

# Secrets of love

A film by **David Grieco**



with

**Malcolm McDowell Laura Greenwood Dolores O'Riordan**  
**Emily Bruni Ernesto Mahieux Sophie Okonedo Stephen Badalamenti**

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# “Secrets of Love”

A film by David Grieco

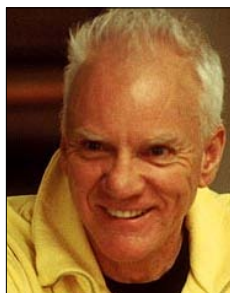
Secrets of Love is director David Grieco's second film. It is a film noir like Evilenko, his debut movie. However in the latter Grieco used the film noir genre as a vehicle to recount an indescribable moment in history: the fall of communism. Secrets of Love, on the other hand, is a pure noir in the tradition of certain mid-twentieth century American movies which seem to have been written, directed and acted out by Destiny in person like The Maltese Falcon by John Huston, Double Indemnity by Billy Wilder or indeed Touch of Evil by Orson Welles.

Secrets of Love is a story about obsession; an obsession concerning the mysterious murder of singer Sarah Blisset. Sarah was beautiful, really special. She was a dream, a myth, an icon... Adored and desired by everyone, people carried on listening to her songs. No one could forget her because, of course, true stars never die...



Like an Agatha Christie novel, nothing is quite what it seems in *Secrets of Love*; nobody's innocent and nobody's guilty. As Humphrey Bogart might have said, it's a movie made of the same stuff as dreams.

## Cast



But *Secrets of Love* is a project which involves many flesh and blood talents such as the great English actor **Malcolm McDowell**; the role of the infernal Quinlan gives him the opportunity to re-explore a character reminiscent of Alex in *Clockwork Orange*.

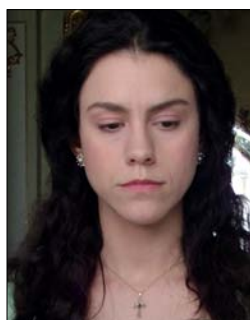
Doctor Hawkins:  
actor to be defined



Sixteen-year-old **Laura Greenwood**, child revelation in *Prime Suspect: The final act* appearing beside Helen Mirren, looks set to become the new Lolita of world cinema.



And last but not least, Sarah Blissett will have the face and voice of the extraordinary Irish singer **Dolores O'Riordan**, currently promoting her first solo album *Ordinary Day* in an unprecedented world tour following on from ten years of worldwide success as lead singer of the Cranberries.



Emily Bruni ( IT )  
as JULIA  
"Catherine the Great"



Ernesto Mahieux ( IT )  
as ANTONIO ESPOSITO  
"The Embalmer"



Sophie Okonedo ( U.K. )  
as mrs. DAKTIAR  
"Hotel Rwanda"



Stephen Badalamenti  
( U.S.-IT )  
as XAVIER  
"Law & Order"

And finally for the musical score. The composer of the song *Secrets of Love* and indeed the whole soundtrack needs no introduction : **Angelo Badalamenti**, composer of *Twin Peaks*.

**ITALIAN PRODUCTION:** Union Contact-Roma  
**GERMANY PRODUCTION:** TV60 Film-Monaco  
**U.S.A. PRODUCTION**  
**GOLD RIVER ENTERTAINMENT - LOS ANGELES**  
**RUNNING TIME:** 100'  
**FORMAT:** 35mm  
**SOUND:** Direct sound  
**LANGUAGE:** English  
**DUBBING ITALY:** Ci.Ti.EMME Cinetel  
**LOCATION:** U.S.A.  
**POST-PRODUCTION:** Arri-Monaco  
**DATE OF PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY:**  
spring 2009  
**DURATION SHOOTING:** 9 weeks  
**TOTAL BUDGET:** 6.300.000,000 EURO

### SCRIPTWRITING:

David Grieco in collaboration with Giulio Questi

**DIRECTION:** David Grieco

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:** Fabio Zamarion

**CAMERA OPERATOR:** Roberto Luzzi

**COSTUMER:** Maurizio Millenotti

**MAKEUP ARTIST:** Alessandro Bortolazzi

**HAIR STYLIST:** Massimo Gattabrusi

**MUSIC COMPOSER:** Angelo Badalamenti

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - CASTING:**

Fabrizio Sargenti Castellani

# The subject

Sarah Blisset had lived in Cape Town, South Africa, with her renowned English psychiatrist husband Michael Hawkins, stepfather to her daughter Scarlet, a beautiful but spoiled adolescent. Even although Hawkins is not her real father it does not make their relationship any less risqué: in fact Scarlet and Michael are sleeping together.

In Cape Town there is also a police man called Quinlan who wants to solve the mystery of Sarah's death at all costs. Quinlan is a tough guy, a man who sticks at nothing and someone who is ready to do anything to obtain what he wants. He is forever in a foul mood due no doubt to the irritating skin complaint from which he suffers: psoriasis, an illness of the soul as Doctor Hawkins might describe it.

Deputy Inspector Quinlan has his suspicions about Michael and Scarlet having intuited their relationship. He is convinced there's a link between their near incest and Sarah's murder. He decides to enter into their lives by fair means or foul. First move: getting in contact with Hawkins, accusing one of his patients of a crime he has not committed. Second move: arresting Scarlet in a discotheque for possessing cocaine. Third move: convincing Hawkins to take him on as a patient. Fourth move: finding a pretext to get the psychiatrist to come to an apartment where the corpse of Julia, Sarah Blisset's best friend, is still warm.

Doctor Hawkin's life soon becomes a nightmare. This is aggravated by the fact that Quinlan, calmly lying on the couch, toys with him like a cat with a mouse even going as far as confessing he was Sarah Bisset's lover...

This is too much, even for a psychiatrist. Doctor Hawkins grabs the policeman's regulation gun and shoots him point-blank. He rushes home to tell Scarlet to pack her suitcase. The plan is to escape together at dawn on the first available flight.

But when Hawkins returns to his office to dispose of Quinlan the corpse is no longer there! And Scarlet isn't answering the phone. She doesn't turn up at the airport either. She seems to have vanished into thin air...