

	<p>Ben (Behnam) Gilani  <b>WRITER, DIRECTOR &amp; PRODUCER</b></p> <p>...ding the Rainbow – Abu Dhabi Film Festival -          2012)</p> <p><a href="https://bengilani.com">https://bengilani.com</a></p> <p><a href="https://pro.imdb.com/name/nm12101784?ref=nm_nv_usr_profile">/pro.imdb.com/name/nm12101784?ref=nm_nv_usr_profile</a></p> <p>7, Goudarzi Alley, Pour Ebtehadj St, Ba Honar St.  <u>Niavaran, Tehran, Iran</u>          Post Box: 19566-74473          Cell +98 99 1515 1399 - Phone: +98 21 2228 2744</p> <p><a href="mailto:ben@bengilani.com">ben@bengilani.com</a>  <a href="mailto:info@bengilani.com">info@bengilani.com</a></p>
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## ABOUT ME

I was born on February 4th, 1971.

My first brush with the film and television industry took place during my formative teenage years. Filled by a burning desire to learn more about the intricacies of the film and television business, I spent most of my summer vacations in the editing rooms of the National Iranian Television where my favorite elder cousins used to work. And, when my mother landed a minor role in an experimental Tele-film directed by one of my relatives, the passion for acting as well began to take hold.

After finishing high school and of course my military service in Iran at the age of 21, I moved to Dubai, United Arab Emirates where I met Nicanor A. Odejar, a university professor, who played an important role in developing my communication, writing as well as my business skills. Realizing the value of good education, I then went on to complete 2000 my Bachelor’s Degree in Information Systems at the University of Humberside & Lincolnshire (London-UK).

Not content with just having a university degree, I also enrolled in a library-learning center and began studying Film Directing and studies. And, in order to hone my English writing skills, I started writing comic fiction, short stories as well as articles, which were mainly published by the local daily newspapers in Dubai like “Gulf Today”, “tabloids” etc. My stories appeared regularly in the newspaper's section "Time Out". My articles likewise appeared later in another Dubai-based newspaper “Khaleej Times”.

In 1999, I met Nader Bagherpoor, an Iranian industrial filmmaker based in Dubai, who introduced me to the who’s who of the Dubai film industry. Such encounters eventually led to me receiving a number of offers to act in or produce TV commercials, infomercials, voiceovers, and the like.

In 2001, I acted in Nader Bagherpoor's first feature film "Don Juan of Karaj". This was soon followed by acting roles in different TV shows and commercial ads. In one of them, I acted along with "George Ghardahi", a Lebanese celebrity, actor, and TV presenter. In 2006, I again got a lead role in a feature film "Are You Still Around?" which was shot in Dubai. The film participated in some international film festivals.

Apart from acting, I also write, both in Persian and English. In fact, my first collection of hand-written poems has already been published in a book entitled "I Live with you. I Live for You" which was approved by the Ministry of Science and Culture - Iran. My first book was released in Tehran in late 2005. The second collection of poems "Straw Paper" was also released in early 2007. These books will soon be translated into English, Arabic, and French.

For several years beginning in 2001, I have worked in Dubai as the Media Manager for a well-known property developer. Those years saw me producing TV and radio commercials, industrial and social documentaries, infomercials, as well as directing over 42 TV Commercials, infomercials, short films, etc. for different companies in Dubai/UAE, England, Ireland, Egypt, Lebanon, Bahrain, Iran, Russia, etc.

In June 2008, I received my online master's degree in Film Directing from a University that does not exist anymore. Currently, I work as an independent film director. I have an online presence under the name of "Ben's Productions". My current focus is on directing films. The latest feature-length films that I have directed and co-produced include "Peggy's Happiness", "Flute", "Write my Story", "Square". My latest completed documentary film project, "Riding the Rainbow", was nominated for an award at Abu Dhabi International Film Festival 2012.

## **EDUCATION**

### **FORMAL**

- Master degree of fine arts in movie Directing
- Bachelor's degree of Business Administration in Information Systems from University of Humberside and Lincolnshire.
- Diploma of Business Administration.

### **NON-FORMAL**

- Master's Degree of Fine Arts in Movie Directing.

### **DISTANCE LEARNING:**

- Studied “Hollywood Camera-Works for Directors”
- Studied “Hollywood Visual Effects for Directors”
- Studied “Hollywood Hot Moves for Directors”
- Studied “Video Co-Pilot’s Action Essentials”.

