1998 – Annemarie Jacir

Annemarie Jacir, a Palestinian-born film director, producer and a poet, is currently living in Jordan. A very accomplished woman, Annemarie Jacir produced series of award-winning films. In fact, her short film, *like twenty impossible*, was the first Arab film to make it to the Official Selection of the Cannes International Film Festival. In 2004, named as one of Filmmaker’s “25 New Faces”.

In 2008, Annemarie Jacir’s produced a movie called *Salt of this sea*, which premiered in Cannes and won the FIPRESCI International Critics’ Prize. In addition to being a poet and filmmaker, Annemarie Jacir is also a chief curator and co-founder of Dreams of a Nation, a Palestinian film project that promotes Palestinian cinema. In 2003, thanks to her film festival, Annemarie Jacir managed to screen several archival Palestinian films on the Palestinian soil, something that has never done before in Palestine.

Annemarie Jacir, taught at different universities ranging from Columbia University, Bethlehem University, Birzeit University to refugee camps in London and Palestine.

2000 - Nadine Cheaib

Dina Cheaib received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2001 and a Masters of Arts in Arab Studies from Georgetown University’ school of Foreign Service in 2005. After completing her education, Nadine Cheaib worked for multiple news channels throughout which she gains incredible experience in the field of journalism. In 2003, she worked at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia as a news analyst. In 2005, she became a freelance journalist for ARAMICA newspaper, whereas between 2006 and 2009, Nadine Cheaib, worked as a media specialist for Al-Arabiya TV. Currently, Nadine Cheaib is working as an online journalist with Al Jazeera English, where she writes about different topics ranging from pop culture, arts to offbeat stories.
2002 – Dr. Dina Ibrahim

Dr. Dina Ibrahim is an Associate Professor of Broadcast & Electronic Communication Arts at San Francisco State University, where she has been teaching radio and television news production since 2003. She has reported and produced for the BBC World Service Radio in London, United Press International in Cairo, CNN in Atlanta, NPR in Austin, KPOO 89.5 FM in San Francisco and CreaTV in San Jose. Her research interests include the psychological impact of television news on Muslim and Jewish audiences, the role of journalists in the post-revolutionary political transition in Egypt, and analyzing American television representations of the Mideast. She is an associate producer of the upcoming documentary Hope & Fear: Egypt on the Tipping Point. She received her BA & MA from the American University in Cairo and her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

2003 - Kera Abraham

Kera Abraham, is an assistant editor at Monterey County Weekly, where she is responsible for reporting on five geographical beats, environment, oceans and water policies. Beyond this, Ms. Abraham writes long-form cover stories, short-form news articles and blog posts at the Monterey County Weekly. Ms. Abraham, received her BA in environmental science from University of California, Berkeley and an MA in journalism from University of Oregon.

2003 - Mary Ann Azevedo

Mary Ann Azevedo is an award-winning journalist based in Silicon Valley. Currently, Ms. Azevedo works as writer and reporter for Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal, where she covers business and technology related issues. In addition, Ms. Azevedo reports for San Francisco Times and the Houston Business Journal.
2003 - Eyad Zahra

Eyad Zahra, an American filmmaker born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio to Syrian parents. Eyad Zahra received his bachelor’s degree from Florida State University’s School of Motion Picture, Television, and the Recording Arts. Growing up in such a multicultural background, Eyad Zahra hoped to “bridge the gap between Arab-storytelling and modern American cinema”, which is why he produced three well-known movies: The Taqwacores (2010), Distance from the Sun (2004) and Azima (2003).

