

New York, NY

Interviewed By Farah ALHashem

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I met her through Facebook, but her sunshine attitude exceeded my computer screen and made me interview her from New York. I remember the day very well, I was still boxing my stuff getting ready to move to Beirut, but my journalistic curiosity didn't stop there, and Muriel Aboulrouss's energy motivated me to discover her, even though I was 7000 miles away from her.

After I screened a short film Entitled "7hours" that I have made in Summer 2013, Muriel saw it and sent me a warm, loving message, that kept me wonder, what kind of artist is she?

She calls artists as Jammers. She writes Facebook posts with Sunshine "Emotions" and "Smiles." If I could describe Muriel in a cinematic language I would say that her passion for film reminds me of Salvatore's passion for negatives in "Cinema Paradiso", as he collected random pieces of negatives that were cut by the "projecteur" because they included kissing scenes. The deleted scenes were stacked on the projection room floor. If Muriel was a film negative she would have been those deleted love scenes stacked on the projection table and young jammers would be falling in love with them.

What is Cinema and what inspired you to start?

Muriel directed her letter to the jammers of the world, as she finds pleasure in discovering stories of other young filmmakers. Cinejam is a place for young artists to tell their story no matter how simple it is, it is a place for writers to write, filmmakers to capture images and create magic, it is a place for people to be themselves.

Muriel believes filmmaking breaks boundaries and that everybody should feel and relate to new stories as film unites people from around the world. Uniqueness defines filmmakers, as there is no such thing called universal identity or language. Muriel believes films are like fingerprints; each one is different from the other and will never match anything else.

She believes in the beauty of self-discovery, and believes in light and energy, an extremely positive way of looking into things. Cinejam was born in Beirut, in a country where cinema industry is fighting for its existence, in a hungry environment where stories are rich and vibrant, where every local is like a film character, where every word, dialogue as if dropped from a book or a film. Everybody is unique in Beirut, and his or her story should be told.

Muriel Aboulrouss, an award-winning cinematographer from Beirut, she is the first female cinematographer in the Arab World, her numerous cinematography credits include award-winning documentaries and films like, " Stray Bullet" By Georges Hachem, "Shankaboot" a web series by

Amin Dora and "Mercedes" By Hady Zaccak. Muriel is also a teacher, and freelancer and provides courses in CineJam that was created in 2012. She provides workshops entitled "Jamming with Light."

Muriel breathes film, she is an absolute positive energetic person, and she wakes up, lives and operates on power as she describes it, "Solar Power."



Favorite Films?

Cinema Paradiso, Citizen Kane, Metropolis, festen and Bruce lee

How many members are in CineJam ?

29 jammers vary from Lebanese to non-Lebanese.

What is a film to you? How do you distinguish a good film from a bad one? If a film makes me "feel," moves, shakes me deeply. Then it's a good film. Tell me more about Cinematography? What type of Medium do you usually use and why? Do you like digital or film or both or it doesn't matter? I do not have a feeling towards objects...I use what I have...what the production can afford and make magic with it.

Muriel loves Ziad Doueiri, Georges Hachem, Michel Kammoun and Elie Khalife