### **MASTER CLASSES:**

- Ken Burns - Documentary Filmmaking
- Malcolm Gladwell - Writing
- Martin Scorsese - Filmmaking
- Werner Herzog - Filmmaking
- Ron Howard - Directing
- David Sedaris - Storytelling and Humor
- Margaret Atwood - Creative Writing
- Aaron Sorkin - Screenwriting
- Natalie Portman - Acting
- Steve Martin - Comedy
- Timbaland - Producing and Beat making
- David Mamet - Dramatic Writing
- David Lynch - Creativity and Film

## **WORK EXPERIENCE IN BRIEF**

### **2014-PRESENT**

#### **Ben’s Productions**

- ✚ Creating television commercials, integrated videos and documentaries.
- ✚ Creating explainer and overview videos for the social media
- ✚ Helping start-ups to become names in their own right. We’ve created work that’s made a difference, and helped organizations grow and succeed.

### **2010-2013**

#### **AM Studio – Film Director**

- ✚ Direct live broadcasts, films and recordings, or non-broadcast programming for public entertainment or education.
- ✚ Confer with technical directors, managers, crew members, and writers to discuss details of production, such as photography, script, music, sets, and costumes.
- ✚ Plan details such as framing, composition, camera movement, sound, and actor movement for each shot or scene.
- ✚ Supervise and coordinate the work of camera, lighting, design, and sound crewmembers.

## **2007-2010**

### **K.Classic – Production Manager**

- ✦ Coordinate the activities of writers, directors, managers, and other personnel throughout the production process.
- ✦ Research production topics using the internet, video archives, and other informational sources.
- ✦ Review film, recordings, or rehearsals to ensure conformance to production and broadcast standards

## **2002-2007**

### **DAMAC – Media Manager**

- ✦ Inspect layouts and advertising copy and edit scripts, audio and video tapes, and other promotional material for adherence to specifications.
- ✦ Plan and prepare advertising and promotional material to increase sales of products or services, working with customers, company officials, sales departments and advertising agencies.
- ✦ Gather and organize information to plan advertising campaigns.
- ✦ Direct, motivate, and monitor the mobilization of a campaign team to advance campaign goals.
- ✦ Directing all tv and social media commercials.

## **2000-2002**

### **Close Up Studio - Production Co-Ordinator**

- ✦ Coordinated the activities of writers, directors, managers, and other personnel throughout the production process.
- ✦ Researched production topics using the internet, video archives, and other informational sources.
- ✦ Reviewed film, recordings, or rehearsals to ensure conformance to production and broadcast standards.

## **1999-2000**

### **Al Habbai Group – General Manager**

- ✦ Oversaw day-to-day operations, assigning weekly performance goals and assuring their completion, while accomplishing your own goals.
- ✦ Recruited, onboarded, and trained high-performing employees to achieve sales, profitability, market share, and business plan objectives.
- ✦ Maintained project timelines to ensure tasks are accomplished on time.

- ✚ Developed, implemented, and maintained budgetary and resource allocation plans.
- ✚ Delegated responsibilities to the best employees to perform them while enforcing all policies, procedures, standards, specifications, guidelines, training programs, and cultural values.
- ✚

## **1997-1999**

### **OK Decor – Show Manager**

- ✚ Managed the execution and logistics of shows. Developed and managed a comprehensive event project plan for all tasks, promotional items, literature, bookings, and other details.

## **1993-1997**

### **Alborz GT – Marketing Manager**

- ✚ Communicated, developed, and implemented all targeted content for various media platforms.
- ✚ Researched, wrote, proofread, and edited all media content, implemented and managed media campaigns, and delivered public relations and communications plans.

## **1991-1993**

### **Al Habbai Group – Studio Manager**

- ✚ My widely-ranged duties included coordinating with artists, producers, managers, etc. to schedule recording/filming sessions; hiring and supervising recording engineers, assistants, and other technical and creative staff; helping to select the studio's equipment; and—critically—marketing the studio to potential ...

## **SKILLS**

### **MEDIA SKILLS**

### **WRITING**

- **BOOKS:**

- ✚ I live with you – I live for you – 2005 – Published
- ✚ Straw Paper – 2007 – Published
- ✚ In Parallel to the Euphrates (2018-2021) – Registered with WGAW (Writers Guild of America West) – Not yet published - In Parallel to the Euphrates is an 800-page, 4-volume novel that took me almost four years to complete.

- **SCREENPLAYS:**

- ✚ Unforeseen Encounters - A feature-length film screenplay in the genre of Sci-fi - Registered with WGAW (Writers Guild of America West)
- ✚ The Blind Witness - A feature-length film screenplay in the genre of Horror - Registered with WGAW (Writers Guild of America West)
- ✚ Don't die on me - A Pilot in the genre of War/Drama - Registered with WGAW (Writers Guild of America West) - Don't die on me is based on the novel: In Parallel to the Euphrates that I have written and mentioned earlier.
- ✚ What happened to Billy Starr - A feature-length film screenplay am currently working on. It is in the genre of Horror and it will soon be registered with WGAW (Writers Guild of America West)
- ✚ Scripts / Screenplays for 3 of the movies that I have directed, commissioned TV Commercials, Documentaries, Infomercials, and Radio Spots etc.
- ✚ Written over 20 articles, comic fictions for "Time Out" section of Khaleej times Newspaper UAE.