2004—Leila Fadel

Leila Fadel, a Lebanese American journalist, is currently NPR’s international correspondent based in Cairo. Leila Fadel has remarkable experience in the field of journalism. In 2004, she began this path by working as crime and higher education reporter for the Forth Worth Star-Telegram. Between 2005 and 2006, the turbulent years of the Middle East offered Leila a great opportunity to advance in her career, where she covered both the Iraqi and Lebanese wars with Knight Ridder, McClatchy Newspapers and the Washington Post, for approximately five years. In 2010, Leila Fadel covered the Middle East for the Washington Post. Recently, Leila Fadel covered the Arab Spring and its consequences in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Syria. Leila Fadel received the George R. Polk award for covering the devastating human toll of the Iraq War.

Leila Fadel states that her main goal is to: “find the missing voices, the ones I heard on the streets of Beirut and Saudi Arabia but which were often missing in American media... Great journalism is the ability to capture moments in time, weave them together, and tell the story of all people without condescension, without judgment and without an agenda.”
2004—Joslyn Massad

Massad is currently a freelance journalist based in Amman, Jordan. She produces news and features video reports on humanitarian issues related to the MENA region. Prior to returning to Amman, Massad worked as a writer and a reporter for various news channels. In 2013, Massad produced and directed Arabic historical documentaries about Abu Dhabi for primetime broadcast on Abu Dhabi TV. In 2012, she worked in as a producer, a writer and an editor for the Anglophone broadcast in Nicosia, Cyprus. In the same year, Massad also wrote and edited short documentaries about the banking sector for the Executive Magazine, in Lebanon.

Prior to this, Massad worked for various other news channels such as NPR, Al Arabiya, KVR News and Baynounah Media Group.

2005—Heidi Saman

At the present moment, Heidi Saman is currently an associate producer at NPR Radio’s Fresh Air, where she helps with production tasks such as tape editing and research. After graduating from University of California-San Diego, Heidi Saman moved to Cairo to work as a freelance journalist for an Anglophone newspaper. The conservative nature of this country, made Heidi Saman noticed how “women didn’t occupy the streets at night”. The curious young journalist decided to explore this issue further and turn it into a movie. After four years, she returns with a movie called The Maid. In 2014, heidi Saman was named as one of the 25 New Faces of Independent Film.
2005—Laila al Arian

Laila al Arian is an Palestinian-American broadcast journalist for the Al Jazeera Media Network. Currently, Laila Al-Arian is a producer for Al Jazeera English award winning documentary series Fault Lines, which focuses on the Americas. Prior to joining Al Jazeera, Laila Al Arian worked for American Journal Experts (AJE) for four years, where she covered different issues ranging from the youngest detainee of the Guantanamo Bay to the resettlement of Iraqi refugees in the U.S.

Laila Al-Arian received a Bachelor’s degree in English literature from Georgetown University and a Master’s degree in journalism from Columbia. Among her greatest achievement, is co-authoring Collateral Damage: America’s War Against Iraqi Civilians with Chris Hedges. In addition, Laila Al Arian helped with the production of the Palestine Papers, a four-day program on the largest diplomatic leak in the history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

2006—Reem Akkad

Reem Akkad is currently a senior planning producer at Al Jazeera Media Network. Prior to this, Reem Akkad worked as a producer for Good Morning America Weekend for ABC.
2006— Jad Melki,

Jad Melki is a journalism and media studies professor, trainer, researcher and consultant and a freelance multimedia and broadcast journalist. Melki is the director of the Media Studies Program at the American University of Beirut. He is also the research director of the International Center for Media and the Public Agenda (ICMPA) at the University of Maryland, College Park, a visiting faculty at Johns Hopkins University, USA, and at the Salzburg Academy for Media and Global Change, Austria. Melki is also a media education, media development, and digital journalism training consultant working with various institutions, including the Jordan Media Institute, the Salzburg Global Seminar, and the International College. Previously, he was a visiting faculty at Towson University, teaching research methods, media and society, media literacy, multimedia and broadcast journalism, and media, war and terrorism. Melki has been a broadcast and online journalist for over 12 years working with American and Arabic media. He was part of the Webby award and Press Club award winning Hot Zone team (Yahoo! News), covering the 2006 Israel-Lebanon war. He received his Ph.D. in journalism and media studies from the Phillip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland. You can email Dr. Melki at jad.melki@aub.edu.

