

PAN  
EAST  
MEDIA

# بنات عبد الرحمن

DAUGHTERS OF ABDULRAHMAN

A FILM BY  
ZAID ABU HAMDAN

DESIGN BY **MAD**  
mad-solutions.com



COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: JORDAN

YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2021

DURATION: 118 MINUTES

GENRE: DRAMATIC COMEDY / SATIRE

**MVD**  
DISTRIBUTION





## ***Logline***

Years after escaping a dictated life, four estranged and offbeat sisters are forced to come together to find their suddenly-missing father. In their secret searching journey, secrets are revealed and more.

## ***Synopsis***

Zainab wakes up to a shocking discovery that could defame her in the neighborhood. She quickly calls for her sister's aid. Yet, fiery Amaal has her own secret struggle and is not having her sister Samah, who is too busy to be there. Meanwhile Khitam tries to focus on her own mission.





## *About Director Zaid Abu Hamdan*

Born and raised in Amman, Jordan, Zaid Abu Hamdan holds an MFA from the New York Film Academy in Hollywood California. Zaid started his career working on international TV shows as an Assistant Director and Producer, including E! Entertainment's coverage of the Golden Globe and Sesame Street. In addition, Zaid worked as a television reporter for Middle East Broadcast Corporation group (MBC Group) in Hollywood. He also worked on directing reality and scripted shows such as Sesame Street, a competition that shows and mentors the Arab Film Studio program at Image Nation, Abu Dhabi. Since 2009, Zaid has wrote and directed five award winning and audience acclaimed short films, including Bahiya & Mahmoud, which was the official Jordanian submission to the Academy Awards in 2012.





## ***Director's Statement***

In 2001, I left my family and life in Jordan to explore the world, and pursue a career in film. I was eager to explore what is not my comfort zone and broaden my horizons.

Throughout the years, I discovered the home I was seeking outside Jordan, and learnt more about the world I left behind. I became more critical, more aware, and started to touch the imperfections in the place I loved. Ten years later in 2011, as I was presenting my awards to my proud mother, I found a desolate look in her eyes that was unsettling to me and hard to overlook. That day,

I realized that the woman I love most in life feels her own goals and dreams have been lost in the process of being an eldest daughter then a wife then a mother, or even being a woman in an Arab society. This awakening made me start observing traditions, analyzing behaviors, meeting women with different experiences, and earning their trust to hear their intimate stories of life, love and career, only to make one of my major discoveries, which is the desire of most of these women to scream.





## ***Director's Statement***

Tradition and the need for social acceptance has always defined the Middle East and precisely Jordan. It's a patriarchal society that dictates the lives of women and men alike. Despite attempts by newer generations to overcome tradition, a part of us still feels safer with it, while the other part still aches to break free from it to thrive with freedom of life, love and expression. One question kept popping in my head, are we stuck in a cycle of oppressed women and programmed men? Why do we have this reputation of being angry? Being the eldest of four brothers, it made me wonder;

what if we were four sisters instead? I realized right then that this topic needs to be observed, frankly and transparently. Representing my idea in a family of 4 sisters and their father, I started writing the treatment of Nostalgia in 2009, which later became Daughters of Abdul-Rahman. While delivering a harsh reality to the silver screen, Daughters of Abdul-Rahman will still have that unique Jordanian sense of humor. I want to reflect the fun and loving nature of Jordanians that becomes a survival skill in the toughest of times, and a journey of very different women towards self-love. I hope this story touches the public in a positive way and reminds every woman and man out there that our happiness and our rights lies in respecting and loving ourselves, not in yielding to what "must be".





## ***About Producer Saba Mubarak***

Saba Mubarak is a Jordanian actress/film producer whose filmography encompasses more than 60 works between cinema, TV and theater across the Arab world and Europe. Her production house, Pan East Media, presented remarkable works in Egypt and Jordan. Most recently, Saba focuses in her works on Arab women and refugees' issues. She was a jury member in several regional and international film festivals.





## ***Producer's Statement***

People are born as a blank slate and very similar to each other, until the outside world starts forcing them (woman and men alike) to conform. I was captured by this project because I am an advocate for people being themselves and for individuality, and as a producer on this female centric movie my artistic role comes from a place of truth.

As a Jordanian woman, I lived with those characters and grew up with them. The characters Zaid created are familiar and relatable. While they grew up in the same house, family, and environment, they are totally different and throughout the film, each finds her unique voice. I love these characters despite their flaws, or what could seem as their weaknesses.



## ***Development and Post-Production Programs and Funds***

### ***Development Programs***

- TorinoFilmLab - Interchange 2010 (the project was a 20-page treatment)
- RAWI Screenwriters' Lab RFC / 2012

### ***Pitching and PR programs***

- Sony PGA ProShow - Pitch and feedback platform / 2012
- Tribeca All Access finalist - Tribeca Film Festival NYC / 2016 - Pitch and feedback platform
- CineGouna Platform 2019 (post production ) El Gouna Film Festival







## ***Funds***

- DFI development fund / 2011
- JFF RFC development fund / 2015
- Tribeca Film Institute Support
- JFF RFC Production Fund / 2018
- Rotana Development Fund, El Gouna Film Festival 2019
- ART Development Fund, El Gouna Film Festival 2019
- Sound Design Award, Amman Industry Days of Amman International Film Festival- Awal 2020





## ***Festivals and Awards :***

- Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF),  
Audience Award  
(Youssef Cherif Rizkallah Award)
- Red Sea International Film Festival
- Beirut International Women Film Festival  
(Special Jury Mention)
- San Diego Arab Film festival  
(Audience Award)
- Malmö Arab Film Festival
- Arab Film Festival Rotterdam
- FEST – New Directors | New Films Festival,  
Portugal



## *Reviews :*

"The film adopts a sarcastic sense of humor in its form and situations, which is rare in Arab Cinema; to find a non-Egyptian film that generates so much laughter."

**Ola El Shafie - ElWatan News**

"The story raises issues of family life, customs and traditions and specifically the upbringing of girls in Arab societies."

**The Arab Weekly**

"The script is peppered with plenty of laughs and nice set pieces."

**Jay Weissberg - The Film Verdict**

" The leading actress's cry came to reflect Arab women's situation regarding equal rights."

**Milad Hana Zaki- Al Masry Al Youm**

" A film that combines the freshness of director Zaid Abu Hamdan's early works with the mature acting performance of Saba Mubarak's and her sisters... every story can be turned into a feature film."

**Ali Al Kashouti- Youm 7**

"Heart-warming ode to sisterhood in all its colorful complexities."

**CIFF Newsletter**





## *Cast & Crew*

**Director and Screenwriter:** Zaid Abu Hamdan

**Cast:** Saba Mubarak, Farah Bsieso , Hanan Hillo  
Mariam Al Basha , Khalid Al Tarifi ,  
Mohammed Al Jizawi

**Production:** Pan East Media

**Producers:** Saba Mubarak, Aya Wuhoush

**Cinematography:** Ahmah Jalboush

**Editor:** Dina Farouk

**Sound:** Ahmad Abu Saad

**Soundtrack:** Masis Mardirossian

**Co-production Companies:** Lagoonie Film Production,  
Arab Media Network , WIKA FOR FILM  
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

**Distribution in the Arab world:** MAD Solutions

