

Curriculum Vitae

Nefise Özkal Lorentzen
Director – actively working since 1994
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BIOGRAPHY

Nefise Özkal Lorentzen is a Turkish-Norwegian writer, filmmaker and professor at the faculty of Audiovisual Media and Creative Technologies at Innland University, Norway. She received her B.A in Political Science at Bosphorus University in Istanbul and her M.A in Media and Communication at the University of Oslo.

Over the past two decades she has produced and directed several controversial documentaries related to Islam. As a result of her dedication to LGBTQ rights and human rights activism through her films she has been named one of the TOP 10 immigrant role models in Norway. Her trilogy of films entitled, *Gender Me* (2008), *A Balloon for Allah* (2011) and *Manislam* (2014), brings alive these untold stories through public visibility. Her recent film *Seyran Ates: Sex, Revolution and Islam* shows that change within Islam is possible.

Nefise has received several awards and nominations, and her films have premiered in prestigious festivals such as IDFA, San Francisco FF, One World FF, Hot Spring FF, Rhode Island FF, CPH: DOX and Goteborg FF among others. She was nominated for the History Makers Award in NYC. Utilizing her workshop concept, “gender activism through films” she has cooperated with various NGOs in Indonesia, China, Bangladesh, Turkey, Germany, USA etc. She hopes one day gender segregation and violence against women will be a long-forgotten aspect of history.

EDUCATION

1994 University of Oslo

M.A (Cand. Philol.) in Media and Communication

Master’s thesis: Traveling to the East (Østerlandsreise)

“Traveling to the East” is a documentary film inspired by Edward Said’s book “Orientalism”. The film explores fascination with the Orient in the beginning of the 20th century, particularly within anthropology, ethnography, and linguistics. The film uses archival footage from George Morgenstierne (1892-1978), a well-known Norwegian linguist who specialized in Indo-Iranian languages.

- July 1991-September 1991** New York University
 Summer school, Media and internship program
 -Intern at On Television, New York, USA, gather material for the youth TV program “The Electronic Family” and working with off-line editing.
 -Intern at the Sally Jessy Raphael Show, New York, USA, assisted a producer on the show and contributed to background research, filming, editing, and administration.
- 1991** University of Oslo
 Intermediate in Media and Communication
- 1990** University of Oslo
 Basic subjects in Media and Communication
- 1989** University of Oslo
 Two major courses in Political Science respectively: Political parties, Integration theories
- 1988-1989** University of Oslo
 Introductory program on Norwegian language and social life
- 1984-1988** Bosphorous University, Istanbul / Turkey
 B.A in Political Science and Public Administration
- 1983-1984** Marmara University Law School, Istanbul / Turkey
- 1982-1983** Rham High School, Conn, USA
 US High School Diploma. Scholarship from AFS for being an exchange student.
- 1978-1982** Robert College (a private American High School in Istanbul Turkey)

FILMOGRAPHY (links on [IMDB](https://www.imdb.com)/[Integralfilm.com](https://www.integralfilm.com))

- 2021** [*Seyran Ates: Sex, Revolution and Islam*](#) (as Director & Screenwriter)
- 2021** [*The Art of Whistling*](#) (as Producer) Directed by Per Maning
- 2021** [*As I want*](#) (as Co-Producer) Directed by Samaher Alqadi
- 2020** [*Syrialism*](#) (as Producer) Directed by Dalia Al Kury
- 2019** [*A Gift from God*](#) (as Co-Director with Jørgen Lorentzen)
- 2017** [*Those Who Love*](#) (as Director)
- 2017** [*Beauty and the Dogs*](#) (as Co-Producer) directed by Kauther Ben Hania
- 2016** [*Village vs Empire*](#) (as Co-Producer) Directed by Mark Kaplan
- 2014** [*The Silver Boys sing Aenon*](#) (as Director & Screenwriter)
- 2014** [*ManIslam*](#) (as Director & Screenwriter)
- 2011** [*A Balloon for Allah*](#) (as Director & Screenwriter)
- 2008** [*The Young Detectives*](#) (as Director & Screenwriter)
- 2008** [*Gender Me*](#) (as Director & Screenwriter)
- 2006** [*Granny Mamma*](#) (as Co-Director)
- 2005** [*I Have Two Countries*](#) ((as Director & Screenwriter & Cinematographer))
- 2004** [*Smart Home*](#) (as Director & Screenwriter)
- 2002** [*It Happened Yesterday; It Happens Today*](#) (as Director)