2006 - Elaine Hamood Strutz

Elaine Hamood Strutz is an editor and filmmaker living and working in New York City. She graduated from NYU's Film and TV program, after transferring from Henry Ford Community College. Her editor credits include feature film, a number of shorts, and network TV shows such as Disappeared and Say Yes to the Dress. She received a Michigan Chapter Emmy in 2003 for her PSA on organ donation. Elaine is half Lebanese and grew up in a large, loving Muslim family in Dearborn, MI. She takes pride in her Arab-American heritage and the community of Dearborn. She is currently working on a documentary on her hometown, where the highest population of Arab- Americans resides and is often misrepresented in the media and YouTube.
2006 - Nadia Taha,

is now a producer and presenter and assistant program manager at Sudan Radio Service (SRS) Educational Development Organization project (EDC), based in Nairobi, Kenya. She also presents a weekly program on gender related issues such as sexual violence, inequality, human right violations and atrocities against woman. In addition, Nadia Taha’s job goes beyond tackling gender related issues to educating and raising awareness on health care, peace building and reconciliation.

2006—Amanda Zeidan

Amanda Zeidan graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Honors College, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 2007. As a student at UNLV, she received departmental honors, was a Rotary International Goodwill Ambassador, and on the Dean’s List. She was also a CSUN Leadership Scholar, a Golden Key International Honors Society Leadership Scholar, and a recipient of the African Heritage Award. She was accepted into the Peace Programs Development Internship with The Carter Center, a highly competitive internship program with the former U.S. President. Soon after, she became a development coordinator with Coca-Cola Enterprise, C5 Georgia. Currently, Ms. Zeidan is a Community Economic Development Advisor with the Peace Corps.
2007—Mary Abowd

Currently, Mary Abowd covers Campus and Student Life news for University of Chicago. Prior to this, and in addition to being a very active freelancer, Mary Abowd worked at the Chicago Reporter and the Chicago magazine Mary Abowd pursued an academic path in journalism by earning a PhD degree from Ohio University’s E. W. Scripps School of Journalism and a Master’s degree from Northwestern University’s Medill Shool of Journalism. Mary Abowd received a Bachelor’s degree in Liberal studies and French from University of Notre Dame.

2007—Fahed Al Sumait

Dr. Fahed Al-Sumait, a Kuwaiti-American researcher, is an assistant professor of communication at the Gulf University for Science and Technology. He began working there after receiving a one-year post-doctoral fellowship appointment with the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore. Throughout his work, Dr. Fahed Al-Sumait acquired a remarkable experience in the field of international strategic and political communication. As a result, he published and presented various papers on related topics, tackling Arab democratization, terrorism, media representation and intercultural communication. Before plunging into the academic research field, Fahed Al-Sumait worked in a joint venture enterprise in Kuwait.
2007 – Misty Moon

Misty (Moon) Caddell, a 2007 recipient of the Jack G. Shaheen Mass Communication Scholarship, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Alabama in 2008 with a degree in journalism. Upon graduation, she taught English and journalism at the high school level for three years. She also spent five years working with students in her community who speak English as a second language. Misty currently lives in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with her husband, Marlin, and her daughter, Nadia. She works as a freelance writer and editor and continues to tutor high school students in English and writing.

2007 - Ramsey George

Ramsey George has worked with communities around the Middle East in using new media as an outlet of expression, a space for critical conversations, and for organizing collective actions. Ramsey co-founded 7iber.com, a successful media organization based in Amman, Jordan and currently serves as the Project and Community Architect where he oversees new projects and community initiatives. Through 7iber, Ramsey has worked with thousands of youth in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, and Morocco. He studied rhetoric and communication and digital media in the United States.
2007 - Karen Zraick

Karen Zraick is a senior staff editor at The New York Times. Her writing and videos have been published by the Times, the New York Daily News, The Associated Press, Clarín in Buenos Aires, Argentina and the Daily Star in Beirut, Lebanon, among other outlets. The scholarship helped her complete her master's degree at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, where she was part of a team that won a Webby Award for a multimedia project about Burmese refugees in New York. She lives in Brooklyn.