## **ACTING**

- **LEADING ACTOR**

- ✚ "Don Juan of Karaj" - Feature Film - Location: Dubai / U.A.E - Directed By: Nader. B. Pour - Produced By: Hossam Al Atekiei
- ✚ "Are You Still Here?" - Feature Film - Location: Dubai / U.A.E - Directed By: Iman Tahseen - Produced By: Christine Marlome
- ✚ Gift Land Stores TV Commercials - Directed By: Saeed Aghaee and Produced By: Dubai Eye TV

- **SUPPORTING ACTOR**

- ✚ MBC TV (Middle-East Broadcasting Television) TV Commercials next to "Famous George Ghardahi" ...

## **EDITING (Adobe)**

## **COLOR CORRECTION/GRADING**

## **NARRATING & VOICE - OVER**

## SINGLE CAMERA DIRECTING

## EVENT MANAGEMENT & ORGANIZING

- ✚ 2002/2006  
Organized and managed over 20 major Product / Brand launches and events across the Middle-East

## CASTING

## MEDIA MANAGEMENT – MEDIA PLANNING & SCHEDULING

- ✚ 2002 – 2006  
Planned and scheduled different media across United Arab Emirates, Iran, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia etc.

## LANGUAGES

- ✚ English = Speaking – Reading – Writing
- ✚ Farsi = Speaking – Reading – Writing
- ✚ Arabic = Can Manage Speaking – Reading – Writing
- ✚ Russian = Currently Learning

## FILMOGRAPHY

### ▪ TELEFILMS & DOCUMENTARIES

- ✚ Peggy's Happy Days – Mystery – 99 Minutes
- ✚ Riding the Rainbow – Documentary – 29 Minutes (Official Selection – Abu Dhabi Film Festival 2012)
- ✚ Square-Comedy-92 Minutes
- ✚ Write My Story-Drama-84 Minutes
- ✚ Flute-Drama-90 Minutes

### ▪ TV, SOCIAL MEDIA COMMERCIALS & INFOMERCIALS

## IRAN

- Star Music Academy
- Watch Bazaar
- Cyprus Properties
- Paniz Nail Salon
- Missy Beauty Salon
- MAN Intl. Property
- Marketeye Affiliates
- Cosmeticore Cosmetics
- Cosmetixet Cosmetics
- Tarrahia Interior designers
- Speed Tires
- Castiran Spain

- CP Conference Halls
- Cosmics tvc
- EZ Deals
- Debt Rescue
- Binance features
- HAAR Cryptocurrency
- Mentalism
- Mozzafiato
- Covid 19 Warning
- Facts About Cyprus
- MAN Animation
- MAN Corporate
- HAAR Corporate

## **DUBAI – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

- AMBER RESIDENCE
- ADMIRAL BAY
- BURJ BOULEVARD
- BURJ SIDE TERRACE
- BUSINESS CENTRAL
- BUSINESS TOWER
- THE CONCOURSE 1
- THE CONCOURSE 2
- CENTRAL SQUARE
- CAPITAL BAY CB
- DAMAC HEIGHT
- EMIRATE GARDEN 1
- EMIRATE GARDEN 2
- EXECUTIVE BAY
- EXECUTIVE HEIGHTS
- LA RESIDENCE 1
- LA RESIDENCE 2
- THE CORNER
- LAGO VISTA 1
- LAGO VISTA 2
- LAKE TERRACE
- LAKE VIEW
- LAKESIDE
- MARINA TERRACE
- OCEAN HEIGHTS
- OCEAN SCAPE
- PALM TERRACE
- PARK CENTRAL
- PALM SPRINGS
- PARK TOWERS
- PARKSIDE
- SMART HEIGHTS
- SOLITAIRE
- SUBURBIA
- TERRA DEL SOL 1
- TERRA DEL SOL 2
- THE CRESCENT
- THE WAVES
- TUSCAN 1
- TUSCAN 2
- LINCOLN PARK
- XL TOWERS

## **EGYPT**

- CONCORDE
- HYDE PARK
- CENTRAL AVENUE

## **JORDAN**

- LOFT HEIGHTS
- THE HEIGHTS
- BUSINESS HEIGHTS
- THE COURTYARD
- BUSINESS GATE
- JORDAN AIRPORT

## **QATAR**

- GARDEN HEIGHTS
- THE PIAZZA 1
- THE PIAZZA 2
- THE TERRACED



## **SAUDI ARABIA**

- ALJAWHARAH
- DAMAC CORPORATE VIDEO
- Damac Holding's Main TVC
- Live The Luxury TVC

## **RADIO SPOTS / COMMERCIALS**

- The Velvet Development Radio Spot
- Oceans 9 Development Radio Spot
- La Residence Project Launch RS
- Damac Live the Luxury Radio Spot
- Damac 40% Money Back Guarantee on Rental

## **NEWS – REVIEWS**

### **GULF NEWS - TABLOID**

**Date: Sunday Mar, 4th, 01**

Titled: An Iranian Initiative

Tabloid reporter speaks to the director of “Don Juan of Karaj”, a U.A.E based film director and his cast / crew.

