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Kronemer, A. (Director). (2021). *Lamya's Poem* [Film]. Unity Productions Foundation. <https://www.upf.tv/lamya-poem/>

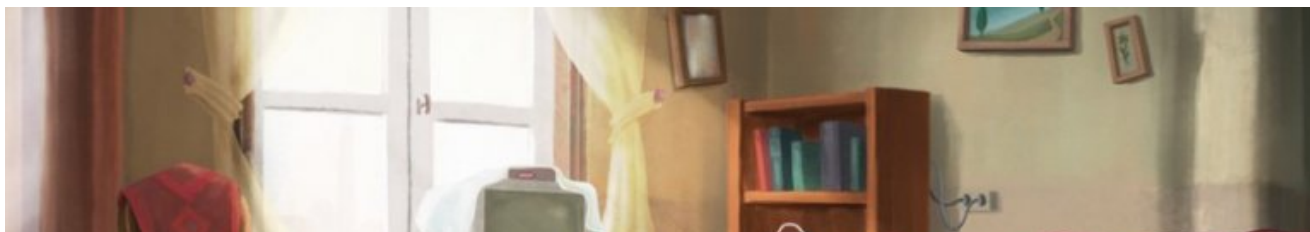


Lamya's Poem



SYNOPSIS

Lamya's Poem is a 2D animated feature-length film that will have wide international appeal to both young and adult audiences. It tells a magical story about Rumi, one of the most beloved and popular poets to have ever lived.

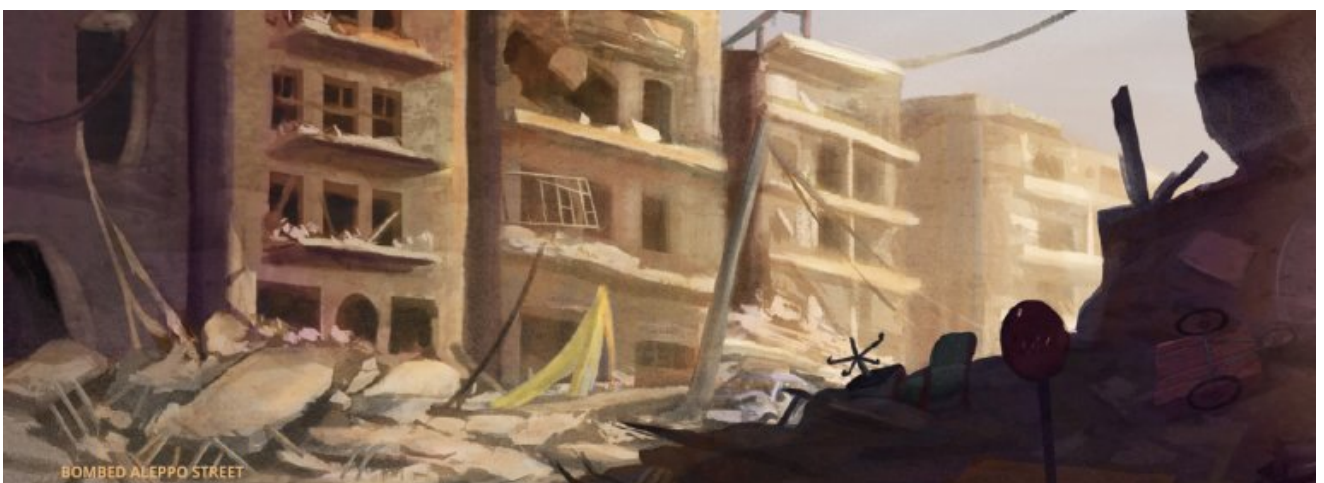




Focusing on the crucial period in his early life when he was a young war refugee, we follow him as he makes the difficult trek to finding a new home and battles mounting doubts about the value of being a writer. His personal crisis crosses time and space to intersect with the story of another child fleeing war: Lamya, a contemporary Syrian girl, escaping the current humanitarian catastrophe in her country. As Lamya makes her own harrowing journey, she increasingly depends on a book of Rumi's poetry. But how will the young Rumi resolve his crisis so that he eventually writes it? And how does that resolution inform the words that save her?