2008 – Rachid Haoues

Rachid Haoues is a coordinating broadcast producer for CBS evening news, based in New York City. Previously, Rachid Haoues worked as deputy managing editor for TouchVision TV, as a producer for WPIX-TV, a senior producer for Big Ten Network (BTN), producer and reporter for Penn State Public Media (WPSU) and production and programming intern for national Basketball Association (NBA). Rachid Haoues received his Bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism from Pennsylvania State University.
2008 - Serena Kefayeh

Serena Kefayeh is the founder of Creative Ideation, LLC, a multimedia storytelling company based in Washington, D.C. Serena has trained at the International Center for Photography, the School of Visual Arts in New York City and learned from some of the leading photographers and multimedia journalists in the country. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, a Master’s in Communications from The Johns Hopkins University and an Advanced Professional Certificate in digital and visual communication from Georgetown University. Serena is passionate about all things visual, creative and innovative.

2008 - Natasha Ritsma

Natasha Ritsma is pursuing a Ph.D. at Indiana University in the department of Communication and Culture. She plans on writing her dissertation on the art of educational films. As such, her research area is focused on documentary, educational and experimental films and media representation of Arabs and Arab Americans. Prior to being a Ph. D. candidate, Natasha Ritsma worked as the interdisciplinary programs coordinator at the Indiana University Art Museum. Thanks to her, the Gund Gallery, which was founded in 2012, became an established part of the Kenyon community, as she created programs and designed events that drew more attention to the gallery.
**2008 - William Youmans**

William Youmans is an assistant Professor at GW’s School of Media and Public Affairs. His research interest includes primarily global news media, journalism, media law and social movements, and broadly transnationalism, news media in conflict, contemporary American public diplomacy, terrorism and international broadcasting. Youman wrote his dissertation on “The Media Economics and Cultural Politics of Al Jazeera”, where he examined the Al Jazeera’s audience-building and market entry before and after the Arab Revolution. In addition, Youmans presented in various conferences such as: the annual gatherings of the Middle East Studies Association, the International Communication Association and the National Communication Association.

**2009 - Bayan Raji**

After graduating from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, Bayan interned for the Houston Business Journal. It wasn't long before the paper offered her a full-time position as health care reporter, where she cultivated relationships with the city's high-profile hospital leaders. In late 2013, Bayan decided to join her father's Halal certification company, Halal Transactions of Omaha, as the field researcher and marketing director.
2009 – Laila Shereen Sakr

Shereen Sakr, is an Egyptian-American digital media theorist and an artist focusing on computational art, live cinema, data visualization and media activism. Ms. Sakr is also known as the founder of R-Shief media system, a media system used to analyze global social movements, allowing its audience to have an easy access to media archive and analytics in seven different languages. In a simplistic approach, Laila Sakr illustrates how “embodied habits of communication are expressed virtually, and to understand how communities use technology to design their own narratives and worlds”. Laila Sakr’s work was exhibited in different countries such as the U.S, Jordan, Brazil and Austria. Her work was published by Middle East critique and Parson’s Journal for Information Mapping, ThoughtMesh, and in an edited volume on Mediating the Arab Uprisings. In addition, Laila Shereen Sakr, is a PhD candidate in Media Arts + Practice at the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts.

