

MOOS



North American Distribution:

Menemsha Films

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SYNOPSIS

Moos' life is all about taking care of her father. When her childhood friend Sam comes along, he encourages her to start a life of her own and chase her dreams.

It's Hanukkah evening and everything is the way it's always been for Moos, who stayed in her hometown to take care of her father after her mother's passing. But when her longtime childhood friend Sam arrives as a surprise guest from Israel, Moos gets the jolt she needed to examine her life and the choices she's made. With Sam back, Moos realizes that she's put her life on hold to take care of others, and she needs to follow her own dreams before it's too late.

Taking everyone by surprise, Moos decides to audition for the local academy of performing arts. After a devastating initial audition, Moos quickly learns that she has a lot of work to do. In an effort to preserve her ego and not let her loved ones down, Moos lies to her family, telling them that she got into the school and working in its cafeteria until her second chance at an audition.

Meanwhile, Sam starts to realize that his feelings for Moos may not have faded over the years. Things get complicated when Moos receives encouragement from the school's handsome heartthrob singing teacher Chris, and they begin an illicit relationship. Telling secrets to keep up her facade, Moos struggles to stay grounded in the face of a changing family, her search for love, and chasing her dream. MOOS is an inspiring story of a young girl's search to find her voice and, in the process, herself.



SPECIFICATIONS

Format: Color

Genre: Fiction / Drama / Romantic Comedy

Country: Netherlands

Language: Dutch (with English subtitles)

Running Time: 91 minutes

Sound: 5.1

Website: MenemshaFilms.com

CAST & CREW

Director: Job Gosschalk

Starring: Jip Smit, Daniel Cornelissen, Michiel Romeijn, Lineke Rijxman, Frederik Brom

Written by: Job Gosschalk, Judith Goudsmit

Director of Photography:
Richard van Ooserhout

Produced by: Kemna & Zonen,
Christopher Parren, and
Boudewijn Rosenmuller



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I originally envisioned MOOS to be a film with two protagonists: Sam and Moos. In a lot of Dutch Jewish jokes these are also the names of two elderly men (Sam being short for Samuel and Moos for Moses). The jokes tend to be about their small daily mishaps which they handle with a lot of self-mockery. But in our case, Sam would be a boy and Moos a girl. As the film developed the heart of the story shifted to one of the protagonists: Moos.

I wanted to make a film about ordinary people in a world where beauty and appearance are everything. Not a glamorous romantic comedy, but a film about two people who were not first in line when they were handing out good looks. There are enough stories about heroes. This would be a small story about daily troubles. I wanted to give the audience characters they could easily identify with.

Just like Moos, I myself auditioned for theatre school once, and just like Moos I was rejected. I didn't lie about it, but maybe it was because I had alternatives, where Moos feels she doesn't have any.

The movie is about love, laughter, and mostly about friendship. About the unstoppable desire to have someone that is there for you. Someone who, at the moment you need them most, will be there standing right beside you.

BIOGRAPHIES:

JOB GOSSCHALK (1967) trained as an actor for a year at the drama school in Maastricht (the Netherlands). After his training he worked as an assistant director in theatre. It was there that he came into contact with Dutch casting director Hans Kemna and this became the start of his casting career. Job took over Kemna's company based in Amsterdam, and worked as a casting director for over 20 years. In 2001 he was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for 'outstanding casting of a miniseries'.

In 2005 he ventured into producing with his new company Kemna & Zonen and became producer of the successful Dutch Feature Film LOVE IS ALL (Alles is Liefde), which won best Dutch film at the Netherlands Film Festival in 2008. Since 2008 he has given up casting and he now completely focuses on producing and directing. He has produced multiple award winning comedy and drama series in the Netherlands.

