CAVIAR. CLIMAX FILMS AND A TEAM PRODUCTIONS PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH VAF/FLANDERS IMAGE

DROPBOX DISCOVERY AWARD

toronto international film festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2015

PÖFF 19 PIMEDATE ÖÖDE FILMIFESTIVA
13 – 29 NOV 2015 TALLINN

BY ADIL EL ARBI + BILALL FALLAH

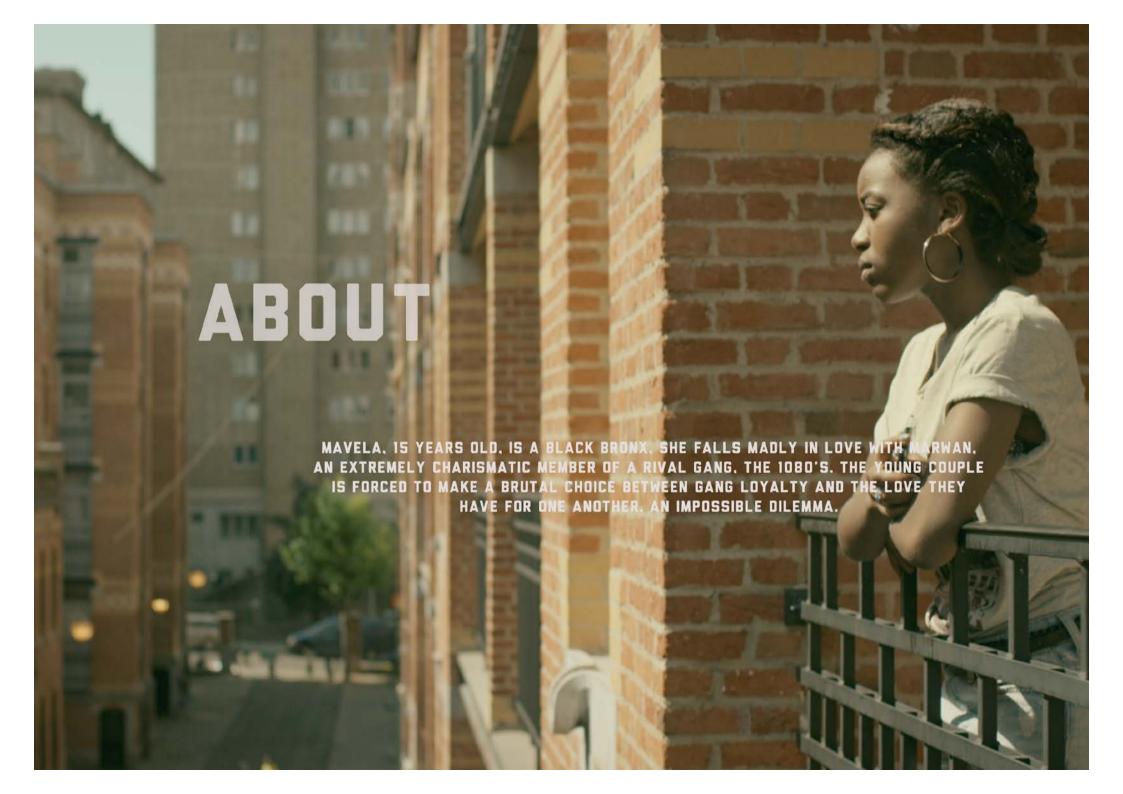
Festival Internacional de Cine de Gijón

WINNER PORT OF GHENT AUDIENCE AWARD @

FILM FEST 🗇 GEN

CAWAR





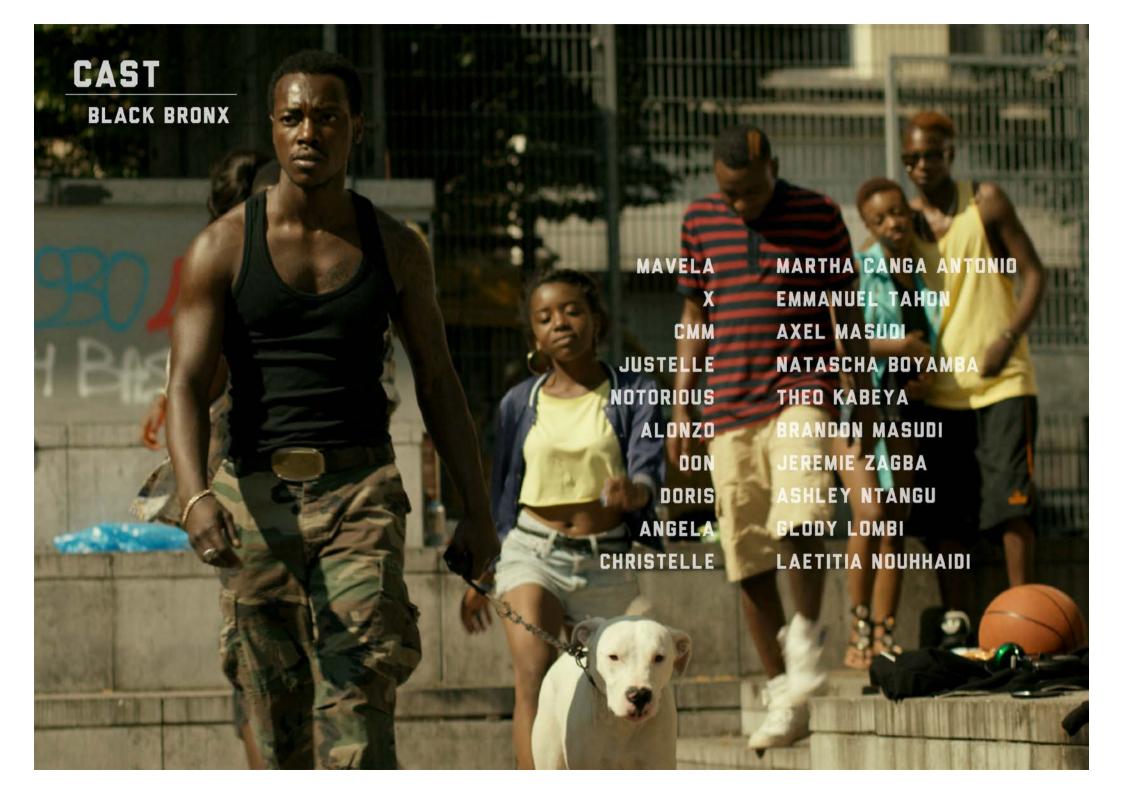
SYNOPSIS