2010 – Hiyam Abousaid

Hiyam Abousaid is a director, writer, cinematographer and photographer, based in Los Angeles. She was born and raised in Dallas, Texas to Palestinian parents. In 2000, Hiyam Abousaid earned a Bachelor’s degree in Cinema at the Southern Methodist University. She directed and shot various films such as What a Better Place. Motivated woman she is, Hiyam Abousaid also pursued a Master’s of Fine Arts in film production at Chapman University. Among her greatest achievement is receiving Marion Knott Fellowship, the Kodak Motion Picture Product Scholarship and the International Documentary program to film a documentary in Africa. In addition, Hiyam Abousaid has lot of experience in the sales and commercial field. She was promoted to a managing position of camera sales and store assistant manager at Filmtools Inc, California. Finally, has her own wedding photography business.
2010 – Ameera Olivia David

A well-accomplished journalist received her Bachelor’s degree from University of Michigan in political science and a Master’s degree in journalism from Columbia University School of Journalism. Currently, Ameera David works as a correspondent and anchor for RT America News, where she reports on different news that are impacting Americans.
Carmel Delshad is a multimedia journalist based in Washington, D.C.

She is currently working at AJ+ managing their new Global Engagers Program working with a team of eight young international journalists around the world who pitch and produce news updates for the AJ+ app and funnel video content worldwide to AJ+’s dedicated video staff.

Previously, she was in Orlando, Florida, where she was a reporter for WMFE 90.7 FM, Orlando’s NPR affiliate.

Carmel was formerly based in Cairo, Egypt. She studied international reporting at The City University of New York’s Graduate School of Journalism, where she earned a master’s of arts degree in journalism, with an emphasis on broadcast and international media.

Carmel is the co-recipient of the 2012 Robert F. Kennedy Europe Journalism Award in the School of Journalism category for I Marched Along, a website featuring interviews with leading Egyptian politicians, activists and civilians on what they believe will be the future of women in Egypt, post-revolution.

Carmel's work has been published in World Policy Journal’s Blog, PRI’s The World, The New Yorker Blog, WUSF 89.7 FM, The Post Internazionale in Italy and in other various publications.

She worked previously as the community manager for the collaborative documentary project, 18 Days in Egypt.

Carmel spent six months in Cairo creating and maintaining Egypt Journalism Project, an exciting new venture that seeks to train young Egyptian citizen journalists with best practices in journalism.

She is passionate about journalism, new media and working with the next generation of newsmakers to better the media environment.
2010 – Candice Haddad

She earned her bachelor’s degree from Indian University Bloomington in Communication and Culture and a Master’s degree in Radio, Television and Film; Portfolio in Women’s and Gender Studies from University of Texas at Austin. Currently Candice Haddad is a PhD student at University of Michigan. Her research area is particularly focused on studying software theories and the impact of internet and digital technology on people. Passionate about understanding complex system, Candice Haddad decided to go beyond studying the theories of software to developing them. In order to acquire more experience in this field, Candice Haddad is currently a web development student at Dev Bootcamp, hoping to embark upon a career in software development soon.

Outside of her passion for software, Candice Haddad is co-founder and city-director of Women Who Code, where she is responsible for organizing educational events and meetups for women in tech. Furthermore, Candice Haddad also worked as a grand program evaluator for Arab American national museum (AANIM) in 2014, graduate student instructor and project manager for University of Michigan 2010-2015.

2011 - Salim Essaid

Salim Essaid is a journalist covering a wide variety of issues ranging from Middle East politics to human rights to tech and arts. He grew up in Saudi Arabia and studied in Bahraini high school. Interestingly enough, before earning a Bachelor’s degree in journalism from Columbia School of Journalism, Salim Essaid was studying medicine in Ireland.

