



## Tickling Giants

Directed by Sara Taksler

EGYPT, USA 2016

111 minutes

### Saturday, April 1

6:05 PM | Code TICK01

### Sunday, April 2

1:25 PM | Code TICK02

### Monday, April 3

9:20 AM | Code TICK03

The history of democracy could not have been written without pages of satire being included. Perhaps in America we take for granted that our authority figures are to be skewered and forget there are societies where such open condemnation can get you imprisoned or even killed. TICKLING GIANTS is a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the rise and fall of Dr. Bassem Youssef, "Egypt's Jon Stewart." Originally a heart surgeon in Cairo, Youssef's own heart was always in comedy. During the 2011 Egyptian Revolution, Youssef noticed the media's recounting of the protests didn't match what was happening on the streets, so he decided to bring the reality of the streets to television. As infectious as he is determined, Youssef grows his homemade TV show into a full-fledged network staple, complete with high production values, a live studio audience, and over 30 million viewers at home (15x that of *The Daily Show*). But with success comes danger, and after being on the front lines for three different Egyptian leaders, Youssef and his show are threatened at every turn by a government with draconian views on free speech—regardless of who is in charge. TICKLING GIANTS is an inspiring reminder that humor will always be the weapon of the people, and leaders who can't take a joke don't deserve to lead. *(In English and Arabic with subtitles)* —T.W.

**Producers**—Sara Taksler, Frederic Rose, Maziar Bahari, Monica Hampton

**Screenwriting**—Sara Taksler **Cinematography**—Wail Gzoly **Editing**—Jamie Canobbio, Tom Vogt, Tyler H. Walk

**Print Source**—Sarakasmos Productions / info@ticklinggiants.com / ticklinggiants.com

**About the Director**—Sara Taksler is a producer for *The Daily Show*, where she was in the thick of the very type of behind-the-scenes action in Youssef's show. She can talk backwards, which probably comes in handy more than you can imagine.

**Filmography**—"Twisted: A Balloonumentary" (2007), TICKLING GIANTS (2016)



## Tonio

Directed by Paula van der Oest

NETHERLANDS 2016

100 minutes

### Thursday, March 30

4:15 PM | Code TONX30

### Friday, March 31

9:35 PM | Code TONX31

From the moment two policemen show up on Adri and Mirjam's doorstep, endless days of grief lie ahead. Their 21-year-old son Tonio, they are told, has been involved in a fatal road collision. As they mourn their only child, Adri and Mirjam reminisce on the joyous days of getting pregnant to their last night with Tonio when he shared his dreams of turning his photography talents into filmmaking. Reliving happier times turns to numbing the pain with bottles of booze that leave them both in a depressed haze. Mirjam sifts through Tonio's last batch of photos to piece together her son's final weeks while Adri laments over his son's every move the day of his death, begging for a different outcome. But as Mirjam slowly begins to move on, she fears their loss may be too much for their relationship to bear. Based on the book by A.F. Th. van der Heijden, TONIO shares the heartbreaking true story of the author's all-consuming agony of losing his only son. *(In Dutch with subtitles)* —A.B.

*TONIO was selected as Netherlands' entry for Best Foreign Language Film for this year's Academy Awards®.*

**Producers**—Alain de Levita, Sytze van der Laan **Screenwriting**—Hugo Heinen

**Cinematography**—Guido van Gennep **Editing**—Sander Vos **Principal Cast**—Pierre Bokma, Rifka Lodeizen, Chris Peters

**Print Source**—Dutch Features Global Entertainment / sales@dutchfeatures.com / dutchfeatures.com

**About the Director**—Paula van der Oest was born in Laag Soeren, Gelderland, Netherlands. She is a writer and director whose film "Zus & Zo" was nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Foreign Language Film in 2001. **Filmography**—"Zus & Zo" (2001), "Black Butterflies" (2011), "The Accused" (2014), TONIO (2016)

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