



WINDOW WATCHING

by Writer | Director
SVJETLANA JAKLENEC

"An original, compelling and sexually charged drama in an unusually rich social context..."

- HAROLD GREENBERG FUND CANADA

Feature film about a young Muslim widow who embarks on a journey of sexual awakening and empowerment when she enters the life of her next-door neighbour - thru her window.

Genre: Drama

Target Audience: Women 20 to 45, plus crossover audience

Budget: \$1.8M CAD

Anda is an illegal immigrant, dealing with the pain of survivors' guilt post ex-Yugoslavian war by keeping emotionally muted. Feeling misplaced in her new home in Canada, she tries to maintain some degree of cultural continuity with her homeland by conforming to the tight knit Muslim immigrant community. Fearful of rejection and deportation, she holds back from any life experiences. That is until her world collides with Noelle's.

Noelle is an open-minded new-worldly young woman, with an outgoing personality that masks the dark secrets of the past ravaging her soul. While assisting Anda in her emotional and physical awakening, Noelle's wounds start to heal when she realizes there is much to be learned from Anda's forgiveness, quiet perseverance and sense of duty.

This is a timely story that bridges the gap between immigrant and non-immigrant experiences as it tackles the elements of voyeurism, love triangle, female empowerment and sexual awakening. When they take off the headscarf and makeup and look beyond religion and cultural pretences, Anda and Noelle are just two lost women navigating through the rite of passage to womanhood and self-realization.



* *Window Watching* was selected for Telefilm Canada's *Pitch This* – a pitching competition held during TIFF. Since then, *Window Watching* screenplay has been developed with funds awarded by the Harold Greenberg Fund, Canada.

* *Window Watching* Concept Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/41119552>

Writer/Director:

Svjetlana Jaklenec is a passionate award-winning director and writer, an alumna of the prestigious *Cineplex Director's Lab* at the *Canadian Film Centre*. Her short films, *Dangerous Heroes*, *The Quarry* and *Rishi's World* have screened at international festivals and garnered multiple awards. As an accomplished writer, she has been awarded screenwriting grants for her feature film screenplays from Telefilm Canada, Corus Entertainment and Harold Greenberg Fund. In addition to wearing the hats of a writer and a director, Svjetlana has extensive experience as a 1st Assistant Director, Set Decorator and Production Designer making her well versed in schedules, budgets, and the demands of execution during production.

