

  
Locarno Film Festival  
Piazza Grande  
Official selection

Official Selection




**tiff**  
Toronto International  
Film Festival 2019

CARICE VAN HOUTEN  
MARWAN KENZARI

# INSTINCT

A FILM BY HALINA REIJN

TOPKAPI FILMS PRESENTS IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH BNNVARA MAN UP FILM A FILM DIRECTED BY HALINA REIJN WRITTEN BY ESTHER GERRITSEN & HALINA REIJN BASED ON AN IDEA BY HALINA REIJN "INSTINCT" CARICE VAN HOUTEN MARWAN KENZARI  
CASTING JANUSZ GOSSCHALK LEONIE LUTTIK DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JASPER WOLF NSC PRODUCTION DESIGNER LIJKE SCHOLMAN EDITOR JOB TER BURG ACE/NCE COSTUME DESIGNER MINKE LUNTER MAKE UP & HAIR GERDA KOEKOEK PRODUCTION SOUND OLIVER PATTINAMA SOUND DESIGN & RE-RECORDING MIKEL SCHÖPPING  
COMPOSER ELLA VAN DER WOUDE LINE PRODUCER ADA GOOSSENS ASSOCIATE PRODUCER NOL PHILJEFFER FOR NEPA GROUP AMSTERDAM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CARICE VAN HOUTEN HALINA REIJN CO-PRODUCERS ROBERT KIEVIT GEMMA DERKSEN PRODUCERS FRANS VAN GESTEL ARNOLO HESLENFELD LAURETTE SCHILLINGS

TOPKAPI BNNVARA MAN UP FILM  THIS FILM IS SUPPORTED BY THE NETHERLANDS FILM FUND & THE NETHERLANDS FILM PRODUCTION INCENTIVE.  SEPTEMBER FILM  FILMS Boutique

WORLD SALES: FILMS BOUTIQUE



# INSTINCT

A FILM BY HALINA REIJN

WITH CARICE VAN HOUTEN, MARWAN KENZARI

2019 - NETHERLANDS - DRAMA/THRILLER - 98 MIN

**SUNDAY - 11/08 - 11:15 - RIALTO 1 - INDUSTRY**  
**SUNDAY - 11/08 - 21:30 - PALACINEMA 1 - PRESS**  
**MONDAY - 12/08 - 21:30 - PIAZZA GRANDE**

## INTERNATIONAL PRESS

### **claudiatomassini & associates**

International Film Publicity

Claudia Tomassini

Mobile: +49 173 205 5794

[claudia@claudiatomassini.com](mailto:claudia@claudiatomassini.com)

[www.claudiatomassini.com](http://www.claudiatomassini.com)

## INTERNATIONAL SALES

### **Films Boutique**

[contact@filmsboutique.com](mailto:contact@filmsboutique.com)

[www.filmsboutique.com](http://www.filmsboutique.com)

## CREW

DIRECTOR	Halina Reijn
SCREENPLAY	Esther Gerritsen, Halina Reijn
DOP	Jasper Wolf
PRODUCTION DESIGN	Lieke Scholman
EDITOR	Job ter Burg
COSTUME DESIGN	Minke Lunter
HAIR AND MAKE-UP	Gerda Koekoek
COMPOSER	Ella van der Woude
1ST AD	Philip de Jongh, Willem Quarles, Marian Lammers
LINE PRODUCER	Ada Goossens
PRODUCER	Topkapi Films Frans van Gestel, Laurette Schillings, Arnold Heslenfeld
CO-PRODUCER	Man Up Film Halina Reijn, Carice van Houten
BROADCASTER	BNNVARA Gemma Derksen, Robert Kievit
FINANCIERS	Nederlands Film Fonds, Netherlands Production Incentive, CoBo
DISTRIBUTOR	September Film Distribution
LENGTH	98'
INTERNATIONAL SALES	Films Boutique

## CAST

NICOLINE	Carice van Houten
IDRIS	Marwan Kenzari

Marie-Mae van Zuilen  
Pieter Embrechts  
Betty Schuurman  
Ariane Schluter  
Maria Kraakman  
Tamar van den Dop  
Robert de Hoog  
Juda Goslinga





## SYNOPSIS

In spite of her expertise and experience, a seasoned psychologist is completely infatuated by the sex offender she is treating in a penal institution.

