

Ahmad Damen

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Overview:

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

Languages: English & Arabic.

Podcast Awards

Winner: Best Editing for a Podcast (Bronze) - Signal Awards, NY - [January 2023](#).

Shortlisted: Best Factual Podcast - AIB Media Excellence Awards, UK – [September 2022](#).

Podcast Samples <https://ahmaddamen.github.io/Podcasts.html>

Main Skills

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

Work Experience

Podcast Producer/Presenter - [Feb 2021 – Now](#)

Middle East Broadcasting Network (Springfield, VA)

Achievements:

- Lead the launch and forming the structure of Fusool Podcast (produced in Arabic).
- Envisioned and implemented significant changes to the podcast structure, editorial standards, production values and audio quality of the podcast.
- Produced 80 (20-30 min) episodes.

Tasks include:

- Lead in all attributes of "Fusool/Seasons" podcast production as needed, including research, script-writing and revisions, booking interviews, time-manage against tight schedules, recording, logistics coordination, scheduling, software setup, editing, and sound design.
- The only producer beside the podcast's lead who is involved in all productions from start to finish.
- Supervise other producers' scripts and make necessary editorial/grammatical changes before recording.
- Supervise the post-production process.
- 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 production pipeline and market the podcast to its target audience.
- Train producers in the team to improve field recording and audio editing.

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.

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).

Music Page: https://soundcloud.com/a_damen/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).
- World Music podcast (in Arabic): <https://soundcloud.com/user-220639545/popular-tracks>

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.

Content Localization Producer - May 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.

Digital Content Producer/Director - August 2011 – Jan 2015

Al Arz Productions (Palestine)

Wrote, produced, directed and edited two long-form documentaries. The films were officially selected in several international film festivals (won one award), and translated to several languages.

- The Red Stone: English, Arabic, French and Turkish.
- Forbidden Pilgrimage: English, Arabic, Italian and Bosnian.

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.

Supervised the editorial content for a weekly TV magazine show.

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.

Education

Podcasting: Telling Stories in Sound (5-week course), [2022](#)
Berklee Advanced Media Institute, CA, USA

Msc in Sound Technology, [2016 \(uncompleted due to accepting a job offer in the US\)](#)
Istanbul Technical University - Center for Advanced Studies in Music (Turkey)

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, NY, USA

Other Awards

Finalist in Three Public Speaking and Speech Writing Contests (in English) - [April 2018 – April 2019](#)
Toastmasters International – District 29 (Washington DC)

First Honorable Mention - Exemplary News Teams in Developing Countries - [Oct 2014](#)
World Media Summit (Beijing, China) - Global Awards for Excellence