

ALI HOSSAINI BIO+CV

Ali Hossaini is an artist, philosopher and business executive who works at the cutting edge of media. Having collaborated with talent ranging from Robert Wilson to Brad Pitt, his personal work and his productions have been exhibited in museums, galleries and festivals internationally, winning acclaim from *Vanity Fair*, *Cool Hunting* and many other outlets, including *the New York Times*, which calls him a “biochemist turned philosopher turned television producer turned visual poet.”

He has been involved in the launch of several television channels, including LAB HD, the only TV channel devoted to video art, Equator HD, Gallery HD, Oxygen, TechTV, NOW and LinkTV. He is currently proprietor of Pantar, a consultancy that specializes in business strategy and talent-driven productions of artistic merit. In 2010 he focused on 3D video projects, and he created the Enterprise & Innovation Hub, a revenue generating initiative for FACT, a Liverpool-based arts organization.

Hossaini’s productions include the *Voom Portraits*, which includes performances by Johnny Depp, Salma Hayek, Winona Ryder, Robert Downey, Jr, Princess Caroline of Monaco, Sean Penn and other cultural icons. He has produced numerous documentaries and factual television series relating to travel, natural history, culture and sustainable living. In 2008 he produced *Self-Portrait*, a short film by Dennis Hopper.

The American Museum of the Moving Image maintains a permanent exhibit devoted to LAB HD. Other productions have been exhibited at the Lincoln Center, the Tribeca Film Festival, the Montreal Festival of Film on Art, PS1/MoMA, The Hackney Empire, SF Cinemateque, Pacific Film Archives, the Beijing Borderlines Festival, Couvent des Cordeliers and many other international venues. His production of *Don’t Trust Anyone Over 30* appeared in the 2006 Whitney Biennial. His directorial debut, *Epiphany*, premiered at Anthology Film Archives in 2006.

As a vice president at the women’s TV network Oxygen Media, Hossaini developed numerous initiatives related to programming and social networking. At TechTV, he launched *Chat Day!*, the first application to merge chat, webcams and live TV in a virtual environment. Hossaini is a member of the Academy of Television Arts and

Sciences and the National Association of Television Program Executives. He serves on the Board of Advisors for Anthology Film Archives, White Box and the Pacifica Vanuatu Foundation. He is an Associate of FACT, the Foundation for Art and Creative Technology, where he serves in a development role.

He regularly speaks at conferences in the United States and Europe. In the 1990s he was a regular guest on *The Site*, an award-winning MSNBC newsmagazine. Hossaini recently completed a manuscript, *Vision of the Gods: How optics shaped history*, and he contributed three entries to the *Encyclopedia of Photography*, published by Routledge in 2005. His writing has appeared in *Open Democracy* (UK), *The Village Voice*, *New York Newsday*, *Maclean’s Magazine* (Canada), *Logos Journal*, *The Nation*, *Al-Ahram Weekly* (Egypt), and *Verlag Spotlight* (Germany). He is anthologized in the textbooks *Passages* and *Considering Cultural Difference*, and his essays on photography are frequently included in college coursebooks.

While working as an acquisitions editor at the University of Texas Press, Hossaini published one of the first electronic books in conjunction with the Coalition for Networked Information. He also developed *Surrealist Women*, an anthology of suppressed female artists, and he successfully funded the Texas History Series. As a graduate student Hossaini was awarded fellowships for poetry, photography and philosophy. He received his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation, *Archaeology of the Photograph*, traces the history of geometric optics from Sumer to the Classical Era.

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Professional affiliations

Associate, FACT – The Foundation for Art and Creative Technology, Liverpool
 Advisory Board, Anthology Film Archives, New York City
 Advisory Board, White Box Art Space, New York City
 Advisory Board, Vanuatu Pacifica Foundation
 Artistic Advisory Board, Water Mill Center for the Arts, Southampton, New York

Selected publications

2010

Mediation and Civilisation: The prehistory of optical representation, contributed to Vision, Memory and Media, FACT Publications

Television Reimagined, contributed to Robert Wilson Video Portraits, ZKM Publications

Cosmos in a Box, Reality Sandwich

2009

Survive and Thrive, RealScreen Magazine

2008

Optography: A technology of perception, contributed to Encyclopedia of Optography, Muswell Press

2007

Don't Kill Your Television, Reality Sandwich

Merging Art with Television, High Def Magazine

2006

Aerial Photography, The Lens and Optics contributed to *The Encyclopedia of Photography*, Routledge

2004

Beyond the multicultural ghetto, Open Democracy

2003

Vision of the Gods: An inquiry into the meaning of photography, Logos Journal

The nasty truth about the noble lie, Open Democracy

2002

Stop the downward spiral in digital TV!, Open Democracy

2001

At War with Myself, Maclean's Magazine, The Nation and reprinted in Passages, Considering Cultural Difference and other textbooks.

Prior to 2001 there were numerous publications on MSNBC.com, The Village Voice, Texas Observer and other journals.

