

# MARIAM

Film Screening & Discussion with the Filmmaker

April 28, 7-8:30 P.M.

Room 275, Nicholson Hall, U of M



## About the Film

This medium-length narrative film tells the story of a French Muslim teenager, MARIAM, who must choose between wearing her hijab and getting an education, when France passes a law in 2004 banning religious symbols from public schools. The film was awarded the **Special Jury Prize at the 2015 Dubai International Film Festival**, screened at **UNESCO** as part of the commemoration of the 2015 International Day of Peace, and is scheduled to play at many upcoming festivals around the world. The film sparks conversations about "la laïcité" (secularism), immigration, and diversity. The choice to wear the veil is explored across different generations and different cultures. **IN FRENCH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTTLES.**

## About the Filmmaker

Fatza Ambah is a Saudi filmmaker with a background in journalism. She was Gulf Correspondent for *The Washington Post* before leaving in 2009 to focus on filmmaking. She has been supported by the Sundance Institute, the Dubai International Film Festival, and the Doha Film Institute.

**Co-sponsored by:** *Department of French and Italian, School of Journalism, African Studies Initiative, Department of English, and AATF-MN*

The film will also screen at Macalester College on April 26 11:45-1:00 and at Carleton College on April 26 at 7:00-9:00PM Weitz Cinema. All events are free and open to the public