Nicoline, an experienced psychologist, starts a new job at a penal institution. She meets Idris, a sex offender who committed a series of grave crimes. After five years of treatment, he is about to go on his first unaccompanied probation. His team of practitioners are enthusiastic about his development but newcomer Nicoline does not trust him and tries to push his probation. Idris tries his hardest to convince Nicoline of his good intentions, but slowly but surely, he transforms into the manipulative man she saw in him from the beginning. A power play emerges between the two and Nicoline, in spite of her knowledge and experience, lets herself be trapped completely.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As an actress I had the enormous pleasure of working with directors such as Paul Verhoeven, Theu Boermans, Alex van Warmerdam, Johan Siemons or Ivo van Hove who were Incredibly inspiring. Marlon Brando once said that acting is for wimps. Acting is such a bizarre profession; you share your deepest traumas but at the end of the day you are an extension of someone else. I started realizing how challenging and different the director's job was. The responsibility is enormous; the director is responsible 24/7. More and more I felt the need to join that conversation, to think along.

Then one day I saw a report on the phenomenon that many staff members in penal institutes and prisons fall in love with criminals. I was instantly intrigued. I believe it has to do with my tendency to sometimes want the wrong thing. You would assume a psychologist knows all the emotional risks of the job. We expect our medical and social practitioners are educated enough to know how to deal with these kinds of situations, but in the end, they are just humans as well.





I made a small dossier for producer Frans van Gestel, whom I knew from some films I did. My pitch was something like ‘Super intelligent, extremely successful female psychiatrist falls in love with a serial rapist in a penal institution’ and he was immediately interested.

The real question I had about this situation was ‘Why are we drawn to the things that hurt us?’ That’s what I wanted to find out. I learned from Ivo that you have to be able to look at any character with a complete suspension of moral judgment, but that is quite a challenge. Just like it was a challenge to tell the story in such a way the audience can sympathize with the female character. She becomes vulnerable to blackmail because she falls in love. At the same time, she has an enormous amount of power; in our penal system psychiatrists can sign you away for life.

I always knew I wanted to make my first film with Carice and I immediately knew I wanted Marwan. Not many actors exude real masculine danger like he does. Carice and Marwan have been part of this project from the very start. We read new versions of the script out loud and Esther Gerritsen, the screenwriter, and I would continue working with the collective feedback. It was a huge honor that they chose to work on this film with such great commitment, especially because they almost exclusively work internationally nowadays.



Alex van Warmerdam once told me a film will eventually talk back to you. That's when it's ready. You might want it to be something different, but what has come together, is then what it is. We only had 23 days of shooting, an incredibly short time. But In the end, the film did talk back to me - perhaps because I tried to explore the grey areas; by not telling the hero's journey, but more so showing the most vulnerable and painful emotions. Maybe, just maybe, it can spark a conversation. If you ask me there can only be change if we dare to truly look ourselves in the eye.





## HALINA REIJN

Halina Reijn (1975) is a Dutch actress, director, writer and producer. Her directorial feature film debut *INSTINCT*, starring Carice van Houten (*GAME OF THRONES*) and Marwan Kenzari (*ALADDIN*) will be released in October of this year. *INSTINCT* will be the first outing for Man Up, the production banner of Halina and Carice. In addition, she created the successful Dutch TV series *MEISJE VAN PLEZIER* (2017), which has been picked up for a second season and co-created a Dutch/ Belgian TV series about human trafficking and prostitution, which is currently in pre-production and is set to shoot in 2019. Next to being one of the creators of the show, she is also coproducing with Man Up and set to star in one of the lead roles.

In her native country The Netherlands, Halina is considered one of the best and most versatile actresses of her generation. She worked with renowned theatre director Ivo van Hove for 15 years, as the lead actress of his company, ITA. She toured the world with their plays, while combining her stage work with film. She won multiple awards, including the Dutch film Award, the Golden Calf for Best Actress, the highly prestigious Dutch theater awards Theo D'Or and Colombina as well as the Courbois Pearl, an oeuvre award



which honours an actress who had made an indelible impression on a huge audience, both on stage as in film and television. Most recently, the Theo Mann-Bouwmeester Ring was added to her list of awards. With his prestigious award Halina was honoured for her significant contribution to the Dutch theatre.

