



REAL

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

WHO WE ARE

The REEL Foundation was founded in 2021 by two passionate activists. Combining years of experience in filmmaking with humanitarian work, we created a non-profit using film to make a difference.

REEL amplifies marginalized voices through filmmaking projects. We partner with creators, charities, and companies around the world. We fund projects that tell important stories and promote powerful change both onscreen and behind the scenes.

OUR ETHICS

REEL was created on the ideals of humanism, freedom, equality, and solidarity.

We consider human dignity and freedom to be fundamental values. We believe that everyone should have the right to make decisions about their lives and to share the rights expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

REEL supports work addressing social inequality, and the position of minority groups. We strive for a society that is open, informed, and engaged. REEL believes in the strength of storytelling as an intrinsic part of achieving that goal. We want to actively participate in shaping a society where differences are a source of enrichment rather than conflict.

At REEL, we carefully consider new projects based on their level of urgency and our capacity to make meaningful changes. We cannot be everywhere, but it is essential that our work makes a difference.



OUR MODEL

We are a non-governmental, non-profit organization (501 c3) based in the United States.

With each new film project, The REEL Foundation chooses a humanitarian focus and partners with impactful organizations to empower stakeholders. We also run programs such as REEL Scholarships, mentoring young filmmakers from underrepresented backgrounds.

At REEL, we value the perspectives of marginalized people and enable them to share their stories while making a global change. This holistic approach impacts every part of the filmmaking process, including everything from hiring practices and volunteering days to donating useful parts of our sets post-production.

The REEL Foundation uses a model of equity investing in the film community - a system where filmmakers and investors work together to achieve mutually beneficial goals. We strive to tell powerful stories, raise awareness about critical issues facing our world today, reach audiences on a global scale, and create revenue for our films. A portion of the proceeds from each project goes back to organizations on the front lines of the humanitarian crises they address. By bringing together filmmakers and investors who are passionate about their work, REEL has forged a sustainable fund that is committed to supporting filmmakers and the topics they care about.

A Note From Our Team

What a brilliant first year we have had!!! We are so pleased to have the opportunity to reflect on all the achievements of 2022 and the adventures we have had in setting up the REEL Foundation. At REEL, we believe that when people speak up and are heard, their experience, their existence, and their needs cannot be ignored.

In this annual report, you'll learn about the different ways that REEL, with your support, has been making an impact in the lives of marginalized communities. Through funding storytelling, film education, film-based workshops, and engaging the community in its own development, REEL is working to build community resilience and expand opportunities for disadvantaged youth and young people so far in Turkey, Jordan, and Syria.

This year, as you will see, we have had the pleasure of supporting the creative journeys of a talented group of young students and filmmakers with their continued journey into film. Hearing their stories of fleeing conflict, finding safety in neighboring countries, and carving out a new path for themselves despite overwhelming hurdles is humbling, inspiring and drives the foundation to continue its support.

You will also be introduced to our core supporter and co-founder Brandt Andersen, whose creative talent, vision, and kindness know no bounds. It is with his story we kicked off our film funding activity, as, without a doubt, it felt like the most genuine and respectful film piece we as a team read, detailing many aspects of the Syrian conflict and the reverberating effects on Syrians and host countries around the world.

A shout out to our wonderful relief project partners, Hurras Network and the TIAFI Community Center in Izmir for refugees. Both charities serve their local communities in inspirational, modern, and dignified ways.

Huge respect goes to the founders of both these charities who never give up - Anne O'Rorke, Alaa Zaza, Riyad Al Najem, as well as a special thanks to Layla Hasso. Thank you for all you do!!

We want to say special thank you to our collaborating partners, Save the Children Jordan, Turquoise Mountain, Haya Cultural center, Choose Love, The Royal Jordanian film Commission Philistine Films, and Karma Films. To our hardworking and dedicated volunteers and staff, Ada Griffin, Nada Qaqasmeh, Rashed Ajlouni, Kareem Abdo, Ibraheem Shaheen, Tamara Seikaly, Majd AlHasso, Razan Al Halabi, Joe Brown, Wei Prior, and to the stars that went that extra mile with us, Jason Beghe, Yasmine Al Masri, Fares Helou, Jay Abdo, Yahya Mahayni, Lynn Adib, Mahmoud Hariri, Malaz Usta, Noor AlMasri, Nagham AL-Sowery, Ammar Yaser, Mohammed Jokhadar, Emad Al Kafri, Tamer Jokhadar, Israa Al Fadhel, and Mohamad Awad.