Currently he is working as a news editor for CNN. Previously, Salim Essaid worked as a freelance video editor and journalist for Time news magazine; a producer for Associate Press (AP); a researcher, producer and social media manager for KPFK 90.7 FM; and as an associate producer for Japan Broadcasting Corporation. The Hip Hop Hijabi; In Jordan, Women Fight for Full Citizenship Rights; 3D printing Reaches Consumers and New Yorkers Take to the Street over Gaza, are some of Salim Essaid publications.
Briggette Sayegh is video journalist at Time Warner Cable News, New York City. Prior to this Briggette Sayegh worked as news producer for RNN; associate producer for Al Jazeera English; broadcast journalist for New York City News Service; a reporting intern for The Daily Star. Briggette Sayegh received a Bloomberg Scholarship in 2011. Briggette Sayegh is a graduate of the City University of New York (CUNY).
2011—Sally Sharif

Sally Sharif, a recent graduate of The New School University, traveled all the way from New Jersey to intern at MPAC's Los Angeles office. Currently, Sharif is a full time Journalism/Multimedia High School Teacher at Al-Ghazaly High School in New Jersey.

Sharif worked as a video producer intern and underwent cross-cultural facilitation dialogue training, at Soliya, a nonprofit organization that strives to empower young adults to establish more cooperative and compassionate relations between their societies through the use of new media. Previously, she worked as a social media Intern with Al-Jazeera English's "The Stream." Additionally, she was a broadcast journalist intern for WBAI Pacifica Radio (99.5 FM NY) for the show "Radio Tahrir: Voices of the Arab and Muslim Community."

Sharif has always had a passion for community engagement working CAIR-NY to organize their 2013 banquet for civil rights empowerment. She created a documentary piece regarding the NYPD surveillance story on Muslim Americans. Her film illustrated an historical connection of targeted ethnic profiling of Japanese Americans during World War II interim camps and contemporary surveillance against Muslim Americans in the U.S. She was also a volunteer for organizations like Islamic Relief and American Muslims for Palestine.

"One day I want to be an owner of my own media network conglomerate for Arabs and Muslims," Sharif said. "I'm want to create an organization called, 'Shattering Media Stereotypes. I want to launch an interactive website that offers creative online discussions for cross-cultural dialogue. Hopefully, this website will be one of many tools that will act as a bridge across the cultural divide and also be an open door for social change, between Muslim and non-Muslims in America.

Last year, Sharif took part in MPAC's 2012 Young Leaders Media Summit, which inspired her to come to Los Angeles to be a communications intern.

"I see this internship as a stepping stone in my career in the media field, where MPAC can ultimately help gear me to find an effective voice in society," Sharif said.
2011 - Lubna Raisa Zaidi

Raisa Zaidi, is currently an associate producer at Al Jazeera media. Prior to this Raiza Zaidi worked as an associate producer for the Last Clinic Documentary, where she produced, interviewed and edited a documentary on the last clinic in Mississippi and its fight to remain open. In addition, Raisa Zaidi worked as a reporter for Uptown Chronicle, a marketing consultant for Moobila and interned for Maisie Crow.

2012* – Dr. Evelyn Alsultany

Evelyn Alsultany is an Associate Professor in the Department of American Culture, where she coordinates Arab and Muslim American Studies. She teaches courses on media representations, U.S. cultural and racial politics, and Arab and Muslim Americans. She received a Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature from Stanford University (2005), an MA in Gender Studies and Feminist Theory from the New School for Social Research (1998), and a BA in Women’s Studies and Political Science from the University of Michigan (1995). She is the author of *Arabs and Muslims in the Media: Race and Representation after 9/11* (2012). She is co-editor (with Rabab Abdulhadi and Nadine Naber) of *Arab and Arab American Feminisms: Gender, Violence, and Belonging* (2011), winner of the Arab American National Museum’s Evelyn Shakir Book Award. She is also co-editor (with Ella Shohat) of *Between the Middle East and the Americas: The Cultural Politics of Diaspora* (2013). She is guest curator of the Arab American National Museum's online exhibit, “Reclaiming Identity: Dismantling Arab Stereotypes,” that can be viewed at arabstereotypes.org. In 2012, she was awarded a Jack G. and Bernice Shaheen Achievement Award.
2012* - Jacqueline Reem Salloum

