

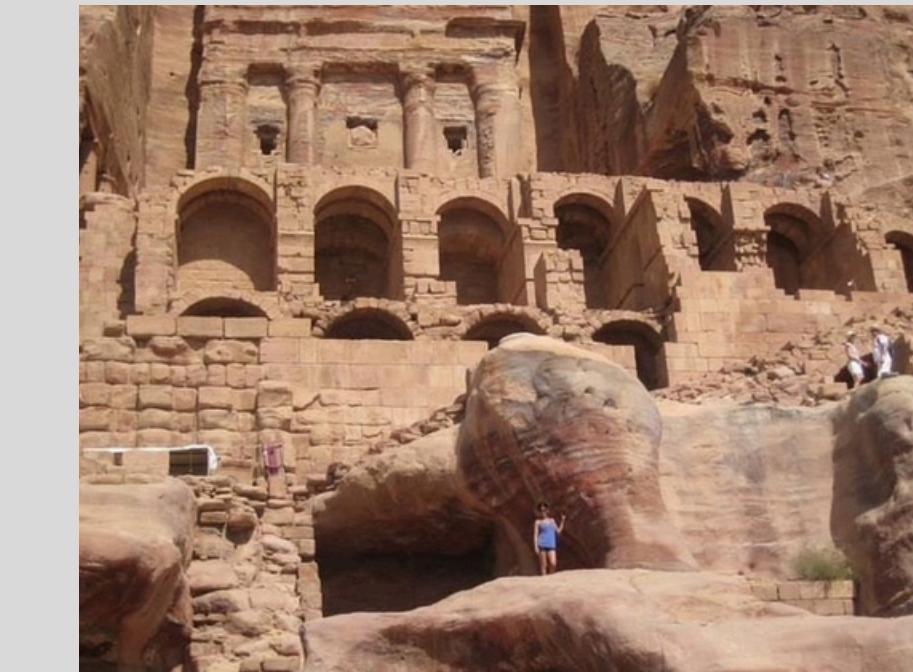
Dina
Najjar



ABOUT ME:

I'M A PROUD, FIRST-GENERATION ARAB AMERICAN (PALESTINIAN/JORDANIAN) ACTOR WHO WAS BORN TO IMMIGRANT PARENTS IN DETROIT. I SPEAK FLUENT ARABIC. I LOVE TRAVELING AND GOING ON ADVENTURES. I HAVE BEEN TO SEVERAL OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD INCLUDING PETRA, THE GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA, AND THE TAJ MAHAL. I HAVE AN MBA AND A DEGREE IN MARKETING. I'M EXTREMELY DRIVEN, PASSIONATE (MY MOTTO IS DO IT WITH PASSION OR NOT AT ALL), HARDWORKING, AND A GO-GETTER. I BELIEVE IT'S IMPORTANT TO CREATE WHAT YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF, AND I'M AN AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER AND SCREENWRITER WHO CREATES HER OWN WORK.

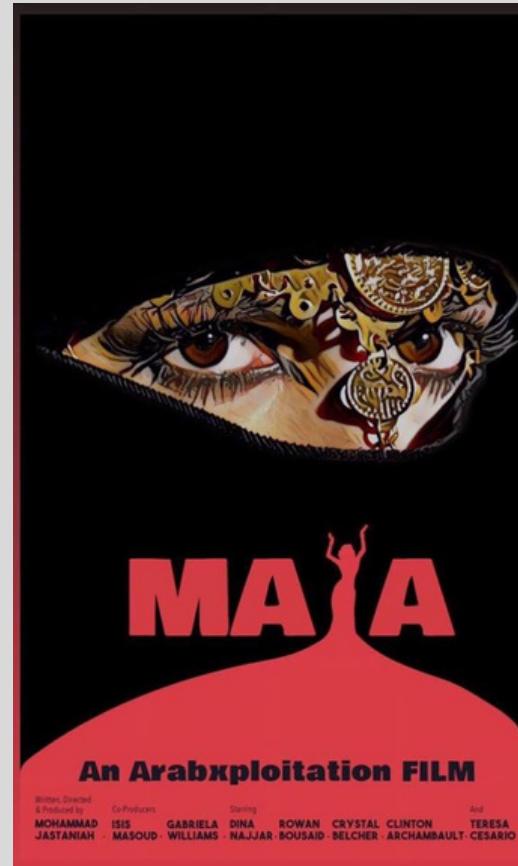
I STRIVE TO PORTRAY MULTI-FACETED, COMPLICATED WOMEN WHO OVERCOME ADVERSITY WHILE INFUSING IT WITH HUMOR. MY MISSION IS TO CREATE DIVERSITY WITHOUT STEREOTYPES FOR THE SCREEN AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO GIVE A VOICE TO PALESTINIAN AND ARAB STORIES THAT HUMANIZE US INSTEAD OF CAPITALIZE ON OUR TRAUMA. I TELL STORIES THAT INSPIRE, EMPOWER, AND INCLUDE. I ALSO LOVE COMEDY AND USING IT TO OVERCOME TRAUMA. I HARDLY EVER SEE MIDDLE EASTERN CHARACTERS IN COMEDY, AND I WOULD LOVE TO CHANGE THAT. FUN FACT: I CAN BELLY DANCE WITH A SWORD ON MY HEAD.