Recent lectures

2011

So You Want a Career in Media?, Liverpool Hope University

2010

The promise of digital humanities, Liverpool Hope University

The future of media, Manchester Business School, University of Manchester

2009

Funding strategies for documentary film, Discovery Documentary Campus

Developing factual television programs, Irish Film Board
Perfecting your pitch, RealScreen Summit

In previous years presented lectures on media and technology at the RealScreen Summit, Discovery Documentary Campus, MIPTV, Vircomm, classrooms and other professional contexts.

Recent exhibitions & performances

2011

The Aging Magician, play, The Kitchen, New York City
Memory Begins, video installation, SudLab, Naples, Italy

2010

Memory Begins, video installation, White Box, New York City

Ouroboros: The History of the Universe, video

installation, Ise Cultural Foundation, New York City

Oceanic Verses, opera, New York City Opera VOX Series, New York City

Caro Ben Mio, live cantata, Galapagos Art Space, New York City

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2009

Baghdad Transcendental, sculpture & photography installation, The Drop, New York City

Epiphany: Prints, prints, The Kaufman Arcade, New York City

Epiphany: Volcano, prints, Gallery 8, New York City

2008

Divine Machines, film screening, The Hackney Empire, London, UK

2008

Epiphany, video installation, American Museum of the Moving Image, New York City

Noumema, Time is the Moving Image & The Same River, plays, Water Mill Center for the Arts, New York
Permanent exhibit of *Productions from LAB*, video installation, American Museum of the Moving Image, New York City

Curated selection of LAB productions, Perpetual Art Machine, Scope Art Fair, New York City

Unperception Now, film screening, Montreal Festival of Film on Art, Montreal, Canada

2007

Living Voom, Curated screening of LAB productions, Scanners Film Festival, The Lincoln Center

Curated screening of LAB productions, Borderlines Festival, Beijing, China

Unperception Now, Janos Gat Gallery, New York City

Curated selection of LAB productions, SF Cinemateque, San Francisco

Curated selection of LAB productions, Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California

Curated screening of LAB productions, Orchard 47, New York City

Jeanne Moreau & Isabelle Huppert Video Portraits, Couvent des Cordeliers, Paris

2006

Curated screening of LAB productions, Anthology Film Archive (November)

Epiphany plus selected productions, Anthology Film Archive (June)

Don't Trust Anyone Over Thirty, video installation, Whitney Biennial

Brad Pitt Video Portrait, film screening, Tribeca Film

Festival

Isabelle Huppert Video Portrait, video installation, PS 1/MoMA

Artworks

2010

Memory Begins, 2-channel video

Ouroboros, 7-channel 3D video

Oceanic Verses, 3-channel video

Caro Ben Mio, 1-channel video

2009

Baghdad Transcendental, architectural photograph installation

2008

4Monkeys, generative video installation

Epiphany, multichannel video installation

The River, theater

Time is the Moving Image, theater

Noumena, theater

2006

Epiphany: The Cycle of Life, experimental feature film

Unperception Now, multichannel short film

2002

artTV, NTSC video, experimental channel concept

Abstraction 1 (study for a video art channel), NTSC video

Abstraction 2 (study for a video art channel), NTSC video

Wedding (study for a video art channel), NTSC video

1995 – Director

Come to Me, NTSC video, experimental short

1986

Sometimes a Blessing Can Be a Curse, NTSC video

Ich bin Du, NTSC video

Pentagram, color film & NTSC video

From 1986 to 2010 produced print series from B&W film and color video.

Filmography

2010 – Executive Producer

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Lang Lang Live in Berlin, director of photography:
Thomas Erhart, 3D HD video

2009 – Executive Producer

Self-Portrait: Dennis Hopper, director: Dennis Hopper,
HD video

KOOL: Dancing in My Mind, 3D HD video, director:
Robert Wilson

2008 – Executive Producer

Mario's Green House, 8 x 30' HDTV series

The Monkey Thieves, 13 x 30' HDTV series

Lost in China, 6 x 60' HDTV series

Wildlife Nannies 2, 20 x 30' HDTV series

Earthtripping, 6 x 30' HDTV series

Natural Born Traveler, 4 x 30' HDTV series

2007 – Executive Producer

Medicine Woman, 13 x 30' HDTV series

Ultimate Tourist Scams, 13 x 30' HDTV series

Wildlife Nannies, 20 x 30' HDTV series

Penny Revolution, 6 x 60' HDTV series

Green Wheels, 13 x 30' HDTV series

Video Portrait: Renée Fleming, director: Robert Wilson,
HD video

Video Portrait: Skunk, director: Robert Wilson, HD video

2006 – Executive Producer

Video Portrait: Princess Caroline of Monaco, director:
Robert Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: Queen Farah Diba, director: Robert
Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: Prince Alexis Schleswig-Holstein,
director: Robert Wilson, HDTV, exper. short

