

USAMA ALSHAIBI

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Summary

I'm a filmmaker, with 25 years of experience, who works in documentary, experimental, and narrative. My work has shown in national and international film festivals, been broadcast globally on television, and featured in magazines and newspapers. I have been teaching film production, and film and media studies for over ten years.

Education

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

Boulder, CO | Master of Fine Arts, Film Studies, 2015

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Chicago, IL | Bachelor of Arts, Film and Video, 1997

Teaching Experience

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)

Teaching Associate Professor | 2020-present

- I teach five classes each semester and was film minor thesis advisor to students for the past two years. I was awarded the Excellence in Undergraduate Mentorship and the Provost Office Teaching Award at Colorado State University. I created the film production course, The Personal Lens—Making Media, along with Through the Student Lens Film Festival for which I serve as Program Director.

Assistant Professor | 2017-2020

- I taught five classes each semester and advised on two theses each semester. I was on the screening jury for the ACT Human Rights Film Festival.

Special Instructor | 2015-2017

- I taught four classes each semester.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER (CU)

Visiting Assistant Professor | 2017-2018

- I taught two upper-level courses each semester.

Visiting Lecturer | 2015-2016

- I taught one class each semester.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

Adjunct Professor | 2006-2007

- I taught one documentary film class each semester.

Classes Taught

Colorado State University

SPCM 360 The Personal Lens–Making Media
SPCM 352 Screenwriting as Communication
SPCM 354 History and Appreciation of Film
SPCM 350 Evaluating Contemporary Film
SPCM 341 Evaluating Contemporary Television
SPCM 342 Critical Media Studies
SPCM 100 Communication and Popular Culture

University of Colorado Boulder

FILM 4021 Directing/Acting for the Camera
FILM 4500 Cinema Production II (BFA course)
FILM 3400 Cinema Production I
FILM 2000 Moving Image Foundation I

Skills

Experienced in 2K and 4k digital film production and post-production

Proficient in Adobe Premiere, Adobe After Effects, Media Encoder, DaVinci Resolve, Final Cut Pro and Photoshop

Experienced in super 8mm, 16mm and 35mm celluloid film production

Honors & Awards

2024 Awarded Excellence in Undergraduate Mentorship at CSU
2023 Nominated for Best Teacher Award at CSU
2022 Awarded Provost Office Teaching Award at CSU
2016 Arab Fund for Arts and Culture Grant
2013 The Center for Asian-American Media Grant
2012 The Illinois Humanities Council Grant
2011 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Award
2010 Playboy Foundation Grant for Documentary Film
2009 Kartemquin Films Diversity Fellowship
2005 Tribeca All Access Creative Promise Award
2005 Creative Capital Foundation for the Arts Grant

Filmography

Feature Films

This Has Already Happened, 56:00 minutes, 2025
American Arab, documentary, 60:00 minutes, 2013
Profane, 78:00 minutes, 2011
Nice Bombs, documentary, 76:00 minutes, 2006
Muhammad and Jane, 80:00 minutes, 2003
Soak, 60:00 minutes, 2002

Select Short Films

Testimony, 7:54 minutes, 2023
Soon, 2:12 minutes, 2022
Here, 51 seconds, 2020

The Shadow, 15:14 minutes, 2020
The Desire, 6:56 minutes, 202
The Muslim Meme, 4:30 minutes, 2017
The Flowering, 4:25 minutes, 2017
Baghdad, Iowa, 34:00 minutes, 2015
My Mother Paused by My Father, 1:05, 2009
Dream of Samarra, 1:00 minute, 2007
Bombshell, 15:35, 2004
Allahu Akbar, 5:10 minutes, 2003
Dance Habibi Dance, 3:45 minutes, 1999

Publications

“Film as liminal space.” *Routledge Handbook on Arab Cinema*, edited by Noha Mellor, 1st edition, Routledge, 2024

Television Broadcast

American Arab, broadcast on American ReFramed, PBS, February & September 2016, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), May-December 2015, Japan Broadcasting Corporation, Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK), September 2015 and VGTV in Norway, January-December 2015

Arab American Stories, directed “Mother Mosque” & “Elkader, Iowa.” PBS series produced by Detroit Public Television and broadcast nationally, June-December 2012

Nice Bombs, documentary shot in Iraq in early 2004, broadcast on Sundance Channel, March 19, 2008-2009

Interviews & Media Appearances

NPR Next Generation Radio, producer Ivy Winfrey, August, 2021

“Watch It: Filmmaker Usama Alshaibi Puts the Chaos on Pause,” Interview by Kyle Harris, *Westword* publication, March 2020

Colorado Public Radio, *Colorado Matters*, February 23, 2016

Chicago Public Radio, *WBEZ Worldview*, interview with Jerome McDonnell, February 9, 2016

Community Public Radio, *KGNU News*, Boulder, interview with Maeve Conran, February 9, 2016

Chicago Tonight, *WTTW 11*, television interview with Phil Ponce, August 15, 2006

Hope Dies Last: Keeping the Faith in Difficult Times, Interview with Studs Terkel, New Press, 2003

Screenings & Exhibitions

International Festival Signs of the Night-Cinema in Transgression, Paris, 2024
Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, 2023
Centre d'art Madeleine-Lambert, France, 2023
Dispatches of War, Kiev, Ukraine, 2022
Denver Film Festival, Denver, Colorado, 2022
Demetera International Film Festival, Paris, 2021
Iranian Film Festival, San Francisco, 2021
Revelation Perth International Film Festival, Australia, 2020
Independent Iraqi Film Festival, 2020
Filmmakers Unite group show, Roxie Theater San Francisco, 2018
Mizna Arab Film Festival: Experimental Arab Film, 2018
Aurora Picture Show's Extremely Shorts Film Festival, Texas, 2018
DOK Leipzig, Germany, 2017
ACT Human Rights Film Festival, 2016
Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur Switzerland, 2015
15th United Nations Association Monterey Bay International Film Festival, 2014
Arab Film Festival, San Francisco, 2014
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, 2014
Geneva Film Festival, 2014
Bright Lights Film Series, Emerson College, Boston, 2014
International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), 2013
Chicago Underground Film Festival, 2011
Boston Underground Film Festival, Boston, 2011
Kunstfilmtag in Düsseldorf, Germany, 2010
Pacific Cinematheque, Vancouver, 2010
The National Museum, Performance Intermedia, Poland, 2010
BUTFF in Netherlands, 2009
Extrapool in Nijmegen, Netherlands, 2009
Printers' Ball, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 2008
New Filmmakers, Anthology Film Archive, New York City, 2008
Pioneer Theater & Gene Siskel Film Center, *Nice Bombs* Theatrical Release, 2007
Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, 2006
Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, 2004
The 8th Rencontres Internationales Paris, Berlin, 2004
Lausanne Underground Film & Music Festival, Switzerland, 2004
Channel 83 festival of media, Florence, Italy, 2004
Select Media Festival, Rotterdam, Paris, Chicago, 2003
Cinema of Transgression Retrospective, Pioneer Theater, NY, 2003
eKsperim[E]nt3 Film Festival, Manila, Philippines, 2003
Featured Director, Brighton Cinematheque, England, 2002
Chamber of Pop Culture, Horse Hospital, London, England, 2001
Featured Director: Light Plays Tricks Short Film Festival, Canada, 2001
Museum of Contemporary Art, Summer Solstice, Chicago, 2001
Aurora Picture Show, Houston, TX, 2000
New York Underground Film Festival, 2000