

LAYALINA PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS



Yemen | Qatar | 59 minutes | 2014 | In Arabic with English Subtitles

*In a country without hope, what if three girls could inspire an entire nation
to dream again?*



PRESS KIT

Synopsis, Bios, Production Stills, Film Credits, Contact Info & Poster

www.Layalina.tv/films/Yemeniettes/

SYNOPSIS

It's homework time, but the lights are out yet again in Yemen's capital of Sana'a. Three girls, determined to get an education, decide enough is enough. Armed with an entrepreneurial spirit and a sense of creativity, they find a solution to their study woes, addressing their country's weak economy and fledgling infrastructure in the process.

Their idea? Solar powered lanterns. Set against the backdrop of a nation whose reputation includes being one of the worst places to be a woman, the poorest country in the Arab world, and a failed state, the film explores many of the drivers of Yemen's challenges: youth unemployment, drug abuse, and a struggling education system. Even worse, conflict between Al-Qaeda and Yemen's Houthi population threatens the girls' very lives.

In *Yemeniettes*, a team of teenage girls launch a business, taking on titles like CEO and Vice President, while defying the barriers of their traditional society. Together, they prove that age and gender constraints are no match for those seeking to make the world around them a better place.

FILMMAKER BIOS



Shawn Thompson (Director & Editor) got his start as an actor in New York City before moving to Los Angeles in 1993 to star in the television series *The Heights*. He received a Gold Record for the soundtrack from *The Heights*, and sang on the number one single “How Do You Talk To an Angel.” He segued his career to focus on becoming a writer when, in 2000, he wrote *Four Dogs Playing Poker*, starring Forest Whitaker, Tim Curry and Balthazar Getty. Concurrently, he wrote episodes for the television series *Redwall*. After editing and writing for several films and television shows, he edited the critically acclaimed documentary series *On the Road in America* (2007). He also won several awards including the Audience Choice “Best Short Film” in the Beverly Hills Film Festival (2003) for his black comedy, *Shotgun Wedding*.

In 2009, Shawn once again turned his attention toward directing and completed the powerful documentary short *Life After Death*, which won the “Best Documentary Award” at the Beverly Hills Film Festival (2009). In 2010 and 2011, Shawn was the Editor and Post Producer on the second and third seasons of *On the Road in America*. Shawn has also served as Director and Supervising Editor of the four-episode series, *Generation Entrepreneur*. He is currently the Co-Director and Supervising Editor of *American Caravan*, a reality series in its first season. Shawn lives in Los Angeles and is a graduate of the University of Maryland.



Leon Shahabian (Executive Producer & Co-Director) co-founded Layalina Productions in 2002 and currently serves as its President and Executive Producer. Leon executive produced the three seasons of the hit reality series *On the Road in America*, Season I (2007-2008, MBC1 and the Sundance Channel, distributed by Warner Brothers and New Line Television), Season II (2010, MBC1, MBN and OSN), and Season III (2011).

More recently, he created, wrote and executive produced the first season of *Generation Entrepreneur* a youth entrepreneurship reality series (2012-2013, OSN). Currently, he is in production on *Confessions from the War*, a film about former fighters in the Lebanese Civil War who must confront their past for the sake of Lebanon’s future. .

He also executive produced *Back from the Brink* (2011), a feature documentary on countering violent extremism, and produced and executive produced the award-winning documentary *Life After Death* (2009, Al-Arabiya and MBN). His other credits include executive producing the Sister Cities documentary *Windy City, White City* (2004) as well as *Araeh* (2003).

PRODUCTION STILLS

Click [here](#) to download the Hi-Res *Yemeniettes* production stills.



CREDITS

WRITTEN BY

Leon Shahabian

DIRECTED BY

Shawn Thompson
Leon Shahabian

PRODUCED BY

Denise Jabbour

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Leon Shahabian

EDITORS

Shawn Thompson
Joseph Assi

SOUND MIXING

Rayan Al Obeidyine
Karine El Bacha

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Bachar Khattar

EXECUTIVE IN CHARGE

Paul A. Russo

COORDINATING PRODUCE

Allyson Hawkins

CAMERA OPERATOR

Rachelle Noja

ASSISTANT CAMERAS

Joelle Kamar
Farah Nabulsi

FIXERS

Majid Al Shammiri
Abdullah

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Loyal Salman

OFFICE PRODUCTION

ASSISTANTS

Jordan Wilson
Phyllis Chesley
Allyson Bowers

GRAPHICS

Joseph Assi

LEGAL

Marc Charles Ginsberg

TRANSLATION & TRANSCRIPTS

Joseph Assi

KEYBOARDS, GUITAR, BASS, PERCUSSION, WINDS

Jamshied Sharifi

LOUD DENDIR

Brahim Fribgane

AUDIO MIX

Evan Frankfort

POST PRODUCTION

SUPERVISOR

Allyson Hawkins

POST PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Charles Stallings
Merym Almoshaikah

AGENT FOR JAMSHIED SHARIFI

Ken Kushnick

SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Abdullah Rachid Family

Majid Al-Hemyani

Mohammed Al-Nunu

Majid Al-Shammiri

Angham Al Shami

Liza Baron

Raed El-Khadem

Marc Charles Ginsberg

Mohammad Albasha

Khalid Al-Kathiri

Hadi Al Sadi

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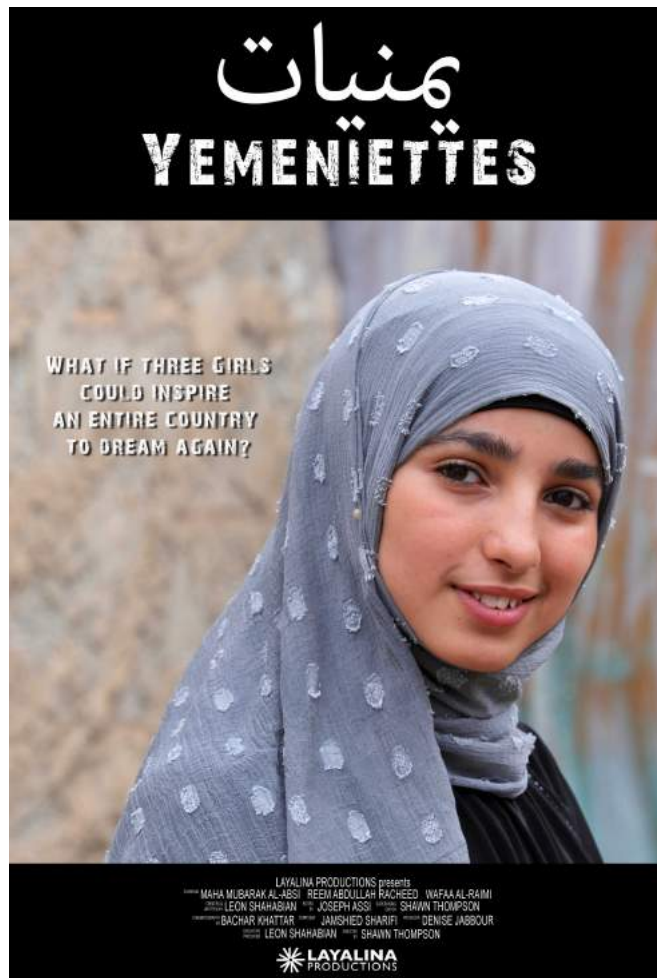
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POSTER

Click [here](#) to download a High-Res version of the *Yemeniettes* poster.



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