And lastly, to the patience and diligence of Film Industry experts who served as on-site mentors during the film, Jonathan Sela (Camera), Anton Demerjian (Camera), Stephen Early (Lighting), James E Davis (Lighting), Hosni Al Baqa (Lighting), Farah Jaddane (Hair and Makeup), Zeina Soufan (wardrobe), and Hamada Atallah (wardrobe) as well as the rest of the exceptional cast, crew, and producers of "The Strangers' Case"- thank you for making this the best start we could have hoped for!

In 2023, our core priority will be to focus on the release of 'The Strangers Case' feature and develop and implement a strategic campaign that will respond to and influence policy agendas, connecting the film narrative with influential decision-makers at national, regional, and international levels. In addition, we will continue to work towards meeting our organization's development goals.

Short-Term Goals

1. Expand + Deepen Community Partnerships.
2. Grow Film Production together with social impact to deepen engagement.
3. Deepen the Impact + Expand the Reach of our 3 Pillar Programs.
4. Enhance Marketing Efforts.

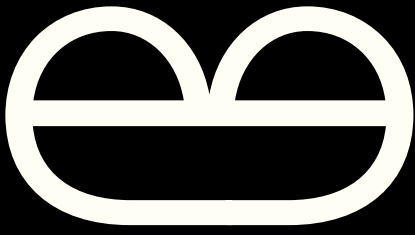
Medium-term Goals

1. Create Organizational Endowment.

Long-term Goal

1. Expand Infrastructure + Operational Footprint.
- We can't wait to share more with you in 2023.

REEL TEAM x



OUR IMPACT

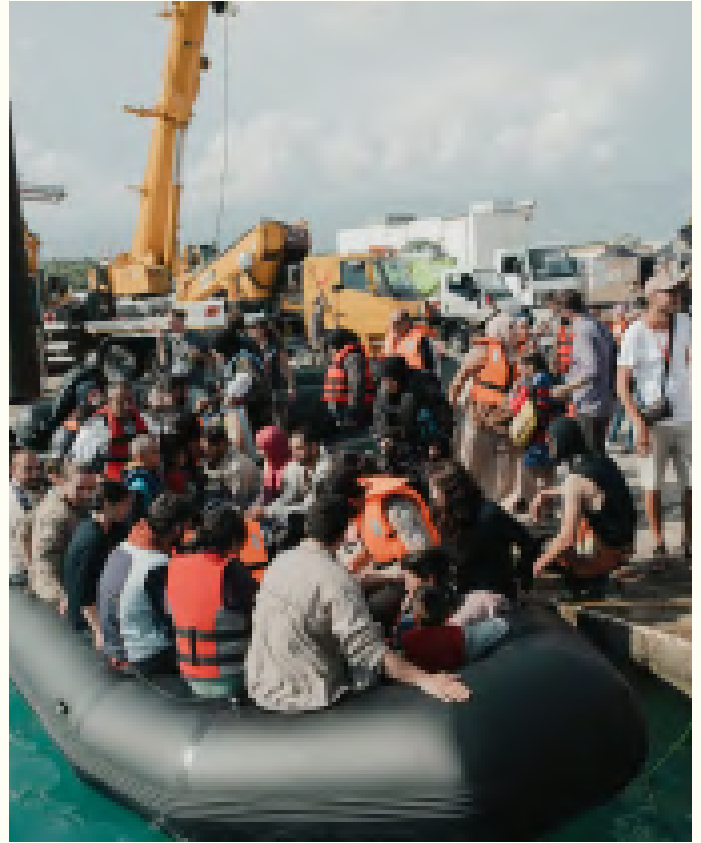
This year, REEL supported over 5,236 Syrian refugees and IDPs in Syria, Turkey, and Jordan.

Film

- **6.5 million USD** was awarded to a Jordanian film production detailing the stories of five families affected by the Syrian conflict.
- **514** Syrian refugees were employed in the production of “The Strangers’ Case” film.
- **28** speakers shared their stories regarding the Syrian conflict with “The Strangers’ Case” cast and crew in Jordan and Turkey each day of the film shoot.
- **22,721.00 USD** was awarded in scholarships to two Syrian Refugee filmmakers to support their graduate degree studies at SAE and Istanbul University in Jordan and Turkey, respectively.
- **4 mentorships awarded** to Syrians wanting to work in the film industry. They gained over **919** hours of on-set experience during May-Dec 2022 with the following productions;
 - “The Strangers’ Case” feature film,
 - “SEAL Team” TV series,
 - “Hajjan” feature film,
 - “A Reason to Dream” short film.
- They also participated in **219** hours of English language courses between June and the beginning of December 2022.
- **10** Refugee film students in Turkey graduated in mobile phone filmmaking, enabling them to create short story content and earn an income from filming short story content.
- **5** Psychosocial support sessions, assisting 47 people, took place with Syrian Refugees working on the film.

