ASHRAF NAHLOUS

1st / 2nd Assistant Director

Dubai, UAE
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Instagram: @ashraf.nahlous1 ↗
IMDb ↗ · Google Reviews ★ 4.9 ↗

Arabic: Native · English: Fluent (IELTS C1) · Russian: Basic

01
PROFILE

Dubai-based **1st and 2nd Assistant Director** who started out as a writer-director and chose to focus fully on the AD department. After working up through PA and 2nd AD roles on series, branded content and LED virtual production, I now work as a 1st AD, with credits including **1st AD on the feature Daughter of the Wind** and the micro-drama series **My Barista Says He's My Soulmate**, and **2nd AD on Double Wallet**, a 55-episode series shot over 36 days on LED virtual production. I run my department to **DGA standards**: breakdowns, schedules, call sheets, turnaround and set safety. Organised, energetic and collaborative, and bilingual in Arabic and English, I'm comfortable managing local cast, crowds and international crews.

02 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CREDITS

FEATURE FILM
DUBAI
2026

Daughter of the Wind

1st Assistant Director

Director: Helena Asal Fardin · Independent feature · 15 shoot days · 9 locations

- Prepared script breakdowns, the shooting schedule and daily call sheets for 15 shoot days across nine locations.
- Ran the floor and coordinated departmental readiness, cast and supporting artists across a crew of 20+.
- Worked with the director and camera department to progress the shooting schedule and manage transitions between setups.

LIGHT CRAFT
FILMS
2026

My Barista Says He's My Soulmate

1st Assistant Director

Director: Nitesh Marwa · Micro-drama series

- Led the AD department, preparing breakdowns, the shooting schedule and daily call sheets.
- Ran the floor and coordinated cast and departmental readiness to keep the shooting schedule on track.

WEB3
PRODUCTION
STUDIOS
2026

Double Wallet

2nd Assistant Director / Senior Writer

Director: Zeus Merhi · 55-episode vertical drama · 36 shoot days · LED virtual production

- Served as 2nd AD through 36 days of principal photography on an LED volume, coordinating cast readiness and movement in support of the shooting schedule.
- Also wrote and revised all 55 episodes as Senior Writer.
- Brought detailed script knowledge to the AD department, anticipating scene requirements and supporting production flow.

PIXOJAM VIRTUAL PRODUCTION

2026

Project Kowloon

2nd Assistant Director

Director: Daniel Dowling — BAFTA Rocliffe winner · LED virtual production

- Coordinated 17 cast members and supporting artists, managing talent readiness and movement between setups.
- Cued background action and managed resets to maintain consistent movement across takes.

KHALID AL AMERI PRODUCTIONS

2026

When an Arab Teaches English / When an Arab Survives the Apocalypse

2nd Assistant Director

Director: Faisal Hashmi · Scripted narrative comedy

- Coordinated cast calls, talent movement and parent liaison across a school-location shoot and the **twofour54 backlot, Abu Dhabi**.
- Supported floor operations and departmental communication across a 15-person unit.

03 INDUSTRY STANDARDS

- **DGA Basic Agreement & Jeffords' Rules** — working knowledge of the Directors Guild of America Basic Agreement and AD department practices, applied on set.
- **DGA working rules** — production scheduling, crew classifications, turnaround requirements and safety procedures.
- **UK & Canada** — familiar with UK Bectu / Pact and Canadian DGC production practices.

04 CORE SKILLS

ASSISTANT DIRECTING & PRODUCTION

Script breakdowns · Shooting schedules · Call sheets · Floor management · Cast calls and readiness · Talent movement · Supporting artist coordination · Background action and resets · Departmental liaison · Location coordination

SOFTWARE

StudioBinder — breakdowns, scheduling and call sheets · Microsoft Excel / Google Sheets — custom schedules, breakdowns and call sheets · DaVinci Resolve · Adobe Creative Suite · Canva

05 WRITING & DIRECTING CREDITS

URBAN FILMS

2026

Little Caesar

Writer / Director

Action-comedy short · In post-production

- Wrote and directed an ensemble action-comedy over four days of principal photography at **QE2** and **Paramount Hotel Midtown**, in collaboration with Urban Films.
- Led script development, rehearsals, performance direction and on-set creative execution.

PIXOJAM VIRTUAL PRODUCTION

2026

Lost and Found

Director

For Keith Dallison — Dubai Santa · Branded Christmas film

- Directed performances for a branded Christmas film shot on an LED virtual-production stage.

PARAMOUNT HOTEL MIDTOWN

2026

Gardaí

Writer / Director / Producer

Narrative short

- Led development, pre-production and principal photography with a 19-person cast and crew.
- **Official Selection — I-Film Festival 2026, Abu Dhabi.**

HUNGARIAN GAMES ESCAPE ROOM

2026

The Problem of Free Will

Writer / Director / Producer

Narrative short

- Led rehearsals, performance direction and production with an 18-person cast and crew.
- **Best Film — Film Society Awards 2026.**

W ATTIKO LOUNGE · THE HUNGRY MONKEY

2025

The Dubai Tapes

Writer / Director / Producer

Scripted branded sketch series

- Developed and delivered seven scripted sketches across a two-day shoot with 20+ cast and crew.

NARRATIVE SHORT

2025

This Is Love Too

Writer / Director

- Wrote and directed the short recognised at the **Film Society Awards** and **Paramount We Create Drama Festival**, with coverage in **Khaleej Times**.

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06 AWARDS & FESTIVAL RECOGNITION

The Problem of Free Will

Writer / Director / Producer

- **Best Film — Winner**, Film Society Awards 2026.
- **Judges' Choice — 1st Place**, Short+Sweet Dubai 2026 — stage production.
- **Audience Choice — 2nd Place**, Short+Sweet Dubai 2026 — stage production.

This Is Love Too

Writer / Director

- **Best Cinematography — Winner**, Film Society Awards 2025.
- **Best Actor — Winner**, Paramount We Create Drama Festival 2025.
- **Best Script — Nominee**, Paramount We Create Drama Festival 2025.

Gardaí

Writer / Director / Producer

- **Official Selection**, I-Film Festival 2026, Abu Dhabi.

Ocean Quest VR

Narrative Copywriter | University of Salford, UK

- **Excellence in VR — Winner**, MediaCity Immersive Tech Innovation Hub 2024.
- **Highly Commended**, The Signature Awards Manchester 2024.

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07 PRESS & INTERVIEWS

VoyageATL ↗	Filmmaker profile and interview	2026
Khaleej Times ↗	Coverage of *This Is Love Too*	2025
Met Radio	Interview on *This Is Love Too*	2025

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08 INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY

2025–PRESENT

Dubai Creatives Community | Founder / Creative Lead

Built a **300+ member filmmaking network**, coordinating casting, crewing, scheduling and production partnerships to support **six productions in two months**.

2025–PRESENT

Stage 32 | Brand Ambassador, Dubai

Support filmmaker networking, industry engagement and connections with international film professionals.