

FIGHT GIRL

Directed by
JOHAN TIMMERS

Screenplay
BARBARA JURGENS



SEPTEMBER FILM

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FIGHT GIRL

PROJECT SUMMARY

Directed by	JOHAN TIMMERS
Screenplay	BARBARA JURGENS
Cast	AIKO BEEMSTERBOER, NOA FARINUM, IMANUELLE GRIVES, BAS KEIZER, HILDE DE BAERDERMAEKER, ALI BEN HORSTING, DIONI JURADO-GOMEZ
A production by	THE FILM KITCHEN
Co-produced by	A PRIVATE VIEW, AVROTROS
Land of origin	THE NETHERLANDS
Language	DUTCH
Length	84 MINUTES
Genre	DRAMA / COMING-OF-AGE
Release date	18 OCTOBER 2018
Festivals & awards	PREMIÈRE NEDERLANDS FILM FESTIVAL 2018 CINEKID 2018 – OFFICIËLE COMPETITIE

Rating



SYNOPSIS

When her parents end up in an acrimonious divorce, the headstrong, highly volatile Bo (12) moves to an Amsterdam suburb with her mother and brother. Once there, her neighbour, Joy, introduces her to the kickboxing club. She demonstrates natural talent and is very soon taking part in the Dutch championships, but her parents divorce is distracting Bo and threatens to ruin the contest. Bo has to learn restraint and accept that she can't control everything.



FIGHT GIRL

CAST

Bo	AIKO BEEMSTERBOER
Dani	BAS KEIZER
Joy	NOA FARINUM
Esther	HILDE DE BAERDEMAEKER
Alex	ALI BEN HORSTING
Jesse	DIONI JURADO-GOMEZ
Cecilia	IMANUELLE GRIVES

CREW

Directed by	JOHAN TIMMERS
Screenplay	BARBARA JURGENS
Director of photography	JEROEN DE BRUIN NSC
Production design	MINKA MOOREN
Editor	PHILIPPE RAVOET
Music	STIJN COLE, TOM PINTENS
Set noise	SEPPE VAN GROENINGEN
Sound design	THIERRY DE VRIES
Costume design	TINE VERBEURGT
Key make-up & hair artist	MARJON HOOGENDOORN
CASTING	ELSKE FALKENA, JOB CASTELIJN, SHANTI BESSELING
First assistant director	JOHAN IVENS
Line producer	MAUDY VAN BREE
Producer	INEKE KANTERS, JAN VAN DER ZANDEN



FIGHT GIRL

JOHAN TIMMERS – DIRECTOR

Director Johan Timmers, maker of television dramas like *VOLGENS JACQUELINE* and the feature length movies *WONDERBROEDERS* and *LOENATIK, TE GEK*, talks about *FIGHT GIRL*:

“*FIGHT GIRL* deals radically with the *girly* image teenage girls have. Bo (Aiko Beemsterboer) fights her way out of the shit and emerges as a big winner.

The first time I walked into the kickboxing school run by the ex world champion, Krista Fleming, I was gripped by the enormous passion and commitment that everyone training there had. At the time, Krista was training Aiko Beemsterboer, who was set to play Bo. Shortly afterwards Noa Farinum, who was already a highly-skilled boxer, landed the role of Joy. Two smart, lively, strong girls with unbelievable talent, boundless energy and a lust for life. It clicked and I sensed straight away they would carry the film.

I thought Bo’s development and transformation, set in motion by her parents’ acrimonious divorce, was an original element. At the same time it was great that Barbara Jurgens never made it onerous, however tragic it was. Bo’s cheerful attitude helped her to make her sadness about her parents’ divorce bearable. First Bo knocks her opponent out and wins the *Shooting Star* award. After that Bo leaves her endlessly quarrelling parents behind and opts for her own freedom. You think straight away: good for her.



My aim with *FIGHT GIRL* was to make a vibrant, touching, tough youth film. The bold tone suits me and will appeal to children at home and abroad. Everywhere in the world children struggle when their parents separate; they are the victims of a decision they had no part in.

In retrospect, many of my previous projects have helped me to hone my craft. That experience has taught me what you need to make a good motion picture. At this point in my career, I look for projects with more significance and eloquence. That is exactly what drew me to *FIGHT GIRL*.

I'm familiar with the emotional tangles and obstacles children have amongst themselves, and those between children and adults. Bringing a child into the world and ensuring they thrive is, in my opinion, one of the most important tasks in life. In this story that is in danger of going wrong, so I was committed to turning Bo’s power and energy into a triumph.

But this film also tells the story of the friendship between Bo and Joy. Even at the initial rehearsals, Aiko and Noa exuded so much energy. You’re standing there, opposite two fourteen year old girls who are both so strong, have so much punching power, they can knock you out flat with one blow. So the perception of working with two ‘children’ was soon dissipated. They are also wonderfully headstrong and smart. I noticed their friendship growing as we worked, both in the film and in real life, and they confirmed my decision to make *FIGHT GIRL* a mature, powerful, tough youth film about girl power.”