ROLES I'M PROUD OF:

RECURRING ON **ALL THE SINNERS BLEED ON NETFLIX (COMING SOON)



PLAYING MAYA, A SYRIAN REFUGEE SEARCHING FOR HER PLACE IN AMERICA, IN THE SHORT FILM **MAYA WHICH EARNED ME THE BEST ACTRESS AWARD AT THE 2018 UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI CANES FILM FESTIVAL



RECURRING GUEST STAR AS ALLURING ASSASSIN NADJA SHAH IN SEASON 2 OF **THE FAMILY BUSINESS ON BET & NETFLIX (DEBUTED IN THE TOP 10)



LEADING THE FEATURE FILM **THE REFUGEE FOR WHICH I WON BEST ACTRESS AT THE 2024 GOLDEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, STREAMING ON PRIME VIDEO AND TUBI, FEATURED IN

VARIETY

PRESS: “THE REFUGEE” FEATURED IN VARIETY

*BEST ACTRESS 2024 GOLDEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

*BEST FEATURE FILM 2024 ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

*BEST INSPIRATIONAL FEATURE 2024 MANHATTAN FILM FESTIVAL

*BEST FEATURE FILM 2024 ORLANDO URBAN FILM FESTIVAL

*BEST FEATURE FILM 2024 BLACK BEAR FILM FESTIVAL



Indie Rights Picks Up Iraq Immigrant Drama 'The Refugee' for AFM Launch (EXCLUSIVE)

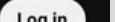
By Naman Ramachandran



The Refugee Movie, LLC

Indie Rights has acquired worldwide sales rights to Johnny Greenlaw's "The Refugee," a drama exploring

“THE FAMILY BUSINESS” DEBUTS IN THE TOP 10 ON NETFLIX

Home > Movie News

The Top 10 Most Popular TV Shows on Netflix Right Now

This week's Top 10 includes Mike Flanagan's last show with Netflix, a time-traveling mystery series, and a soapy ensemble drama.

BY CARLY LANE | UPDATED 22 HOURS AGO

NETFLIX
MOST POPULAR SHOWS

- 10. *Pact of Silence*
- 9. *Surviving Paradise*
- 8. *Beckham*
- 7. *The Family Business*
- 6. *Pete Holmes: I Am Not for Everyone*
- 5. *Big Mouth*
- 4. *Bodies*
- 3. *The Fall of the House of Usher*
- 2. *Life on Our Planet*
- 1. *Get Gotti*

Check out the Top 10 most popular TV shows on Netflix list below, along with a brief synopsis of just what the heck it is that everyone's watching. For a more curated and longer list, check out our list of the [Best TV Shows on Netflix](#). And for the [Top 10 Movies](#) currently available, go ahead and click on that link.

7. The Family Business



The Family Business

As the patriarch of a thriving family empire prepares to pass the torch, secrets soon jeopardize the business. Based on Carl Weber's bestselling novels.



THE WOMEN IN FILM PROJECT



Discover the stories behind the women who are shaping the future of film today.
www.thewomeninfilmproject.com

Follow the project for weekly updates and inspiration.
[@thewomeninfilmproject](https://www.instagram.com/thewomeninfilmproject)

Be a part of the global community today.
[#thewomeninfilmproject](https://www.instagram.com/thewomeninfilmproject)

Share it now!