Jacqueline Reem Salloum is a New York based filmmaker and artist. During her MFA studies at New York University she created pop infused art (toys, gumball machines, etc.) documenting histories of people, including her family, that have been altered or erased and challenging the stereotypes of Arabs. Salloum’s love for filmmaking began after creating her short video piece, “Planet of the Arabs” (2005 Sundance) which then lead her back to Palestine to direct her first feature length documentary, “Slingshot Hip Hop”, (2008 Sundance). Salloum recently directed short documentaries for Arab American Stories on PBS TV, a music video for DAM sponsored by UN Women, “If I Could Go Back in Time”, and a short kids film, “Yala to the Moon” (2012 tiff Kids). Salloum continues to write/direct films, music videos and teach workshops at universities and institutions in the US and internationally. You can visit her website at www.jsalloum.com.

2012 - Diana A. Aqra

Diana A. Aqra is currently a director of Communication and Outreach for the Orbis Institute in Denver, Colorado, where she is responsible for promoting international education and awareness for youth. Prior to that, Diana A. Aqra worked for Development Counsellors International (DCI). She also worked as freelance business writer for Helium Network; a business news reporter for Key Media; new content contributor for Mergermarket; research assistant and video production assistant for University of Denver Digital Humanities; assistant producer for Colorado Public Television (PBS); financial news reporter for Debtwire and research assistant for University of Colorado Boulder.

In addition, Diana Aqra is an independent blogger, where she tackles the various issues impacting Colorado and the Middle East.

Diana Aqra received a Bachelor’s of Science in Finance and International Business form the University of Colorado and a Master’s degree in International Communication from the University of Denver.
2012 - Faisal Attrache

Faisal Attrache, a Syrian filmmaker who was raised in San Francisco. After receiving a Bachelor’s degree in International Development Studies and Environment Studies from UCLA with a minor in Film and TV, Faisal Attrache moved to Syria to produce a short film about Syrian refugees living in the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan. As his passion for film grew further, Faisal Attrache decides to pursue a Master degree in Southern California’s prestigious School of Cinematic Arts. In 2014, he earns an MFA in Film and Television Production. Today, Faisal is great writer and director, seeking to film unique stories with a powerful message in order to raise consciousness. In 2013, Faisal Attrache was invited by TEDx Hague Academy to share his experience with Syrian refugees.

2012 - Valerie Bisharat

Valerie Bisharat graduated from NYU’s Gallatin School of Individualized Study in 2013, where she concentrated in Gender Studies and Visual Culture and minored in Documentary Film. Her senior research explored the relationships between fitness industry economics and media representations of female athletes. In college, she interned at a variety of media organizations, including a print magazine, record label, digital media nonprofit, and TV network. After graduation, Valerie worked in online marketing at the video learning marketplace Curious.com. She now runs her own business in the wellness space.
2012 - Ziad El-Bayoumi Foty

Ziad Foty is an American of Palestinian origins and Egyptian descent. Ziad Foty is currently a PhD student at the Concordia University Montreal, studying film and cinema. Ziad Foty has a very rich academic background. He earned a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from Howard University, a Masters of Philosophy from Trinity College, Dublin, and a Bachelor’s degree in English with a concentration in film from Lafayette College. Overall, his area of interests include media representation of Arabs in the film industry. In 2013, one of his films known as The Strange Ways of the Occident was screened in Washington DC.

2013 - Rand Al Kurd

Rand Al Kurd is an associate producer at NBC News, who earned her Bachelor’s degree in Mass Media Communication and Journalism from University North Carolina at Charlotte.
2013 - Phoebe Barghouty

Phoebe Barghouty is an associate producer at VICE Media, LLC, where she is responsible for production, conflict reporting, writing, shooting and editing. Prior to her current job, Phoebe Barghouty was a national broadcast production intern at KQED, post-production intern and Peel & Eat, a creative and interactive media production intern at MFA and information assistant at University of Michigan. Phoebe Barghouty also worked as an editorial contributor for Forbes and a multimedia producer for the Michigan Daily.