During her second year at the Maastricht Theater Academy, one of the best drama academies in Europe, Halina gets offered a contract by Theu Boermans, a well-known Dutch director and at the time artistic leader of 'Toneelgroep Amsterdam', the Amsterdam Theatre Company. Halina left the academy in her second year to debut on stage as Ophelia in HAMLET. In the same year she landed a role in ZUS & ZO, a film directed by Paula van der Oest (BLACK BUTTERFLIES) which picked up the Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film 2003. The Maastricht Theater Academy, normally a four-year education, allowed Halina to graduate early because of her special qualities. Hereafter she transformed into the grande dame of the Amsterdam Theatre Company, where she works with Tony winner Ivo van Hove, performing their plays such as LULU, HEDDA GABLER, MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA, THREE SISTERS, A DOLL HOUSE and MARIA STUART. She toured all over the world with Jean Cocteau's monologue LA VOIX HUMAINE. Most recently, she played opposite Jude Law in OBSESSION.

In the meantime, she continued to work on film and TV series as well. In 2006 Halina starred in Paul Verhoeven's critically acclaimed BLACK BOOK. Her performance in this film didn't go unnoticed, and Bryan Singer offered her a role in his 2008 film VALKYRIE, starring Tom Cruise. Other projects include IN THERAPIE, the Dutch version of the HBO hit series IN TREATMENT, and the title role in CHARLIE, the Dutch remake of Showtime's NURSE JACKIE. She worked with Peter Greenaway on GOLTZIUS & THE PELICAN COMPANY and played the lead role in ISABELLE, by director Oscar nominated director Ben Sombogaart. Last year, she played in the Swedish TV series CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE, directed by Charlotte Brändström.

## CARICE VAN HOUTEN

One of Europe's most celebrated actresses, CARICE VAN HOUTEN is best known for her role as The Red Priestess Melisandre in HBO and Sky Atlantic's GAME OF THRONES, for which she has been thrice nominated as a part of the 'Outstanding Ensemble' at the Screen Actors Guild Awards for the multi-award-winning series.

Carice was most recently seen alongside Dakota Fanning, Guy Pearce and Kit Harrington in Martin Koolhoven's western epic BRIMSTONE which was nominated for the Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival and as Best Film at the London Film Festival.



The film was called out by The Independent as “raw and very powerful filmmaking, a movie that can’t help but get under your skin.”

Carice is a multi-award-winner in her native Holland with acclaimed roles spanning across film and television. Her Dutch-language feature LOVE LIFE, based on the best-selling novel by Ray Kluun, gained Carice further critical acclaim for her performance as ‘Carmen’, a mother whose world falls apart as she deals with both her cancer diagnosis and serial adulterer husband. The award-winning film broke box office records in the country.

She attracted international attention with her lead role in Paul Verhoeven’s acclaimed wartime thriller BLACK BOOK - the most commercially successful Dutch film to date. The BAFTA nominated film centres on ‘Rachel Stein’, played by Van Houten, a Jewish singer who infiltrates the Gestapo headquarters for the Dutch resistance in the Nazi occupied Netherlands during World War II. Carice’s turn as Rachel “with ferocious energy” was commended by The New York Times. She followed this stellar performance with a role opposite Tom Cruise in Bryan Singer’s award-winning VALKYRIE. Carice’s next film THE HAPPY HOUSEWIFE won her a record breaking 5th Golden Calf at The Netherlands Film



Festival and she was voted 'Best Dutch Actress of All Time'. Other awards include Best Actress for BLACK BUTTERFLIES at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Her further credits include Juan Carlos Fresnadillo's INTRUDERS Bill Condon's THE FIFTH ESTATE, REPO MEN alongside Jude Law and Liev Schreiber and the Jesse Owens biopic, RACE, with Jason Sudekiss and Jeremy Irons. She has also voiced a character in an episode of THE SIMPSONS. She will be seen next in LOST GIRLS & LOVE HOTELS by William Olsson and Brian de Palma's DOMINO. She just wrapped THE GLASS ROOM, with Claes Bang and Roland Møller, and INSTINCT, directed by Halina Reijn. INSTINCT is the first film by Carice and Halina's production company MAN UP. Currently, Carice can be found on the set of the new thriller series TEMPLE, which will be broadcasted on the British channel Sky.

