



FILM WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ANNA ERIKSSON



33. Venice International
Film Critics' Week

Synopsis

M is a work of art that explores the relationship between sexuality and death. These two appear to be opposite forces, but in fact they merge in all of us, disguising the fear of death or the desire to die, the world of Eros and Thanatos.

Essay

“I’ve had to suck a lot of cock to get to where I am now, Abraham. But sometimes I can’t help but wonder, where am I, you know.” -M

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In M the character inspired by Marilyn Monroe should be seen as a symbol of this interpenetration. The actress’s death is as famous as her sexuality and thus sets a perfect example of how the ancient bond between sex and death is being forever mystified and exploited by the popular culture. M attempts to explore this phenomenon in a much more personal level.

All the events in the work are fictional and they are set in no particular place or time. The work consists of film material that has been produced on and off in a time period of four years, beginning in March 2013 to December 2017. The footage was shot mainly in the home and grounds of Casa das Musas Art House in Nazare, Portugal. Other shooting locations were Litibu village in Mexico and Uusikaupunki, Finland.

All the actors in the work are non-professionals and were chosen because of their strong essence and character. Although the work is based on a script the roles and events were adjusted to fit the actors presence, and all of the dialogue was acted by the artist herself as voiceover.

At times the process of filming was on the verge of improvisation and therefore only the afterwork would fully determine how some of the scenes developed. This way of working turned out to be a crucial element of the work.

M is not an attempt to tell a story or redefine a character. In fact it is quite the opposite. The elements of film are being used as pathways for the artist to move in and out of the characters, each character representing somewhat a side of the artists own fantasy. By placing herself in the part of an object of fantasy the artist strives to understand the unity of sex and death, not merely as a myth in popular culture, but as an integral part of humanity.



Biography

Anna Eriksson was born April 22, 1977 in Rauma, Finland. Because of her father's job, Anna spent most of her childhood and teenage years traveling around the world. The family lived in India, Tanzania and Saudi-Arabia. Anna studied music from early on, concentrating in singing. After graduating college she recorded her first album, which instantly became a huge success in Finland. She has recorded ten albums, writing and producing the last four of them herself. Anna has won many awards, including two Emma prizes (the Finnish Grammy), and for her 2012 album MANA she received the Teosto prize, which is one of the biggest art prizes in the Nordic countries. In 2013 Anna put her musical career on hold and began working on her first feature film M. M premiered at 33rd Venice International Film Critics' Week in 2018.



Original title

M

Duration

94 min 10 sec

Genre

Experimental

Year

2018

Country of origin

Finland

Language

English with Italian subtitles

Format

2K SCOPE, DCP, 2.39:1,
Dolby Surround 5.1

World premiere

On September 6th 2018
33. Venice International Film Critics' Week

Official website

www.cursumperficio.fi

Official Facebook

www.facebook.com/cursumxperficio/

Official Instagram

www.instagram.com/cursumxperficio/

Anna Eriksson

www.annaeriksson.fi

IMDB

www.imdb.com/title/tt8774708/

Cast

Anna Eriksson	M
Petri Salo	Psychiatrist
Gail Ferguson	Georgia
Axel Sutinen	Gardener
Ari Vieno	Man in the car
José Paiva Wolff	Wolff Ruby, make-up artist
Quim-Ze Grilo	Anubis
Gloria Bleezard-Levister	Melody Manners
Alonso Levister	TV show host
Susana Gonçalo	Girl in the veil
Steve Remigio Delgado	Abraham
Issey O'Brien	Psychiatrist's daughter
Veera Siivonen	Girl in the car
Joni Segerroos	Boy in the car

Credits

Written and directed by

Anna Eriksson

All female voices and narrative voice

Anna Eriksson

Artistic collaboration in Portugal and the character of Anubis

Petri Salo & Axel Sutinen

Music composed

Anna Eriksson

Sound

Anna Eriksson

Cinematography

Matti Pyykkö

Editing

Anna Eriksson

Scenography

Anna Eriksson

Petri Salo

Axel Sutinen

Costumier

Anna Eriksson

Petri Salo

Color

Eliel Kilkki & Anna Eriksson

Post-production

Eliel Kilkki

Heavy metal track

No Doubt

written and performed by Shapeless

Graphic design

Pietari Kaakkomäki

With support from Finnish
Arts Promotion Center (Taike)

Production

Anna Eriksson

Ihode Management Ltd

Cursum Perficio

Festival and Press inquiries

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