

Ahmad Damen

Springfield, VA (Permanent Resident)

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Overview:

US-based film and news producer. Ten years of experience in international TV networks, production houses, journalism and digital broadcast in four countries.

Languages: Arabic & English (Bi-lingual). Turkish (Elementary).

Main Skills

- Digital Acquisitions and Productions
- Project Management
- Creative Writing and Research: eg. scripts, content editing, short stories, articles.
- Content Editing and Development
- Location Management (Filming)
- Storytelling
- CMS Management
- Journalism and News Evaluation
- Video and Audio Editing
- Sound Design
- VOD/OTT
- Guest Interviews
- Client Relationship Management
- Interpersonal Skills

Work Experience

Digital Acquisitions Specialist (Program Evaluator) - Jan 2017 – Now

Middle East Broadcasting Network (Springfield, VA)

Achievements:

Established a vast network of connections with 500+ local and international broadcasters and distributors (PBS, BBC, NBC, Discovery, CNN and others).

Purchased 600+ hours of digital content from 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.

Tasks include:

- Manage a diverse team of content creators: editorial, creative and technical personnel. Own commissioning and acquisition projects from A to Z.
- Searching, approaching and acquiring documentaries from distributors and independent filmmakers from around the world for multiple platforms: TV, radio and digital.
- Evaluate and recommend programs for acquisition maintaining professional journalistic standards.
- The only person in Acquisitions who follows an entire project from concept to broadcast.
- Negotiating contract deals with licensors, including fees, exclusivity, duration, repeats, VOD and OTT rights.
- Conceive and develop scheduling strategies to maximize audience viewership.
- Maintain and develop 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.

News and Program Producer - Feb 2016 – August 2016

Flair Media Consultancy (Turkey)

- Produced daily news show for TRT on local and political issues and three documentary series.
- Interviewed guests on Iraqi political issues.
- 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).

TV Unit Supervisor - Feb 2015 – Feb 2016

Birzeit University (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 instructors and organized workshops in three different countries. Secured deals for workshops with celebrities and personalities from major international networks.
- Procured university-wide filming equipment (bid evaluation, vendor interviews, and final selection).
- Managed the operations of a radio studio and a TV studio with its dedicated MCR unit for live broadcast.

Producer/Director - [August 2011 – Jan 2015](#)

Al Arz Productions (Palestine)

- Managed a filmmaking and editorial team of creative and technical members to launch of a news digital channel. Includes digital video content production, editorial/publishing, and acquisition of short-form content in multiple languages.
- Conducted guests interviews on a weekly basis (external locations).
- Conducted multiple exclusive interviews with the likes of Mohammad Shtayyeh and Gabriel Naddaf.
- Conducted talent casting interviews, supervised content production and training for editorial publishing standards. The project involved creating a new CMS from scratch.
- Identified and monitored viewership trends and analyzed qualitative data, making decisions on content.
- Led teams of filmmakers to produce two long-form documentaries, two docu-series and one magazine TV show. Led the projects from concept creation, leading in the field, editing and post production until launch
- Traveled to and participated in festivals in Asia, Africa and Europe on behalf of Al Arz negotiating distribution rights.

Marketing Project Manager - [June 2009 – Dec 2009](#)

ABS Network (Jordan)

- Conducted negotiations with Reuters/Cairo on ABS covering the 2009 Afghani elections for Reuters.
- Created a new branding marketing strategy, including corporate dynamic website with its own CMS.
- 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

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

Al Jazeera English Headquarters

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

Education

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

Leeds University Business School, UK

Dissertation's field of study: Managing Change

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

Advanced Studies in Sound Technology (uncompleted), [2016](#)

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

Awards

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

Toastmasters International

Best Speech Evaluation in the city of Alexandria, VA.

Best Speech in the city of Arlington, VA.

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

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