Humanitarian

- **5,000 USD** worth of adult and children’s clothing was donated to the TIAFI community center for Refugees in Turkey (90% of “The Strangers’ Case” wardrobe).
- **170 Syrian IDPs were housed through the donation of 63 tents** in northern Syria, with a cost donation of **22,604 USD**.
- **600 Syrian children benefited from donated tents**, which were used for educational centers.
- **A sensory space was built** on top of the TIAFI community center in Izmir, Turkey. Many of the children accessing the center have no safe area to play due to their refugee status and living conditions. The space enables the **52** currently registered disabled children to explore the world around them and **100 refugee children**.
- **Two youth art and film workshops**, with **87** Syrian refugee children and youth, were held in Jordan and Turkey with the participation of local and internationally acclaimed Syrian artists, including Malaz Usta, Noor Bahjat, Mahmoud Hiri, and the “The Strangers’ Case” cast and crew.
- **Over 500** Syrian refugees received a Syrian meal at the TIAFI center served by volunteers from “The Strangers’ Case” Crew.



This Years Film focuses on the effects of the Conflict in Syria

After 12 years of conflict, the Syrian refugee crisis remains the largest displacement crisis in the world. Syrian refugees have sought asylum in more than 130 countries, but the vast majority live in neighboring countries within the region, such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. Turkey alone hosts the largest population (over 3.7 million), and in Lebanon, approximately one in four people is a Syrian refugee. The majority of Syrians in the region live with host communities. Only five percent of Syrian refugees live in a refugee camp - 50 percent less than five years ago.

Although Syria remains unsafe, refugee-hosting countries like Turkey, Lebanon, and Denmark began advocating for large-scale returns of Syrian refugees in 2022.

The increasingly restrictive asylum policies and measures imposed by governments are essentially a response to the concerns of their own citizens for whom the issues of economic migration and asylum have become blurred. Fuelled by some sections of the media and politicians with an anti-foreigner agenda, many citizens, in particular in the industrialized world, have come to believe that most, if not all, asylum-seekers are, in fact, economic migrants seeking better opportunities in a richer country, threatening their jobs and eventually their livelihoods.

Even when successfully relocated, refugees face many challenges integrating into their new society. Language, Housing Problems, Access to Medical and Educational Services, Cultural Differences, Raising Children, Prejudice, Racism, and livelihood opportunities are all key barriers they face.

This is why the foundation chose 'The Strangers' Case' feature film as its film production to support. The film highlights the devastating realities of the lives of Syrian refugees, helping to depict the reasons that would cause refugees to risk their and their families' lives to flee their country.

This film also aims to end the stigma against refugees by highlighting that accepting them protects our most precious right of all: The right to live. Turning our backs on refugees, in many cases, could be fatal for them. Thus, accepting refugees—providing the most basic protection—is, in many cases, lifesaving. Additionally, by providing them with the right to work, health, and the right to education, refugees can start productive lives in their host countries. The faster they can integrate into the labor force, the faster they can become productive members of society.

REEL CREATIVES

Under REEL Creatives, we fund stories that promote art x action



About the Film

Our first Grant was awarded to REFUGEE productions for the feature movie “The Strangers’ Case.” The film tells the story of five families and how their stories meet on the Mediterranean sea. After review by the board, this film’s lasting message, **“Open all humanitarian pathways for displaced persons seeking safety in Europe and the United States,”** resonated strongly with our ethos and messaging plan for this year.

“The Strangers’ Case” is adapted from Brandt Andersen’s 2020 Oscar-shortlisted short film, “Refugee”. The film was Andersen’s directorial debut and was screened at film festivals around the globe, including by the UNHCR for World Refugee Day and Banksy’s Walled Off Hotel. The film earned Andersen the award for ‘Best Director’ and ‘Best Dramatic Short Film’ at the 2020 French Riviera Film Festival and was short-listed for an Academy Award® for ‘Best Live Action Short’ in 2020.

It is hoped that through the stories in this film, awareness is raised of the causes and atrocities that refugees have faced and continue to face.

Our hope is that everyday people are informed, educated, and provided with the context they need to be change makers in an accepting and open society.

Ethical Production

As part of the film financing award, REEL asked both production offices to incorporate the following practices into their work. The film integrated humanitarian relief projects into its production budget and plans. This resulted in;

1. 20% of Syrian refugees were hired as crew and cast.
2. 5 Syrian refugee apprenticeships in Hair and Makeup, Sound, Lighting, Camera, Wardrobe, and Art departments.
3. Refugee-owned businesses prioritized providing goods and services for the film.
4. Refugee stories and voices were shared with cast and crew.

REEL RELIEF

Under REEL Relief, we support humanitarian programs across the globe

JORDAN

Film Camp - Amman - Jordan

Through collaboration with “The Strangers’ Case” cast and crew, Save The Children Organization, Haya Cultural Centre, Royal Film Commission, and Philistine films, we hosted a one-day youth art and film camp on May 28th, 2022.