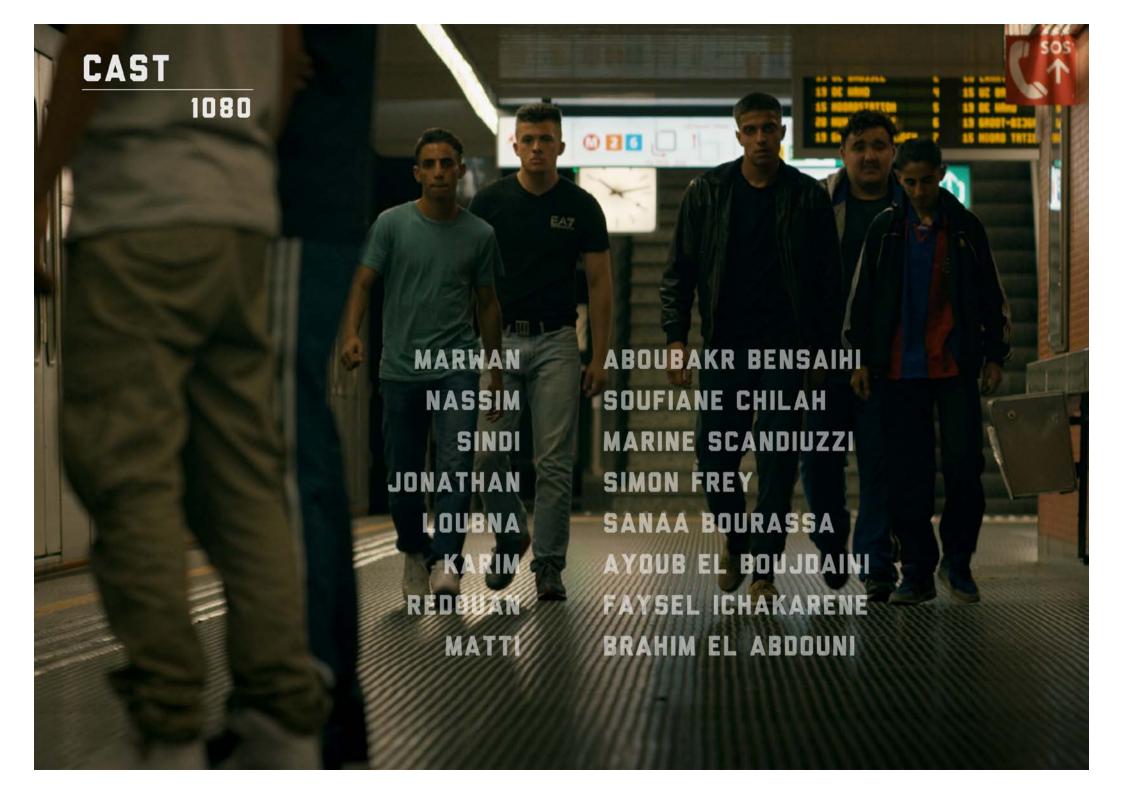
MAVELA, A 15-YEAR-OLD BLACK TEENAGER, DID NOT FIT IN.
THAT WAS UNTIL SHE ENCOUNTERED THE BLACK BRONX, A
WELL-KNOWN GANG OF YOUNG AFRICANS. SHE FEELS AT HOME
IN THE GANG, ACCEPTED. SHE HAS FRIENDS NOW, WHO GET
HER MIXED UP IN STREET LIFE. FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME,
MAVELA FEELS LIKE SHE BELONGS. IN RETURN, SHE
QUICKLY LEARNS THAT BLACK BRONX IS A LIFETIME
COMMITMENT: ONCE A GANG MEMBER, ALWAYS A GANG
MEMBER. AND SHE HAS NO INTENTION OF LEAVING. ONE DAY.
HOWEVER, SHE MEETS MARWAN.

