

# THE POETESS

by Stefanie Brockhaus, Andreas Wolff



## SYNOPSIS

Hissa Hilal is the voice from behind the veil. Her weapon is her word. Hissa is a self-taught writer and she says what she thinks. She decides to take part in the Million's Poet show, an Abu-Dhabi based TV show. It is the Arab world's biggest poetry competition, and it is dominated by men. Hissa works herself up, becoming the first woman in the finals. In her poems she criticizes the patriarchal Arab society and she attacks one of the most notorious Saudi clerics for his extremist fatwas, live, in front of 75 million viewers. We'll never see Hissa's face. Like the majority of Saudi women, Hissa is covered from head to toe. She is not allowed to drive a car. She doesn't own a passport. And she requires consent from her husband for any sort of activity. Coming out of nowhere, the housewife Hissa is suddenly breaking news in the biggest Western and Arab media. How did she gain the knowledge and the courage to step on stage and risk her life? This is Hissa's story.

## FESTIVALS

- \* German Documentary Award (Norbert Daldrop Prize)
- \* European Film Award Documentary Selection
- \* Locarno Film Festival (Semaine de la Critique)
- \* IDFA International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam
- \* All About Freedom Gdansk (Poland)
- \* Zurich Human Rights Film Festival (Switzerland)
- \* DocPoint – Helsinki Documentary Film Festival (Finland)
- \* Stockholm Feminist Film Festival (Sweden)
- \* One World International Film Festival (Czech Republic)
- \* CPH:DOX (Copenhagen, Denmark)
- \* One World Romania (Bucharest, Romania)
- \* Millenium International Documentary Film Festival (Belgium)
- \* Middle East Now Festival (Firenze, Italy)
- \* Bolzano Film Festival Bozen (Italy)
- \* Millenium Docs Against Gravity Film Festival (Warszawa, Poland)

Germany, United Arab Emirates

2017

88 min

### FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, Current Affairs, Conflicts, Human Rights

### ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

Arabic

### PREMIERE

Germany (2017)

### PRODUCTION COMPANY

[Andreas Wolff Film](#)

Nixenweg 20

81739 München

Germany

[info@andywolff.com](mailto:info@andywolff.com)

[https://andywolff.com](http://andywolff.com)

### FILM LOCATION

Saudi Arabia

### LINKS / REFERENCE

### PRODUCTION

Stefanie Brockhaus

[sbrockhaus@stefaniebrockhau...](mailto:sbrockhaus@stefaniebrockhau...)

[https://stefaniebrockhaus.c...](http://stefaniebrockhaus.c...)

### TRAILER

[https://youtu.be/U\\_65ev6tDH...](https://youtu.be/U_65ev6tDH...)

VoD

<http://thepoetessfilm.com>

### PRESS

<https://variety.com/2017/fi...>

<https://filmuforia.com/the-...>