

WALID CHAYA

writer/creator



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WRITING

Crazy Rich Arabs

Feature Comedy, 120 min., Writer

When a secretly gay Lebanese man visits LA for an arranged marriage, he meets his crazy rich identical twin, leading to a hilarious identity swap and confrontation with their parents before the wedding.

Moonlit Musical

Stage Musical, 55 min., Writer/Director

Lulu, a 13 year old American immigrant who dreams of being a famous performer, is visited by versions of her past, present and future on the night of her 13th birthday as she prepares to audition for the TalentUSA competition at her school and learns to embrace her cultures and creativity.

Breaking The I.C.E.

Short Film, Action-Drama, 20 min., Writer/Director

Kareem, a displaced Syrian lawyer, must save the day when ICE Agents raid the homes of displaced immigrants in his Los Angeles apartment complex.

Driving. Ms. Saudi

Short Film, Dramedy, 2 min., Writer/Director

Inspired by the #women2drive moment, a son must help his Saudi mother put her future in drive when she panics in the drivers seat for the first time.

Facebook, the musical

Stage Musical, 60 min., Writer/Director

Life on campus doesn't work out when Facebook takes over the minds of students, but it's so addicting, even aliens want in.

Confetti M.V. Cover

Short Film, 4 min., Writer/Director

Set to Sia's song "Confetti", a girl is haunted by thoughts of her ex-lover until she decides to take action into her own hands and leave the past behind.

Spreading Our Wings

Documentary Short, 16 min., Writer/Producer

Go behind-the-scenes with Moonlit Wings Productions summer season and celebrate 5-years of performing arts in the National Capital Area.

Children's Theater Series

One-Act Plays, 45 min., Writer/Producer

Classic stories go from page to stage in these contemporary adaptations performed by kids, for kids, adapted by Walid Chaya. Selections: Aladdin, Alice in Wonderland, Despicable You, Frozen Freezin' Queen, Jungle Book, Mulan's Great Adventure, Pitch Perfection, Robin Hood, The Greatest Showkid, The Lion Queen, Wizard of Oz.

DIRECTING/PRODUCING

FILM & TELEVISION

Director/Producer

Associate Producer

Director

Associate Producer

Director/Producer

Associate Producer/Production Manager

Producer Assistant

Driving Ms. Saudi (multi-award-winning short)

Slingshot (starring Chris Mulkey)

Youth Sketch Series

Trading Ages (feature doc)

Change of Season (short, 48GG Top 20)

Strive (short, Winner MIX "Corp. Prod. Award")

The Wreck ("Cannes" short film corner)

Moonlit Wings Productions

The Raging Pig

Reproductions ACNY

RIFF Productions

Hobgoblin Pictures

The Media Industry XChange

Kevin Haus, Inc.

OFF-BROADWAY

Director

Associate Producer

Director

Director/Choreographer

Check, Please

Disney's The Happiest Millionaire (Benefit Concert)

Hard Candy

We Are Monsters

777 Theater

Joe's Pub

The Players Theatre

777 Theater

REGIONAL THEATER

Director

Director

Director Observer w/SDC Foundation

Director

Director

Director Assistant/Dramaturge

Fall Comedies

The Neighborhood (SR)

Sleepless in Seattle (Musical World Premiere)

Overwhelmed (World Premiere)

Godspell

This Beautiful City (Post Broadway Revival)

Zephyr Theatre West Hollywood

LaGuardia Performing Arts Center

Pasadena Playhouse LA

Southeastern Theatre Conference

Richard Newdick Theatre

Richmond Triangle Players

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

DRIVING MS. SAUDI

Multi-Winner: "Best Short Film" Dubai's World of Women Film Fair ★ "Best Comedy" Asia South East-Short Film Festival ★ "Best Actor" Hollywood Chill's Film Initiative

Official Selections: Los Angeles CineFest, St. Louis Int'l Film Festival, Amsterdam Ind. Film Festival, Dumbo Film Festival, Richmond Int'l Film Festival, Jersey Shore Film Festival, Canton Film Festival, Ocean City Film Festival, Verona Int'l Film Festival, Miami Ind. Film Festival, Equality Int'l Film Festival, Red Cedar Film Festival and more

UCB DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP – Los Angeles Sketch Writing Program

ADMINISTRATIVE

Moonlit Wings Productions & Studio For Performing Arts LA

Artistic Director & Founder

June 2008 – Present

Conceive, develop, and implement year-round season of award-winning performing arts programs and directory for full production services in LA, NYC and DC.

Voted "Best Arts Program" by Washington Family Magazine in 2018 & 2020 and "Best Special Event" by BroadwayWorld in 2021 for our focus on diverse works.

Richmond International Film Festival

Associate Producer

November 2010 – April 2020

Organize events and oversee staff for day-to-day operations during the largest international competitive film and music festival in the Mid-Atlantic.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

VCUarts – B.F.A. in Performance, Magna Cum Laude Honors // Upright Citizens Brigade LA – Diversity Scholarship (sketch writing and improv)

SpringBoardNYC by The American Theatre Wing, founders of the Tony® Awards - nationally chosen for the 'director' spot to train with Broadway professionals and cultivate a directing career. Program Dir. Randy Lutterman, select guests: David Caparellotis, Marcia Milgrom Dodge, Jerry Zaks.

LANGUAGES & SPECIAL SKILLS

Trilingual in English, Arabic & some Spanish, Incredibly Organized, Patient, Friendly, Strong Communication Skills, Teaching Experience, Digital Content Creation, Improvisation, Dialects, Singing, Dance, Some Tap, Extreme Whistling