### **CINEMA ABRAR NEWS**

- 🚩 Date: Nov 14th, 07 Titled: shooting of Gilani's latest film “Square” finished.
- 🚩 Date: May 10th, 07 Titled: Gilani's latest film ready for edit Shooting completed.
- 🚩 Date: Oct 09th, 07 Titled: to use amateur cast in your films, one need to be courageous.
- 🚩 Date: Apr 21st, 07 Titled: Who will “WRITE MY STORY”?
- 🚩 Date: Feb 18th, 07 Titled: Sound of Gilani's “FLUTE” can be heard.
- 🚩 Date: Feb 22nd, 07 Titled: Very cold weather stopped Gilani's latest film project.
- 🚩 Date: Oct, 09th, 07 Titled: Gilani's Film; “Flute's melody all over highlands of Damavand.

### **AND MORE...**

### **CINEMA WEEKLY:**

- 🚩 Date: Feb 18th, 07 Titled: Gilani's new film (“Write My Story”), Filming started.
- 🚩 Date: May 13th, 07 Titled: Gilani's (Write My Story). Shooting ended... Editing Began.
- 🚩 Date: Feb 17TH, 06 Titled: Gilani's “FLUTE” established. The incredible life of a one man.
- 🚩 Date: Apr 21st, 07 Titled: Gilani's “Write my Story” ready to enter editing room.
- 🚩 Date: Feb 21st, 06 Titled: Gilani's new “FLUTE”. This time in Damavand Highlands.
- 🚩 Date: Oct 17th, 07 Titled: Gilani's story and film “SQUARE”.

### **AND MORE...**

### **JAAM E JAM CINEMA DAILY:**

- # Date: Mar 15th, 06 Titled: "Flute's" music echoes in Damavand's restaurant.
- # Date: Mar 15th, 06 Titled: "FLUTE". Gilani's way of training dogs.

### **AND MORE...**

### **BONNY FILM:**

- # Date: May 12th, 07 Titled: Gilani's "SQUARE" at the middle. Shooting continues.
- # Date: Mar 15th, 06 Titled: Gilani's latest film "Flute", Based on a true story.
- # Date: Feb 17th, 06 Titled: Training a dog using a "FLUTE". Gilani's new story.
- # Date: Oct 9th, 07 Titled: Gilani will start to "Write My Story".
- # Date: Jul 7th, 07 Titled: Niavaran. Home of Gilani's new film.
- # Date: Jun 16th, 06 Titled: Tehran / Iran. Gilani's "Write my Story" in front of the camera.
- # Date: Oct 29th, 07 Titled: Gilani, on the last angle of his "SQUARE".

### **AND MORE...**

### **TEHRAN TODAY ART NEWS:**

- # Date: Oct 29th, 07 Titled: Comedy of "SQUARE" brothers on the way.
- # Date: Feb 29th, 06 Titled: Entering animal world. Gilani's first film in Iran: "FLUTE".
- # Date: Feb 17th, 06 Titled: Too cold to film. Gilani's filming of "FLUTE" stopped.

### **AND MORE...**

### **SOROUSH FILM & TELEVISION MAGAZINE:**

- # Date: Jun 16th, 06 Titled: "Write My Story". Gilani's version of interesting student days.
- # Date: Feb 17th, 06 Titled: Training a dog using a "FLUTE". Gilani's new story.
- # Date: Nov 14th, 07 Titled: An experience like people's daily life. Gilani's story.
- # Date: Oct 27th, 07 Titled: Gilani's story of buying an apartment in a foreign country.
- # Date: Nov 24th, 07 Titled: Last angle of Gilani's "SQUARE" recorded.
- # Date: Mar 15th, 06 Titled: Gilani's created characters in his new "FLUTE".
- # Date: Apr 21st, 07 Titled: When students are the story. Gilani's interesting student story.
- # Date: Jul 7th, 2007 Titled: Gilani finished "Writing My Story".

### **HOBBIES:**

Writing, Film & Cinema, Music, Singing, Shopping, Cooking.

**Please take a look at my portfolio at <https://bengilani.com>**