desires, family dynamics, cultural connection and disconnection and intersecting ideas about society. The ship sails over so many waves... It was a beautiful experience to make this film.

I want to thank my family, producers, crew and cast for lifting CROSSING up to what it is today.

Kind regards,
Jacqueline van Vugt







P R O D U C E R S S T A T E M E N T

CROSSING fills us with enormous pride. A particularly intense film by Jacqueline van Vugt. The film depicts the inability to really connect to each other. It examines the essence of human existence; such as birth, aspiration, conflict and loss, 'La condition humaine'.

It's an extraordinary day for ordinary people, in an environment that forces the characters to interact and confront their challenges ahead. CROSSING is a truly European feature film. Themes such as identity and cultural heritage, are beautifully laid out. We truly believe the audiences will relate to the different protagonists and their struggles. CROSSING is an arresting and thrilling drama. Relevant not only in the Benelux, but all over Europe, and all over the world.

CROSSING is a strong drama with urgent and social underlying themes by a talented and very driven film maker. Jacqueline has shaped the story and its characters in a remarkable style, against a background of important, contemporary themes centred around the breakdown of social cohesion. Shot in a style that has movement, giving the characters room to breath, the viewer remains immersed in the drama of each character. Her approach is in line with her earlier work. We are touched by Jacqueline's work as a filmmaker, by how close and intensely she tells this story and shapes her characters. We are passionate about her visual style and her eye for detail.

CROSSING is a highly creative, multicultural film produced by an International Team, rooted in European Identity with a renowned International Cast.







L O G L I N E & S Y N O P S I S

CROSSING is a penetrating and realistic drama which threads the universal feelings of love, fear, hope and loss in a tense and dramatic two-hour ferry crossing between Morocco and Spain.

During a ferry crossing from Morocco to Spain, three storylines intertwine, linked to the characters' fear of loss and love. Iris, Walter and their two sons, take the ferry home from their holiday. As they approach Spain, their marital secrets catch up with them and it leads to a moment of passion at the pivotal moment when their eldest son, Peter, disappears. The ferry Captain Bukhim, enveloped in shame, smuggles his pregnant daughter to Spain, accompanied by his wife. He cannot live with the thought of a bastard child and hides them in his cabin. However, their daughter has other plans. Meanwhile at the Spanish Port, the ambulance crew, Luis and Raul, find a body of a young man. This is the final straw for both of them, but for very different reasons. For Raul it is one body too many, and for Luis, he loses the opportunity to realise his love for Paloma. The characters strive to connect to their loved ones, however their helplessness leaves room for the inevitable. Fear of loss shapes their destinies.

As the boat docks in Spain, the drama unfolds as the characters come face to face with the consequences of their actions.

THE SCENES ARE CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED MICROCOSMS OF HUMAN FALLIBILITY,
CLEAR AND DIRECT WITH A POETIC TOUCH - ALWAYS IN THE NOW -



I N T E R N A T I O N A L S A L E S

Positioning

Crossing is a penetrating drama dealing with life, loss and personal relations. Jacqueline van Vugt has created a film that can touch the hearts of audiences, showing that we all need to deal with the same issues in life, regardless of color or ethnic background. This intense drama shows our inability to truly connect, even to the people closest to us. With a strong international cast and underlying social themes, the film represents the world we currently live in. Using her filmmaking style and skills from her earlier documentary work, Jacqueline manages to pull viewers into the action and holding the attention throughout the film.

Sales potential

Despite the fact the international market is still unsettled, we feel the film can find a home in Europe, North America and selected Asian markets. We would try to find theatrical windows for the film in main territories (North America, France, UK, Spain, Italy, Germany) then maximize TV and VOD distribution. We shall also reach out to streaming platforms for potential global or multi-territory deals.

First step would be to secure a World or International Premiere for the film, maximize press coverage, and reach out to buyers during main markets.

