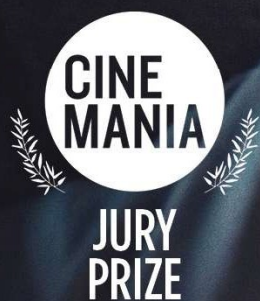


a **LYLA FILMS** and **IRIS PRODUCTIONS** coproduction

MEHDI MESKAR

ALEXANDRE LANDRY

ARON ARCHER



WE'LL FIND **HAPPINESS**

a screenplay by **MICHEL MARC BOUCHARD**

a film by **LÉA POOL**



WE'LL FIND HAPPINESS

« ★★★★★ *...A tense, poignant, and incisive film.* » (Sarah-Louise Pelletier-Morin *Le Devoir*)

« *A sensitive and gripping drama about LGBTQ+ immigration.* » (Manon Dumais, *La Presse*)

« *Brilliantly constructed, with the pace and tension of a thriller [...]* » (Maxime Demers, *Journal de Montreal*)

« *Every image [...] is strikingly powerful.* » (Thomas Thivierge, *Le Soleil*)



« With delicacy, the director explores the bonds that form and unravel, the shadows within us, and the imperfect search for happiness. A film marked by rare sensitivity and emotional clarity in its portrayal of human relationships. » (Cinemania Jury)

« *Persecuted at home, two men risk everything
for the right to love.* »

Original French title: ON SERA HEUREUX

1h41 - Languages: French, English, Farsi (with English Subtitles) - 2:39 - 5.1

Shot in Quebec, Luxembourg, Morocco

a Canada-Luxembourg coproduction

a film by

Léa POOL (*Lost And Delirious, The Passion of Augustine*)

a screenplay by

Michel Marc BOUCHARD (*Tom at the Farm, The Night Logan Woke Up*)

with

Mehdi MESKAR (*Hysteria, Les engagés*)

Alexandre LANDRY (*Gabrielle, The Fall of the American Empire*)

Aron ARCHER

Céline BONNIER (*The Passion of Augustine, Mommy is at the Hairdresser's*)

produced by

Lyse LAFONTAINE, François TREMBLAY (LYLA Films Canada)

Nicolas STEIL, Katarzyna OZGA (IRIS Productions Luxembourg)

International Sales: **Anick Poirier**

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WE'LL FIND HAPPINESS tells the story of Saad, a young Moroccan exile in Quebec, who will do anything to save the man he loves, an Iranian refugee facing deportation and likely death. In a desperate move, Saad tries to seduce a high-ranking spokesperson from the Ministry of Immigration. This risky gambit sets off a chain of events that are as intimate as they are political, where every decision carries consequences far beyond matters of the heart.

International Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nj7DjOGdnIs>

LÉA POOL (Director)

Working in the film industry since 1978, Léa Pool has been involved in production, editing, screenwriting, and directing, in both fiction and documentary films as well as television. For Léa Pool, cinema is an art of passion, emotion, and sensitivity. The stories she tells are touching, sensual, and deeply passionate. Since her earliest films, she has made us reflect on gender identity, offering a precise, sharp perspective on characters at a crossroads, driven by existential quests. Her films are infused with exemplary narrative strength and a masterful command of visual storytelling. With a body of work spanning over twenty acclaimed feature films in Quebec—many of which have been awarded at festivals around the world—Léa Pool's filmography reflects an original and unique cinematic approach. With a singular style and distinctive artistic voice, Léa Pool does more than just tell stories; with each film, she unveils a facet of the human soul in its most universal form. In Quebec, few filmmakers have a career as rich and dense as hers. Her unique sensitivity and exceptional talent make an invaluable contribution to Quebec cinema. Her previous feature film, *HOTEL SILENCE*, starring Sébastien Ricard and Lorena Handschin, adapted from the novel *Ör* by Icelandic author Audur Ava Ólafsdóttir, was released in Quebec in 2024 and won over both audiences and critics alike.



On set with Alexandre Landry & Léa Pool.

« From the very first scenes, Michel Marc (the screenwriter) establishes the film's stakes with striking clarity through the character of Reza, an Iranian man. The story is built around him and the danger awaiting him should he be sent back to his country. Even though his character often remains in the background of the narrative, he is its driving force.