2001 [Go Beyond Limits](#) (as Director)
1997 [Smertefotografen](#) (as Director)
1994 [Traveling to the East](#) (as Director)

AWARDS AND FESTIVALS

SEYRAN ATES: SEX, REVOLUTION, AND ISLAM

2021

- Denmark **Cph:Dox** | World Premiere | Apr 2021 |
- Usa **San Francisco International Film Festival** | North American Premiere | Apr 2021 |
- Canada **Hot Docs** | Canadian Premiere | Apr 2021 |
- Netherlands **Movies That Matter Festival** | The Netherlands Premiere | Apr 2021 |
- Canada **Doxa Documentary Film Festival** | May 2021 |
- Canada **Northwestfest International Documentary Festival** | May 2021 |
- Czech Republic **One World** | Czech Premiere | May 2021 |
- Italy **Biografilm Festival** | Italian Premiere | Jun 2021 |
- Usa **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** | Aug 2021 |
- Norway **Norwegian International Film Festival - Haugesund** | Norwegian Premiere | Aug 2021
- Canada **Lunenburg Doc Fest** | Sep 2021 |
- Norway **Bergen International Film Festival** | Oct 2021 |
- Usa **Vermont Film Festival** | Oct 2021 |
- Usa **United Nations Association Film Festival** | Oct 2021 |
- Poland **Her Docs Film Festival** | Oct 2021 |
- Germany **Women's Worlds Film Festival** | German Premiere | Oct 2021 |
- Germany **Braunschweig International Film Festival** | Nov 2021 |
- Norway **Film from South** | Nov 2021 |
- Norway **Movies on War** | Nov 2021 |
- Canada **Marda Loop Justice Film Festival** | Nov 2021 |
- Poland **Watch Docs Iff** | Dec 2021 |

A GIFT FROM GOD

2021

- Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival, CA, USA Audience Award

2020

- 100% Manusia Film Festival, Indonesia
- Ventotene Film Festival, Rome, Italy
- Nordic Doc, Frederikstad, Norway

2019

- CPH:DOX, Copenhagen, Denmark

DE SOM ELSKER / THOSE WHO LOVE

2021

- Halicarnassus Film Festival, Bodrum Turkey Award Winner: Best Short Film

2020

- 100% Manusia Film Festival, Indonesia
- Long Story Shorts, Bucharest, Romania

2019

- The Lift-Off Sessions, United Kingdom
- ASA Humanitarian Film Festival, Germany
- SSFC, Pakistan
- BlackBox Short Film Festival, Switzerland
- LGBTQ Shorts Film Festival, USA
- The Lift-Off Sessions, United Kingdom

2018

- Mostra Cinema Taranto Film Festival, Puglia, Italy Award winner: Best Short Film
- Cinemà International Short Film Festival, Tuscany; Italy Award winner: Best Short Film

- Siloe Film Festival, Italy

- FIFAK : International Amateur Film Festival Of Kelibia, Tunisia
- Inshort Film Festival, Nigeria
- SAGA Adelaide: Women's International Film Festival, Australia
- Out & Loud – Pune International Queer Film Festival, India
- Cape Cod International Film Festival, USA
- CINEMQ, China

2017

- Short Film Corner, Cannes Film Festival, France
- Xpo North Festival, Scotland
- River Film Festival, Padova, Italy
- Short to the Point Film Festival, Turkey
- Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA
- Long Beach International Film Festival, USA
- Live at Heart Festival in Örebro, Sweden
- Slum Film Festival, Kenya
- Istanbul Kisa Kes Film Festival, Turkey
- Kaohsiung Film Festival International Short Film Competition, Taiwan

