



## **Al Hadi Ulad Mohand : "making this film and showing it to my family was like a cure"**

*With Life Suits me Well (« La vie me va bien » in French), the director Al Hadi Ulad Mohand touched the heart of the Institut Lumière's audience. A magnificent ode to life inspired by the story of his own family. At the end of the screening, the Moroccan filmmaker confided to the audience about the birth of this first yet already multi award-winning feature film. Selected extracts.*

### **A tribute to the mother**

It is a story written with the heart, full of poetry. It is a tribute to this father, but also to this mother who gave everything to protect these children, it is a film of love. When I was a teenager, my father was hit by Alzheimer's disease at age 50. At the time, I couldn't do anything about it, but later on I felt like telling this story. As I was very close to my father, it was not easy to write this story: it was like fighting the disease again. By making this film, I made a dream come true : I really express what I lived, what I felt at that time.

## **Lubna Azabal and Samir Guesmi reunited in *Life Suits Me Well***

I knew Lubna Azabal, I loved her in the film *Incendies* by Denis Villeneuve. I told myself that if I made a film, it would be with her. I knew immediately that she could play this mother (Rita) who can be gentle and strong at the same time. She read the script and immediately agreed to play the role. I had seen Samir Guesmi in the film *The Water Effect* by Sólveig Anspach where he was great. Already during the writing, I imagined him in the role of Fouad, the father of the family. He too accepted the role as soon as he read the script.

## **The reaction of the Moroccan public**

The public reception was magnificent: in Morocco people loved the film. My family saw it at a screening in Tangier. My sisters loved it ! Going back to Morocco, making this film and showing it to my family was like a cure. I am currently writing my next feature film. I hope that the reception of *Life Suits Me Well* will also help to finalize this second feature film project.

**Laura Lépine**