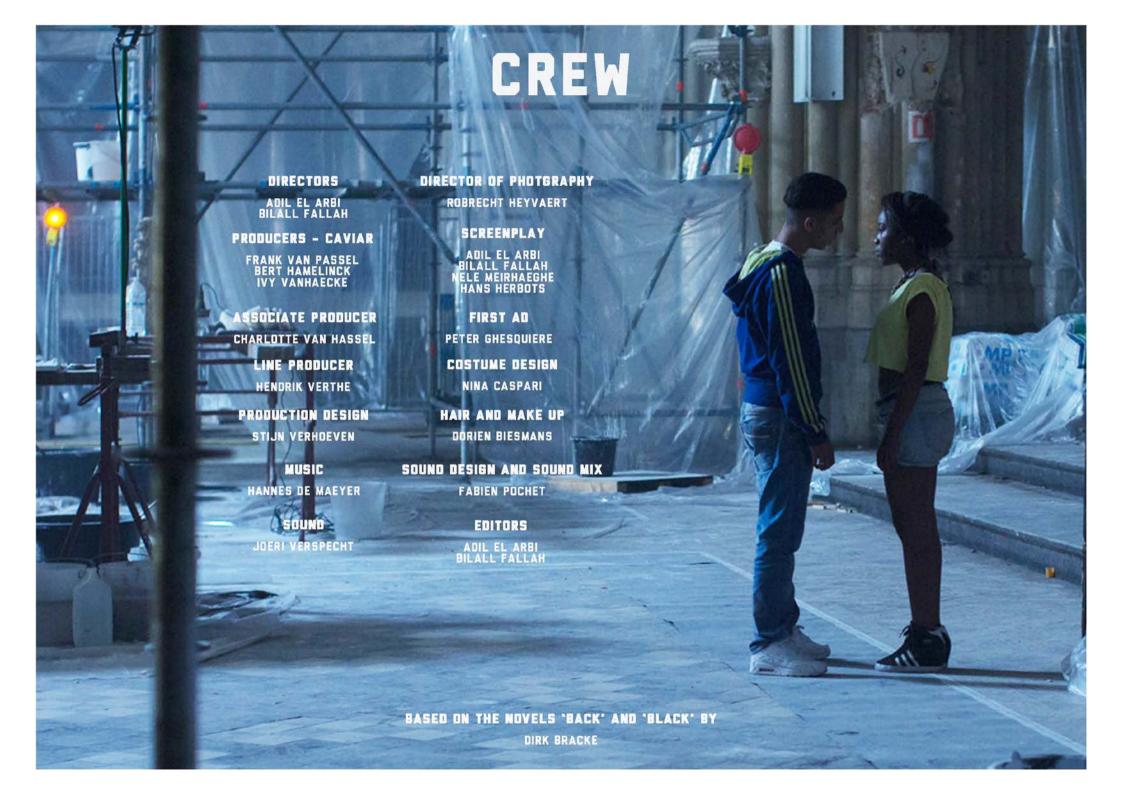
MARWAN IS MOROCCAN AND A MEMBER OF THE 1080'S.