Stalking them both in their intersecting stories is a Monster, representing the violence and chaos they each face, but also the psychological struggles that threaten them even more. They each must defeat the monster in order to make the spiritual connection between artist and audience that elevates civilization.

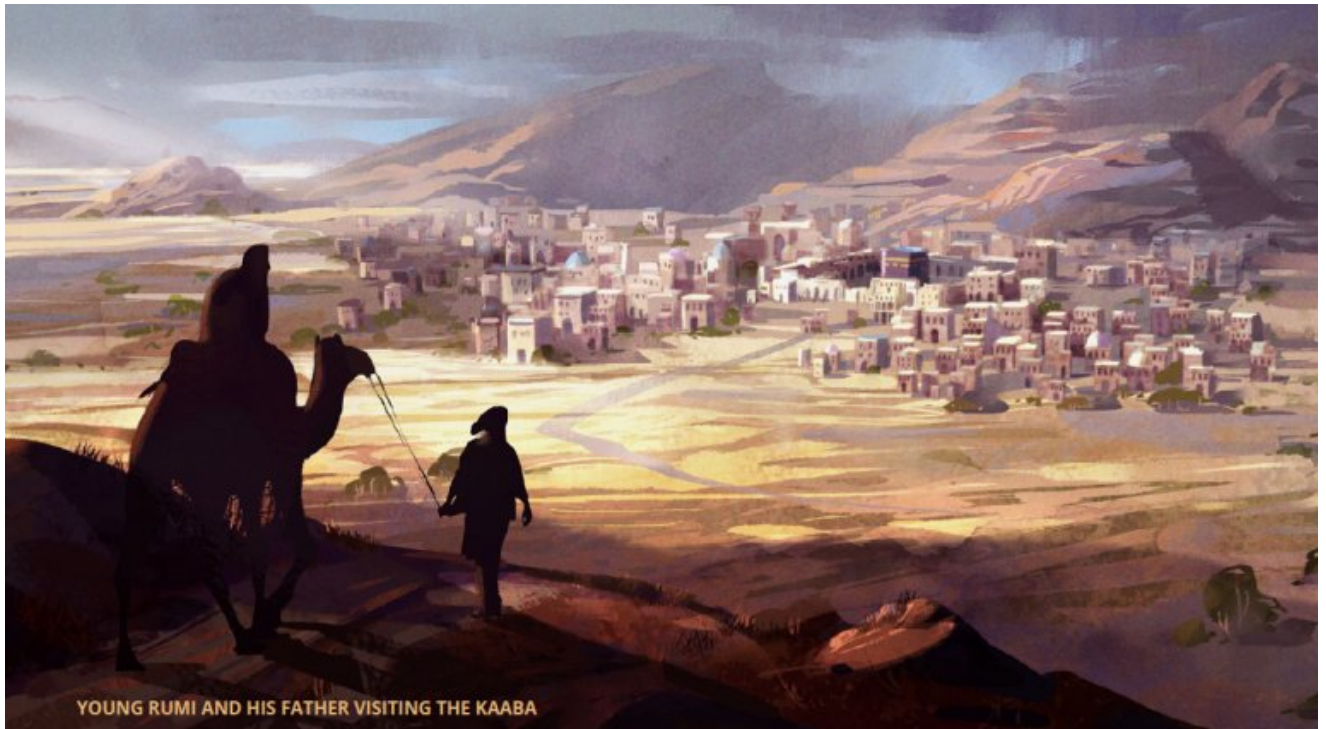
Jalaladin Muhammad Rumi was a 13th century Poet who is world famous and beloved to this day. He is highly regarded for his beautiful words about love and the sweet pain of yearning, and for his insistence on opening one's self and being vulnerable in order to find what your heart needs most.