30 Refugee children learned a lot about the elements of “Filmmaking” in a one-day workshop- taught by actor Jason Berghe, filmmaker Malaz Usta, and two other talented Syrian artists and musicians with 100% of attendees said they had an ‘inspirational day’ and ‘learned a lot’.



SYRIA

Child-Friendly Spaces for IDPS - Hurras Network

During “The Strangers’ Case” filming in Turkey, the art department created a fictional refugee camp. After filming, the tents were sent to Northern Syria via our partner, the “Hurras Network,” to be used as child-friendly spaces and educational spaces for children and families. So far, 770 IDPs and children are benefiting from those tents.



TURKEY

TIAFI Community Center - Izmir, Turkey

Safe Space 'Garden Wall'

We created a therapeutic artistic environment for children on the roof terrace of the TIAFI center. This project has forever changed the architecture of TIAFI, transforming a vast, empty, gray rooftop into a beautiful, relaxing, therapeutic environment to be used by all TIAFI service users. When seen by the local mayor on an unannounced visit, he described the roof as "an oasis in the desert." The 'Garden Wall' is well-loved by those who encounter it and adds a different sense of nature to the lives of those who don't often get to go outside due to fear of violence.

Sensory Play Area

We created a sensory wall so that children with physical and learning disabilities, who may not otherwise be able to play in a traditional way, can now have fun interacting with the TIAFI sensory wall through touch. The sensory wall plays an important role in therapeutic plays for the TIAFI exercise and flexibility program participants. It allowed children from the TIAFI "Homework Help" program to take ownership of the design, building, and installation of the sensory play area. This activity has been especially praised as the act of making has been shown to reduce long-term anxiety in children and young adults, which is especially relevant for those living in high-pressure, conflict areas.

Wishing/Healing Wall

We established a wishing wall dedicated to hopes and dreams. Refugee children often find it difficult to envision the future, as they don't know where their lives will take them. The Wishing Wall is a place where children visualize their future and begin to process their past. It is a physical symbol that TIAFI is a place for productivity, creativity, therapy, and healing.



Planting Workshops

Children got their hands dirty and learned how to plant various kinds of vegetables and fruit. This workshop educated children in horticulture and planting, which has been shown to have a number of psychological and physical, such as improving mood, taking ownership of your environment, and improving interpersonal connections.

Expression Workshops

Groups of ten children were led on a journey to learn more about their feelings and how to express them from a TIAFI psychologist. Emotional expression has been found to improve long-term psychological, physiological, behavioral, and social functioning, which can be especially helpful for isolated refugee children.

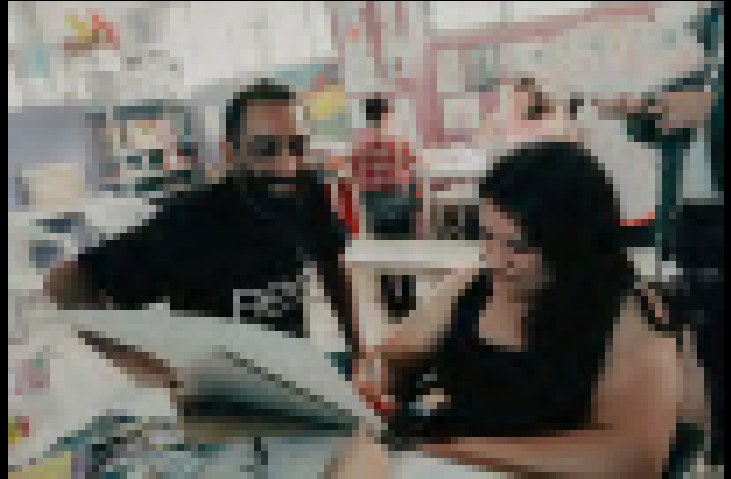
TIAFI Mobile Phone Filmmaking Course

10 Filmmaking students learned practical skills about lighting, framing, finding, and adding license-free music; under the supervision of a filmmaker from Izmir Economic University as part of a 10-week workshop. Recipients learned how to use their mobile phones and free software to produce mini-productions. These creations can be for purely artistic purposes or to promote themselves/their businesses on social media. We also funded a free-use cinema, which has allowed those who use it to escape the stress of their realities and enter a new world through film.

World Refugee Day (20 June)

The TIAFI center celebrated World Refugee Day by arranging for 17 children to visit the cast of “The Strangers’ Case” to hold a picnic and celebrate the awareness message of the day.

Fifteen volunteers from the production joined the children, encouraging and teaching them how to swim, and played games with them. This activity was beloved by the children and brought a sense of fun, carefreeness, and normalcy to their lives.



