

AMAL AWAD

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19/52-64 Shepherd Street, Chippendale NSW 2008



Amal Awad is an award-winning screenwriter, and a director and actor. Her short film, *The Open Cup*, was an official selection at the 2026 Melbourne Women in Film Festival and the winner of the Women in Cinema award at the Shanghai Indie Film Festival.

She has studied acting at Sydney Acting Studio, Screenwise and Improv Theatre Sydney, as well as Meisner technique with the Impulse Theatre Company. She has screen credits with ABC TV for *Total Control* and *House of Gods*.

Amal has participated in writers' rooms with some of Australia's top production companies, including Porchlight, Fremantle, Wooden Horse, and Endemol Shine. She has also run rooms for her own projects. She received development funding from Screen Australia and Screen NSW for her TV series *Over My Dead Body*, and is a writer on *Plausible Deniability* (Random Pictures),

for which she won Outstanding Achievement in Writing at the NYC Web Fest.

In 2019, Amal was selected to participate in Screen Australia's Developing the Developer program. She later interned with the drama development team at Fremantle Australia. She was a director's attachment with Ana Kokkinos for *Ten Pound Poms* S1 (BBC/Stan), returning in S2 as director's assistant, directing additional units in both seasons.

Amal is also the author of eight books, both fiction and non-fiction works that explore culture, identity and the stories we tell about ourselves.

FILM AND TELEVISION

2013 – PRESENT

Actor (credited)

- *House of Gods* (ABC)
- *Total Control* (ABC)

Screenwriter

- *The Big Soldier* (2024 – 2026; Screen NSW and Screen Australia funding)
- *Curse of the Virgin* (2024; Screen NSW funding)
- *Plausible Deniability* (2023; Random Pictures); winner of Outstanding Achievement in Writing at NYC Web Fest
- *The Things We See in the Light* (2021 – 2026; optioned by Endemol Shine)
- *Over My Dead Body* (2021; Screen Australia funding recipient; optioned by Endemol Shine)
- *The Sienna Felix Files* (2021; Buster Productions)

- *Untitled Arab Women Project* (2020; SBS web series; Wooden Horse)
- *Aleph* (2019; Screen Australia funding; Porchlight)
- *Halal Pie* (2019; Screen NSW funding)
- *Daughters of Fate* (2018; SBS development funding; CJZ)
- *Muhammed Jones* (2017; Screen NSW funding; CJZ)
- *A Legacy of Souls* (2017; SBS development funding; SBS Talent Escalator)
- *Sex in The West* (2016 – 2017; Gender Matters recipient from Screen Australia; eOne)
- *The Dury's Out* (2013)
- *My Sister's Wedding* (2013; directed by Jonathan Weir, AFTRS short film)

Writer and director

- *The Open Cup* (2025); Official Selection at the Melbourne Women in Film Festival 2026
- *The Doorknock Appeal* (2013); Screened at 2013 Colourfest

Film and television consultant

- *Muslims Like Us* (SBS & CJZ)
- *The Fine Print* (writer Max Dann, producer Andrew Marfleet)
- *The Cameleer* (writer Zac Gillam, producer Susan Boehm)

External industry assessor

2023 – present

Screen Australia – Funding applications

INDUSTRY PROGRAMS

2009 – PRESENT

- Director's attachment – Ana Kokkinos, Ten Pound Poms (2022-24)
- Australians in Film/Charlie's Online – The Hollywood Sessions (2022-23)
- Scripted Development Internship, Fremantle (2022)
- Women in Film & Television Mentor Her – Mentored by Rachael Turk (2021)
- Cinespace – Package to Pitch program (2021)
- Australians in Film – UNTAPPED Masterclasses (2021)
- Screen Australia – Developing the Developer (2019)
- Story by Robert McKee (2009)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2010 – PRESENT

Screenwriting

2025 – present

Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS)

Mentor to emerging writers

Kill Your Darlings

2026

Storytelling

Improv Theatre Sydney

2020 – 2021

Private coaching

2020 – present

Other workshops and speeches

TEDx Macquarie University – 'Moving beyond the token minority'

2019

Writers' festivals, schools, universities and adult organisations such as

2010 – present

Copyright Agency, Media Mentors and Screenrights

On creativity, media training, popular culture, diversity in media, inspiration & motivation

AUTHOR

2012 – PRESENT

Fiction:

- *Courting Samira* (self-published 2012; Pantera Press, 2021; HarperVia US 2023)
- *This Is How You Get Better* (Pantera Press, 2021)
- *The Things We See in the Light* (Pantera Press, 2021)
- *Bitter & Sweet* (Pantera Press, 2023)

Non-fiction:

- *Growing Up Muslim in Australia* (Allen & Unwin, 2014)
- *The Incidental Muslim* (self-published, 2014)
- *Beyond Veiled Clichés – The Real Lives of Arab Women* (Penguin Random House, 2017)
- *Some Girls Do* (contributor; Brio, 2018)
- *Fridays With My Folks* (Penguin Random House, 2019)
- *In My Past Life I was Cleopatra* (Murdoch Books, 2021)

Card deck:

- *The Creative's Compass – A navigation tool for creatives* (2022)

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

1996 – PRESENT

Kambala Church of England Girls' School	1991 – 1996
• Higher School Certificate – UAC Tertiary Entrance Rank of 96.45 • Year 12 Academic Merit List	
University of Technology, Sydney	1997 -
2001	
• Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts • Graduate certificate in Legal Practice (Academic)	
Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS)	
• Graduate Certificate in Screenwriting Fundamentals	2013
• Introduction to Direction	2018
• Filmmaking Intensive	2018
Sydney Acting Studio	2023 – present
• Camera technique	
Impulse Company Australia	2022 – 2023
• Sydney Drop-in for Meisner technique	
Screenwise	2019 – 2021
• Beginners to Advanced short courses for screen acting	
Improv Theatre Sydney	2018 – 2020
• Levels 1 – 6; including three end-of-term performances	

VOLUNTEER WORK

St John Ambulance – First responder	2017 – 2019
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