

## Ahmed Barakat

124 E Fairmont Dr

Tempe, AZ, (85282) USA

Tel USA: (+1) 602 301 4953

Email: [aabarakat@gmail.com](mailto:aabarakat@gmail.com)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ahmed-barakat-01160552/>

Over 25 years of experience creating 3D animated computer graphics and VFX for film, TV commercials and TV series. 18 years of experience teaching computer graphics and film critique at The High Cinema Institute in Egypt. Taught VFX at The British University in Cairo, Egypt and worked in informal digital education at summer youth camps with ADEF (Arab Digital Expression Foundation). Worked in both commercial productions and education with a large portfolio of diverse tools, and I am a big proponent of open source software and have been working on integrating those tools into professional pipelines.

### Education

*1995-1999*

#### **Higher Institute of Cinema, Egypt**

- Bachelor of Arts in Animation, graduated with Honors.

*2001-2003*

#### **Higher Institute of Cinema, Egypt**

- 2 year Postgraduate Diploma in Animation (equivalent to MFA in the USA)

### Experience

*2023-Current*

- Instructor of Animation, School of Arts, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts Arizona State University.

*2020*

- Organizing a series of online Blender Meetups for the Arab speaking world through ADEF (Arab Digital Expression Foundation).

*2019*

#### **Instructor and Facilitator:** ADEF Youth Camps, Egypt.

- Developing curricula and teaching for informal education camps, for youth from the Arab world revolving around Digital Expression and open source software use in Virtual Reality (VR), Interactive Media, performance art and Projection art.

*Oct 2017 and Dec 2019*

**Freelancer:** CG supervisor and digital artist Blue Sand Studios LLC, LA, USA. Via Glounge, Egypt.

*2001-2017*

**Teacher:** High Cinema Institute, Cairo, Egypt

- Teaching 3D computer graphics, visual effects, Animated film critique, and Anatomy for artists.

*2016-2017*

**Guest Teacher:** The British University in Egypt, Cairo

- Teaching visual effects and best on set practices for successful VFX shoots.

*2015-2017*

**Pipeline and workflow consultant:** Folkl Creative Solutions, Cairo, Egypt.

- Helping the team at Folkl revise their pipeline and workflows for producing 2d animated episodic content.

*Oct-2017*

**Instructor and Facilitator:** ADEF Youth Camps, Ain Zahalta, Lebanon

- Developing curriculum and teaching for informal education camps for youth from the Arab world revolving around Digital Expression and open-source software.

*2013-2017*

**Co-Founder/VFX Supervisor:** Glounge Studio, Cairo, Egypt

- General management and supervising of content creation.

*2010-2011*

**CG Supervisor/TD,** Aroma Designs & Solutions, Cairo, Egypt

- Overseeing all aspects of CG production with a larger team. Some projects include Arabian Nights and the Mariam Fares Fawazeer Ramadan.

*2009-2010*

**CG Supervisor/TD,** Timecode Production, Cairo, Egypt

- Managing all aspects of the CG production and pipeline design. Developing tools for a team working mainly on feature films.

*2007-2008*

**Freelance 3D Generalist/TD,** Pison Studio LLP, London.

- Assisted in Developing BB TV Show, for British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) kids.

*2007*

**Freelance 3D Generalist/TD,** ColorShop VFX, Denmark.

- Freelancing on various TV commercials on location and remotely during the year.

2003-2008

**3D Generalist/TD**, Sams Postproduction, Cairo, Egypt

- Generalist on TV commercials for international and local brands.

2002-2004

**Instructor**, Studio Galal, Cairo, Egypt

- Teaching Softimage Xsi, animation and filmmaking.

2001-2003

**Character Animator/Rigger/Generalist**, Freelance, Cairo, Egypt

- Character animation for feature films and channel identities.

1997-2001

**3D Generalist**, Icon Studio, Cairo, Egypt

- Working as a generalist on multiple TV series.

1996-1997

**2D Animator**, Gemini Studio, Cairo, Egypt

- Traditional animator, tweening artist and key frame animator.

### **Work Experience Highlights**

**Television Commercials:** Ariel, Pampers, Pepsi, Persil, Coke, Vodafone, Orange, Galaxy Chocolate, Cadbury, Danone, Hyundai, Fiat, Nestlé and local brands.