- Renowned International Cast
- Unique Cinematographic Approach
- Universal Theme
- International & European Production
- Multiple Narrative & Multiple Language Film
- European Identity

I N T E R N A T I O N A L S A L E S & D I S T R I B U T I O N

Fortissimo Films. Founded in 1991 in Amsterdam, Fortissimo Films has played a pivotal role in bringing Asian cinema to screens across the globe. Fortissimo specializes in film production and international sales as well as the management of international talents in China. The company has offices in Amsterdam and Beijing.

Fortissimo has distributed over the past 30 years the works of celebrated directors like Jim Jarmusch, Peter Greenaway, Bela Tarr as well as Asian auteurs like Wong Kar Wai, Hou Hsiao Hsien, Tsui Hark, Kore-eda Hirokazu, Park Chan-wook, Wang Xiaoshuai and Ann Hui. Fortissimo's recent titles include **Love after Love** by Ann Hui, **The Yin-Yang Master: Dream of Eternity** by Guo Jingming, **Inu-Oh** by Masaaki Yuasa, **Anima** by Cao Jingling, **Sexual Drive** by Yoshida Kota and **We Might as Well be Dead** by Natalia Sinelnikova.

The films we like to bring to a worldwide audience are carefully selected. We bring our experience and enthusiasm into each film. As every film needs a curated approach, we do not take on too many films so that we can bring our focus and energy to every film as they deserve to be handled with the utmost attention.

GUSTO Entertainment. Independent films are their focus, founded by distributors Hein van Joolen and Katrien Remijn in 2017. They work closely with their partners and specialize in releasing films with producers, directors, sales agents and rights holders. They have successfully released several Dutch features such as **La Holandesa**, **About that Life**, **Paradise Drifters**, **Take Me Somewhere Nice** and **Buladó** as well as the Colombian-Dutch co-production **Monos**. Gusto Entertainment is the preferred partner for Belgian distributor O'Brother who distributed **Deux**, **Mandibules**, **Titane** and **Inexorable**.

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GUSTO
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RELEASE

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H A D E W Y C H

M I N I S

Hadewych Minis (1977), had a leading role in **Toni Erdman** (2016), and starred in **Borgman** (2013). Both films were nominated for a **Golden Palm**. She won the **Golden Calf for Best Actress**, for **Borgman**, and with the box office hit **Bloed Zweet en Tranen** (2015). In addition Hadewych starred in Netflix series **Tokyo Trial** (2016).

Hadewych is one of The Netherlands' most versatile leading actresses. From 2005 until 2012 Hadewych performed around the world with renowned theatre company **Toneelgroep Amsterdam, ITA**; artistic director Iv van Hove. She starred in **Angels in America**, **Opening Night**, and **Scenes from A Marriage**.





K A R I M

S A Ï D I

Karim Saidi (1973) is a French actor, born to Moroccan parents. In 2017 he was awarded **Best Actor**, Festival du court metrage de Bordeaux, followed by the **Life's Achievement Award** for his career in 2019 at the Agadir Film Festival. Karim Saïdi got his first starring role at age 33 in the 2005 Steven Spielberg feature **Munich**. He played a leading role in the short film **Tapette** (2016) by Satya Dusauguy, and leading roles in **L'Echarpe Rouge** by Mohamed Lyounsi and in **Burnout** by Noureddine Lakhmari (2017). He featured in TV series such as **Marhabi bi Sahbi** and **Les Voisins**.

After a tough childhood in Marseille where Karim flirted with delinquency, he joined the French army and served as a Casque Bleu in Sarajevo and Chad. He enrolled in the renowned Pygmalion studio run by Jean Michel Steinfeld. It was an immediate success.

