

## LAILA ABDO

Funny Girl & Sitcom Scientist  
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*Laila, a Syrian-Lebanese American writer-actor, is writing the heroines she wants to see: funny, real, and self-actualizing women. She also hopes to add a voice of authenticity to her experience of growing up Arab, including eating hummus before it was cool.*

### CREDITS: \* - award-winning

<i>TRIBE: The Story of the First Arab American Improv Team*</i> (Playwright)	2021
<i>NIGHTHAIRS</i> - optioned by Maysoon Zayid (Writer, Actor)	Pre-Production
<i>SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING SNAPS</i> (Writer, Actor, Producer)	2020
<i>THE PIZZA PARTY SKETCH SHOW</i> (Writer, Actor, Director)	2020
<i>PLAY DATES</i> - web series (Director)	2019
<i>EXES</i> - proof of concept pilot (Director, Producer)	2018
<i>THE UNDERSTUDIES</i> - proof of concept pilot (Writer, Director, Actor)	2017

### OTHER CREDITS: \* - award-winning

<i>FARAH ROCKS* AUDIOBOOK SERIES</i> (Voice Actor)	2022
<i>FROM A TO ZA'ATAR</i> - one-woman show, premiere (Writer, Actor)	2020
<i>ECHOES*</i> - West Coast premiere (Actor, Cultural Consultant)	2018
<i>JULIUS CAESAR &amp; COMEDY OF ERRORS</i> (Dramaturg)	2016-2017
<i>THE HUMAN TERRAIN</i> (Dramaturg, Cultural Consultant)	2016

### WRITING SAMPLES (selected): \* - award-winning

*THE GREAT PYRAMID SCHEME* - original pilot script\*

- In ancient Egypt, Pharaoh Khufu is building the greatest pyramid of all time, but amid feuding queens and union strikes, will he ever finish? This animated comedy is *Archer* meets *Parks & Rec*.

*TRIBE* - original feature spec script\*

- A struggling Lebanese-American actress forms the first all-Arab improv team in this shawarma spin on *Pitch Perfect* and *Dodgeball* ensemble competitions.

*GRIEF BACON* - original pilot script

- Discovering devastating news about her pregnancy, a young woman becomes an internet mukbang sensation. Hopefully her husband won't find out in this half-hour *Fleabag* meets *Juno* dramedy.

*SPEECH TEAM* - original pilot script\*

- After a viral video sends a political speechwriter home in disgrace, the 25 year old former speech team champion coaches her kids to glory in a half-hour comedy that couples *A.P. Bio* with *Glee*.

*HOLY SH\*T: AN UNGODLY ROMANCE* - original pilot script

- A 30-yr.-old single lady reverend in a New England college town must face her doubts when an atheist church moves in next door. Too bad she can't stay away from their hot leader in this *Gilmore Girls* meets *The Good Place* half-hour romantic comedy.

*NIGHTHAIRS* - short film script with song demos\*

- After being embarrassed while performing, a twenty-something Syrian accompanist fights for self-acceptance - hair and all - through a bopping musical dream sequence.

*INDEPENDENT WOMEN* - original pilot script

- Four college girlfriends stay connected via their Snapchat group message while surviving post-grad life in this feel-good half-hour sitcom.

*FROM A TO ZA'ATAR\** - original play, screenplay in development

- Reflecting on my trip to Lebanon in 2019 while serving an authentic meal, I describe my first-generation Arab-American experience as I endeavor to answer how location affects identity.

### AWARDS:

Hollywood Fringe Festival, 2021 - Top 5 Comedies, *Tribe: The Story of the First Arab American Improv Team*  
Screenplay Awards (Sherman Oaks Film Festival partner), 2021 - Grand Prize Winner, *Tribe*  
Final Draft Storyline Screenwriting Contest, 2021 - Finalist, *Tribe*  
Chicago Screenplay Awards, 2021 - Quarter-Finalist, *Tribe*  
Ermantourage's Industry Next Competition, 2020 - Top 10 Best Screenplay, *Speech Team*  
Hollywood Fringe Festival Diversity Scholarship Award Recipient, 2020-2021  
Open Screenplay's Debunking Arab Myths, 2021 - Honorable Mention, *Nighthairs*  
Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) Diversity Scholar, 2018-2019  
Upright Citizens Brigade Diversity Showcase Maude Team, 2019  
Elysium Conservatory Theatre Full Scholarship Winner, 2017  
Southern Illinois University Presidential Scholar (full tuition & board) - studied music & microbiology

### TRAINING:

Writing	Weekly Comedy Writers Group (ongoing), Thom Woodley, Julio Vera, Allison Joseph, Josh Woods, Kevin F. Story
Acting	Berg Studios, Adrian LaTourelle, Stephanie Lesh-Farrell, Chris Lang
Music	Wendy Cooper Voice, Piano, Euphonium, Ukulele, Chorus
Upright Citizens Brigade	Chris Renfro, Sarah Claspell, Mano Agapion, Billy Merritt Indie Improv Teams: Yalla, Chaka Chaka (coach Hayley Huntley)

### RELEVANT SKILLS & LINKS:

Production	Microbudgets, line producing, pre-production
Directing	Short films, proof of concept pilots, new media, theater
Acting	Reel and resume available upon request