

# Ahmad Damen

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## Overview:

US-based podcast producer, content supervisor, music composer and sound designer. Ten years of experience in international TV networks, content creation, editorial practices, sound design, acquisition and post production in six countries.

**Languages:** Arabic & English.

## Main Skills

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| • Podcast Production.   | • Journalism.  |
| • Project Management.   | • Audio Recording.   |
| • Creative Writing and Research: eg. scripts, content editing, short stories, articles. | • Sound Design.  |
| • Content Editing and Development.  | • Digital Audio Workstation (Reaper, Audition, Pro Tools, Sonar, FL studio). |
| • Video and Audio Editing.  | • Team Leadership.   |
| • Storytelling.   | • Collaborative Skills.  |
| • Team supervision.   |  |

## Work Experience

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### Podcast Producer/Presenter - Feb 2021 – Now

Middle East Broadcasting Network (Springfield, VA)

Achievements:

- Helped lead the launch and forming the structure of Fusool Podcast
- Envisioned and implemented significant changes to the podcast structure, editorial standards, production values and audio quality of the podcast.
- Directed 40 (20 min) episodes (field record, supervise studio recording, script supervise, audio engineer and post produce).
- Produced 6 (30 & 20 min) episodes (research, script-write, interview, time-manage against tight schedules).

Tasks include:

- Lead in all attributes of "Fusool/Seasons" podcast production as needed, including research, script-writing and revisions, interviews, recording, logistics coordination, scheduling, software setup, editing, and sound design.
- Propose new episodes including mini-series and focus themes.
- I'm the only producer beside the podcast's lead who is involved in all Fusool productions from start to finish.
- Supervise other producers' scripts and make necessary editorial and grammatical amends before recording.
- Supervise the post-production process and ready episodes for mastering.
- Grow Fusool podcast in quantity and quality.
- Challenge other producers and myself to push the boundaries in creative storytelling.
- Stay abreast of industry standards to ensure podcasts are meeting best practices.
- Assist in developing and producing future podcasts.
- Evaluate pitches made by colleagues and make necessary changes to meet MBN editorial standards.
- Work in collaboration with other departments to manage the Fusool production pipeline, the creative collaborators and market the podcast to its target audience.
- Training producers in the Fusool team to establish and improve audio production standards.

### Program Evaluator - Jan 2017 – Feb 2021

Middle East Broadcasting Network (Springfield, VA)

Achievements:

- Purchased 600+ hours of digital content from 500+ licensors.

Redesigned the generic grid which proved instrumental for the network's relaunch.  
Produced digital stories for social media (webisodes) that achieved millions of views and interactions.  
Become the most versatile producer in the department, performing all department tasks.

Tasks include:

- Evaluate and recommend programs for acquisition maintaining professional journalistic standards.
- The only person in Acquisitions who follows an entire project from concept to broadcast.
- Conducts in-depth research to assess accuracy, relevance and timeliness of program.
- Cultivate awareness of regional viewing trends and sensitivities (religious, cultural, political).
- Conceive and develop scheduling strategies to maximize audience viewership.
- Monitor qualitative and quantitative KPIs for the webisodes on social media.
- Maintain and develops relationships with vendors
- Conduct weekly interviews with external licensors to discuss potential deals without supervision.
- Secure deals as a TV buyer in film markets and festivals like MipDoc, IDFA and Reelscreen.

### **Creative Content Producer - Feb 2016 – August 2016**

Flair Media Consultancy (Turkey)

- Produced daily news show for TRT on local and political issues and three documentary series.
- Researched and directed a long-form documentary film: "A Story from Baghdad".

### **Independent Sound Designer and Score Composer - 2008 – 2016**

Freelance

Conducted and recorded original music soundtracks for 20 award-winning documentaries. Produced, mixed and mastered the audio for multiple TV programs, radio shorts and independent films. Strong sound design, sound recording and music production skills (Reaper, Adobe Audition and Pro Tools).

