

THE DIRECTOR

Jessica Nettelblatt

Documentary filmmaker Jessica Nettelblatt is known for her unique narratives that explore existential and social themes. Intrigued by people on the outskirts of society, she applies a process-based method where filming is allowed to take time, even years. Her previous documentary feature, *I Am My Own Dolly Parton*, was praised by critics and screened at festivals and cinemas and broadcast on TV both in Sweden and abroad.

Her latest film, *MONALISA STORY*, invites viewers to understand the anatomy of addiction and urges us to think deeper when it comes to nature, nurture and the accountability of society. By sharing MonaLisa's story, she moves beyond the life of this brave individual and brings urgent social issues into sharp focus.



Jessica Nettelblatt holds a Master's degree in filmmaking from the Valand Academy in Gothenburg, Sweden. She is also a graduate of the Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts, the Nordic Documentary Film Academy at Biskops Arnö, and the Swedish School of Television.

*"Heroin is like your best friend
and worst enemy at the same time"*

MONALISA





MONALISA STORY

A film about love, struggles and heroin

MonaLisa led a fairly ordinary life. She was a teacher, she liked to write songs, and she was a dedicated and loving mother.

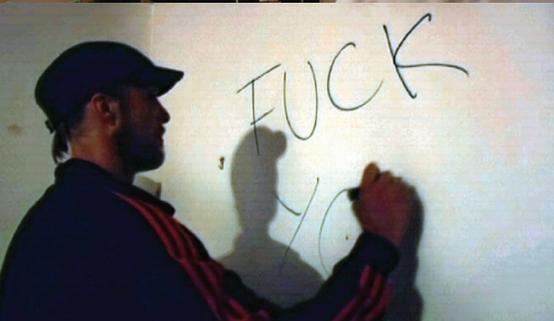
Then one day, everything changed. She sank into a deep depression, lost the will to live and started self-medicating with heroin. Her world fell apart and she lost everything she holds dear.

How could it go so far? And why? Early memories churn and burn

inside her. MonaLisa was born high, taken from her parents and put into an institution. Though she knows she's on the path of destruction, the pull of the drug that numbs her pain is too strong.

After years of drug abuse, she meets Fredrik, another soul marked by his background. The odds are not in their favor, but they decide to put their faith in love, to fight their addiction and to make their dreams come true.

Documentary filmmaker Jessica Nettelbladt filmed MonaLisa over the course of eight years. The result is a poignant and unique tale of a different kind of reality in our midst. It is an ode to love, a mournful blues and an honest portrait that will draw you in and touch your heart.



PRODUCTION DETAILS

Direction & script & camera
JESSICA NETTELBLADT

Editing
ÅSA MOSSBERG

Composer
MATTIAS BÄRJED

Sound design
TORMOD RINGNES

Producer
JESSICA NETTELBLADT

Associate producer
PÅR ANDERS BEVMO

Co-producers
LISE LENSE-MØLLER
CECILIE BJØRNARAA

Produced by
LEJONI PRODUCTION AB
in co-production with
MAGIC HOUR FILMS, TRUE FICTION AS
SVERIGES TELEVISION & FILM I SKÅNE

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