The film's main character, Saad, is a young Moroccan man who dreams of a better life and hopes to escape poverty without having to resort to prostitution. He also longs to live his homosexuality openly—something impossible in a country where it is illegal and punishable by imprisonment.

For his part, Laurent sees the comfort and stability of his career begin to falter, shaken by the love he feels for Saad. »

Léa Pool

Selected **FILMOGRAPHY**

2023	HÔTEL SILENCE (HOTEL SILENCE)
2017	ET AU PIRE, ON SE MARIERA (WORST CASE, WE GET MARRIED)
2015	LA PASSION D'AUGUSTINE (THE PASSION OF AUGUSTINE)
2010	LA DERNIÈRE FUGUE (THE LAST ESCAPE)
2008	MAMAN EST CHEZ LE COIFFEUR (MOMMY IS AT THE HAIRDRESSER'S)
2002	THE BLUE BUTTERFLY
2000	LOST AND DELIRIOUS
1999	EMPORTE-MOI (SET ME FREE)
1993	MOUVEMENTS DU DÉSIR (DESIRE IN MOTION)
1991	LA DEMOISELLE SAUVAGE (THE SAVAGE WOMAN)
1988	À CORPS PERDU (STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART)
1986	ANNE TRISTER
1984	LA FEMME DE L'HÔTEL (A WOMAN IN TRANSIT)

MICHEL MARC BOUCHARD (Screenwriter)

Michel Marc Bouchard has written more than 25 plays that have been translated into several languages and performed in the most prestigious theatres and festivals worldwide. His best known works are: *Lilies* (*Les Feluettes*); *The Orphan Muses* (*Les Muses orphelines*); *Down Dangerous Passes Road* (*Le Chemin des passes dangereuses*); *The Tale of Teeka* (*L'Histoire de l'oie*); *The Coronation Voyage* (*Le Voyage du Couronnement*); *Heat Waves* (*Les Grandes Chaleurs*); *Tom at the Farm* (*Tom à la ferme*); *Christina, the Girl King* (*Christine, la reine-garçon*); and *The Divine, a Play for Sarah Bernhardt* (*La Divine Illusion*), *The Night Laurier Gaudreault Woke Up and Embrasse*.

Several of his works have been adapted for the cinema, namely: *Lilies* (John Greyson, 1996) G nie Award for Best Motion Picture; *The Tale of Teeka* (Tim Southam, 1998) G meaux Award for Best Dramatic Program; *The Orphan Muses* (Robert Favreau, 2002); *Heat Waves* (Sophie Lorain, 2005); *Tom at the Farm* (Xavier Dolan, 2013) FRIPRESCI Critics Award at the Mostra of Venice; and *Christina, the Girl King* (Mika Kaurism ki, 2015) Audience Award at the Montreal World Film Festival. A version of *Lilies*, set to music by Kevin March, was staged at the Op ra de Montr al (2016). The music of Ana Sokolovic will be featured in Toronto's Canadian Opera Company's production of *Christina, the Girl King* (2020).



Alexandre Landry & Mehdi Meskar

This screenplay marks an important step in my journey: it is my first original project that does not stem from a stage play. It was born from a visceral need to bear witness to a reality largely absent from our cinema — that of LGBTQ+ migrants. This silence pushed me to meet refugees, to correspond with men living their homosexuality in secrecy, and to consult immigration officers.

Although fictional, the story is rooted in real events and testimonies. My goal is to create a work that is at once raw, moving, sensual, and provocative—one that resonates emotionally while remaining grounded in a documented sense of truth.

The development of this script was shaped through the mastery and creative partnership of the great and singular L a Pool, who as early as 1988 explored questions of sexual identity in her remarkable film *Straight For The Heart* (*  corps perdu*).

At a time when millions of people are living in exile and persecution against homosexuals is reaching alarming levels, the stories of characters like Saad and Reza—already exiled within their own societies—become essential. The artistic challenge is to reveal a universal humanity: that of those forced into exile, those who welcome them, and those searching for an intimate refuge.

Michel Marc Bouchard

MEHDI MESKAR



Born in Calabria in 1995 to a Moroccan family, Mehdi Meskar moved to Paris at the age of 15. He made his film debut in François Ozon's *In the House*. At the same time, he appeared on several theatre stages in Italy and France in plays by Fabrizio Gatti, Luigi Pirandello, and Eugène Ionesco. In 2013, he was noticed by director Fariborz Kamkari, who cast him in the leading role of his fourth feature film, *Pizza e datteri*. In 2016, he played Samy in *Orpheline*, directed by Arnaud des Pallières.