Video Portrait: Gao Xingjian, director: Robert Wilson,
HD video

Sahara Mojave, director: Leslie Thornton, HD video

Landfill, director: Pawel Wojtasik, HD video

May Mad Gab, director: Lili Chin, HD video

Schpilin Aquí, director: Angie Eng, HD video

More Funerals than Weddings, director: David Kramer,
HD video

The Unicorn Hunt, director: Birgit Rathsmann, HDTV

Tree Graftreitis, director: Theo Angell, HDTV

Light Work, director: Jennifer Reeves, HDTV

My Person in Water, director: Leighton Pierce, HDTV

Soft Sciences, director: Ben Fries, HDTV

Atlantis, director: Fred Barney Taylor

Underbelly, director: Trine Nedreass

North Brother, director: Benton C. Bainbridge, HD video

The Lonely Girl, director: Ellen Zweig, HD video

Rite of the Black Sun, director: Bradley Eros, HD video

The Aquarium, director: Pavel Wojtasik, HD video

The Landfill, director: Pavel Wojtasik, HD video

Sahara Mohave, director: Leslie Thornton, HD video

Portrait of Shanghai, director: Lili Chin, HD video

Sorry, director: Gail Vachon, HD video

Meredith Salient Field, director: Theo Angell, HD video

Spectropia (episode), director: Toni Dove, HD video

25 Letters, director: Grahame Weinbren, HD video

The Tension Building, director: Erika Beckman, HD video

The Mythmakers, dir: S Gruffat & Ben Russell, HD video

Poem, director: Mary Lucier, HD video

Light Mood Disorder, dir: Jennifer Reeves, HD video

The Bridge, director: Fred Taylor, HD video

Urban Sonata, director: Jud Yalkut, HD video

Stiff, director: Jenny Reeder, HD video

Carrara Landscape, director: Angie Eng, HD video

The Shadow Lords, director: Jose Figueroa, HD video

2005 – Executive Producer

Video Portrait: Isabella Rossellini, director: Robert
Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: Sean Penn, director: Robert Wilson, HD
video

Video Portrait: Willem Dafoe, director: Robert Wilson,
HD video

Video Portrait: Robin Wright Penn, director: Robert
Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: J T Leroy, director: Robert Wilson, HD
video

Video Portrait: William Pope L, director: Robert Wilson,
HD video

Video Portrait: Gabriella Orenstein, director: Robert
Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: Lucinda Childs, director: Robert Wilson,
HD video

2004 – Executive Producer

Video Portrait: Brad Pitt, director: Robert Wilson, HD
video

Video Portrait: Robert Downey, Jr., director: Robert
Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: Jeanne Moreau, director: Robert Wilson,
HD video

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Video Portrait: Isabelle Huppert, director: Robert Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: Juliette Binoche, director: Robert Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: Marianne Faithfull, director: Robert Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: Zhang Huan, director: Robert Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: Steve Buscemi, director: Robert Wilson, HD video

Video Portrait: Mikhail Baryshnikov, director: Robert Wilson, HD video

1989:1994 – Producer / Host

Alternative Views, NTSC video, weekly newsmagazine

Employment

2001 - 2008

Executive Producer & Director of Programming,
Rainbow Media

1999 - 2001

Vice President, Oxygen Media

1997 - 1999

Director of Programming, ZDTV

1996 - 1997

Producer, MSNBC

1994 – 1996

Acquisitions Editor, University of Texas Press

Consulting clients include NHK Enterprises, Charles Schwab, Babelgum Networks, Submarine Channel, ContextTV, HiFidelity HDTV, Gedeon Entertainment, IndieFlixLinkTV and Network of the World.

Selected press

2010



New York Times: *For 3D Travelers, A Cosmic Journey*, Feature interview and cover story in the March 27 Weekend Arts section.

Cool Hunting: Feature interview.

XXXX Magazine: Video interview.

Treehugger: Feature review of *Ouroboros*.

DINCA: Feature interview.

Numerous listings and news items were published about the video installation *Ouroboros*.



Wallpaper: Cover story on *Robert Wilson Video Portraits* in September issue.

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2009



MSNBC: Live interview with Isabella Rossellini regarding Times Square screening on *Morning Joe*.

Denver Daily News: Feature story on Times Square screening event.

Time Out New York, NY Post, ArtDaily: Coverage of Times Square screening.



Hundreds of publications ran stories, items and listing on the Times Square screening of art films, including Guy Maddin's *Send Me to the 'Lectric Chair*, produced for Babelgum Networks.



Fast Company: Mention of *Baghdad Transcendental* in September issue.

The Daily Green: Interview with Mario Van Peebles regarding *Mario's Green House*.

NPR interview with Mario Van Peebles regarding *Mario's Green House*.

News Observer: Review of *Mario's Green House*.

2008 - 2006



Vanity Fair featured the *Voom Portraits* on the cover of their inaugural art issue in Dec, 2006.



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Since **2006 thousands of items** have been published around the globe on the project, which has toured internationally as a major art exhibition.

In 2008 conceptual artist Seth Carnes wrote his **NYU Master's thesis** on LAB.

Education

PhD, Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin

MA, Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin

BA, Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis

Master Printing Course, International Center for Photography

Advanced Poetry Course, Columbia University

Academic awards

University Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin

Woolrich Fellowship for Poetry, Columbia University

Fellowship, International Center for Photography