

Ahmad Damen

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Work Experience

Middle East Broadcasting Network (Virginia, USA)

Jan 2017 – Now

Content Acquisition Specialist (Program Evaluator)

Screened more than 4,500 hours and purchased 500+ hours of content from 500+ licensors.

My work proved instrumental in the network's relaunch.

I initiated and managed an online project to feature the network's acquisitions (webisodes).

Tasks include:

- Search and acquire documentaries from distributors and independent filmmakers. Participate in Reelscreen, IDFA, MipTV as a TV buyer.
- Make decisions on pitches. Content evaluation to fit different broadcast requirements.
- Create online content (webisodes).
- Schedule planning for the network's acquired content. Create generic and other scheduling grids.

Al Arz Production (Freelancer)

Producer/Director – Programs & Documentaries

May 2016 – Dec 2016

Supervised several ongoing series produced by Alarz Productions (content editing, training presenters, production values)

Flair Media Consultancy (Turkey)

Feb 2016 - May 2016

Programmes Producer

- Producer of daily news show for TRT on Iraqi issues.
- In charge of three documentary series.
- Directed my third documentary.

Birzeit University – Media Centre (Palestine)

Feb 2015 - Feb 2016

TV Unit Supervisor

- Projects manager of TV content & training courses.
- Provided training for professionals and students on TV production, script writing, filming and other specialities.
- Part of a three-person team responsible for procuring university-wide filming equipment (bid evaluation, vendor interviews, and final selection).
- Archival research to obtain historical photos, maps, documents, etc. of traditional cities.
- Radio show producer and presenter on World Music.

Independent Music Composer & Sound Designer

2008 - 2016

Freelance – Part Time

Composed & conducted original music soundtracks for nearly 20 award-winning documentaries, documentary series, independent fiction films, program jingles, and educational videos.

Al Arz Production (Palestine)

Producer/Director – Programs & Documentaries

August 2011 – Jan 2015

- Wrote, produced, directed, & edited two documentaries: '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).
- Documentary series on music bands (5 episodes).
- Media management on establishing a new online Arabic TV channel.
- Content editor for 'Beyond the Green Line' TV magazine series.

Al Jazeera English (Qatar)

Reversioning Freelance Producer at Al Jazeera World Program

Sept 2013 – Nov 2013

Devised a system for evaluating documentaries, translating and adapting from Arabic to English.
Projects included:

- Dangerous Waters (Italy), 48 min
- Inside Shin Bet (Palestine), 48 min

Vision for TV Production Company (Jordan)

Assistant Producer/Director - Documentaries

Jan 2010 – August 2011

Assisted in producing, directing, conducting research on six documentaries

ABS Network (Jordan)

June 2009 – Dec 2009

Marketing Project Manager

- Created a new branding marketing strategy, including corporate dynamic website.
- Conducted negotiations with Reuters/Cairo on ABS covering the 2009 Afghani elections for Reuters
- Initiated an online-archive system: Selected, hired and supervised archive officers

Education

MSc Management (With Merit)

Sept 2007 – Dec 2008

University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

Dissertation: 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, Amman, Jordan

Music Studies: Music Composition & Oud studies

1999 – 2006

National Music Institute (Ramallah); National Music Institute (Amman)

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

Msc in Music Production and Technology

September 2016 - December 2016

ITU University Music School – Istanbul

Uncompleted due to travel and residency in the USA

Awards

Public Speaking Contests (Three Awards – District 27)

April 2018 - April 2019

Toastmasters International

Best Speech Evaluation in the city of Alexandria, VA

Best 2nd Speaker in Division A (cities of Arlington, Fort Meyer, Southern DC)

Best Speech in the city of Arlington, VA

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

Main Skills

- Video & Audio Editing and Filming
- TV Producing
- TV Directing
- Creative Writing and Research: eg. scripts, segments, content editing.
- Story Telling
- Sound Technology
- Film Acquisitions and Commissioning for Networks
- Organizing training and educational workshops.
- Buying Negotiations (Procurement)