

Polar Star Films

PRESENTS

Influenced

A FEATURE FILM DIRECTED BY

Fernanda Rossi

MAFIZ
MALAGA FESTIVAL INDUSTRY ZONE

MAFIZ

**YOU
ARE
NOT
ME**

@logline

An influencer and her manager engage in a psychological duel when the first decides to close her social media accounts, stop talking and refuses to be photographed. Using the visual language and tools of social media, *Influenced* brings into question the consequences of our fragmented, digital lives.

#synopsis

No more social media posts, photos or talking. Essena, a successful influencer is done with fabricating a manicured digital life. Her reasons for now unknown. But her equally young manager, Nuna, is sure they are about to hit it big; this is not the time to get off the social media carnival. Their power struggles to solve their differences throws them into a psychological duel that will reveal their most intimate secrets.

Nuna decides to gain time by offering Essena a break at her spacious apartment and strategize ways to get her back online. None of which work. One night, Nuna confides in Essena how, as a teenager, she had been the victim of revenge porn. The confession brings them closer, so close that Nuna wonders if she could take Essena's place for some much-needed photos and new posts. Days later, Nuna discovers a letter where Essena mocks her revenge porn trauma as a mere branding mishap.

Feeling betrayed, Nuna turns on Essena leading to a dreamlike violent showdown. Their identities may have melded but will be torn apart to then be inextricably transformed. In an homage of cult films as *Persona*, *Single, White Female*, and *The Piano*, *Influenced* subverts them incorporating the audiovisual language and tools of social media to explore identity and violence from a decidedly female perspective.

>>> PRODUCTION NOTES

- 93 min, cinema d'auteur
- English and Spanish
- Shot in Barcelona, Spain
- In final post-production
- Selected for work-in-progress screening MAFIZ- Festival de Málaga

VICTIM OF REVENGE

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#cast

MARIA CABALLERO LÁZARO

Maria Caballero is an up-and-coming Spanish actor whose film debut in 2017 was the Goya nominated, feature-film *Amar* by director Esteban Crespo. She was then quickly picked up for roles in *Tiempo después* by José Luis Cuerda and *Salir del Ropero* by Ángeles Reiné. Her performance in *Fausto*, an *Instituto Valenciano de Cultura* theatre production gained her a Best New Actor nomination. Maria has starred in numerous plays, both national and international, including *Lights out* and *Thando*, both in the United Kingdom. Maria has featured in television series such as *El ministerio del tiempo* and *Los protegidos*, this year she premieres in two Netflix series.

OLIVIA GIORDANA

Olivia Giordana is a young actress breaking into the film scene. Her journey began at age 12 with song, dance and improvisation at the Aules art school. There she worked on a number of theater monologues. She delved into both classical pieces, contemporary adaptations like Anne Frank's diary and by up-and-coming playwrights, such as *La Sang De Les Promesses* by Wadji Mouawad. Director Fernanda Rossi discovered Olivia in a chance encounter and was so taken by her striking presence and acting potential that she cast her for the co-lead in her film *influenced*. Olivia trained extensively with the director to fully realize the character. Her outstanding performance stands as a testimony to Fernanda's visionary decision, marking the beginning of Olivia's film career.



fragments



FERNANDA ROSSI

Fernanda Rossi is a screenwriter and director whose films focus on women's power struggles in interpersonal relationships. She has written six fiction feature-length screenplays and directed many award-winning short films. Her feature-length script **Picture Me!** was invited to the **Latin American Sundance Screenwriters Laboratory** and was workshopped with director **Benoit Jacquot** in the **ESAV Director's Laboratory** in Toulouse, France.

Among the dozens of shorts she has written and directed, **Clara Como El Agua**, premiered at the **PBS Film Festival**, was awarded funds from the **Latino Public Broadcast Media Fund** and won **Best Short at Hispanicize** in Miami, Florida. **Brain OFF!**, the sequel to **Clara Como El Agua**, premiered at the **North Cape Film Festival** in Norway.

As a co-writer and script doctor for both fiction films and documentaries, she has collaborated on more than 500 projects. Two documentaries were nominated for the **Academy Award®**, and another was nominated for Best Script for the **Wildscreen Panda Awards**. Her collaboration in the fiction feature **Muralla** by Gory Patiño won her **Best Script by Argentores** – the Association of Authors of Argentina. Many other films were screened and awarded at festivals such as **Sundance, IDFA, Hot Docs, Sheffield Doc/Fest**, and broadcast on **BBC, HBO** and **PBS**.

production company

POLAR STAR FILMS

Polar Star Films is an independent film and television production company based in Barcelona, Spain specialised in feature films and creative documentary for international audiences. The company advocates powerful, independent storytelling, defined by discerning investigation and strong viewpoints, as well as supporting and cultivating new creative talent. Subversive narratives and films, where the boundaries of fiction and documentary are blurred, are recurrent themes explored in Polar Star Films' work. The company currently has 4 fiction feature films in production and development.

Polar Star Films' productions have won numerous international awards, including the Silver Jasmine Branch, Málaga for **Con el viento**, the **Amnesty International Award** for **Me llamo Violeta**, numerous **Best Film** for **The Secret of Docotor Grinberg**, **The Montserrat Roig Award** for **Idrissa**, **Chronicle of an Ordinary Death**, the **National Headliner Award** for **Google and the World Brain**, the **FIPRESCI, Hot Docs** and **PBS Independent Lens Award** for **The Devil's Miner**, and **Prix Europa** for **Mañana al mar**.

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REAL



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