



Contact: Evan J. Cholfin
Tel: (310) 596-8045
Email: contact@stories-llc.com

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STORIES CREATOR FAWAZ AL-MATROUK HAS BEEN AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS SFFILM / RAININ FILMMAKING GRANT AND FILMHOUSE RESIDENCY

SAN FRANCISCO – [STORIES](#) creator [Fawaz Al-Matrouk](#) has been awarded both the [SFFILM / Rainin Filmmaking Grant](#) with his feature screenplay *Mr. Rob* and the [FilmHouse Residency](#) with his feature project *Anwar*.

Previous SFFILM / Rainin Filmmaking winners include Benh Zeitlin’s Oscar-nominated *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, Ryan Coogler’s *Fruitvale Station*, and Destin Daniel Cretton’s *Short Term 12*.

Mr. Rob is based on the true story of Rob Lawrie, a British ex-soldier who risked everything to rescue a little girl from the Calais “Jungle” refugee camp, but was arrested for human smuggling. The judge called it a “crime of compassion.”

Anwar is a sci-fi story where eternal life is the norm and androids have replaced humans. The last biological human wishes to die and reach the afterlife—against the wishes of his foster mother.

SFFILM / Rainin Filmmaking Grants are awarded twice annually to narrative features that tackle social justice issues and will have significant economic or professional impact on the Bay Area filmmaking community. More than \$4 million has been awarded since the launch of SFFILM’s flagship grant program in 2009.

FilmHouse provides critical support to local and visiting filmmakers by fostering a thriving creative community that encourages collaboration, resource sharing, peer-to-peer feedback and networking opportunities.

About Fawaz Al-Matrouk

[Fawaz Al-Matrouk](#) is an award-winning writer-director from Kuwait. His films have played in over thirty festivals worldwide, including Cannes, Dubai, and London. Fawaz lived part of his childhood as a refugee of war, using cameras and storytelling to explore the world around him. He completed an MFA in Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California, where his thesis film, “To Rest in Peace”, was mentored by Ridley Scott. Fawaz has directed commercials and a half hour TV drama special for Subaru. He brings a background in editing, visual arts, and world travel to direct his narrative and commercial projects. Fawaz’s greatest passion is to tell stories about individuals who do something right in a world of wrong.



About STORIES

[STORIES LLC](#) is a full-service production, commercial and literary management company based in Tokyo with its international arm, [STORIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.](#), based in Los Angeles. The company is a subsidiary of legendary video game publisher SEGA Group and HakuHodo DY Group, the second-largest advertising agency in Japan and seventh largest in the world. STORIES has three divisions: Film & TV, Branded Entertainment, and Creative Management. STORIES is focused on bringing Japanese stories to a global audience through adaptations of Japanese intellectual properties into English-language film, television, and digital series for a worldwide release. STORIES is currently producing filmed entertainment adaptations of multiple SEGA video game properties. STORIES also creates award-winning branded entertainment by connecting Hollywood creators with major international brands through HakuHodo DY Group as well as its international partners. STORIES' full-service commercial and literary management division fosters the careers of creators from both Hollywood and around the world. The company works with critically and commercially acclaimed directors, producers, and writers to develop and produce projects at virtually any scale.

Visit [STORIES](#) at www.stories-llc.com for more information and the latest company news.

STORIES LLC

Established	2011
Head office	5-3-1 AKASAKA MINATO-KU TOKYO, Japan 107-6320
TEL/FAX	+81-3-6441-9032 / +81-3-6441-9039
President and CEO	Tomoya Suzuki
Officers	Michinori Shibuya, Ken Agarida, Manabu Sasaki, Miho Fukushima, Naoko Mori, Tomo Koizumi, Eriko Sekiya
Capital Investors	HakuHodo DY Media Partners Inc. , SEGA corporation and others.
Scope of Business	Film, TV and Web content development, Branded Entertainment and Commercial and Literary Management

STORIES INTERNATIONAL, INC. (100% owned by STORIES, LLC.)

Head office	300 Corporate Pointe Suite 330, Culver City, CA 90230
TEL/FAX	310-596-8045 / 310-596-8046
President and CEO	Tomoya Suzuki
Corporate Secretary	Yasunari Yanagihara
Head of Development and Production	Evan J. Cholfin

www.stories-llc.com