Phoebe Barghouty earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan in Communication and Sustainability, with a focus in conflict journalism. She published numerous articles such as *Recreational Drone Industry Taking Off* for Peninsula Press and *Freedom Pays Off* for Forbes Middle East.

2013 - Nader Ihmoud

Nader Ihmoud, a Chicago-based journalist, is the founder and editor of PalestineAmerica.com, an online publication with an annual print magazine. Nader is also a Digital Editor at the Sun Times Network. Prior to his current jobs, Nader was a media intern for American Muslims for Palestine; a Media Relations Editor and Sports Editor for the Columbia Chronicle. In addition, Nader co-hosted The Benchwarmers Show, a weekly sports talk show on WCRX FM.
2013 – Jordan T. Lazieh

Jordan Lazieh is a production intern at Complex Media in North Providence, Rhode Island. Mr. Lazieh received a Bachelor’s degree from New York University in the Filmmaking and Creative Writing. He was a production intern at Complex Media, where he assisted with video production shoots. Interestingly enough, Jordan Lazieh interned for the Late Night Show with Jimmy Fallon.

2014 – Nadine Sebai

Nadine Sebai is currently a California-based researcher at Investigative Reporting Program and a freelance reporter for various publications including Richmond Confidential, Contra Costa Times and Oakland North. Previously, this young reporter worked as an accountant and an analyst at Fairholm Capital Management, LLC in Miami; and an investigative analyst at AlphaMetrix, Chicago. Nadine Sebai started her Master’s degree in 2014 at University of California, Berkeley in order be part of the Graduate School of Journalism program.

2014 Joseph – Joseph Khalil

Joseph Khalil is currently a Master’s student at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism with the goal of becoming a network journalist, covering stories both at the national and the international level. Prior to this, Joseph Khalil was a reporter at WLNS TV-6, a CBS news station based in Michigan. In addition, Joseph Khalil interned at CNN in 2011.
Anisa Mehdi’s pioneering work in mainstream American news media spans three decades. This Emmy Award-winning correspondent, director, and producer helped broaden the scope of stories on Arabs and Muslims as reported on CBS News, PBS, and ABC News Nightline — contributing perspective and nuance to reporting in our post 9/11 world. Her documentaries on religion and the arts shine light on many facets of global culture and politics.

She is an expert on the Hajj pilgrimage having made three films on the subject including National Geographic’s acclaimed “Inside Mecca.” In 1998 Anisa became the first American to report the hajj for broadcast. Her most recent film on the subject premiered in December 2014 on PBS. She lectures worldwide on issues of religion and cross-boundary communication. Her articles and commentary have appeared in the NY Times, Huffington Post, and National Public Radio.

Anisa is a Fulbright Scholar, a consultant to the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, and a participant in the US Department of State’s Religion and Foreign Policy working group. She is adjunct faculty at Seton Hall University where she is also working on an MA in Jewish-Christian Studies. Anisa is a graduate of Wellesley College and holds a Masters in Journalism from Columbia University. She is vice-chair of the Abraham Path Initiative and a trustee of the Esalen Institute.
Sarah Aziza Shihadah is a writer and free-lance journalist specializing in Middle East and social justice issues. Shihadah graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 2014. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Near East Languages and Civilizations (Modern Arabic and Hebrew studies), and Comparative Literature. Throughout her time at Penn, Shihadah was greatly involved in Penn for Palestine and served as President of the organization beginning in 2011. In 2012, as president of Penn for Palestine, Shihadah, along with the rest of the Penn for Palestine members, hosted the 2012 BDS Conference at University of Pennsylvania. Shihadah has traveled and worked widely throughout the Middle East and North Africa. As a Fulbright Scholar, she is currently working in Amman, Jordan as a full time teacher of college-aged students with UNRWA faculty.