A H L A A M T E G H A D O U I N I

Ahlaam Teghadouini (1997), is a Dutch actress, from Moroccan decent, who lives in Belgium. Ahlaam stars in **ROOMIES** (2022) as Bibi. In the series **SiHAME** by Achmed Akkabi, she currently stars as Sihame. She started her acting career with the television series **Hoodie**. Meanwhile, she featured in the fiction series **Grond** as Nadia, directed by Adil El Arbi, Bilall Fallah and Mathieu Mortelmans, for Netflix.

Ahlaam obtained a high school diploma in the Arts of Word and Drama (2016) at the Kunsthumaniora Brussels.





M A R C O

C Á C E R E S

Marco Cáceres' (1995) appearance in **La Trenchera Infinita** (17 Goya nominations) marks the turning point in his career. Just before he played a mayor role in **Brigada Costa del Sol**, Netflix. Last year he starred in three feature films currently to be released: **Polar** by Macarena Gómez and **Animal Humano** by Alessandro Pugno, and **Crossing** by Jacqueline Van Vugt. Marco Cáceres is now shooting **La Chica de Nieve**, based on the International bestseller by Javier Castillo.

At the age of 6, Marco convinces his parents to present him to as many castings as possible. At the age of 17, he leaves for Madrid to attend theatre school. Marco's paternal grandmother sensed it from the first moment she laid eyes on him; a star was born.

S O U M A Y A A K A A B O U N E

As well as playing in mayor productions, such as **Green Zone** opposite Matt Damon, **Soumaya Akaaboune** has now become the darling of Morocco after her recent television series, **Waddi** and **Megtoe Men Chejra**, both claiming seven million viewers per episode. Recent TV series appearances include **The Spy**, opposite Sacha Baron Cohen, **Deep State** and **Grond**, in Belgium, Netflix.

Soumaya Akaaboune was born in Tangier, Morocco. She left home to study ballet at the esteemed International School of Performing Arts and Dance 'Mudra' in Brussels, run by the choreographer Maurice Bejard. After snapping her achilles tendon in 1989, Soumaya had to give up a career in dancing and pursued her other love; acting. She starred in the West End - **Whitehall Theater** in London, in the production '**Voyeurz**', directed by Peter Rafelson. Soon she moved into television and film.





G I J S

N A B E R

Gijs Naber is one of Holland's most acclaimed actors. He starred in **The Story of my Wife** (2021) opposite Léa Seydoux, by Oscar nominated director Ildiko Enyedi. The film was selected for the **Official Competition at Cannes Film Festival 2021**. Gijs played the lead role in the action-packed historical spectacle film **REDBAD** (2018) by Roel Reiné and starred in the arthouse film **My Foolish Heart** (2018), on Chet Baker.

Gijs Naber was awarded the **Golden Calf for Best Actor** twice: for the feature film **The Peter Pan Man** (2014, by Michiel ten Horn) and the TV crime drama **JUDAS** (2019).

In 2012 Gijs Naber won the prestigious Dutch theatre award **The Arlecchino** (2012), for his leading role in *Death of a Salesman*, by the RO theatre.

A N T O N I O

E S T R A D A

Antonio Estrada was born in La Mancha (1964). Antonio Estrada featured in: **Jaulas** by Nicolas Pachego, **La Caída de Alejandra** by Álvaro de Armiñán (in production), and **La Piedad** by Eduardo Casanova (in production) Television series including: **Disappeared**, **La Valla**, **Brigade Costa del Sol**, **Todo por el Juego**, **La Peste**, y **Cuéntame**. As a theater actor, he has acted in **Bloody Mary** by Paloma Díaz, **Spain is not Uganda** by Antonio Álamo, **Requiem for a King** by Antonio Luque and the microtheater pieces **Se puede?** directed by Juan Carlos Sánchez and **Mal en General**, written and directed by David Montero.

Antonio has a degree in Fine Arts from the Santa Isabel University of Hungary and a degree in Scenography from the Theater Institute in Seville. His professional experience spans different disciplines. As production designer, he worked on **Before the Burning** by Fernando Colomo, and on many other films.