Soundcloud page: [https://soundcloud.com/a\\_damen/popular-tracks](https://soundcloud.com/a_damen/popular-tracks)

World Music podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/user-220639545/popular-tracks>

### **Creative Content Supervisor - Feb 2015 – Feb 2016**

Birzeit University – Media Development Center (Palestine)

- Researched, written, produced and presented a podcast on World Music (15 episodes, 15 minutes each).
- Managed projects for TV and radio content and organized training courses.
- Recruited A-list international talents and organized workshops in three different countries. Workshops included TV presenting, infographics, scriptwriting, literary fiction and radio production.
- Managed the operations and supervised the producer content of radio studio and TV studio with its dedicated MCR unit for live broadcast.

### **Digital Content Producer/Director - August 2011 – Jan 2015**

Al Arz Productions (Palestine)

- Wrote, produced, directed and edited two long-form documentaries on human right issues in Palestine: The Red Stone & Forbidden Pilgrimage. The films were officially selected in several international film festivals (won one award), and translated to several languages. The Red Stone: English, Arabic, French, Turkish. Forbidden Pilgrimage: English, Arabic & Italian.
- Directed and wrote the scripts for a docu-series on music bands (5 episodes).
- Managed a filmmaking and editorial team to launch of a news digital channel.
- Recruited and developed young talent for producing entertainment shows which led to millions of views online.
- Supervised the editorial content for a weekly TV magazine show "Beyond the Green Line".

### **Assistant Producer/Director – Documentaries - Jan 2010 – August 2011**

Vision for TV Production (Jordan)

Worked on producing six documentaries including sound design and music production.

### **Marketing Project Manager - June 2009 – Dec 2009**

ABS Network (Jordan)

- Created a new branding marketing strategy, including corporate dynamic website with its own CMS.
- Conducted negotiations with Reuters/Cairo on ABS covering the 2009 Afghani elections for Reuters.
- Initiated the digitization of the digital archive system for direct sales to customers via the website.

- Selected, hired and supervised archive officers.

## Additional Freelance Work

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### **Content Magazine Editor (Second job) - [July 2014 – Jan 2015](#)**

This Week in Palestine (Palestine - Monthly Magazine in English)

I chose monthly themes, approached and recruited potential writers and publishers. I edited articles for content and journalistic standards.

### **Freelance Film Evaluator - [Sept 2013 – Nov 2013](#)**

Al Jazeera English Headquarters (Qatar)

- Worked on commissioning documentaries and assessing projects for localization purposes.
- Produced and supervised audio dubbing projects from Arabic to English, Turkish and Bosnian.

## Education

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### **MSc Management (With Merit) - [Sept 2007 – Dec 2008](#)**

**Leeds University Business School, UK**

Dissertation's field of study: Managing Change

Title: "The effect of forces of inertia on learning and innovation in the opera industry, UK: A Case Study".

### **BA Marketing (High Distinction; Top of class - GPA 3.95) - [Oct 2003 – Feb 2007](#)**

**New York Institute of Technology, USA**

### **Music Studies: Music Composition & Oud studies - [1999 – 2006](#)**

**National Music Institute (Ramallah); National Music Institute (Jordan)**

ABRSM Certificate (Associated Board Royal Schools of Music/UK), Distinction, Dec 2007

### **MSc in Sound Technology, [2016 \(uncompleted\)](#)**

**Istanbul Technical University - Center for Advanced Studies in Music (Turkey)**

## Awards

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### **Winner of Three Public Speaking and Speech Writing Contests (in English) - [April 2018 – April 2019](#)**

**Toastmasters International**

### **First Honorable Mention - Exemplary News Teams in Developing Countries - [Oct 2014](#)**

**World Media Summit (Beijing) - Global Awards for Excellence**

### **Jury Special Selection - "The Red Stone" - [May 2012](#)**

**Toronto Palestine Film Festival**