



IMTA ALUM KATIE HOLMES IS *TOUCHED WITH FIRE*

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Touched With Fire is in limited release Friday, February 12th

“There are things that are pure entertainment, and there are things that mean something to me. *Touched With Fire* — this really means a lot to me. I’m really proud of this.” – Katie Holmes

In the romantic drama *Touched With Fire*, IMTA alum Katie Holmes plays Carla, a young poet who falls intensely in love with another poet. The complication? They met in a psychiatric hospital, both being treated for bipolar disorder. While their passion inspires them creatively, it also drives their mania, taking them to incredible highs before plunging them to soul-crushing lows. Written and directed by Paul Dalio—who struggled to overcome his own bipolar disorder—*Touched With Fire* also stars Luke Kirby, Christine Lahti, Griffin Dunne and Bruce Altman.



“I didn’t know much about [bipolar disorder], quite honestly,” Holmes told Yahoo Movies. “Our director is very open about having the disorder and this was very much his experience. When I sat down with him, I was really inspired by what he was saying. I’d never done a part like this before. The challenge of that was very enticing. I know there are so many families affected by this, so it became something bigger than just an acting job.”

Touched With Fire had its premiere last year at the SXSW Film Festival under the title *Mania Days*. Holmes—who is receiving some of the best reviews of her career for her portrayal—said filming this particular project was an intense experience. “I came to understand the pain that is involved. It really is a hardship. I walked away from the picture with a great amount of empathy.”



Holmes appears on this month’s cover of *MORE* Magazine. In an interview, she told the magazine that as she’s aged, she’s gained confidence that has opened her up to new challenges and helped her dictate the next steps in her career. “I understand the kind of stories I want to tell. I have more experience in the business. I feel more certain.”



One of those stories is *All We Had*, a film based on the book by Annie Weatherwax, that tells the story of a single mother who struggles to provide for her teenage daughter. Holmes both directed and stars in the film, which does not yet have a release date scheduled. “[It] was like a marathon,” she told *MORE* of taking the director’s chair. “But I didn’t have time to second-guess myself. And it wasn’t going to do anyone any good if I did. I stayed calm.”

Top and bottom photos: Jan Welters/MORE Magazine