C A R M E N

B A Q U E R O

Carmen Baquero has been part of the feature films **321 days in Michigan** by Enrique García, **The Minutes of Silence** by Rafatal Robles and **When the Angels Sleep** by Gonzalo Bendala. She has also participated in renowned TV series such as **VisaVis**, **Velvet Collection**, **Arrayán**, **Paco's Men** and **Tierra de Lobos**.

Carmen Baquero graduated in Dramatic Art in the specialty of Interpretation at ESAD in Malaga in 1999. In 2008, Carmen founded the company **CARAMALA**, winner of the **Desencaja Award** for the best theatrical production in 2009 and the award for the best theatre play at the Ciudad Rodrigo Theatre Festival in Castilla León in 2011.

M U S N E L S O N & K O E N R U I T E N B E E K

Jacqueline van Vugt discovered **Koen Ruitenbeek** and **Mus Nelson** during casting at Elskes Cast in Amsterdam. She recognised the feisty character of Koen as a perfect fit for Mark and saw Mus' serious involvement and modesty as the character she had in mind for the role of Peter. During the shoot of the film **Crossing**, both Koen and Mus were able to perform and transform into the brothers Mark and Peter. They both had the time of their lives on set; Koen, with English as his second language, enjoyed being part of an international cast, and Mus could fulfil his deepest wish; acting. For both boys this was their first feature film.





N A B I L

M A L L A T

Nabil Mallat (1988) is an acclaimed Belgian actor known for films as **Image** (2014), **Cordon** (2016), **De Dag** (2018), **Bullets** (2018) and **Patser** (2018). With his role in **Cool Abdoul** (2021) he received critical acclaim for his portrayal of Ismael Abdoul. Actor Nabil Mallat has now won an **Ensor**, Belgium Best Actor, for his starring role in the movie **Cool Abdoul**.

Internationally, Nabil Mallat is known for his roles in **Keizersvrouwen** (2019) and the Netflix series **Into the Night** (2020). For his leading role in **RAFAEL**, Nabil Mallat was awarded **Best Actor** at Agadir Film Festival.

Nabil is fluent in Dutch, Flemish, French, Arabic and he has a natural gift for accents and languages.

I L I A S S

D E N N O U N E

Iliass Dennoune, Belgian (1993), is an actor, writer, and director. He starred in the TV series **Professor T**, the Dutch drama **Keizersvrouwen**, **Hoodie** and most recently in **Grond**, by Adil El Arbi, Bilal Fallah and Mathieu Mortelmans, Netflix. Iliass wrote and co-directed two short films, **Pas Le Choix** (with Rayane Besri) and **Ouroboros**. He played the lead character in both.

Iliass will be on screen this spring as Mohammed in **Lost Luggage**, a new drama for VRT on the victims of the terrorist attack on the Brussels National Airport in Zaventem, and in the much anticipated, **1985**.



W R I T E R & D I R E C T O R

Jacqueline van Vugt spent her youth in Mali and Chad (West Africa). She studied architecture at the Delft Technical University followed by the Dutch Film and Television Academy. She graduated as **Director of Photography** with the award-winning documentary **Snow White**, directed by Jelka Anhalt (1995). In addition to her work for National television as a cinematographer and director of various short fiction and documentary-series, Jacqueline has developed and directed her own films. Poetic musicality and the use of depth and space characterize her images. Human fallibility and the search for love characterize her films, diving within different relationships, cultural settings and often concerning a geo-political balance of power.