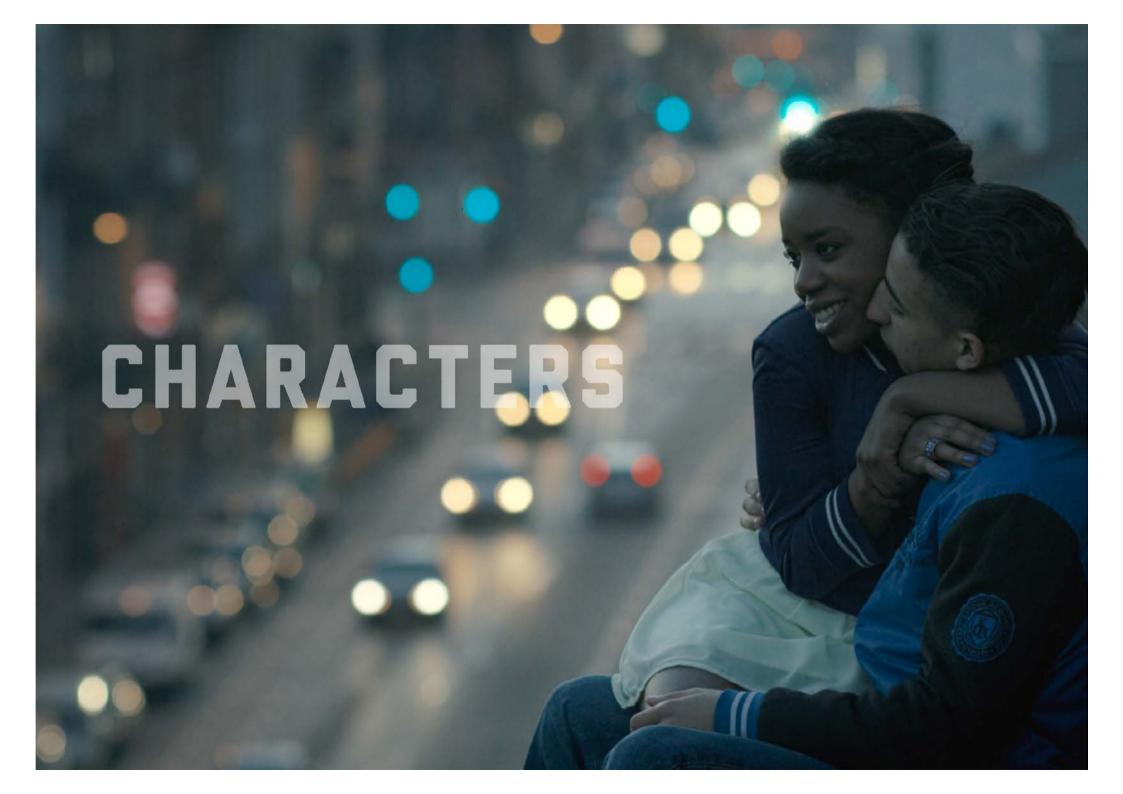
ANOTHER TEENAGE GANG AND THE ENEMY OF THE BLACK BRONX GANG. FROM THEIR FIRST MEETING, THEY KNOW THEY WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER. BUT A GIRL WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE BLACK BRONX GANG IS NOT SUPPOSED TO GO AROUND WITH OUTSIDERS. THE YOUNG COUPLE IS FORCED TO HIDE. SEEING EACH OTHER IN SECRET. BUT, THE BEST-LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN OFTEN GO ASTRAY... THEY ARE QUICKLY FOUND OUT AND HAVE TO PAY THE CONSEQUENSES. WHEN MAVELA IS PUNISHED FOR HER DISLOYALTY TO THE GANG. SHE FINALLY WAKES UP TO REALITY. REALIZING THAT SHE IS NOT WHERE SHE BELONGS.













