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*i am Not a*  
**Rock  
Star**

A FILM BY **BOBBI JO HART**

photo | Alexander Berg

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# *i am Not a* **Rock Star**



**A** feature documentary made over eight years, **I AM NOT A ROCK STAR** follows the life of Canadian classical pianist Marika Bournaki between the ages of 12 and 20! Shot in cinema verité style in concert halls, hotels and airports around the world and inspired by stunning piano performances, the film dramatically unfolds to reveal the coming of age of an ambitious, talented pianist and the consequences of her eight year journey to make it.

Labelled a child prodigy, Marika is catapulted into a world of concerts, competitions and media attention at a very young age. It's within this context that we film Marika for the first time. She is 12 years old and leaving Montreal at 5 am on her weekly flight to New York City to study at Juilliard's prestigious Pre-College Program. After two exhausting years of these commutes, she moves to NYC at age 14, and never looks back. Her father Pierre, who figures prominently in the story, is a Juilliard-trained violinist now working in finance. He has spent years nurturing her career.

Watching Marika grow up and mature before our eyes as she searches for her own identity, is the heart and soul of the documentary. From backstage tears, adolescent rebellion and burnout, to her parents unexpected divorce and finding her first love,

the film takes viewers through a myriad of dramatic developments to reveal a passionate pianist who truly loves music.

It's a journey that also leads her to prestigious invitations – from playing on Glenn Gould's famed Steinway piano to Switzerland's Verbier Festival and from playing Rachmaninoff with Ji-Yong and the Australian National Ballet in Seoul, Korea to a solo concert with the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra in Russia. Also featured are original home movies and archival footage of Marika's first performance on stage at age five and later as a soloist with famed conductor Yannick Nezet-Seguin and the Orchestre Metropolitain at age 10.

**I AM NOT A ROCK STAR** gives viewers a rare and candid look inside the world of classical music – a world where an elusive alchemy of sacrifice, talent and luck is required. As Marika seeks her place and identity in this challenging environment, we witness her evolution from child to adult and experience the numerous conflicts she overcomes to finally make it on her own. It's a story that says as much about Marika and the world of classical music as it does about families, growing up and the complex relationships between parents and their kids.

DIRECTED BY **BOBBI JO HART** PRODUCED BY **ROBBIE HART** EDITED BY **HOWARD GOLDBERG** SECOND EDITOR **VINCENT LACOMBAT** SOUND BY **DANIEL TOUSSAINT**  
MUSIC PERFORMED BY **MARIKA BOURNAKI** ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY **JACK JOHNSON & PATRICK WATSON** PRODUCED BY **ADOBE PRODUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL**

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