

Zaid Abu Hamdan

Director, Writer, Creative Producer

UAE: Licensed freelancer- Golden visa | **USA:** Green card holder | **EUROPE:** Multiple entry visa until Oct 2024
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CREATIVE CONSULTANT / MENTOR

Arab Film Studio (AFS) – Narrative 2016 – 2023 * IMAGE NATION * Abu Dhabi, UAE

Creative Mentor - Writing & Directing

- Mentoring participants during the writing, preproduction, production and post-production through feedback sessions.
- To aid with the development of AFS program.
- Giving Intensive Filmmaking workshop prior to each stage of production and give the final green light for the projects.

Arab Film Studio (AFS) – Screenwriting 2016 – 2022 * IMAGE NATION * Abu Dhabi, UAE

Script Development Mentor

- Guide 8 filmmakers through the conceptualizing, structuring and writing film scripts.
- Review synopses, treatments and scripts prepared by AFS participants and give the final green light for the projects.
- Shortlist the final 4 writers to pitch at a professional forum to win a 100,000AED fund to produce their film.

FILM PROJECTS

(FULL LIST OF AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS CAN BE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST)

Daughters Of Abdul-Rahman | بنات عبدالرحمن | Feature Film (2022)

Writer Director – A female centric Dramatic Comedy starring A list actresses / Language: Arabic.

-**WINNER** – 5 Audience Awards | Cairo International Film festival, FEST Portugal, USA, M.E.N Italy, Switzerland.

Worldwide distribution – Festivals – Theatres – Shahid – Netflix – OSN and others.

Bahiya & Mahmoud (2012) **Qualified for 2012 Academy Awards**

Writer / Director / Co-producer – Comedy / Language: Arabic

Developed into a 3-season TV series

Love...Older, Hiroshi & Kiyoko

Writer / Director / Co-producer - 16mm film / Language: Japanese.

City of Memories

Creative Producer – Short fiction / Language: Mandarin.

- **WINNER** - "AUDIENCE AWARD" / 12th Short shorts film festival and Asia – Japan

COMMERCIAL WORK

VOGUE ARABIA | MAC Cosmetics – Limited Ramadan Series QATAE'F - 2021

Director/Writer – A 5-episode comedy series set in the 1980's promoting makeup and fashion. Starring Lojain Omran and 4 Mega influencers.

NIVEA – Facemask collection * JOY films * Dubai, UAE - 2020

Director – Featuring young Macro to target the teenage and young adult demographic.

NIVEA – Amina Khalil series * JOY films * Dubai, UAE - 2019

Director –Starring A-list Egyptian actress/singer Amina Khalil

NIVEA – Free Your Skin campaign * JOY films / Impact BBDO * Dubai, UAE - 2019

Director – Featuring 3 beauty Macro and Mega influencers

SEPHORA – Ramadan 2019 and Eid series * ABSTRACT Middle East * Dubai, UAE – 2019

Director – 6 online RAMADAN commercials starring Macro influencers.

NIVEA – MiscellAir * JOY films / Impact BBDO * Dubai, UAE - 2018

Director – Featuring 6 makeup and beauty influencers.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON * JOY films / Impact BBDO * Dubai, UAE (Agency: Impact BBDO) - 2017

Director & Concept developer - *The science of Soft series*

Commercial #1 | **Tears of a Mermaid**

Commercial #2 | **The Lab Experiment**

Commercial #3 | **The baby regimen**

Higher Council of Technology * Animation Art * Dubai, UAE - 2016

Director 1 commercial: *Promoting Education to local youth.*

SCRIPTED TELEVISION

Sesame Street * Iftah Ya Simsim /Bedaya Media /Abu Dhabi, UAE (Jan 2017)

Studio Director (Jan 2017 – Feb 2017)

- Developed and Directed 15 episodes in addition of 2 of the shows closing and opening songs.
- Worked with Sesame Workshop NY to ensure Sesame brand is delivered to Middle Eastern audiences.

Script Writer (Oct 2016 – Nov 2016)

- Created and developed studio segment scripts following Sesame Workshop NY guidelines to ensure educational concepts and Sesame brand is delivered to Middle Eastern audiences

International Red Cross PSA's * Jordan Pioneers/Intl. Red Cross * Amman, Jordan

Director/Producer (March 2008)

- Produced and directed 10 five-minute traffic safety awareness PSA' s for Pan Arab broadcasters

DOCUMENTARY / REALITY TELEVISION

Ser Bani Yaas Youthj challenge documentary * Mubadala/ADEK/Ajyal – Abu Dhabi UAE

Director /Content Developer (Nov 2018 – May 2019)

- Develop and direct a documentary covering a competition between the Emirati Youth at Ser Bani Yas Island.
- Supervise the editing process until final delivery.

The Victorious * Dubai TV and iMagic International * Dubai, UAE

Content Producer (March 2014 – June 2014)

- Created narratives of 22 soccer finalists used throughout 45-episode international soccer competition reality series
- Devised breakdown of five-episodes-a-week series, including story structure for all taped episodes
- Supervised a team of 11 story producers who followed various finalists and then created their individual story packages

Director/Chief Creative Editor (Jan 2014 – March 2014)

- Directed episode two, featuring 44 soccer aspirants competing to be named best new player in the Middle East
- Go-to staffer for World Cup-winning attacking midfielder Diego Maradona, who served as the show's coach and judge
- Supervised post-production for both selection and elimination episodes

I get that a lot * Abu Dhabi TV/CBS Intl./Sugar Rush Prods. * Abu Dhabi, UAE

Chief Creative Editor (Nov 2013 – Feb 2014)

- Supervised post-production of the Arab version of the one-hour, 13-episode debut season of CBS secret camera show
- Directed Pan-Arab celebrity cast, who posed as ordinary people and fooled unsuspecting victims
- Worked with CBS International staff to ensure format applied correctly while adjusting to local audiences

E!'s Golden Globes 2013 & 2014 * (E!) Entertainment TV * Los Angeles, CA

TV Writer/Script consultant (Dec 2012 – Jan 2013 / Dec 2013 – Feb 2014)

- Researched on-set trivia, rumors and biographies of talent for red carpet interviews at Golden Globes
- Write Red Carpet content for E! talent *Giuliana Rancic* and Ryan Seacrest to ask TV and film talent
- Updated content in real time to cater to host and talent needs, plus respond to trending events

MBC ACTION * MBC Group * Dubai, UAE

Continuity Producer/Script Copywriter (Feb 2006 to June 2008)

- Created and produced branding links for all on-air elements of MBC's new action-based channel
- Supervised all on-air promotions, bumpers and branding for MBC Action
- Write brand voiceover for links, promotions and end credits, both in Arabic and English

Various entertainment reports and short docs * MBC Group * Los Angeles, CA

TV Reporter/Producer/Host (Oct 2009 to Oct 2012)

- Attended premieres and press conferences to cover Hollywood news for Pan Arab entertainment news network MBC
- Produced, directed, scripted and hosted pre-recorded and live material for MBC's various entertainment programs
- Interviewer for late-breaking events, awards shows and charity events relevant to a Middle Eastern TV audience

EDUCATION

New York Film Academy, Hollywood, CA | Master Of Fine Arts

(MFA) **emphasis on Filmmaking**. GPA 3.82, (Honor list) - 2010

Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon

Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA) Communication Arts / emphasis on **TV & Film**; GPA 3.72 (Honor list) - 2005
Minor in Science (AS), Psychology (2005)

LANGUAGES – English (Excellent), Arabic (Excellent); French (Beginner)

MIDDLE-EAST AND US REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.