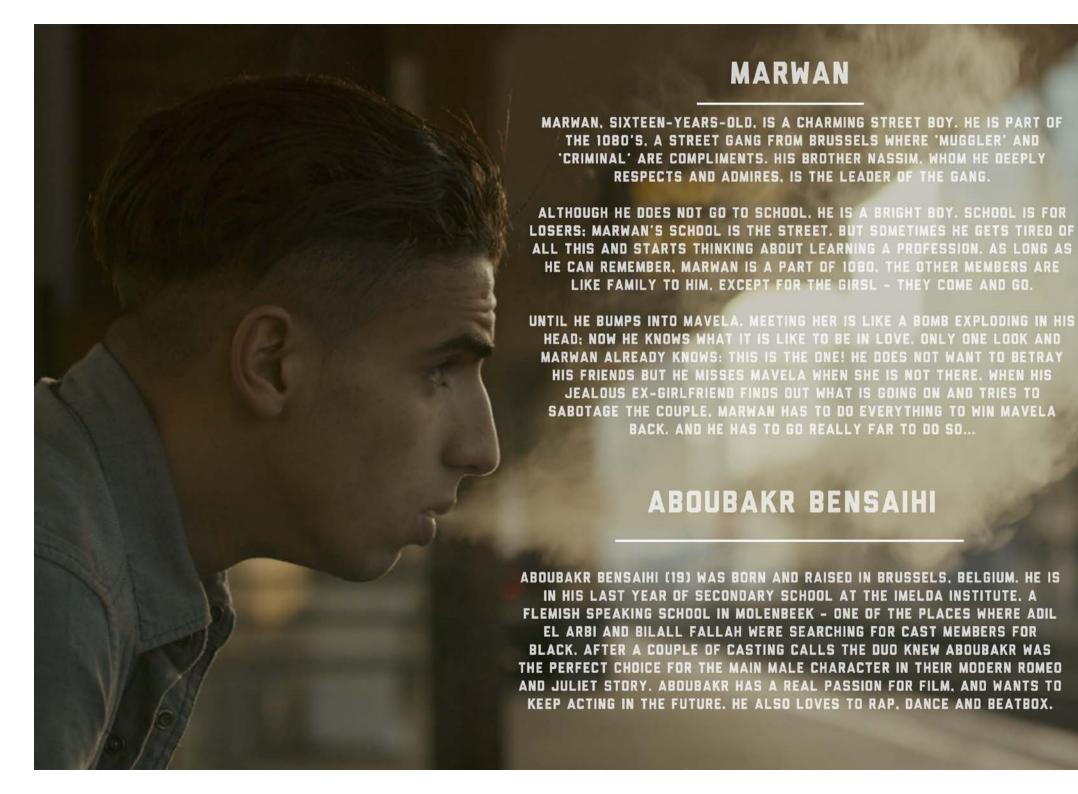
MAVELA

MAVELA'S REAL NAME IS MARIE-EVELYNE. SHE IS SIXTEEN AND WAS BORN IN CONGO, BUT ALWAYS LIVED IN BELGIUM. PEOPLE ARE STILL TREATING HER LIKE SHE IS A FOREIGNER. MAVELA IS NOT FEELING AT HOME ANYWHERE: NOT AT HER HOME WITH HER MOM NEITHER AT SCHOOL. WITH HER FRIENDS, THE ONLY PLACE SHE IS ABLE TO BE HERSELF IS AT THE BLACK BRONX, A STREET GANG FROM BRUSSELS. WHEN SHE IS WITH THE BLACK BRONX, SHE FINALLY FEELS LIKE SHE CAN BE HERSELF. EVEN MORE, SHE HAS THE FEELING THAT SHE CAN MEAN SOMETHING.

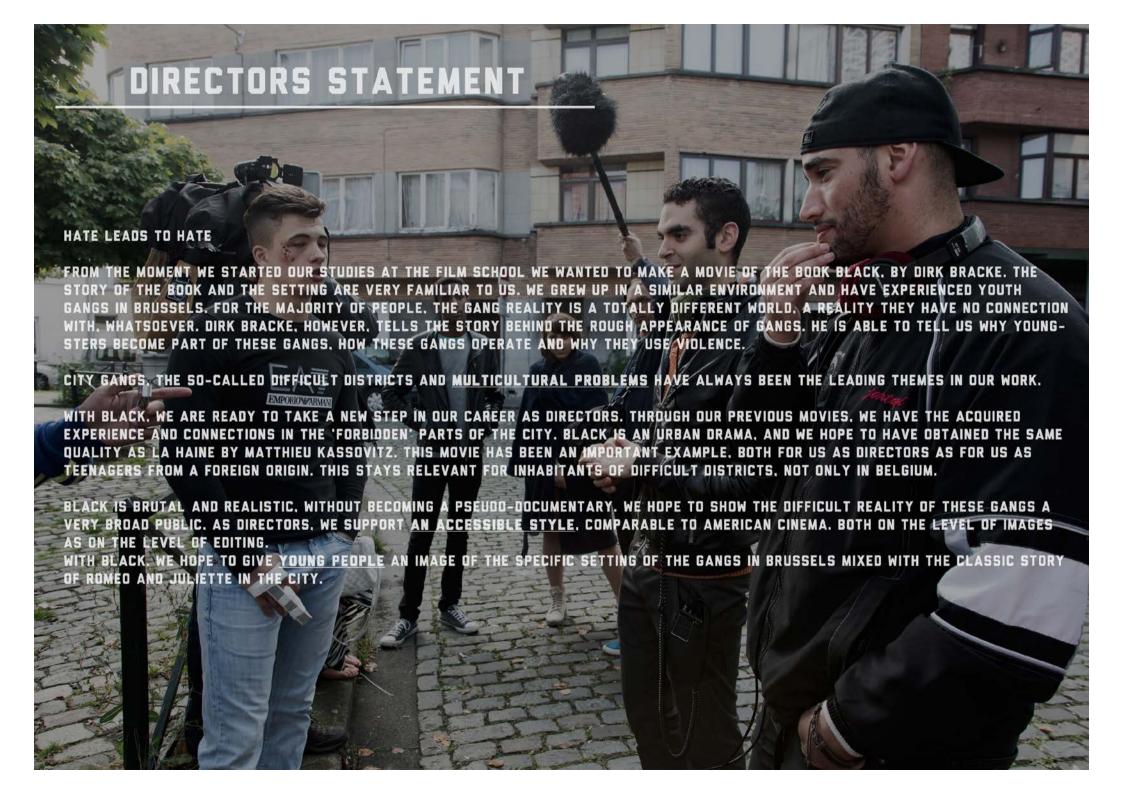
WHEN MAVELA MEETS MARWAN, IT IS DIFFICULT TO STAY TOUGH. ALTHOUGH HE IS A MORROCAN BOY FROM A COMPETING GANG, HE MEANS A LOT MORE TO MAVELA. WITH HIM SHE CAN BE HERSELF, THE REAL MAVELA THIS TIME...