One powerful, formative aspect of Rumi's extraordinary biography is his childhood flight with his family ahead of the Mongol invasion, which devastated Central Asia and much of the Middle East. One recorded facet from this period are the troubling dreams he experienced, and his father's role in helping him interpret them in ways that led young Rumi to his calling.

Rumi's father was a respected cleric and teacher. Lamyia is a fictional girl fleeing the violence of today's war torn Syria.

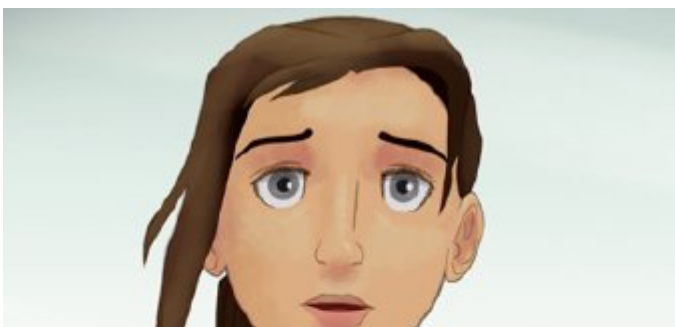
Like young Rumi, she is plagued by bad dreams and visions of a monster that is pursuing her. In the course of the story their dream worlds, haunted by frightening monsters and apparitions, merge and become a shared reality where the two young refugees interact and help one another. The obstacles and challenges they overcome in this imaginary landscape help them survive their real-world ordeals and accomplish crucial goals.



One final battle must be won in the dream world for them to survive the real-world dangers they face. Can Lamyia help young Rumi to write the poem that 800 years later will save her life?

The film concludes with a magical vision of the power of art to reach across time and space and bring two vulnerable hearts together to help them find the source of all love.

PROJECT CONCEPT



In creating *Lamyia's Poem*, we set a goal of creating an 'artful' film. We drew inspiration and techniques from other mediums, including graphic novels and classical paintings, combining them on a hybrid 2D- and 3D-animation screen.



With a story that weaves its way through three distinct worlds (ancient Persia, modern-day Syria, and a Dreamscape), it seemed important from the outset to define each world visually in ways that will make each thread of the story distinct

for our audience. In particular, the Dreamscape needs to stand out from the two worlds which our main characters inhabit. One means to set apart the Dreamscape is through the use of color. As the evil in our story gains strength, it begins to penetrate the world, bleeding bold tones of red and purple into the palette to create a surreal, sand-swept stage.

Another way to make Dreamscape unique is by creating different versions of our characters who will inhabit this world as seen in the example to the left.

VOICE TALENT



MENA MASSOUD
Rumi

Mena Massoud is a Canadian actor who voices the *Jalal* (young Rumi) character in *Lamya's Poem*. He plays *Aladdin* in Disney's live-action remake of *Aladdin*, directed by Guy Ritchie. Massoud stars as *Tarek Kassir* in the series, *Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan* and can also be seen in the feature film *Strange But True*.



MILLIE DAVIS
Lamya

Millie Davis is a Canadian actress who voices the *Lamya* character in *Lamya's Poem*. She is best known for her roles as *Ms. O* in the PBS Kids series *Odd Squad*, *Summer* in the film *Wonder*, and *Gemma Hendrix* in the series *Orphan Black*.



