

PORTIONS



## PRESS RELEASE

"Come everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and she who has no money, come buy and eat!... Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food." Isaiah 55:1-2

Los Angeles, CA, November 12, 2016 --  
Millions of women encounter limited political and religious rights and face gender inequality and oppression daily. Trapped by violence and silenced by the strictures of society, many feel unseen and unheard.

**The Middle East Women's Leadership Network** seeks to empower these women to share their voice and tell their stories.

Iranian-American Producer Najji Hendrix and Writer/Producer Nancy Sawyer Schraeder met at a summit of the Middle East Women's Leadership Network in October, 2015. Together, with Australian director Angeline Armstrong and Executive Producer Shirin Taber, they committed to create a thought-provoking film that invites open dialogue on freedom, fulfillment, and authentic living.

"Portions" tells the story of a woman with limited choices who discovers an abundance that could be hers. Visually artful and poetic, this short film explores the poignant truth of Isaiah's words for all women, but especially for the marginalized and oppressed women in the world.

**Shot on RED Epic and filmed in Southern California**, "Portions" encourages all of us to ask: In what ways is society limiting us to lives of scarcity? Are there paths to take us beyond culture to something more satisfying? And if so, how do we find them? Could an abundance be waiting right outside our door?

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## LOG LINE

A woman with limited choices discovers an abundance that could be hers.

## FILM SYNOPSIS

Three women at lunch in an upscale restaurant proves more than a mid-day reunion of friends. Two, thrilled by the limited menu and artful presentation, welcome their meager plates. While Talia, prodded by her hunger, wonders what she's missing. A spilled glass of water and a seemingly misplaced woman with a picnic basket leads Talia to a lighted doorway. Warned by her waiter she's going the wrong way, Talia pushes open the door to find herself in a bountiful apple orchard. Tying on an apron and slipping out of her shoes,

Talia joins men, women and children picking apples and helping themselves to a table laden with food. Awed by her newfound freedom, she returns inside the restaurant to share her discovery with her friends. But when her friends see her bare feet, dirt on her face and her hair mussed, they laugh at her and urge her to take off her soiled apron and rejoin them. Torn, Talia considers the sparse plate waiting for her and the lighted doorway.

# BIOS



Producer – Naji Hendrix

Naji and her family escaped Iran during the Iran-Iraq war when she was only six years old. Today, she serves as a producer and host for Mohabat TV, broadcasting shows into the Persian world, including the new Superbook program for Farsi speaking audiences. Previously, Naji worked as a production manager for a film and distribution company in Orlando for eight years. Passionate to use media to reach Iran and the Muslim world, Naji earned a degree in Communication and Film with a minor in Marketing from the University of Central Florida. Naji lives with her husband and two sons in Southern California.



Writer/Producer – Nancy Sawyer Schraeder

**Magdalena: Released from Shame**, a feature film Nancy scripted, premiered at the United Nations in 2007 and has been translated into over one hundred languages. *Rivka*, a mini-series she co-wrote, was released worldwide in 2012. Her original award-winning screenplay, *Wilberforce*, was optioned by Patricia Heaton's Fourboys Films and Walden Media, which later released the film, *Amazing Grace*. After graduating Magna cum Laude from Wheaton College, Nancy completed a Master of Professional Writing in Drama/Screenplay at the University of Southern California. A passionate teacher and speaker, she has taught writing in London and Cairo as well as at Biola University, Long Beach City College, and California State University, Long Beach.



Director – Angeline Armstrong

A starry-eyed realist, Angeline is a New Zealand-born, Australia-raised writer, director and musician. At age 20 she was mentored by Baz Luhrmann while directing her second short film, "The Pilgrim Report," which premiered at the Sydney Opera House. Her experimental and narrative film works have created quite a buzz, including winning the Embassy of France/Campus France Australia Short Film Prize, Madmen Experimental Video Prize, Australian Cinematographers Society - Silver Award, and screening at the Portland Independent Film Festival, Sedona International Film Festival, and LA Cinefest. Angeline graduated in 2014 with Honors from the prestigious Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology with a major in Film/TV and a minor in Philosophy and French.

## BIOS CONT.



Director of Photography - Matthew Rivera

Matthew spent most of his free time as a child creating stop-motion films of G.I. Joes with his older brother. In his teens, he was heavily involved in skate boarding and filmed his friends performing tricks for their "Sponsor Me" tapes. In 2007, he began his studies at Columbia College Chicago with a concentration in cinematography. Since then, he has shot narrative, commercial, and documentary films throughout the U.S. and internationally. Born in Chicago and raised in South Carolina, he recently relocated to Los Angeles.



Executive Producer - Shirin Taber

Shirin is the author of *Muslims Next Door* (Zondervan/Harper Collins). With an Iranian Muslim father and an American Christian mother, she has lived in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. Currently, she is directing the Middle East Women's Leadership Network, which empowers females to create media to impact the MENA world. The Los Angeles Times, Detroit Free Press, Christianity Today and Fox News have featured her writing and work among Muslims and Christians alike. Previously, Shirin served with Cru, Inspirational Films, the Visual Story Network, and the Christian Broadcasting Network. She helped produce the film, *Magdalena: Released from Shame*. Through the George W. Bush Institute, she mentors emerging leaders in the country of Tunisia. She is a graduate of the University of Washington and is fluent in English, French and Farsi.



"Talia" - Kalyn Hemphill

Kalyn has appeared in theatre productions, TV, film and commercials coast to coast and has modeled for top designers worldwide. You might recognize her as the winning model from "Project Runway" Season 6 and the spinoff show, "Models of the Runway." Kalyn has a passion for speaking and writing and is on the global leadership team for Models for Christ, as well as Red Eye Inc. A native of Texas, Kalyn is now based in Los Angeles.

POSTER



KAZIYI WEMPHELL MELISSA MERRABIAN CASSEY POWERS PROBYONG \*YI GRACE VERBAUDDI KILEY BOLE \*YI DANAY ADEBA \*YI CHRISTIAN SHEL  
JOSH MATTHEW ROYERBAUDDI SHIRIN TALEY \*YI NALI REMORIS \*YI NANCY SAMYER SCHRAEDER \*YI NANCY SAMYER SCHRAEDER \*YI ANJELINE ARMSTRONG

## PRODUCTION STILLS



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