Nur and Melek - “The Freedom to be a Child”

Nur and Melek are 16 and 15 years old sisters who live in Tepecik, Izmir. Tepecik is becoming extremely unsafe, as growing animosity towards refugees and Syrians increases. This discrimination pervades every aspect of their lives which adds layers of additional trauma, leaving little room for healing.

The Healing Wall project has helped to alleviate this by providing a space in which Nur and Melek can finally be outside, away from the fear of harm, discrimination, and danger.

The peaceful space also helps to foster Melek’s artistic and creative talents as a budding artist. Now she has a space she can come to, which offers both natural light and a quiet place to relax and focus on her passion. This is also of huge value to their mother, Meryem. The loss of her son due to the conflict, has led to heightened anxiety about the safety of her daughters. Just knowing that they have a place in which they can be outside and where they are safe will be of huge relief to her.

We believe the space will help young girls and boys like Nur and Melek to reclaim some of their lost freedom, and provide a small haven for them to develop into young adults, in a nurturing environment.

REEL SCHOLARSHIPS

Under REEL Scholarships, we provide opportunities for talented up and coming Student FilmMakers and Film Crews

- REEL supports five Syrian Refugee Film Students under the REEL scholarship program in Makeup and Hair, Camera, Lighting, and Wardrobe in Jordan and Turkey.
- Each student has their journey from education to employment broken down into stages and ensures their commitment and dedication to continue. Two attend tertiary education, while the others focus on vocational and experience-building.
- The foundation covers all educational costs and stipends for living and transport expenses.
- Four of the students attend English language courses.
- We review their academic and practical progress each month.
- We partner with the Jordanian Royal Film Industry to help seek new work opportunities, workshops, and seminars for them to participate in.

Success!!! In 2023, all of the students will begin working in paid roles with other productions as a result of our support.



MEET OUR SCHOLARS



Rawan Al-Rifai

Rawan Al-Rifai is a 20-year-old Syrian who migrated to Irbid, Jordan, in 2012 when the war in Syria started. Due to circumstances, Rawan couldn't finish her high-school diploma. Therefore, her love of makeup and beauty came from watching TV shows and seeing weddings and parties take place. She began taking make-up and hair courses and learning from online tutorials. Then she began working in hair, beauty, and make-up as a freelancer for private clients before attending an 18-month beauty course that qualified her to work in a beauty salon in Irbid.

- Rawan attended 149 hours of make-up and hair training on-set during June-Dec 2022 with "The Strangers' Case", "SEAL Team", "Hajjan", and "A Reason to Dream" films.
- She is expected to start a makeup & hair internship during the coming year. We are still looking for the best option for her.
- Rawan attended 149 hours of English courses at Oxford Academy in Irbid.

We almost gave up hope of finding a female who was able to work the hours on set, yet thankfully her parents were happy for her to follow her dream, and together we found socially acceptable ways for her to join our team. Rawan is always willing to take on any task and will sit and watch her peers, soaking the experiences all in.

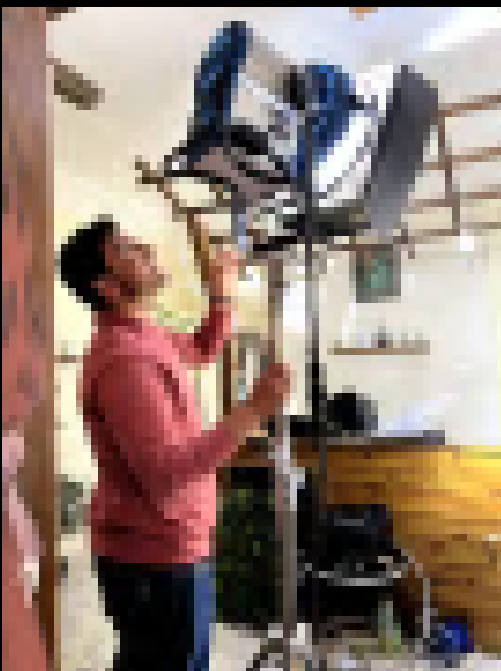
Next year she will continue her mentorship and learn more on special effects and make-up for film.

Maher Al-Maidani

Maher is a 19-year-old Syrian humanitarian volunteer and film student who lives in Madaba, Jordan. He discovered his love for film at the age of 14 when he found a job taking pictures for a party in Madaba. Since then, Maher has started taking pictures and short films at the weddings, birthdays, graduates, and other significant events. After finishing high school, Maher attended several courses in life skills, marketing, photography, and film. He was introduced to our Foundation through one of his courses at Plan International.

