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## Necar Zadegan

by [Rachael Scott](#)  
04 February 2011

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Directed by Nicole Conn, *Elena Undone* is a love story about a married mother, played by Necar Zadegan, who falls in love with another woman, played by *Supernatural's* Traci Dinwiddie and the hell that breaks loose when her God-fearing husband discovers their affair.

Zadegan was born in Germany to Iranian parents and lives in San Francisco. She is probably best known for her role as First Lady Dalia Hassan in the last series of *24*. She's also appeared in *How I Met Your Mother*, *CSI: Miami*, *Nip/Tuck* and *The Shield*.

Rachael Scott chatted to the actress and model about her role as a straight woman who falls passionately in love with a lesbian.

### Where is Elena in her life when we first meet her?

Elena is at a crossroads in her life when we first meet her. Whereas before she was distracted by responsibilities, she now suddenly has time to focus and realises she is somewhat purposeless in her present situation and this forces her to open her eyes to find truth in her life.

### How close did you feel to the material and the characters?

Well, it's quite different from my own life if that's what you mean, but it's my job to build a closeness to the characters so I can portray them. It was Elena's desire for independence in herself that made me like her and I found her through that.

### How closely did you collaborate with director Nicole Conn on Elena's character?

Very closely. This story was written from Nicole's own life with her soul mate and our producer Marina Bader, whom my character was loosely based on, so we definitely were guided by their real life fairytale.

### Can you talk about your favourite scene in the film to shoot, and also the most difficult?

I have many favourite scenes, some of which didn't even make it in the movie! But I suppose my favourite was the very first scene we shot and that was also the most difficult by virtue of it being the first scene we shot. We were both getting our footing and finding each other.

We shot out of sequence and that scene was somewhere in the middle of the film, but since we shot it first, we, of course, had to be aware of all of the scenes that would move into that and then out of that. It was the scene in which Peyton fearfully professes her love for Elena.

### Did you learn anything about yourself while making the film?

I always learn things about myself, especially when I'm working, and I try to look for things I'm learning so I can hopefully grow more in my work that way.

### The kiss you shared with Traci Dinwiddie has reportedly broken the record for the longest movie kiss. How does it feel being a record breaker?

It doesn't feel that different per se, but it is cool.

"Because *Elena Undone* is just that, a sweet love story that just happens to

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be between two women, I think it goes beyond the gay themes of the story into its bigger themes, which are that of people seeking happiness and truth in their lives."

Is it a different process for an actor developing a romantic relationship with a woman as opposed to one with a man?

No, I don't think so as an actor. The focus is on the scenes and where the characters are going. In real life though, I think probably it is. I mean, men and women are so different. Men are a lot to handle sometimes, but we're no walk in the park, either!



You work on personal arts projects promoting a better understanding of Middle Eastern and North African culture within the West. What is your view on the relationship of art to social change and how do you think *Elena Undone* could help erode homophobia?

I was just visiting various museums of art in Paris and it's really very interesting to see cultural movements exhibited in various sculptures or paintings, what people of those times were dealing with. Sometimes you can tell within brush strokes, as with modern art.

I think when you look back at the culture of a time you find it within the art from that period. And because of the freedoms we must value as artists, we have an opportunity to speak very loudly within our proverbial brush strokes.

As for *Elena Undone* eroding homophobia, that's really a large responsibility to place on a sweet little love story. However, because *Elena Undone* is just that, a sweet love story that just happens to be between two women, I think it goes beyond the gay themes of the story into its bigger themes, which are that of people seeking happiness and truth in their lives.

**"I wouldn't say I've had a strange fan experience, but someone once dropped to her knees and bowed down to me which I thought was fantastic!"**

There aren't many films made with gay female characters and even fewer released despite a high demand for them. What do you think would help to change that? Women writing more stories and women producing more stories.

We're big fans of Neil Patrick Harris at GaydarRadio. Can you talk about what it was like working with him on *How I Met Your Mother*?

It was a pleasure to work with him. How many girls can say they were in the backseat with NPH?

What was it like working on a high profile, fast paced television series such as *24*?

It was an absolute joy to work on such a wonderful series. The writers on that show are top notch and so are all the actors and directors, so it really allowed you to do your best work.

What's the best thing about the after premiere parties?

I don't know. I rarely go!



What's your strangest fan experience?

I wouldn't say I've had a strange fan experience, but someone once dropped to her knees and bowed down to me which I thought was fantastic!

Have you ever picked up a script and thought, 'Oh my God, I can't believe I have to do that?'

Yes. It was my last scene with **Cherry Jones** on *24*. I saw our giant scene and definitely

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my first thought was, "How am I going to hold my own with the amazing Cherry Jones?!" but the challenge of it was exhilarating and I ended up loving every minute of it.

**Are you still modelling?**

I actually just did a fashion spread for Regard Magazine. Here's a link to see behind the scenes of the shoot: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qwRkSpJ1Ng](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qwRkSpJ1Ng).

**Have you found it a struggle to convince directors to see past your good looks and take you seriously as an actor?**

Nope.

**If you could play any role in movie or television history, what would it be?**

Mary Magdalene.

**What are you working on next?**

I just wrapped shooting on a movie called *Meth Head* and you can also see me in a new series called *The Event* as the mysteriously enticing character of Isabelle. Also in the spring I'll be heading to New York to do a show called *The Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* on Broadway opposite Robin Williams, which I am very excited about.

**Find out more about Necar Zadegan at [necar zadeganfan.tumblr.com](http://necar zadeganfan.tumblr.com).**

**Elena Undone [2010]**

**Studio:** Peccadillo Pictures

**Released:** 7 February 2011

**ASIN:** B003YC0IDQ

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