

# WALID CHAYA

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## WRITER BIOGRAPHY

Walid Chaya is a Middle Eastern writer and director based between Los Angeles and New York. He is known for his breakout film “Driving Ms. Saudi,” for which he won “Best Comedy Short” from Dubai's prestigious WOW Mid-East Film Fair and additional festivals worldwide, including a special presentation at the World Expo in 2022. Disrupt Magazine has called him a creative genius.

Walid hosts the “Lights Camera Conversation” weekly podcast on Ruckus Avenue Radio, available for free on the iHeartRadio app. He can also be seen as an actor on TV in The Blacklist: Redemption, Madam Secretary and several films. Walid has a passion for writing and directing multicultural stories with gender-diverse characters for television and film.

Walid starred in The People’s Improv Theater’s longest running comedy program, “Old School Sketch Show,” in which top comedians have to create an original show in just a week and was awarded the “Diversity Scholarship” from Upright Citizens Brigade LA for his work in original content, sketch comedy and improvisation.

Born in Lebanon and raised in the USA, Walid speaks both Arabic and English. He earned his B.F.A. in Performance with honors from VCUarts, ranked the #1 public university school of arts by US News & World Report. After college, Walid worked on award-winning productions in NYC and DC for several years before relocating to LA. Walid is also the CEO of Broadway in Beirut, enhancing the entertainment scene and production value in the Middle East.

As seen in the Associated Press, “Walid Chaya is a rising star and voice for the Arab community creating content that empowers and entertains.”