INTERVIEWS:

GLOBAL PEACE FILM FESTIVAL FEATURED IN THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Orlando Sentinel SUBSCRIBE 4 wks/99¢ LOG IN



"Grape Leaves" is based on the real-life experiences of Orlando filmmaker Dina Najjar and co-writer Salem Murphy as Arab Americans. (Courtesy Dina Najjar / Courtesy photo)

'Grape Leaves'

Orlando resident Dina Najjar's narrative drama "Grape Leaves" is based on the real-life experiences of herself and co-writer Salem Murphy as Arab Americans.

Orlando Sentinel SUBSCRIBE 4 wks/99¢ LOG IN

"My mission is to create a world filled with diversity without stereotypes, especially when it comes to film and television," Najjar said. "We are stronger together, and we are all more similar than we think. The film highlights this and shows how food is something that unites us all."

Najjar feels honored to be included in the Global Peace Film Festival.

"I am a big fan of its mission and commitment to positive change and creating a more peaceful, just world," she said. "Grape Leaves' encourages people to 'Be Willing' and to get to know people for who they are instead of relying on stereotypes."

"My perspective is from the side of someone who was born and raised in the states by immigrant parents, and Salem's perspective from someone who is an immigrant," Najjar said in an email. "We had many similar experiences, which were combined as inspiration for this film."

[\[Popular on OrlandoSentinel.com\] Leesburg takes spotlight in new film 'No Vacancy,' based on true story »](#)

Shot entirely in Orlando with a female crew and featuring music by local artist Atsumi, the movie tells the story of Salma, a well-respected Arab American professor who is stunned into silence after an unthinkable tragedy forces her to rethink relationships with those closest to her.

THE HOLLYWOOD CHAI PODCAST

Breaking the Hollywood Stereotypes with Dina Najjar

The Hollywood Chai

May 11, 2023 • 1 hr, 17 min



Lists & Links for Our Guest:

Her official Instagram: [@createwithdina](https://www.instagram.com/createwithdina)

Her Production Company's official Instagram: [@filmsbytnproductions](https://www.instagram.com/filmsbytnproductions)

Another week, another special guest! The wonderfully talented DINA NAJJAR joins us to talk about Breaking Hollywood Stereotypes of Arab and Middle Eastern characters and stories. Dina is a first generation Palestinian-Jordanian award-winning actor and filmmaker whose mission is to bring diversity without stereotypes to the screen and stage and to tell important stories that inspire, empower, and include. Some of the roles she's proudest of include: playing Maya, a Syrian refugee searching for her place in America, in the short film MAYA which earned her the Best Actress Award at the 2018 University of Miami Canes Film Festival; recurring as alluring assassin Nadja Shah in season 2 of [The Family Business](#) on BET+; and portraying troubled, rideshare passenger, Raven, in [The Christmas Ride](#) on Prime Video.

[BET+'s "The Family Business"](#) is now streaming on [BET+](#).

Dina also mentioned the wonderful organization of [MENA ARTS ADVOCACY COUNCIL](#), which is an important tool for up and coming MENA artists and those that champion amplifying the voices of such artists.