## BIOGRAPHY MARWAN KENZARI

Marwan Kenzari is an award-winning Dutch actor. He received critical acclaim for his powerful and brooding performance in the Dutch crime drama WOLF, in which he plays a recently paroled Moroccan immigrant struggling to toe the line between promising boxer and rising criminal enforcer. His performance won him the Golden Calf for Best Actor at the Netherlands Film Festival in 2013. The International Film Festival Berlin selected Marwan as a Shooting Star 2014, while Variety introduced him as 'International Talent to Watch' in February 2014. In December 2016, The Hollywood Reporter acknowledged him as one of 15 'International Break Out Talents of 2016'.

In 2009, Marwan (1983) graduated from the prestigious Theatre Academy Maastricht, one of the finest drama academies in Europe. Soon after he joined the Amsterdam Theatre Group to work with internationally acclaimed director Ivo van Hove (A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, LAZARUS). Marwan was seen on stage in plays such as ANGELS IN AMERICA, OPENING NIGHT, ROMAN TRAGEDIES and THE RUSSIANS, which he not only performed in The Netherlands, but also in New York, Moscow, Vienna and London.

Marwan made his screen debut in 2009, in MAITE WAS HERE by European Film Award-winning director Boudewijn Koole. In the same year, he starred in THE LAST DAYS OF EMMA BLAND, by auteur-director Alex van Warmerdam, whose film BORGMAN screened in competition at Cannes Film Festival 2013.

A year later, Marwan landed a role in LOFT, which was awarded The Best Dutch Crime Drama of the last decade in 2013 and received the Crimezone Award of Honor. In the same year, first-time director Jim Taihuttu and Marwan joined forces for RABAT. The film marks the start of a long-time collaboration between Jim and Marwan, which continued with WOLF in 2013 and a third feature film currently in development.



He made his international debut in *COLLIDE* (2016), with Anthony Hopkins, Nick Hoult, Felicity Jones and Ben Kingsley, followed by a turn in *BEN-HUR* (2016) by director Timur Bekmambetov. He stars opposite Noomi Rapace and Glenn Close in *WHAT HAPPENED TO MONDAY* (2017) and can be seen with Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac in Terry George's *THE PROMISE* (2016), which premiered in Toronto in 2016. Prior to that, he wrapped *THE MUMMY* (2017), opposite Tom Cruise and Russell Crowe, and *MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS* (2017), opposite Johnny Depp and Michelle Pfeiffer.

In 2018, Marwan plays the lead role of Egyptian spy Ashraf Marwan in the Netflix film *THE ANGEL*. This summer, he plays the iconic role of 'Jafar' in Guy Ritchie's live action musical version of the Disney feature *ALADDIN*, already the third most popular film of this year. Later this year he will play a lead role alongside Carice van Houten in *Instinct*, directed by Halina Reijn. The film will be released in October.



## TOPKAPI FILMS (Production Company)

Topkapi is an Amsterdam based production company that develops, produces and co-produces feature films and television drama for the Dutch and international market. It strives to build long-term relationships with writers and directors. With focus on new ways of storytelling Topkapi Nonfiction recently started to work on documentary series.

Topkapi Films is run by producers Frans van Gestel, Arnold Heslenfeld and Laurette Schillings. Idse Grotenhuis is responsible for Topkapi Series and Robert Oey is leading Topkapi Nonfiction.

Successful titles (co)produced by Topkapi Films are o.a.: GIRL, LAYLA M., PUBLIEKE WERKEN, ALLES IS LIEFDE, LAND AND SHADE, ZUIDAS, BELGICA, THE COMMUNE, ALL OF A SUDDEN, OUT OF LOVE and THE BROKEN CIRCLE BREAKDOWN.

## MAN UP (Production Company)

Carice van Houten and Halina Reijn have achieved rapid success as actresses, and have had the opportunity to work with many different, very talented writers, directors and artists from all over the world, in theatre and film. For them the time has come to not just be performers but creators, too. There is a huge need for stories told from a female perspective. That, and a constant overflow of ideas that need a way out, inspired them to create their own production company, MAN UP.

MAN UP's goal is to create films and television drama with high current value and relevance. To explore darker, edgy stories that, through shame or fear, often remain untold. As actresses, quality and artistic integrity and openness to their audiences have always been important to Carice and Halina. Those qualities will also define them as makers.

# INSTINCT

A FILM BY HALINA REIJN

FILMS *Boutique*