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Persons present: Youssef Esmat

Ahmed Bially

Youssef: Hello everyone, I'm Youssef Esmat, and today I'm talking to Ahmed Bially. An AUC alumni who recently graduated with a degree in Communication and Media Arts. Welcome, Ahmed.

Ahmed: Thank you, Youssef.

Youssef: So, Ahmed, tell us a little bit about yourself.

Ahmed: Well, I'm 23 years old. I grew up in Kuwait, and I moved to Egypt in 2001. I attended an American diploma educational (umm) School, pretty much my whole life. I graduated from high school here in Egypt and I graduated from AUC. I had the intention of majoring in the field of Mass Communication, I just didn't exactly know what I wanted to do, and within a year I had declared (aaah) CMA. I just graduated last semester, in the fall of 2012.

Youssef: (uhmm) Well, so who does it feel to be a graduate? have you had any difficulties getting a job in this economy?

Ahmed: To be honest, I don't really feel that anything has changed, it just hasn't hit me that I graduated. (umm) I...How do I put this? I pretty much do have a job and have been working in (ahh-ahh) show online a few months before I graduated, and now that we've made the jump to television, (umm) I pretty much have a lot of work cut out for me. I work as a scriptwriter for a show called "Ghaida Nouri Show" and because we are doing some negotiations with some TV channels to make the jump to TV this Ramadan. I hadn't really been writing anything for her. We haven't been really making any new material.

Youssef: Really? How did you get into that?

Ahmed: Well, I used to work for "Al-Bernameg" with Bassem Youssef also known as "The Bassem Youssef Show". I have been with him since last year, first season, and I recently quit the job, so I can continue the job with Ghida Nouri. The producer of the show Hassan Bedir, is a close friend of Bassem Youssef's. He works primarily as head researcher and part-time scriptwriter for that show, but ever since he branched out with Ghida Nouri, he's put (umm) that kind of job on the side.

Youssef: (Hmm) That's really interesting. So, what do you like most about this job?

Ahmed: It's something I'm really passionate about. As cliché as this might sound, I feel like I'm doing some good to the country, with what I write. The show is supposed to deliver a progressive-liberal message to public, and through that I feel like I'm fulfilling some kind of purpose, some kind of thing that actually makes a difference (stutters) in the country. If you know what I mean.

Youssef: Yeah. (umm) did you find your studies in CMA helpful in this field of work?

Ahmed: (laughing) Well, to be honest, I haven't. But, then again it depends on what you're working on. Personally, I think (umm) no I actually believe I learned more from the internet than I have from my 4 years in AUC. As strange as that may sound, but it's really what you do with your degree that matters. And I have been writing for as long as I can remember, and it's just really second nature to me I just took some courses to develop that kind of talent, I don't really think it would've affected my job that much.

Youssef: So what do you need exactly to be a scriptwriter? like what kind of skills do you need to acquire beforehand?

Ahmed: Well, honestly I'm not really a professional to give you a straight answer, so take what I say with an (umm) (laughing) open mind. To me, it all depends mostly on talent. If you have the ability to tell a good story. If you know how to start really well and finish it all really well, then you pretty much have it all covered. If you have good grammar. If you have the ability to really illustrate your point in a way that really gets into the minds of whoever is reading or listening or watching. Then you're pretty much good to go. You just need to know how to engage your audience. Because that is all there is to script writing, or at least to me a good script writing.

Youssef: Well Ahmed, that's pretty nice for someone who just started out as a graduate. I really enjoyed my time with you here today. Thank you so much, and we wish you the best of luck with your career.

Ahmed: Thank you very much, Youssef and it's a really nice opportunity to talk to you.