### **Feature Films:**

- Made in Egypt (2014) Directed by Amr Salama - <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3867086/>
- The Ant's Scream (2011) Directed By Sameh Abdel Aziz - <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2002606/>
- Bittersweet (2010) Directed By Khaled Mareai
- Ibn El-Qunsul (2010) Directed by Amr Arafa <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1872084/>
- The dealer (2010) Directed by Ahmed Saleh <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2364114/>
- Ehky Ya Shahrazad (2009) Directed By Yousry Nasrallah - <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1473149/>
- Awlad EL Am (2009) Directed By Shrief Arfaa
- Ibrahim El Abyad (2009) Directed By Marwan Hamed - <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1459040/>
- Gnet El Asmak (2008) Directed By Yousry Nasrallah - <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1173708/>
- El Awela Fel Gharam (2008) Directed By Ahmed Ali
- Al Gziera (2008) Directed By Shrief Arfaa

- Hena Maysara (2007) Directed By Khaled Youssef <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3334996/>
- Morgan Ahmed Morgan (2007) Directed by Ali Idris <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1423961/>
- Ouija (2006) Directed By Khaled Youssef <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0762124/>
- The Yacoubian Building (2006) Directed By Marwan Hamed - <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0425321/>
- Haliem (2005) Directed By Shrief Arfaa - <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0444641/>
- The Embassy in the building (2005) Directed by Amr Arafa
- The great china beans (2004) Directed By Shrief Arfaa
- Ewa Weshak (2003) Directed By Saied Hamed
- Aiez Haky (2002) Directed By Ahmed Nader
- Sahib Sahbo (2002) Directed By Saied Hamed

### Art Projects:

- « Le Fond Du Lac » Video Art installation By Yousry Nasrallah
- Mafesh Godran “No Walls” street art project with filmmaker, visual artist and essayist, Salma El Tarzi and other Egyptian Graffiti artists.

### Blogs:

- a Blog post I wrote about the “industry standard” and was widely shared by the open source community <https://www.bluestudios.tv/single-post/2019/08/28/Industry-Standard>

### Online Portfolio

Personal Portfolio: [https://ahmed\\_barakat.artstation.com/](https://ahmed_barakat.artstation.com/)  
<https://www.instagram.com/barakatsart/>

Glounge Portfolio: <https://vimeo.com/494131667>

Blue Sand Studio Portofolio:

<https://www.bluesandstudios.com/single-post/2018/10/10/Food-Network---Reality-Cupcakes>

Some longer work examples: <https://youtu.be/NlqX98laRkw>  
<https://youtu.be/qvBPbuZqAio>

### Skills

#### Technical Skills:

- Starting as a generalist gave me a deep understanding of a wide variety of skills across the Cg production pipeline, this includes character modeling, rigging, animation, photorealistic and stylistic lighting and shading in various generations of 3D applications. Blender is currently my main tool.
- Moving to a supervisor role gave me the chance to develop extensive knowledge of the animation pipeline. I thus gained experience in pipeline and render farm design

and deployment for batch processing, moving assets between multiple DCCs and game engines, object and camera tracking, on-film set supervision, using various project management and asset management tools like Ftrack and Shotgun and Frame Io as well as other proprietary ones.

- Coming from a traditional background I have a strong knowledge of stop motion animation and stop motion shooting software. I have experience operating cameras for stop motion shoots and work in mixed media mixing digital work with stop motion and the integration of 3D printing into the stop motion pipeline.

#### Production Skills:

- long experience in managing creative talents and performing one on one critique.
- Working with artists to create strong visual concepts.
- Project management.
- Creating visual storylines and animatics to ensure best flow of visual sequences and communication across all production departments.

#### Post Production Skills:

- Editing, color correction, digital compositing

#### Software Skills :

Autodesk Softimage	Adobe Photoshop	Redshift
Adobe AfterEffects	3D Coat	Unreal Engine
SideFx Houdini	Davinci Resolve	Fusion
Blender	Deadline	Substance Painter
Mocha	Autodesk Smoke-Flame	Autodesk Maya
Krita	Touchdesigner	Scripting abilities in Java - Softimage SDK
Chitubox	Godot	Inkscape
Dragonframe	Nvidia Omniverse	

#### Computer Skills

- Unix and Irix, Windows, Mac Os X, Linux

### Hobbies/Other Interests

- Scuba and freediving, permaculture farming, woodwork and construction, 3D printing.

### Languages

- Arabic – Native language
- Polish – Mother tongue
- English – Highly proficient

### Personal Information

- Date of Birth: October 6, 1977.      Nationality: Egyptian / Polish

### References

- Yousry Nasrallah, Director, ynasrallah@hotmail.com
- Ranwa Yehia, Adef Co-Founder - Camps Program Manager, ranwayehia@arabdigitalexpression.org
- Ahmed Manawishi, Creative Director\Director, Manawishi@graphicaroma.com
- Meena Ibrahim, animation supervisor at Framestore and a former animator at Sony Pictures Imageworks. [meenaiibrahim@gmail.com](mailto:meenaiibrahim@gmail.com)
- Associate Prof. Ashraf Ahmed, Higher institute of Cinema, ashraf.ahmed@aoa.edu.org
- Mohanad Hassan, Managing director at Folk creative solutions, mohanad@folk.co
- Morten David Bartholdy, Founder Color VFX Denmark, Morten@colorshopvfx.dk
- Peter Byck, professor of practice - Arizona State University school of sustainability & Cronkite school of journalism, Peter.Byck@asu.edu