In 2017, he landed the lead role in *Les Engagés*, an LGBTQ+ series created by Sullivan Le Postec and co-produced by France Télévisions. For his performance, Mehdi Meskar was nominated for Best Actor in a Drama Series at two festivals, and in December 2017 he won the Best Actor award at the Festival francophone de la websérie. That same year, he also starred in *Rafaël*, directed by Oscar-nominated filmmaker Ben Sombogaart, playing the title role in this love story inspired by true events. An international committee selected Mehdi Meskar as one of the **Berlinale Talents 2017**, the prestigious program of the Berlin International Film Festival highlighting emerging talents from around the world.

The year 2018 proved particularly prolific for the young actor, who took on a series of leading roles in both film and television. He reprised the role of Hicham for the second season of *Les Engagés*, followed by *The Rebel*, the first feature film by Randa Chahoud. He then appeared in *Crescendo* by Dror Zahavi, playing Omar, one of the film's central characters.

In 2019, he played the title role of "M" in the Quebec series *Le Monstre*, an adaptation of Ingrid Falaise's book directed by Patrice Sauvé.

Between 2023 and 2025, his career gained new international momentum with a series of projects. He appeared in *Maysoon*, *The Hottest Summer*, *Profeti*, and the mini-series *Croisement Gaza Bd St-Germain*. He also appeared in *Unschuldig - Der Fall Julia B.* and in the music video *Otage* by Zaoui. In 2024, he played Sami Bensaïd in the series *Paris Has Fallen*, and appeared in *Tegendraads*, *How to Make a Killing*, *Informant: Angst über der Stadt*, *Sunny Life Farm*, and *The Entertainer*, on which he also served as executive producer. In 2025, he continued with *Hysteria*, *Un ours dans le Jura*, *Omnibus* (short film), as well as *On sera heureux*, *Amata*, and *Kaskade Khalil*.

A polyglot, Mehdi Meskar speaks fluent Italian, French, Arabic, and English.

ALEXANDRE LANDRY



Alexandre Landry graduated from the National Theatre School of Canada in 2009.

Before moving into film, he built his career in theatre. He played the title role in *Les Aventures de Lagardère*, a production performed more than a hundred times across the Island of Montreal and throughout Quebec. He also appeared in *Chambre(s)*, a creation by Éric Jean at Théâtre Quat'Sous; *Medea* by Euripides at Théâtre Denise-Pelletier; *Théâtre Extrême* in Toronto at the Berkeley Theatre; and *Tom à la ferme* at Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui, a play by Michel Marc Bouchard directed by Claude Poissant, in which he portrayed Tom.

On television, he played Theodore in *Les Pays d'en haut*. He also appeared as Francis throughout the three seasons of the series *Blue Moon*. Landry took part in the youth series *Camping de l'Ours* and portrayed Julien in both seasons of *Cheval-Serpent*. He appeared in the web series *Les bogues de la vie* and joined the cast of *L'échappée* (seasons III and IV). He later played Alexandre in the series *La Faille* (seasons I-III) and will also appear in *Indéfendable II*.

In 2013, he made his film debut playing Martin, a young man with an intellectual disability, in *Gabrielle*, directed by Louise Archambault. The film was released in more than twenty countries, and Landry received international acting awards for his performance, including the Valois Award for Best Actor at the Angoulême Film Festival in France and the Best Actor Award at the Gijón International Film Festival in Spain.

In 2014, he starred in *Love in the Time of Civil War* (*L'Amour au temps de la guerre civile*), portraying Alex, a young drug addict struggling to survive in the world of prostitution. For this role, he was nominated at the Gala Québec Cinéma and was selected for the Rising Stars program at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), where the film by Rodrigue Jean premiered.

He later appeared as Vincent in *Pays* by Chloé Robichaud and played Jeff in the English-Canadian film *The Saver*. He also appeared in *De père en flic 2*, *Le Rire*, and *Les Barbares de La Malbaie*. Landry was also part of the cast of Denys Arcand's film *The Fall of the American Empire* (*La chute de l'empire américain*). Continuing his work in cinema, he appeared in *Phénix* (Jonathan Beaulieu-Cyr) in 2023, *We'll Find Happiness* (*On sera heureux*, Léa Pool) in 2024, and *Labrador ou l'anatomie du silence* (Rodrigue Jean) in 2025.