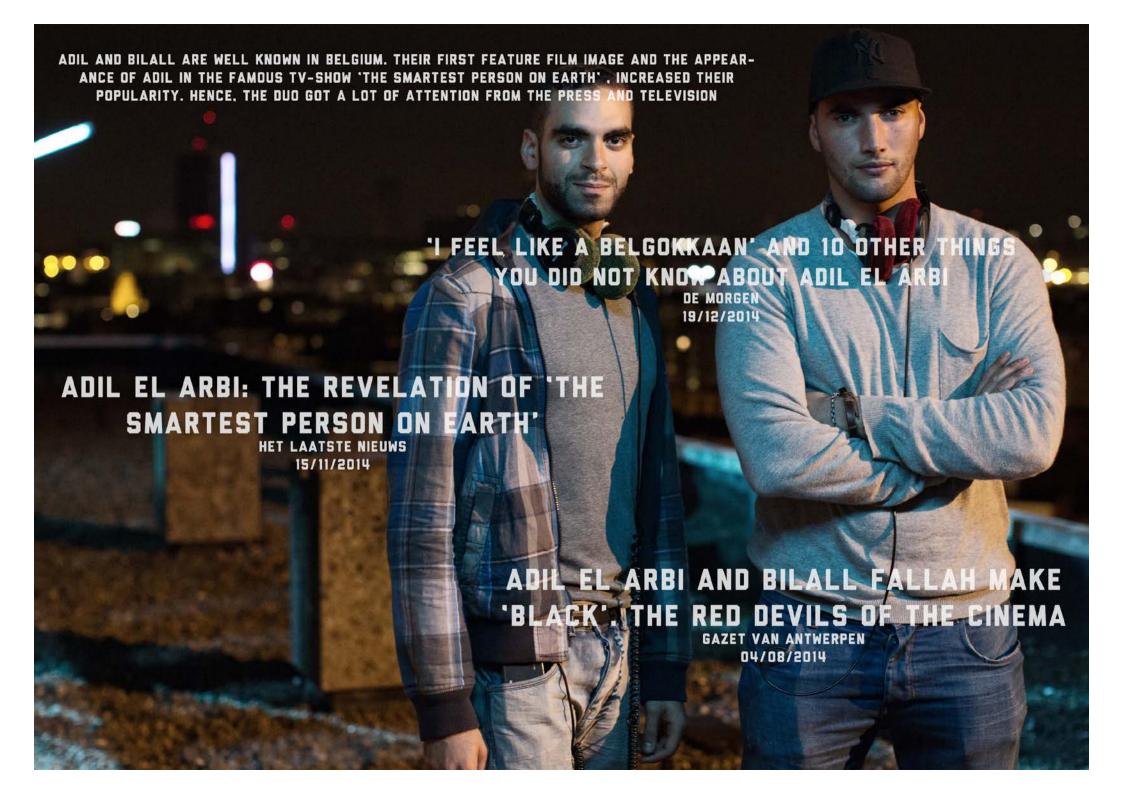
MARTHA CANGA ANTONIO

MARTHA CANGA ANTONIO (20) WAS BORN IN MONS, BELGIUM. SHE GREW UP IN MECHELEN AND IS A STUDENT IN COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT. HER FAVORITE HOBBIES ARE MAKING MUSIC AND ACTING. ON FACEBOOK, MARTHA SAW A CASTING CALL FOR BLACK AND IMMEDIATELY APPLIED. SHE ALSO HOPES TO PURSUE HER DREAM: TO KEEP ACTING IN THE FUTURE AND MAKE A FULLTIME CAREER OUT OF IT.









REALITY OR FICTION ?

ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF THE MOVIE IS THE REALISTIC APPROACH. TO THIS DAY, BRUSSELS STILL COUNTS 36 ACTIVE YOUTH GANGS FROM SEVERAL ORIGINS IN CERTAIN NEIGHBOURHOODS. THEREFORE, IT GETS A LOT OF ATTENTION BY THE MEDIA AND PRESS. THE INTENTION OF THE DIRECTORS IS TO TELL ANOTHER STORY OF THESE GANGS. THE STORY BEHIND WHAT WE SEE IN THE PRESS.

STREET WAR IN BRUSSELS GOES ON

DE STANDAARD 26/04/2014

36 URBAN GANGS COUNTED IN BRUSSELS LE SOIR 05/05/2014

MORE STREETGANGS IN BRUSSELS? TO BE IN THE DATABASE OF THE POLICE IS THOUGH

DE MORGEN 06/05/2014

BASED ON THE BOOKS

BACK/BLACK

THE SCREENPLAY IS BASED ON THE NOVELS 'BACK' AND 'BLACK' BY DIRK BRACKE, A VERY WELL-KNOWN WRITER AMONG BELGIAN TEENAGERS. HE SOLD MORE THAN 350 000 COPIES OF THESE TWO BOOKS, WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO DANISH, GERMAN, SPANISH AND POLISH. BO, A MOVIE PRODUCED BY CAVIAR, IS BASED ON HIS BOOK ENGELENHUIS. THE NOVELS 'BACK' AND 'BLACK' ARE WELL RESEARCHED BY THE AUTHOR. DIRK BRACKE HAS FOLLOWED THE POLICE DURING A LONG PERIOD IN THEIR INVESTIGATIONS ABOUT THE GANGS IN BRUSSELS.

ORIGINALLY, DIRECTOR HANS HERBOTS WOULD MAKE A MOVIE OF THIS BOOKS, BUT HANS HIMSELF WAS CONVINCED ADIL AND BILALL WERE BETTER PLACED TO DIRECT BLACK. THEY OFFER A NEW AND UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON THIS NARRATIVE WHILE PRESERVING THE STORY'S POIGNANT AUTHENTICITY.