- 1st International Film Festival of Oranjemund, Namibia
- CUFF – Community Underground Film Festival Philadelphia, PA
- 14th IAWRT Asian Women’s Film Festival, India
- KisaKes (Cut It Short) Short Film Festival, Turkey
- XpoNorth, Scotland

BEAUTY AND THE DOGS

2017

- 2017 Cannes Film Festival, Un Certain Regard

MANISLAM

2016

- 2016 Women’s Film Festival in Philadelphia, USA
- 2016 Impact Documentary Film Festival - Winner Award og Merit: Impact Docs Award
- 2016 UNAFF in Denver, USA
- 2016 Dhakka Film Festival, Bangladesh

2015

- 2015 Göteborg International Film Festival
- 2015 Filmmor International Women’s Film Festival on Wheels
- 2015 Worldfilm - Tartu Festival of Visual Culture
- 2015 Cardiff Independent Film Festival
- 2015 The Norwegian Documentary Film Festival
- 2015 Cape Cod Festival of Arab & Middle Eastern Cinema
- 2015 Capital Cinema Cultural Exchange 2nd Edition Filmmakers Lab& Screenings, USA
- 2015 Nordic/Docs
- 2015 International Short & Documentary Film Festival Of Kerala
- 2015 Rhode Island International Film Festival
- 2015 Docutah - Southern Utah International Documentary Film Festival
- 2015 Q! Film Festival
- 2015 Message to Man International Film Festival, St. Petersburg
- 2015 Unspoken Human Rights Film Festival
- 2015 Afghanistan International Women's Film Festival
- 2015 Kort, Norway
- 2015 NYC Independent Film Festival
- 2015 Unaff - United Nations Association Film Festival in Stanford
- 2015 Imperfectu Film Festival / Spain
- 2015 Mexico Film Festival/ Mexico- Winner of Silver Palm Award
- 2015 Protest Festival, Norway
- 2015 New Haven International Film Festival
- 2015 World Film Awards (Indonesia) -Winner of Golden Award
- 2015 Iawrt India Campus Screenings
- 2015 Elojocojo Film Festival In Spain Special Mentioned

- 2015 Open World Toronto Film Festival
- 2015 Lens Politica in Helsinki Finland
- 2015 International Film Festival for Spirituality, Religion and Visionary Indonesia

A BALLOON FOR ALLAH

PRIZES AND AWARDS

- 2011 Ambassador Award at Rhode Island film Festival, USA
- 2011 Best documentary prize at Crystal Place Film Festival, UK
- 2011 AWRT honorable mentioned, International Association of Women in Radio and TV, Malaysia.
- 2012 Best documentary award at International Film Festival for Peace, Inspiration, Equality, Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 2012 Jury Award at International Film Festival for Peace, Inspiration, Equality, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2013 Short Documentary Award of Excellence international Film Festival “For Spirituality, religion& Visionary “Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2013 Best director, World Film Awards, Jakarta, Indonesia

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

2016

- XVI Muestra de Cine realizado por mujeres de Huesca. 2016, Spain

2015

- Nordic Film Screenings, Colombia (corporacioncebra.cl)

2013

- Q Film Festival, Jakarta, Indonesia
- World Film Awards, Jakarta, Indonesia
- International Film Festival “For Spirituality, religion& Visionary” Jakarta, Indonesia
- Int'l Women's Film Festival in Seoul, South Korea

2012

- Women Make Waves, International Taiwan Film Festival, Taiwan
- Chagrin Documentary Film Festival, Ohio, USA.
- The International EuroArap Film Festival Amal, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- International Film Festival for Peace, Inspiration, Equality, Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Transatlantyk Poznan International Film and Music Festival, Poland.
- Madrid Film festival, Spain
- Non-violence Film Festival, Ontario, Canada
- Nominated to History Maker Award, NYC, USA.
- IAWRT International Asian Women Film Festival, 8th March, New Delhi, Indi
- IAWRT International Asian Women Film Festival, Goa, India
- IAWRT International Asian Women Film Festival, Calicut, India
- IAWRT International Asian Women Film Festival, Pondicherry, India
- 5th Vasakh film festival, Pakistan.

