

# ALI HOSSAINI BIO

Ali Hossaini is an artist, philosopher and producer 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 *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *Cool Hunting* and many other outlets.

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 media production company that specializes in talent-driven projects of artistic merit. Much of his work involves organizing international production, financing and exhibition.

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. Recent productions include work in 3D film and television.

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 and the Water Mill Center for the Arts. 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 in 1994. His dissertation, *Archaeology of the Photograph*, traces the history of geometric optics from Sumer to the Classical Era.