DIRK BRACKE

VERFILMO DOOR ADIL EL ARBI EN BILALL FALLAH

DAVIDSFONDS INFODOK CAVIAR

DAVIDSFONDS INFODOK



PRESS

"LE CINÉMA BELGE NOUS AVAIT BLUFFÉ AVEC BULLHEAD. IL VIENT DE RETOURNER LE FESTIVAL DE TORONTO AVEC Black" - (Liberation)

'THE FILM IS ESSENTIALLY A ROMEO AND JULIET LOVE STORY, BUT SHOT THROUGH WITH THE STREETWISE AND UNFLINCHING SENSIBILITIES OF LARRY CLARK'S KIDS OR HECTOR BABANCO'S PIXOTE, AND USES BLAZING VISUALS TO CONVEY THE SEEMINGLY LIMITLESS POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE IN THE INNER CITY - (VICE)

"BLACK IS A MOVIE YOU WILL NOT FORGET ONCE YOU SEE IT. IT FITS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN CITY OF GOD AND SHAKESPEARE'S ROMED +
JULIET ... IT WILL DO FOR BELGIUM WHAT GOMORRAH DID FOR ITALY, WHAT CITY OF GOD DID FOR BRAZIL, AND WHAT PRETTY MUCH EVERY
MARTIN SCORSESE GANGSTER

PICTURE DOES FOR AMERICA." - (TWITCH FILM)

" I'M REALLY GLAD I SAW IT. IT'S THE STRONGEST FILM I'VE SEEN HERE YET AND IT WILL GET REVIEWED. I PROMISE."

(VARIETY)

THE BEAUTY OF BLACK IS THAT THE STORY. THROUGH CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. MAKES YOU CARE. (...) EL ARBI AND FALLAH'S DRIVE THIS RACE CAR OF A FILM WITH
UNBRIDLED ENERGY AND UNCOMFORTABLE REALISM.I HOPE THAT BLACK GETS A WIDE
RELEASE AND LOOK FORWARD TO MORE PRODUCTIONS FROM ADIL AND BILIALL IN THE FUTURE. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED"
(PARTICULPELICULA)

"POUR LA MEILLEURE SURPRISE DU FESTIVAL. NOUS AVONS RETENU BLACK. UN ROMÉO ET JULIETTE MODERNE SUR TRAME DE GUERRE DES GANGS RACIAUX À BRUXELLES.
À L'ÉNERGIE BOUILLONNANTE ET AUX IMAGES MAGNIFIQUES " (LES EXPRESS TORONTO-ZEFRED)

" ... , IT LOOKS LIKE A HIDDEN GEM, A MIXTURE OF "GIRLHOOD" MEETING "ROMEO AND JULIET", A VERY AUTHENTIC PIECE." - (STOPKLATKA - MAGDALENA MALSMIUK)

"BLACK IS A VERY CHALLENGING AND TIMELY WORK THAT ADDS INTERESTING DIALOGUE TO THE CONVERSATION." - (EXCLAIM!)

"DIRECTORS EL ARBI AND FALLAH HAVE SET THEMSELVES UP AS NEW VOICES TO WATCH ON THE WORLD SCENE." - (IN THE SEATS)

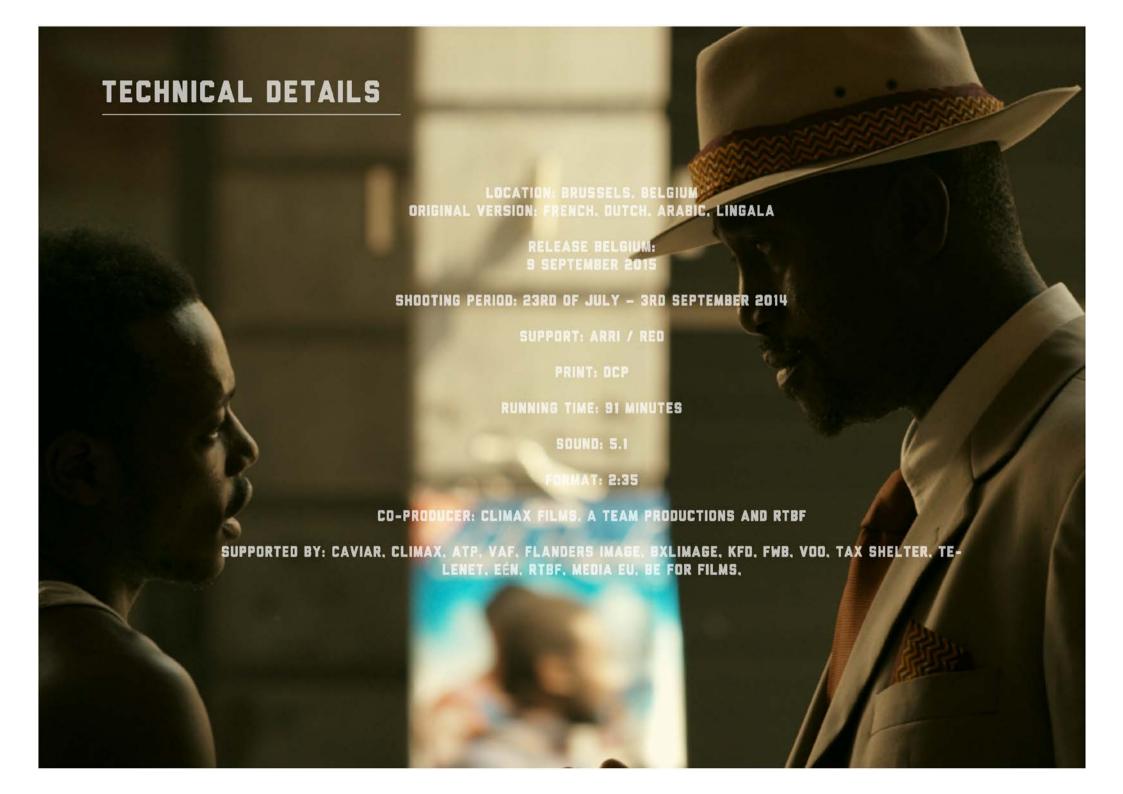
"BLARING HIP-HOP AND A STYLISTICALLY VISUAL FLAIR." - (THEFILMSTAGE.COM)