UNITED COLORS OF FEMME: MIDDLE EASTERN

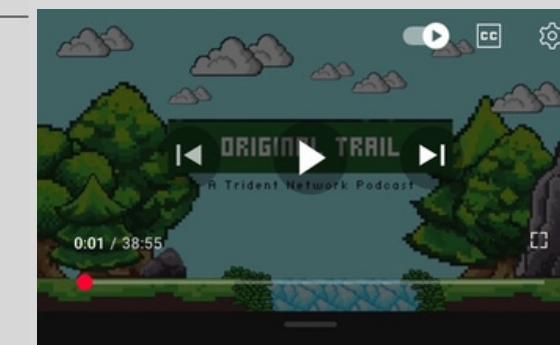
The Stereotype



The Real Deal



ORIGINAL TRAIL PODCAST

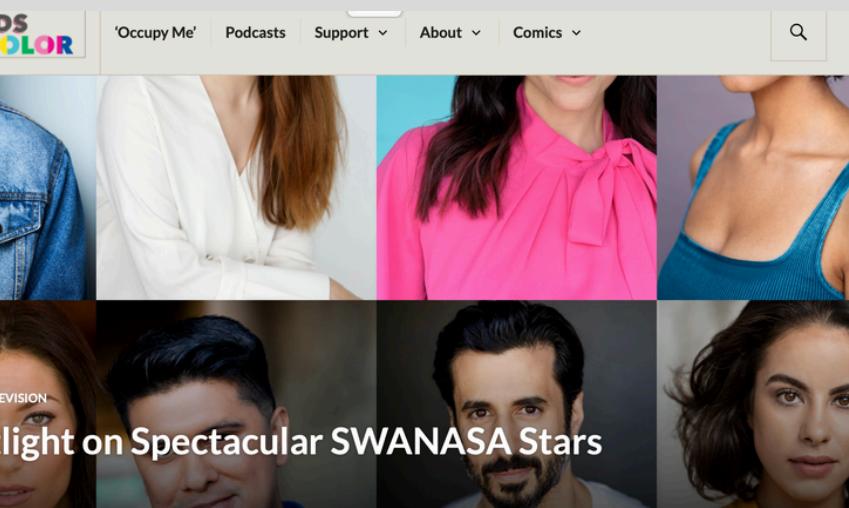


Description

In the first episode of Original Trail, you are introduced to your co hosts, Laura and Julie. Laura and Julie talk with writer, director, and stylist, Dina Najjar. She discusses her inspiration to begin her business, make her own films, and how to prioritize projects. Book recommendations and priority resets abound in this first episode that leave Laura and Julie wondering, how can I make time for the things that truly matter.

Keep up with Original Trail at www.thretridentnetwork.com/original-trail-pod

NERDS OF COLOR



'Occupy Me' Podcasts Support About Comics

Spotlight on Spectacular SWANASA Stars

CRITIC AND AUDIENCE REVIEWS:

HIGHLIGHTS:

“DINA NAJJAR IS CAPTIVATING ON SCREEN. SHE CARRIES THE FILM FROM START TO FINISH”

“THE PERFORMANCES ARE RAW AND AUTHENTIC, PARTICULARLY FROM THE LEAD, WHO DELIVERS A DEEPLY MOVING PORTRAYAL”

“VERY WELL ACTED WITHOUT FEELING MANIPULATED”

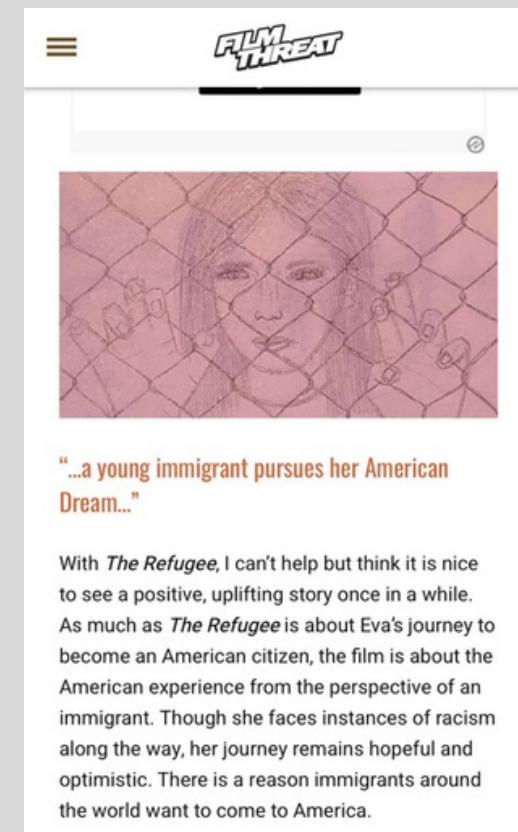
FILM THREAT REVIEW OF “THE REFUGEE”



stories. Dina Najjar is captivating on screen. She carries the film from start to finish, and she is surrounded by a cast that is both serious and—in regards to the theater crew—a bit eccentric...a lot eccentric.



THE REFUGEE



Writer/director Johnny Greenlaw's *The Refugee* offers a refreshing, uplifting perspective on the immigrant journey, filled with resilience, heart, and determination. Eva's story is a warm reminder of the strength and hope that fuel the pursuit of the American Dream. Despite a few hiccups in pacing and delivery, this heartfelt film leaves us inspired by Eva's determined courage and her drive to find belonging and purpose in a new world.