ARON ARCHER



Aron Archer is an actor and singer based in Montreal. Originally from Iran, he developed a passion for cinema at a very young age, often watching films with his grandmother.

A graduate of the Dome Theatre program, his dedication to his craft later led him to the **National Theatre School of Canada**, where he was admitted to the Acting program—one of only 12 students selected from more than 900 applicants.

At the National Theatre School, he refined his artistic voice and built a strong foundation in classical training while gaining valuable experience in both theatre and film.

Aron landed his first leading role in the feature film *We'll Find Happiness* (*On sera heureux*), an experience that confirmed his desire to pursue a serious acting career on screen.

In addition to acting, Aron is a classically trained **baritenor**. He studied voice with **Grammy Award-winning** singer Gino Quilico and acclaimed baritone Brett Polegato, further expanding his artistic range. He is fluent in English, French, Farsi, and Azerbaijani Turkish, which adds depth and versatility to his work. With sharp creative instincts and an unwavering work ethic, Aron is quickly establishing himself as a highly promising young actor.

As he continues his journey and takes on increasingly significant roles, he is building strong momentum in both film and theatre, captivating and inspiring audiences in Canada and internationally. Above all, Aron is proud to be supported by a family that believes in his dream as much as he does.

LYLA FILMS (In Brief)

Together, Lyse Lafontaine and François Tremblay embody a bold vision of auteur cinema—one that embraces international co-production and is firmly oriented toward global reach.

For more than forty years, Lyse Lafontaine has left her mark on Quebec and international cinema with a series of notable works. After producing *Léolo* by Jean-Claude Lauzon and the cult television series *L'Ombre de l'Épervier*, she founded Lyla Films and went on to produce a string of acclaimed titles: *Les Muses orphelines*, *Camping Sauvage*, *A Sunday in Kigali*, *La Capture*, *Maman est chez le coiffeur* (*Mommy Is at the Hairdresser's*), and *La dernière fugue*.

She also established a strong international presence with *24 Mesures* by Jalil Lespert, *Laurence Anyways* and *The Death and Life of John F. Donovan* by Xavier Dolan, *On the Road* by Walter Salles, *Barney's Version* by Richard J. Lewis, and *The Song of Names* by François Girard.

Since 2004, François Tremblay has been her creative partner. Together, they have produced *L'Empire BO\$\$E*, *Love Projet*, *The Passion of Augustine* (winner of six Quebec Cinema Awards), *Worst Case*, *We Get Married* (*Et au pire, on se mariera*), and *Hôtel Silence*. Tremblay also produced *Vivre à 100 milles à l'heure* by Louis Bélanger.

IRIS PRODUCTIONS (In Brief)

For nearly 40 years, the Iris Group has been dedicated to producing and internationally co-producing the work of committed filmmakers through meaningful, ambitious, and accessible projects. Our goal is to develop feature films—fiction, animation, and documentary—as well as television series that explore universal themes, often social or historical in nature. Led by Nicolas Steil and Katarzyna Ozga, the Iris Group operates in Luxembourg, Germany, and Belgium.

Among our recent productions are the feature films *Winter of the Crow*, directed by Kasia Adamik and starring Lesley Manville, which premiered at the 2025 Toronto International Film Festival; *The Kings of the World*, directed by Laura Mora, winner of the Best Film Award at the 2023 San Sebastián International Film Festival; and *Tremors*, directed by Jayro Bustamante, presented in the Panorama section of the 2019 Berlin International Film Festival. The company has also produced animated features such as *Icarus*, directed by Carlo Vogele, as well as television series including *A Divided World*, directed by Olga Chajdas and Frank Devos (ARTE/SWR & ORF, 2024), and *Bad Banks* (Seasons 1 and 2), directed by Christian Schwochow and Christian Zübert (ZDF/ARTE, 2018–2020).

The Group is currently in post-production on a range of exciting projects, including the television series *Droneland* (starring Oliver Masucci, directed by Max Zähle and Félix Koch) and the feature film *The Lion at My Back*, directed by Tonia Mishali.