- The foundation awarded Maher to cover his two-year costs of a diploma in Digital Filmmaking at SAE institute in Amman between October 2022–September 2024. Scholarship funds are used for tuition, fees, a laptop, and books for enrollment at SAE Institute.
- Maher attended 128 hours of on-set lighting training with “The Strangers’ Case” and “A Reason to Dream” films during June and December 2022.
- He attended 96 hours of English courses at the British Council in Amman in June–Sept then he started attending SAE school.

Maher is the kind of young man, who will work all night long on set, sleep 2 hours and go and volunteer in his local community. Nothing is too much for him, and his warm smile is infectious! We have great hopes for him and his future.



Waseem Souda

Waseem Souda is a 32-year-old tailor. He was born in Aleppo, Syria, and learned tailoring at a young age from his father. He studied Business Administration in Aleppo while continuing the art of tailoring.

9 years ago, at the age of 22, Waseem and his wife became refugees in Jordan. While the journey was arduous, he built himself slowly up and was able to work in design and fashion for ten years throughout fashion houses in Amman. In ten years, this young man became a well-known tailor, yet he always had an issue getting a well-paid job due to his status as a “refugee”. Due to that, Waseem started his online company on Instagram under the name @paradies.fashion, which now has a following of 81.1 thousand people.

- Waseem attended 237 hours of on-set training with “The Strangers’ Case”, “Hajjan”, a Saudi film, and “A Reason to Dream” films during June–Dec 2022.
- He also signed a contract with Netflix for an Arabic series project called “Al Rawabi School” that will start shooting in January 2023.
- He attended 237 hours of English courses at the British Council in Amman and has reached the intermediate level.

From Day 1 on set, Waseem became an integral part of the wardrobe department on TSC. He whipped up uniforms and set pieces in a jiffy, his skill with a machine and hard work ethic fitted right in with the dept. While he loves film, he also runs his own fashion designs for weddings and special occasions; he is a true creative talent!

Younis Al-Haraki

Younis is a 25-year-old talented photographer from Syria. He has been living in a refugee camp for the past eight years due to the war in Syria. He became a photographer to document the hopes and dreams of his people. He had been trying to find an opportunity to prove his worth and abilities in film and the creative arts for a long time, so he decided to follow his ambitions and sought many opportunities to showcase his talents. He was recommended by multiple organizations working in Jordan and had a solid and dependable reputation.

- Younis attended 376 hours of on-set camera training with “The Strangers’ Case”, “SEAL Team”, and “A Reason to Dream” filming crew in Amman during June, September, and December 2022.
- Younis’ attended 96 hours of English courses at the British Council in Amman and reached the intermediate level in June-Dec 2022.

Younis is eager to tell and showcase to the world the story of his people, he never gives up and is the ‘go-to’ man in Jordan, when people wish to hear about Refugee Stories. He is working on his own documentary and we can’t wait to hear more about it!



Abdelrahman AlShayeb

Abdulrahman is a filmmaker from Damascus, Syria. He started his BA studies at Damascus University in Mass Communication and Media Studies but was displaced in 2017 when he made his way to Istanbul, Turkey. For the past five years, Abdulrahman has worked in film production focused on producing and managing documentaries. Alongside his career, Abdulrahman is working on completing his studies in Television and Cinema at Istanbul University. He has always been passionate about using film as a method of communication and expression.

- The foundation awarded Abdelrahman a scholarship to complete his third and fourth years of a bachelor’s degree in Radio, TV, and Cinema at the Communication faculty, Istanbul University, Turkey (September 2022 - May 2024).
- The total scholarship value is USD 1800, which is used toward tuition, fees, a Turkey language exam, equipment, and books for enrollment at Istanbul University, Turkey.
- Abd attended 94 hours of on-set camera and lighting training with “The Strangers’ Case” in June-July 2022.

‘What a nice guy’, is what you always hear when people interact with Abd. He is such a pleasure to be around and is honest, hardworking, and fun. He already has one award under his belt, and we know there will be great things coming from this young filmmaker.

CO-FOUNDERS

BRANDT ANDERSEN

American-born Brandt Andersen is an author, producer, director, and human rights activist. His first feature-length film was “The Strangers’ Case”. In 2020 Andersen wrote and directed the live-action feature short Refugee starring Omar Sy and Jason Beghe. The film opened at the Cairo International Film Festival, was short-listed for an Academy Award, and won Best Director, Best Actor, and Best Drama Short at the French Riviera Film Festival. He has produced films such as Everest, starring Jake Gyllenhaal; Lone Survivor starring Mark Wahlberg; 2 Guns starring Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg; Martin Scorsese’s Silence starring Adam Driver, and American Made, starring Tom Cruise.

