

# USAMA ALSHAIBI

312-480-5257 | [USAMA.ALSHAIBI@COLOSTATE.EDU](mailto:USAMA.ALSHAIBI@COLOSTATE.EDU) | [USAMAALSHAIBI.COM](http://USAMAALSHAIBI.COM)

## 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

#### Teaching Associate Professor | 2020-present

- I teach five classes each semester, and I'm thesis advisor to students every semester. I created Through the Students Lens, the first student film festival at CSU and serve as the director. I serve on the Awards Committee and I'm the film minor advisor.

#### 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

#### 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

### Classes Taught at 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

### Classes Taught at the 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 editing software: Adobe Premiere, DaVinci Resolve and Final Cut Pro  
Experienced in super 8mm, 16mm and 35mm celluloid film production  
Experienced in Adobe After Effects, Media Encoder, and Photoshop

## Honors & Awards

2023 Nominated for Best Teacher Award at Colorado State University  
2022 Awarded Provost Office Teaching Award at Colorado State University  
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*, in-progress  
*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*, narrative feature, 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  
*Signal Cross Over*, 3:24 minutes, 2007  
*Allahu Akbar*, 5:10 minutes, 2003  
*Dance Habibi Dance*, 3:45 minutes, 1999

**Selected  
Screenings and  
Exhibitions**

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  
Coding: Decoding: Nikolaj, 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—Regime Change for U.S., Rotterdam, Paris, Chicago, 2003  
Cinema of Transgression Retrospective, Pioneer Theater, New York, 2003  
eKsperim[E]nt3 Film Festival, Manila, Philippines, 2003