

ALLURE

A Feature Film by Vladan Nikolic

in black and white CinemaScope video
New York City opening: The Quad, March 6-12
several additional cities to follow

SYNOPSIS & INFORMATION

directed by: Vladan Nikolic (*Love and Zenith*)
"a visionary writer-director" — Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times

Nikolic, who teaches at the New School, is available for interviews, as is most of the cast.

Website: <http://allurethefilm.com/> High-res images available there.
Contact: allurethefilm@gmail.com - 1 646 535 9453

released independently



Several women — independent, strong-willed, beautiful — try to hold on in the world of shifting influences that is New York City. Each struggles to overcome her personal conflicts, against the backdrop of greater political struggles and the global Occupy Movements.

Subjects of interest:

- contrast of "Occupy" movement with immediate existential threats to immigrant women
- shot (on video) in black and white CinemaScope
- legacy (or lack thereof?) of the Occupy movement
- role of the borough of Queens in the story
- work of Vladan Nikolic — independent director in Serbia who migrated to the U.S. and has now taught for a longtime at the New School. Director of such acclaimed films as LOVE and ZENITH (the latter directed as "Anonymous")
- a much more cosmopolitan New York than often presented in NYC independent films. (Estonian, Mexican French, American, other background lead actors; Serbian-American writer / director and producer)

Women's personal lives and struggles collide with world events in ALLURE. Liliana, an Estonian emigrant, reluctantly descends into the world of escorting in order to save her child. A Chinese student in NYC, Jin tries to find a community she can belong to, while her family pressures her to return home. Marta, an illegal Mexican immigrant, works in hotels and restaurants to support her mother. Valerie, a French journalist, who had focused her life on her family, is now trying to get back to her profession, but suddenly struggles with a fading marriage. Interweaving these stories with the background of the global Occupy movement in 2011 New York, ALLURE is a politically charged, powerful drama about the most personal events in our lives.

The film's representation of different nationalities, races and languages mirrors the global diversity of New York. The eclectic cast includes seasoned international performers, such as Madeleine Assas (from Godard's FOR EVER MOZART), Didier Flamand (100+ films, including WINGS OF DESIRE, CODE UNKNOWN, LES CHORISTES...), as well as Estonian actress Diana Lotus, Isaach de Bankole's daughter Aisha de Bankole in her first major film role; featured cameos by the Mexican director Patricia Arriaga, actor/filmmaker and provocateur Caveh Zahedi, and first-time performers and non-actors from over a dozen different countries.



ALLURE – Project Overview

The Director and actors have worked together through a series of improvisations, character building, and discussions to flesh out the story and protagonists. While the characters and their conflicts are inspired by actual persons and events, the filmmakers and actors have built on these themes through improvisations in order to further explore the protagonists and storylines.

All scenes and dialogue in the film were improvised.

Filmmakers and performers have worked from a treatment, outlining the scenes, without a final script, to stay “in the moment,” and to use actual situations and events, as they developed in front of the cameras.

ALLURE was made for almost nothing. Filmmakers and actors have all agreed to contribute their time and work for no compensation. They have formed a Co-op, where they will share in all profits, if the film makes any. The film was shot non-consecutively in the summer and Fall of 2012. Post-production was completed in September, 2013.

Allure is an homage to *Situationist Cinema*. The film experiments with form and content, reflecting the cinema of the 60's in the digital world.



LEAD CAST:

DIANA LOTUS as Liliana
MADELEINE ASSAS as Valerie
AISHA DE BANKOLE as Kasoke
YING YING LI as Jin
JULIA KONRAD VIEZZER as Marta
DIDIER FLAMAND as Jean
PATRICIA ARRIAGA as Mariana
CAVEH ZAHEDI as The Professor

ALLURE. Starring Diana Lotus, Madeleine Assas, Aisha de Bankole, Ying Ying Li, Julia Konrad Viezzler, Didier Flamand, Patricia Arriaga, Caveh Zahedi. Concept, Story, Direction, and Editing by Vladan Nikolic. Produced by Vladan Nikolic, Aleksandar Kostic. Executive Producer: Eric Werthman. Director of Photography: Aleksandar Kostic. Second Camera: Colin Nusbaum. Production Design: Marija Plavsic-Kostic. Sound Design by Jacob Subotnick. Sound Mix Christ Stangroom, Hobo Audio. Music by Yves Dharamraj. Produced by Kostic Films and Surla Films.



Background:

The approach reflects the filmmaker's interest in re-discovering another way of independent filmmaking, while also mirroring the political reality in which we live today. The film deliberately re-interprets 60's cinema aesthetics in the context of our time -hand-held camera, following actors in the moment, mixing fiction and reality, improvisation, even a "Manifesto."

The story/stories reflect the filmmaker's interest in issues of emigration, exile and assimilation; the focus on women, who have come to NYC from various countries emerged from Vladan's film "THE CITY," a documentary he did about emigrants in NY; the filmmaker found this theme rarely explored in an international and broader context, rather than only within one community, nation or ethnicity.

We live in a time of political and economic instability and unrest, yet politically engaged and reflective cinema has mostly been tied to documentaries. "Allure" interweaves individual women's stories into a larger narrative and political context, leaving to the viewer to find his/her own relation to these stories.

The currency of the issues represented in the film is apparent: as the film was in production, throughout post-production and editing, the film's themes - women's issues, as well as immigration, political and economic instability, dominate the news.



Director's Biography:

Vladan Nikolic is a native of Belgrade, Serbia. He worked as a director for the first independent TV Network in the former Yugoslavia. Nikolic has lived in NYC since the 90's, working as an independent filmmaker, and teaching film at The New School. He was among the digital filmmaking pioneers in the '90's, and taught the first digital filmmaking courses at The New School and at NYU. His films have screened, and have been awarded at, numerous festivals, including Venice, Tribeca, Barcelona, and Geneva.

In his films, Nikolic has depicted the collision of immigrants and Americans in New York City in extraordinary, whirling multi-strand narratives. LOVE was a gritty and virtuosic contemporary gangster-like story; ZENITH — which Nikolic directed as “Anonymous” — was a mind-boggling science fiction; ALLURE is a sort of factual-based melodrama. The *Los Angeles Times* called Nikolic a “visionary writer-director,” while the *New York Times* named Love an “elegantly directed” critic's pick, and the *Village Voice* exclaimed “... LOVE gives you hope for the future of independent movies, particularly because Nikolic is also a professor of film at the New School.” Having become something of a “filmmaker’s filmmaker,” Nikolic is well ripe for discovery by others.

ALLURE

A Feature Film by Vladan Nikolic

Website: <http://allurethefilm.com/>

Contact: allurethefilm@gmail.com