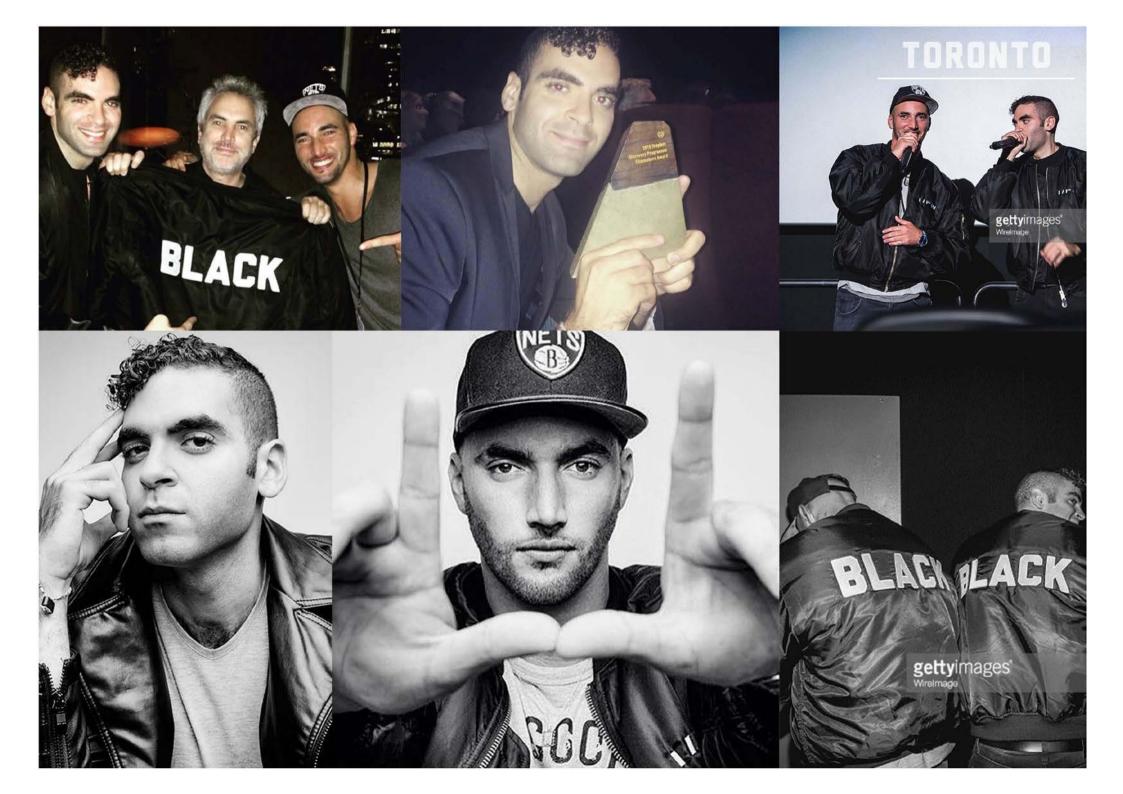
"DIRECTED WITH STYLE, SKILL AND ARTISTRY." - (THE FILM CORNER)

"THE STORY IS REAL, IT IS RAW, AND IT IS RARE FOR A BELGIAN FILM TO PORTRAY WHAT IS GOING ON DOWN BELOW." - (SCENE CREEK)

"GRITTY, UNFLINCHING PORTRAIT OF STREET LIFE." - (TORONTO FILM SCENE)

"BLACK OFFERS A VERY FRESH PERSPECTIVE OF A GRITTY REALITY THAT DOESN'T USUALLY GET A VOICE." - (SHE DOES THE CITY)









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