In 1995 Jacqueline van Vugt directed and produced her first independent documentary with her company, Melief Film; **KPL 70-11-12-078** (16 mm) on Dutch soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. National Television VPRO bought the film. **Ofrenda de Primavera**, produced by JURA Film in 1998 was her next feature length documentary. Awards for the film include the **Amsterdam Arts Foundation Talent Award** (AFK). For **Two Loves** (2001), on poet Bosie, boyfriend of Oscar Wilde, she won a **Dutch Academy Award**, and the film was bought by the BBC. Her short fiction, **Tomorrow**, won Best Short at the Mannheim-Heidelberg Festival. **Toda una Vida** and **Bambara Blues** were her next feature-length documentaries. With her company, Melief Film, Jacqueline van Vugt independently produced and filmed the documentary **Mama don't like no guitar pickers** 'round here, released by Cinema Delicatessen. Her documentary **BORDERS** was produced by PVH-film, directed and filmed by Jacqueline herself. Cinema Delicatessen released the film. **BORDERS** has won several awards including **FIPRESCI Award 2014** and received special mention for the camerawork. Apart from directing and shooting the artists portraits of Toon Verhoef and Cornelius Rogge for the Dutch Masters, INTERAKT, she directed and filmed the documentary **Refuge**, produced in co-operation with Rosan Boersma from CTM/Nuts and Bolts (2018). Her documentary, **Up to G-Cup 2020-2021**, shot in Northern Iraq, has won the **Dutch Film critics Award**, KNF.

Jacqueline van Vugt shot her first feature film, **CROSSING**, with producer **Revolver Film** in co-production with **A Private View** Belgium and **Nukleus Film** Croatia.

P R O D U C E R S C R O S S I N G

REVOLVER FILM

Germen Boelens and **Raymond van der Kaaij**, produced many award winning films. Their primary focus is on developing creative and daring projects. Recent titles include **Up to G Cup**, by Jacqueline van Vugt, (KNF Award 2021), **I Dream in another Language** by Ernesto Contreras (Audience Award at Sundance 2017), **Brothers** by Hanro Smitsman (Giffoni Award Best Film 2017), **Love & Friendship** by Whit Stillman starring Kate Beckinsale and Cloe Sevigny (Sundance 2016), **Bodkin Ras** (IFFR 2016, SXSW 2016, Fipresci Award 2016), and **Club Zeus** by David Verbeek (Montreal WFF, IFF Chicago, IFFR).

A PRIVATE VIEW

Dries Phlypo and **Jean-Claude van Rijckeghem** produced internationally acclaimed films, including **Zagros** by Sahim Omar Kalifa (**Grand Prix** FilmFest Ghent 2017), **Vincent and the end of the world** by Christophe Van Rompaey, (2016, **World premiered at Locarno IFF** and **Best Comedy Nominee – EFA**), **Brasserie Romantique** by Joël Vanhoebrouck (2012) and **Oxygen** by Hans Van Nuffel (2011, **Best Discovery – EFA**). Dries Phlypo co-produced more than 30 international films, including **Dirty God** (2019) and **Zurich** (2015) by Sacha Polak, **Cobain** (2017) by Nanouk Leopold, **Blood Sweat and Tears** (2015) by Diederick Koopal, and the **Oscar Nominated** short **Tanghi Argentini** by Guido Thys.

NUKLEUS FILM

Siniša Juričić founded **Nukleus** Film in 2009, and NF Slovenia in 2012. Since 2013, Jaako Dobra Produkcija (JDP) was established as a production company focused only on co-productions and production services. The films he produced have been awarded and funded in and outside the country, with the most acclaimed awards being **France 4 Visionary Award** for Ilian Metev’s “**Last Ambulance in Sofia**”, screened in 51st **Cannes Film Festival Criticism Week**, and the **Grand Prix** for the same film at the festival in **Karlovy Vary**. In 2012, he was awarded the annual **Albert Kapovic Award**.

C R O S S I N G F A C T S H E E T

BUDGET

€2M

LOCATION

Croatia, Spain, Morocco

GENRE

Drama, Multi Narrative

LANGUAGE

Dutch, Spanish, Arabic, French

SCREENING FORMAT

DCP from 35 MM negative

LENGTH

106 minutes

SCREEN RATIO

2:39

SOUND FORMAT

5.1 surround



C O N T A C T

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