

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>THE GREAT PYRAMID SCHEME</i> Podcast - Season 1 (Creator/Writer, Voice Actor)	2025
<i>TRIBE: The Story of the First Arab American Improv Team*</i> (Playwright)	2021
<i>NIGHTHAIRS</i> - optioned by Maysoon Zayid (Writer)	2021
<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 & 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 animated pilot script*; podcast version available

- In ancient Egypt, Pharaoh Khufu is building the greatest pyramid of all time, but amid feuding queens and union strikes, will he ever finish? "Krapopolis" meets "Futurama" in this animated comedy where every day is Hot Labor Summer.

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*.

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.

*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 spiritual crisis 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.

*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	Comedy and Accountabili-buddy Groups, 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, Violin, Chorus, Ukulele
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