FIGHT GIRL

AIKO BEEMSTERBOER – Bo

Aiko Mila Beemsterboer (Rotterdam, 8 Februari 2003) is a Dutch actress who made her debut at 9 years old as the daughter of Cas Jansen, in a family film called *LEVE BOERENLIEFDE* (2013, Steven de Jong). In that same year she played the lead in the prize-winning TV film *YIM & YOYO* (2013) and the role of Arianna in the TV series *DE LEEUWENKUIL* by Johan Nijenhuis, based on the children's book of the same name by Paul van Loon. This was followed by a role in the Dutch TV series *TESSA* (2015) with Thekla Reuten. In 2016 Aiko played several characters in the satirical VPRO series *INFANTILIO* and the lead role in the short film *MIJN KLEINE GROTE BROER*. Subsequently she was seen on the big screen as the daughter of lead actors Martijn Fischer and Ilse Warringa in the popular movie *ONZE JONGENS*, directed by Johan Nijenhuis. In 2017 she played Isabel in the coming-of-age film *HOTEL DE GROTE L*, alongside Julian Ras, Abbey Hoes and Frank Lammers. That was followed by a minor part in the last season of the TV series *DOKTER DEEN*, as the autistic Eva. In *FIGHT GIRL* Aiko played her first lead role in a cinema film. In that same year she was cast for the film *SHIT HAPPENS* by Anna van der Heide, with Jeroen Krabbé, Jelka van Houten and Hadewych Minis. In the autumn of 2018 she makes up part of the cast of *WAT IS DAN LIEFDE* directed by Aniëlle Webster. Aiko Beemsterboer lives in Arnhem and has been studying at the *Gymnasium-Plus* since 2015.



Aiko on FIGHT GIRL: “I certainly wanted to be in it, mainly because the character Bo really appealed to me. Bo is not the average teenager you see a lot in coming-of-age films. She's tough, volatile and is coping with a hefty inner struggle. To me that makes her very interesting to play, mainly because we are not at all like each other. When I heard I got the role, I cried my eyes out - from happiness- hahaha! I heard about it one evening, when the casting director, Elske Falkena, called me. I hadn't expected it at all!

Before I heard I was getting to play Bo, I'd never done kickboxing. Next I trained three times a week, for four months at the 'Kickboxing Arnhem' dojo, under the guidance of world champion Krista Fleming. Before that I'd never practised a sport so intensively, so it was quite a big lifestyle change for me. But because I had a goal that I aspired to, training three times a week was just fine by me. And at almost every training session I was automatically thinking of Bo, giving me lots of time to put myself in her shoes.”



FIGHT GIRL

NOA FARINUM - Joy

Noa on FIGHT GIRL: "I'm quite like Joy; she's tough, but sweet too, and we both like kickboxing. I'd been doing kickboxing for eight years so for me *FIGHT GIRL* was a great chance to demonstrate that. When I heard from Elisabeth my acting coach that I'd got the role of joy, I was especially happy, but I also found it hard to believe because I had no experience of acting! Elisabeth taught me a lot, and we practised some of the scenes from the film together. Mostly, I thought it was really great to work with Imanuelle Grives, because she was already such a well-known actor. I thought she was really nice off set, and I actually learnt a few things from her.



I think it's quite exciting that *FIGHT GIRL* is premiering at the *Nederlands Film Festival*. I've never been involved in anything like this before, so I don't know what to expect."



IMANUELLE GRIVES – Cecilia

Imanuelle was born and raised in Rotterdam and has Surinam roots. After playing for a few years in various theatre productions, she appeared on television for the first time, in the 2009 *Hi* advert, *Pokkie Foetsie*. She became known to the wider public in 2012 with her portrayal of Rowanda, in the book adaptation of the bestseller by Robert Vuijsje, *ALLEN MAAR NETTE MENSEN*.

Imanuelle appeared weekly for four seasons in the prison drama *CELBLOK H* (SBS 6) and played in the first and second season of *VECHTERS Hart* (BNN, NPO3). In addition, Imanuelle appeared in the series *VOETBALMEISJES* (AVROTROS) and *PAPADAG* (AVROTROS) and in the cinema films *TUINTJE IN MIJN HART* and *WEG VAN JOU*. Furthermore, Imanuelle took part in TV programmes like *WIE IS DE MOL?* (NPO3).

Imanuelle is currently appearing in the series *SPANGAS* and *FLIKKEN ROTTERDAM*. Imanuelle is dazzling in *FIGHT GIRL*, the new youth film to be released on 18 October, and in the *MARTIN LUTHER KING* theatre performance launched in early October. Right now, Imanuelle is working on film shoots for the new Flemish/Dutch series *KEIZERSVROUWEN*.

FIGHT GIRL

BAS KEIZER - Dani

Bas started making films at a very young age and, now and then, he acted in them as well.

In 2016 he was cast in the lead role of *COBAIN*, directed by Nanouk Leopold. The film was released in 2018 and selected for the Generations program in the *Berlinale*, where he had his world premiere. Bas received terrific international reviews for his role.

After *COBAIN* he played in *FIGHT GIRL* by Johan Timmers and *DANTE VS. MOHAMMED ALI* by Marc Wagenaar.



He is currently filming for the movie *SHIT HAPPENS* by Anna van der Heide.



DIONI JURADO-GOMEZ - Jesse

Dioni Jurado-Gomez (1997) is a singer, actor, dancer, producer, MC and voice actor. Since his launch in 2006 he has performed in various roles in theatre, film and on stage.

As a former band member of the group 'B-Brave', he received a triple platinum album for the single 'One Night Stand' (2016) and a gold record for the EP 'LOS' (2017). In addition, he has racked up more than 500 hours of singing, dancing and stage experience, in the Netherlands, Surinam and Indonesia, including two sold-out shows in the *Melkweg* Amsterdam.

His recognisable voice has been rendered for dubbing in various international programmes and films such as *AIRBUD* (2012), *iCARLY* (2012), *INAZUMA* (2012), but also for advertisements such as *PLAYSTATION 3* (2012). Furthermore, he played in the television series *ONGEWOON STERRE* (2016).

In 2017 Dioni was active in various roles ranging from acting, singing, dancing, MC and voice acting.