Throughout his life, Brandt has supported humanitarian efforts, specifically assisting refugees. In October 2019, he traveled with CanDo, a grassroots Charity, to a hospital and refugee camp in North East Syria. He later went on to raise funding to support technologies designed to reduce the impact of school bombings in the area. In 2017, Brandt took a group of filmmakers to the Azraq refugee camp in Jordan to teach filmmaking to Syrian Refugee teenagers, an initiative that later turned into a full-fledged film school. Prior to that, he traveled and supported humanitarian projects with Latter-Day Saints Charities in Africa, Greece, Turkey, Haiti, and Italy.

DINA PRIOR

Dina is an Egyptian-born skilled senior executive and specialist in humanitarian affairs and disaster response. For over 22 years, Dina has developed and implemented relief, transition, and development initiatives in some of the most challenging settings globally. Dina has successfully led emergency response teams in places like Indonesia, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and Liberia at the height of their respective civil wars, in the chaos following Haiti’s earthquake, and in West Africa at the height of the largest-ever Ebola virus disease outbreak.

In the realm of humanitarian affairs, Dina has advised US and UK government officials, government agencies, think tanks, universities, NGOs, and foundations. She has also provided training and guidance to US and UK civil-military units, and on numerous occasions, she has represented the US NGO community at UN Geneva Conventions. In 2022, Dina began to diversify her skills into film production and script development.

MEET OUR TEAM

Middle East Operations Director:

Razan Al Halabi

Razan was born and raised in Damascus, Syria, and has more than 12 years of expertise in the delivery of operations and programs for the UN, Non - governmental organizations, and briskly emerging start-up INGOs and foundations. As a consequence of this experience, Razan has a successful track record of establishing lasting friendships and expanding partnerships.

Her strategic responsibilities include establishing and overseeing humanitarian activities and programs that seek to raise awareness of the stories of marginalized communities.

Razan has been a member of the "Between Women Filmmakers Caravan" since 2017. Consequently, she has developed a passion for empowering and assisting women all around the world.

Communications & Marketing Manager: Ada Griffin

Ada is an artist and graphic designer from the United States. She studied studio art and art history during her time at Yale University. Ada started working as a graphic designer during her undergraduate studies and focused on visual communications on behalf of the REEL Foundation.

Creative Advisor: Wei Prior

Wei Prior is a British, Chinese, and Egyptian art director and founder of Cha Chaan Teng, a creative practice based in London. He specializes in expressive yet considered aesthetics that challenge conventional design practices. Wei has worked with a range of clients from Nike, Paul Smith, and H&M.

Financial Controller: Joe Brown

Joe joined the REEL board in 2022 and serves as the charity's treasurer. Originally from Utah, Joe is passionate about making a difference and supporting initiatives that raise creative voices.

Programmes Officer: Farah Nimer

Farah is a student currently studying e-marketing and social media. Farah works for the REEL Foundation as a program and social media marketing intern. She is a collaborative, hard worker who is passionate about languages, art, business, and humanitarian work.

Farah was born in Amman, Jordan, and lived there her whole life. Farah has helped to collaborate with other NGOs and refugee-centered projects. During her time with REEL, she found a passion for humanitarian work.

Graphic Designer: Nada Qawasmeh

Nada joined the REEL Foundation team as a graphic design intern. She slowly built connections to strengthen designs in the world of media. Nada loves working with her colleagues and says it's one of the loveliest opportunities that she has experienced in her life.

Finance Officer: Kareem Abdo

Kareem is a third-year International Accounting student at the German Jordanian University. He applies his basic accounting bookkeeping methods to record and present transactions that occur during operations. In addition to making cost reports and end-of-month financial summaries.

OUR PARTNERS

CHOOSE LOVE

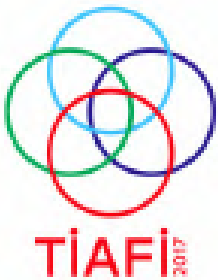
One of the REEL and film production essential partners is Choose Love. Choose Love is a UK-based non-governmental organization that provides humanitarian aid to and advocates for refugees worldwide. In 2016, it became the largest grassroots assistance distributor in Europe. They are supported by Julia Roberts, Benedict Cumberbatch, Ariana Grande, and Dua Lipa, becoming the grassroots agency of choice for the entertainment industry. One hundred percent of donations received go directly to their partner organizations.

We teamed up with Choose Love to promote and advocate and raise funds for humanitarian interventions they support.

The Hurras Network is a non-governmental organization in Gaziantep, Turkey, dedicated to providing psychosocial support and child protection. It endeavors to raise awareness of children's rights and how to guard their interests in society, to create secure environments in which all children are able to gain knowledge and develop the skills they need. The Hurras Network also aims to open up space for children to use their energies and strengthen their skills toward achieving the necessary change in society. The main focus is child protection through case management and awareness programs and child protection magazines.