- Scandinavian Film Festival in LA, USA.
- DOCNZ Documentary Edge Festival, New Zealand.
- See - The Brighton Documentary Film Festival, UK.
- Women's International Film & Art Festival, Miami, USA.
- Minneapolis - St. Paul International Film Festival
- Samsung Women's International Film Festival, Chennai, India.

2011

- IDFA, Panaroma: Reflecting Images, Nederland
- Int. Association of Women in Radio and TV, Malaysia IAWRT honorable mentioned
- Rhode Island Film Festival, Providence, RI, USA Ambassador Grand Prize
- Crystal Place International Film festival, London, UK Best documentary award
- Marbella Film Festival, Spain
- Emmentaler Film Festival, Switzerland
- Human Doc International Film Festival, Poland
- Flying Broom International Women's Film festival, Turkey
- Unspoken Human Rights Film Festival, Utica, NY, USA
- Culture and Cultures International Film Festival, France
- Radar Hamburg International Film Festival, Hamburg, Germany
- Signesde Nuit International Film Festival, Paris, France
- Malatya International Film Festival, Turkey

THE YOUNG DETECTIVES

SCREENED ON NRK 2008

2012

- ICFilmFestival Chicago, IL, USA.
- ICFilmFestival Round Lake, IL, USA.
- BAM Film Festival NYC, USA

2011

- BAM Film Festival, NYC, USA

2010

- St. Paul International Film festival, Minneapolis, USA.
- Festival Internacional de Cine para Niños (...y no tan Niños), Mexico City, Mexico.

2009

- Chicago Children's Film Festival, USA.

2008

- Kristiansand Film Festival, Norway.
- Screened on NRK TV.

GENDER ME

SCREENED ON NRK 2008

2019

- Transform Festival, Trondheim, Norway

2013

- Q Film Festival, Jakarta, Indonesia.

2012

- Scandinavian Film Festival, LA, USA
- XXIV Alfàs del Pi Cinema Festival, Madrid, Spain.
- Ankara International Film Festival, Turkey. 2011
- Cine del Mediterráneo, Madrid, Spain.

2009

- Huesca Film Festival, Spain.
- Barcelona Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

2008

- Amandus Film Festival, Norway,
- 1001 Documentary Film Festival, Turkey.
- Bodrum Film Festival, Turkey.
- Volda International Doc Film Festival, Norway.
- Dokumentar.IST Film Festival, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Boston Turkish Film Festival, USA, Boston.

GRANNY-MAMMA

2006

- Hisar Film Festival, (off-line screening) Turkey.
- Eurodok - European Documentary Film Festival, Oslo, Norway.
- Norwegian Short Film Festival, Grimstad, Norway.

I HAVE TWO COUNTRIES

SCREENED ON NRK 2005

2007

- European Youth Film Festival, Flanders.

2006

- Istanbul International Children's Film Festival, Turkey.
- Hisar Film Festival, Turkey.

2005

SMART HOME

2004

- 41. International Golden Orange Film Festival, Antalya, Turkey.
- Festival de Santo, France.

IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, IT HAPPENS TODAY

2007

- Guangzhou Doc Film festival, China

2006

- Hisar Film Festival, Turkey.

2003

- Chicago International Documentary Film Festival, USA

2002

- European Documentary Film Festival, Norway

GO BEYOND LIMITS

2003

- Festival de Santo, France.

PHOTOGRAPHING PAIN

1999

- 7th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Tromsø, June 20-26.

1998

- 7th International Health Film Festival, Aurillac, France, March.

TRAVELLING TO THE EAST

1995

- 16th Nordic Anthropological Film Association (N.A.F.A) Film-festival Denmark, May