

## **USAMA ALSHAIBI**

*Born in Baghdad, Iraq (1969)  
Lives in Fairfield, Iowa and Chicago, Illinois.*

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### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

*Producer/ Director, Kartemquin Films, Kartemquin Films Diversity Fellowship;  
September 2009 to present*

*Radio Host & Producer, Vocalo.org, 89.5 FM, Chicago Public Radio, March 2007 to  
December 2008*

*Adjunct Professor, Columbia College Chicago, Film/ Video Department, Documentary  
Film, Fall 2006 to Spring 2007*

*Audio & Film Technical Archivist, Chicago History Museum; Chicago, Illinois; projects  
include: National Gallery of the Spoken Word, working closely with historian Studs  
Terkel; selected clients include: WTTW Chicago, BBC Radio, The History Channel, The  
Weather Underground, November 1998 to March 2007*

*Film and Editing Equipment Center Supervisor, Columbia College; Chicago, Illinois; July  
1997 to August 1999*

*Freelance Director & Editor; selected clients include: Great Books Foundation, Mexican  
Fine Arts Museum, Art Institute of Chicago, Indo American Center, March 2000 to  
present*

### **SELECTED AWARDS/HONORS**

- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; 2011
- Best Feature, Boston Underground Film Festival; 2011
- Kartemquin Films Diversity Fellowship; 2009
- Best Documentary Feature, Chicago Underground Film Festival; 2006
- Creative Capital Foundation for the Arts Grant; 2005
- Playboy Foundation Grant for Documentary Film; 2005
- Tribeca All Access Creative Promise Award; 2005
- Tribeca All Access (TAA) Connects Program; Tribeca Film Institute; 2005
- Made in Chicago Award, Chicago Underground Film Festival; 2004

### **EDUCATION**

*BFA; Columbia College; Chicago, Illinois; Major: Film and Video; June 1997  
Attended The University of Iowa; Iowa City, Iowa; Major: Fine Art; 1989 to 1990*

### **SELECT SCREENINGS (2003-2011)**

- *Profane*; Boston Underground Film Festival; March 2011
- *Profane*; Directors Lounge in Berlin, Germany; February 13, 2011
- *Nice Bombs*; Kunstfilmtag; Düsseldorf, Germany; October 2010
- *Short Films*; Extrapool; Nijmegen, Netherlands; March 20, 2009
- *Short Films*; Printers' Ball; Museum of Contemporary Art; Chicago; August 2008
- *Nice Bombs*; New Filmmakers, Anthology Film Archive; NYC; September 10, 2008
- *Nice Bombs*; Sundance Channel; first broadcast March 19, 2008
- *Nice Bombs*; Theatrical Release; Pioneer Theater, NYC & Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago; July 2007
- *Nice Bombs*; New York Underground Film Festival; Anthology Film Center; March 2007
- Premiere *Nice Bombs*; Chicago Underground Film Festival; August, 2006
- *Allahu Akbar*; Coding:Decoding; Nikolaj Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center; Copenhagen; 2006
- *Video Babylon*; Gene Siskel Film Center; Chicago; November 20, 2004
- *Short Films*; The 8th Rencontres internationales; Paris/Berlin; 2004
- *Convulsion Expulsion*; Lausanne Underground Film & Music Festival; Switzerland; 2004
- *Short Films*; Channel 83 festival of media; Florence, Italy; 2004
- *Allahu Akbar*, Select Media Festival: Regime Change For US Tour; Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Paris, Chicago; 2003

### **SELECT FILMOGRAPHY**

- *American Arab*, feature film, in progress, 2011
- *Profane*, feature film, 76:00 minutes, 2010
- *Nice Bombs*, feature documentary, 76:00 minutes, 2006
- *Muhammad and Jane*, feature film, 80:00 minutes, 2003
- *My Third Painting*, short film, 2:26 minutes, 2009
- *Signal Cross Over*, short film, 3:24 minutes, 2007
- *Dream of Samarra*, short film, 1:00 minute, 2007
- *Convulsion Expulsion*, short film, 6:00 minutes, 2004
- *Allahu Akbar*, short animation, 5:10 minutes, 2003
- *Dance Habibi Dance*, short film, 3:45 minutes, 1999

### **SELECTED PRESS**

- *From Iraq to Iowa*, feature article in Chicago Reader, August 5, 2010
- *Nice Bombs* review by Ronnie Scheib, Variety, July 10, 2007
- *Going Home To Understand War*, by Bruce Bennet, New York Sun, July 11, 2007
- Jonathan Rosenbaum, Chicago Reader, Critics Choice, August 11, 2006
- *Filmmaker visits his native Iraq*, by Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune, August 11, 2006
- *Bringing the war home* TimeOut Chicago, by Jason Mojica, August 10-16, 2006

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

- WGN Morning News, television interview, August 17, 2006
- PBS, Chicago Tonight, WTTW 11, television interview with Phil Ponce, August 15, 2006
- Interview with Steve Edwards on Eight Forty-Eight, Chicago Public Radio, December 17, 2004
- "Metropolis"; Arte (television magazine); producer Nico Weber, October 16, 2004

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

- Participant, Jeremy Deller's *It Is What It Is: Conversations about Iraq*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, 2009
- Artist in Residence at Extrapool in Nijmegen, Netherlands March, 2009
- The War in Iraq: Impact and Influence in Chicago. Panel with Kathy Kelly, Chicago History Museum, March, 2007
- IFP Chicago Midwest Filmmakers Summit; "Docs in Chicago: Nice Bombs, Case Study" moderated by Gordon Quinn (Kartemquin Films,) with producer Ben Berkowitz, October 27-29, 2006
- Guest Speaker, School of the Art Institute Chicago, "Demystifying the Arab World: World War I to the Present", Chicago, IL; professor Noha Forster; December 10, 2004
- Q&A at the Gene Siskel Film Center; *Video Babylon* (Iraqi Video Showcase); Chicago; November 20, 2004
- Guest lecturer; Syracuse University; Syracuse, NY; professor Heath Hanlin; September, 2004