We signed and partnership agreement with Hurras to run the “Healing Wall” project through its partner, the TIAFI community center, based in Izmir, from June-Oct 2022.



TIAFI (Team International Assistance for Integration) is a non-profit grassroots-organization in Izmir. The center is an inclusive and supportive safe haven that provides a range of services, such as individual support at the drop-in ‘TIAFI Info Point’ support desk, a kitchen with free warm lunches, exercise programs for kids with disabilities, and creative, educational, and skill-development activities for women and children.

TIAFI implemented the “Healing Wall” project in Izmir, in which 1135 direct and indirect children and families benefited from the project.

OUR PARTNERS



Philistine Films is an independent production company founded in 1997 with offices in both Palestine and Jordan. It is known for its interest in challenging, thought-provoking, and original films from filmmakers with distinctive visions. It has established itself at the forefront of independent cinema in the region, producing films for both the large and small screen.

They were the producers of “The Strangers’ Case” film outside the USA. They provided post-production and production services.



Karma was established in 2003 with the sole mission of delivering the highest level of production support for international filmmakers through its strong local connections for their shootings in Turkey.

Karma was the co-production company in Turkey for “The Strangers’ Case” film. They provided operational production services during the filming in Turkey in April-July 2022.



THE ROYAL FILM COMMISSION in JORDAN (RFC) was established with a vision to develop an internationally competitive Jordanian film industry. It is a member of the Association for Film Commissioners International (AFCI).

We collaborated with RFC to hold a creative workshop for refugee children at the Haya Cultural Center in Amman-Jordan on 28th May 2022. One of the RFC instructors participated as a trainer for the filming session.

Also, our scholars in Jordan attended a "Youth and Filmmaking for Social Impact" masterclass at the RFC center.

The Haya Cultural Center is a non-profit organization established in Amman-Jordan for the purpose of developing the capacities of children in the fields of art & culture.

In coordination with the Haya center, we hosted a Youth Film Workshop at the Haya Cultural Center on the 28th of May 2021. The workshop utilized the cast and crew of the film production “The Strangers' Case.”

30 Syrian children between the ages of 4-12 explored the world of film through Art, Music, Drama, and Storytelling sessions.

The camp was taught by Haya Cultural Center artists, together with talented Syrian Artists who participated in “The Strangers’ Case.”



OUR PARTNERS



Founded in December 1974, Save the Children Jordan is driven by a strong desire to provide women and children with their basic needs. At the core of its humanitarian and development programs lies the belief that every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation. Since joining the movement of Save the Children in the early 1990s, it has also become an active member of the International Federation of Children.

We established a partnership with them and asked them to help us create an opportunity for our 5 talented scholarship recipients to be inspired by the world of film. This partnership also allowed for 7 talented children/young people to be cast in different roles in “The Strangers’ Case”.

Additionally, they organized the participation of 30 children in the one-day film camp that was held at Haya center in May 2022.

Plan International began operating in Jordan in 2016 to address the biggest inequalities and violations of children’s rights.

With a huge number of people forced to flee conflict and live far from home across the Middle East, gender inequality, abuse, child labor, and a lack of education have become rife, and the international response has struggled to keep up.

Through our partnership with Plan International and Save The Children, we were able to inspire 5 young people in the film industry. Plan International Jordan also arranged for refugees to come and share their emotional stories with the cast and crew of “The Strangers’ Case.”

CARE International is a 75-year-old global confederation working to fight poverty and social injustice in the world, with a specific focus on the empowerment of women and girls. CARE works side-by-side with communities to understand the root causes of poverty and find innovative, locally-led solutions.

Our collaboration with CARE resulted in sourcing refugees from the community to participate in aspects of the film.

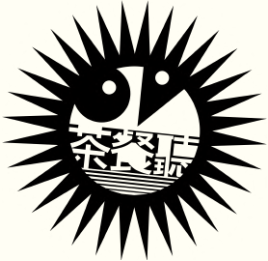


OUR PARTNERS



Turquoise Mountain was founded in 2006 by The Prince of Wales to revive historic areas and traditional crafts, to provide jobs, skills, and a renewed sense of pride. It has several urban regeneration projects in Jordan.

REEL has identified jewelry and wooden products from The Turquoise Mountain Foundation, which operates a not-for-profit Syrian refugee artisan workshop. Almost 1,500 USD worth of gifts has been purchased, which went back to the Syrian refugee support programs.



Cha Chaan Teng is a design studio based in London centered around storytelling.

They are founded upon the values of Hong Kong diners, bringing together western and eastern philosophies to tell stories.

We Collaborated with Cha Chaan Teng for creating an original brand identity and foundation logo.



Typically Dedicated are a London-based brand, web design, and development studio exploring minimalism and maximalism through their projects.