

Melissa Hibbard
Biography

Melissa Hibbard earned her BA in Moving Image Arts in 1996 from the College of Santa Fe where she studied documentary filmmaking. Upon graduation, she moved to Los Angeles and worked in the film industry as an art director on feature films through 2000. She worked for Hollywood production companies including Disney, ABC, Paramount, Fox, Lighthouse Pictures and Imagine Entertainment.

In 2000, she started a new production company, Fictionville Studio with her partner, Hamid Rahmadian, with the aim to make insightful and provocative independent films. In the first three years, she produced three documentaries: *BREAKING BREAD* (2000) that premiered on PBS station, KCET and *SIR ALFRED OF CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT* (2001), both of which have been well received by the media and worldwide audiences. *SHARABANDO* (2002) premiered on PBS where it received among the highest ratings for an independent produced documentary and has been broadcast on television networks around the world. She co-produced the narrative feature film *DAY BREAK* (2005) in Iran that premiered at Toronto Film Festival and screened at the Venice Film Festival and won several prestigious awards around the world. In 2008, she wrote and produced her first feature-length documentary *THE GLASS HOUSE*, produced in association with Sundance Channel and Impact Partners. It premiered at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam in November 2008 and was in competition at the Sundance Film Festival in 2009 in the International Documentary Category. The film won the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) Human Rights Award, Best Feature-length Documentary from Dallas Video Fest, Special Jury award from Zagrebdox, Honorable Mention from the Utopia Film Festival, and Best Documentary from Spain's Urban TV in 2009/10.

In addition to her own films, Melissa has worked as a director of production on several international award-winning projects, including *THE JOURNEY: THE GREEK AMERICAN DREAM*. She was the executive producer of the Persian Language political satire web series *POLETIK*. The series had a run of 75 episodes and had a weekly audience of over 1.5 million viewers around the world. She also travels the US and abroad, teaching young filmmakers about new strategies in the field of production and distribution and consults with individual filmmakers on their distribution strategies.

Aside from her work in cinema, in 2003, she co-established the successful non-profit organization –ARTEEAST- its mission statement to promote the arts and cultures of the Middle East and its worldwide diasporas in the United States; she was a board member and the ArteEast Online Director through 2007. In 2009 she established Fictionville Media, a partner company to her own production company that helps filmmakers distribute their films in a cooperative-like effort. Recently she established a new non-profit – TWO CHAIRS – with a group of artists and intellectuals that supports the work of art and culture in the US. In 2013, she produced and worked as Editorial Director on the best-selling book entitled *SHAHNAMEH: THE EPIC OF THE PERSIAN KINGS*, an illustrated translation and adaptation of *Shahnameh*, a book of Persian mythology. It is published by The Quantuck Lane Press and distributed by W. W. Norton & Company.

Melissa is currently collaborating on a children's pop up book with Fantagraphpics and working on her first feature-length script, entitled *Snow*.

Websites:

www.fictionvillestudio.com

www.fictionvillemedia.com

www.theepicofthepersiankings.com

www.kingorama.com

www.twochairs.co