FARAN TAHIR
Baha Walad

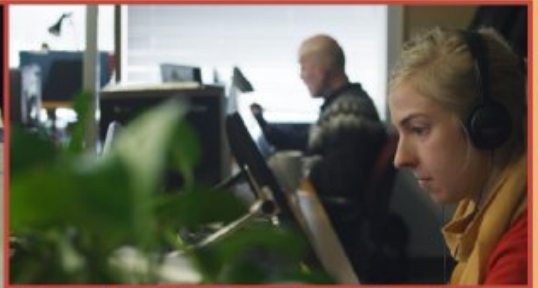
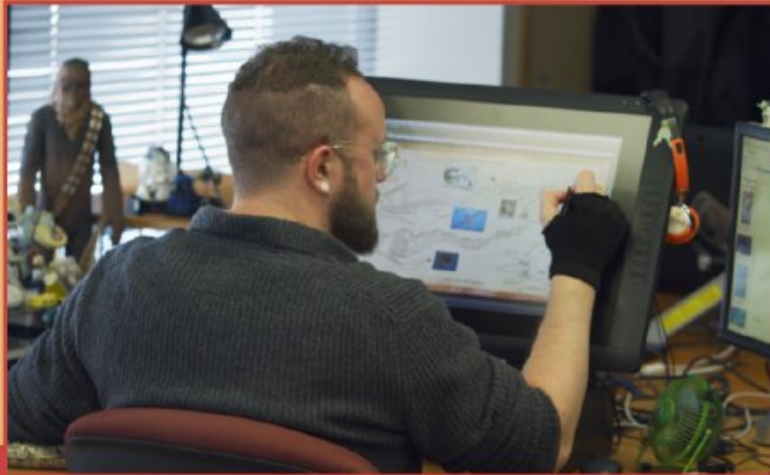
Faran Haroon Tahir is a Pakistani-American actor who voices the *Baha Walad* (Rumi's father) character in *Lamya's Poem*. He appears in numerous American television series and films, best known for his roles as *Raza* in *Iron Man* and *Captain Robau* in *Star Trek*.

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PIP Animation is an award-winning animation studio based in Ontario, Canada. PIP has been involved in numerous animated features and TV specials that reach worldwide audiences. *The Cat in the Hat*, *Wandering Wenda*, *Caillou*, *Cyber Chase*, *Through the Woods*, *Pirate's Passage*, and most recently the Netflix original series, *The Umbrella Academy* are some of the projects in which they have taken various production roles.



TEAM



ALEXANDER KRONEMER
Writer / Director

Alex Kronemer is the writer and director of *Lamya's Poem*. His previous film, *The Sultan and The Saint*, was nominated for a national Emmy award in 2018. He was the co-writer for the animated feature, *Bilal: A New Breed of Hero*. The film won "Best Inspiring Movie" on Animation Day during the Cannes Film Festival in 2016. Kronemer's work focuses on stories that promote understanding and dialogue between different faiths and cultures. He is the co-founder of Unity Productions Foundation, an award-winning media non-profit.



BRANDON LLOYD
Director of Animation

Brandon Lloyd has over 15 years of animation experience, and was the creative director on several series, including PBS's *Cyberchase* and *Discovery Kids' Doki*. Lloyd was the director of the animated short film *Jamie's Paper Train*, which has won several awards worldwide.



SAM KADI
Producer

Sam Kadi is an award-winning Syrian-born American filmmaker. Kadi is the director, writer, and producer of critically acclaimed feature drama *The Citizen*, starring Cary Elwes (*The Princess Bride*). Kadi's recent acclaimed war zone documentary *Little Gandhi* was an official entry for Best Foreign Language Film for the 2017 Oscars. Kadi has been recognized by the prestigious Cinema For Peace organization for raising awareness of human rights issues through motion pictures.



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The data in this excellent film counters the perceptions formed by those watching mainstream media. We think it should be shown as often as possible, maybe even as one minute soundbites (as a psa/commercial) to counter the misleading ideas that have been formed.



Katie Zawacki
Community Specialist, Lynchburg, VA



A positive, truthful image of Muslims brings about peace. One of the greatest forces of peace in our society right now –UPF, that has brought you these wonderful films. Support UPF.



Imam Zaid Shakir
Zaytuna Institute



[*Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet*] provided the historical background necessary to understand the Islamic religion...students not only enjoyed the film, but also learned a great deal by watching it.



Cindy P. Wilson
AP American Government, Centennial, CO



[*Inside Islam*] was enlightening—especially the surprising data...that the vast majority of Muslims believe in freedom of speech.



Ryan Scherbart



The general reaction to [*Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet*] was positive, there were many aspects of Islam that we were not aware.



Maria Erdo



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