PRIME VIDEO AND IMDB REVIEWS

“The Refugee is an emotional rollercoaster that masterfully captures the human spirit in the face of adversity. The storytelling is both intimate and sweeping, following the journey of a displaced individual struggling to find hope and a place to belong. The cinematography is breathtaking, beautifully contrasting the stark realities of war-torn landscapes with moments of profound humanity. The performances are raw and authentic, particularly from the lead, who delivers a deeply moving portrayal. This film is a powerful reminder of resilience and the universal quest for home. An absolute must watch.”

“Powerful tale of karma and redemption. It follows an immigrant who, after immense loss, finds love and purpose while searching for her savior. In a Hollywood landscape full of horror and superheroes, this heartfelt, well-acted story is a refreshing must-watch.”

“This movie was excellent. Very well written and acted without feeling manipulated. No matter what generation views this, the message is relevant and timeless. People come in and out of a life and leave a lasting legacy whether it's from a shared experience or moments or by a gesture that carries on. Highly recommend. Bravo!”

DIRECTOR REVIEWS:

DINA NAJJAR IS AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE. SHE HAS A TITANIC SCREEN PRESENCE THAT BELIES HER DIMINUTIVE PHYSICAL FORM. THE SOURCE OF HER POWER — AND THE REASON I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO WORK WITH HER AGAIN ON ANY PROJECT — IS HER UNFLINCHING COMMITMENT TO THE ROLE. NO MATTER THE SCOPE OF THE PART, DINA WILL INHABIT IT COMPLETELY AND BREATHE A SINCERITY INTO THE PERFORMANCE THAT IS INCREDIBLE TO BEHOLD. SHE HAS AN AUSPICIOUS CAREER AHEAD OF HER, AND I FEEL HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK WITH HER.

~STEPHEN STULL, WRITER/DIRECTOR OF D IS FOR DEMON

DINA WAS AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE TO WORK WITH ON “THE REFUGEE.” HER DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE ROLE OF EVA WAS AMAZING. I BELIEVE A GREAT ACTOR IS ABLE TO PUT ASIDE THEIR OWN PERSONALITY AND FIND HUMANITY IN EVEN THE DARKEST OF CHARACTERS AND SITUATIONS. THEY ARE ABLE TO FEEL DEEPLY, EMPATHIZE WITH THE CHARACTER, AND EMBODY THEIR EMOTIONS SO FULLY THAT THEY BECOME PALPABLE TO THE AUDIENCE, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT DINA DID IN THIS FILM. A GREAT COMMUNICATOR AND COLLABORATOR, DINA TOOK ON THE LEAD ROLE WITH EXCITEMENT, ENTHUSIASM AND A PREPAREDNESS RARELY SEEN TODAY. THERE’S A REASON SHE WON THE BEST ACTRESS AWARD AT THE GOLDEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, AN ACTOR’S FESTIVAL RUN BY THE SORVINO FAMILY, AND THEY KNOW GOOD ACTING. FOR ANY FILMMAKER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER OR CASTING AGENTS OUT THERE, YOU WOULD BE MAKING YOUR PROJECT BETTER BY ADDING DINA TO IT. HAVE NO FEAR, DINA NAJJAR IS HERE!

~JOHNNY GREENLAW, WRITER/DIRECTOR OF THE REFUGEE

DINA IS A JOY TO WORK WITH. NOT ONLY DOES SHE COME TO SET PREPARED WITH A GRAB BAG FULL OF INTERESTING CHOICES, SHE ALSO ARRIVES WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND A FANTASTIC WORK ETHIC. SHE IS DELIGHTFULLY FUNNY, HOWEVER INCREDIBLY SERIOUS ABOUT HER CRAFT. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH DINA AGAIN!

~FRED ZARA, DIRECTOR OF HIGH EXISTENCE



ADDITIONAL REVIEWS (SCROLL DOWN)





LINKS:

[DRAMA REEL](#)

[COMEDY REEL](#)

[MIDDLE EASTERN REEL](#)

[STAND UP](#)

[ACTORS ACCESS](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

[IMDB](#)

SOCIAL:

[IG](#)

[FLOW PAGE](#)

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