

## TAHARA -- production personnel

### **SARA RASHAD, writer/producer/director & editor:**

Sara Rashad is the writer, producer, director and editor of the 17 minute and 30 second 35 mm version of **TAHARA** which has already won five prestigious grants based upon the integrity of the script: **The American Association of University Women** community action grant for projects promoting equity and education for women and girls worldwide; **The Entertainment Industry Foundation Grant** for projects that promote health education and awareness for women and girls; **The Paul Robeson Pre-Production Grant** for films which promote aggressive social change through media activism; **The Roy W. Dean Film Grant** for film projects which are unique and benefit society; and the **Caucus Foundation Grant Award** for new directors specializing in diversity from the **Caucus Foundation for Television Producers, Writers & Directors**.

Sara is also the award winning producer of many additional short films, including **“Life is a Sweet,”** which has won “best of fest” awards for its sensitive portrayal of women’s issues at international film festivals, including the *Montreal World Film Festival*. She also produced **“Through Thick and Thin,”** which won the *Coca-Cola Refreshing Filmmaker’s Competition* and screened before feature films nationwide. The five-minute version of **TAHARA**, a USC student film received international acclaim at festivals and won the support of many non-governmental organizations fighting to eradicate FGM encouraging her to make the longer version.

Sara earned a B.F.A. degree in acting from the prestigious **Cornish College of the Arts**, and has performed in local theatre for 10 years. Her experience acting and directing actors has allowed her to draw authentic performances from the non-actors in the film. She recently received an M.F.A. degree in film production from the **University of Southern California’s School of Cinema-Television**, one of the top film schools in the world. Since graduation, she has served as cinematographer, editor and producer on several award-winning narrative films and documentaries. She is currently developing her first independent feature film to be shot in Cairo, Egypt with Studio Masr in 2005.

Sara’s ability to adapt to different cultures and lifestyles has served her well in demanding production situations. She traveled through Bosnia during the war, assisting the producer on a documentary about war refugees, **“Convoy to Bosnia.”** She has also published short stories about her experiences being a first generation Egyptian-American and the difficulties assimilating into two cultures, including **“Walking Like an Egyptian.”** She currently resides between Cairo and Los Angeles.

Sara Rashad is a first generation Egyptian-American, raised trying to assimilate her parent’s Egyptian cultural beliefs with American values. She spends her summers in Egypt with her family, which inspired her interest in FGM and eventually led to her activism. Sara has traveled—solitary and unfunded—to urban and rural areas throughout Egypt to interview women about the psychology behind their traditional beliefs and practices. Sara recently spent four months in Egypt collaborating with the national FGM

task force comprised of 40 member organizations dedicated to eradicating FGM throughout Egypt. Copies of the five minute film were distributed free of charge.

Sara interviewed the Egyptian Minister of Health, local journalists, FGM activists and physicians to obtain their input. She also spent an additional two months in rural areas with local women to gain a grassroots perspective. Sara consulted with all of these groups on the authenticity of the screenplay. Sara's diligence in obtaining the perspective of urban and rural women, activists, and government workers has made **TAHARA** an authentic film.

### **Mark Gutterud – Director of Photography:**

Mark has worked as a visual effects advisor in Hollywood for the last twenty years. His numerous credits include “**Men in Black**,” “**The Truman Show**,” “**Armageddon**,” and “**Twister**.” He has also served as the second unit cinematographer on such films as “**Coyote Ugly**.” Mark also worked as a visual effects advisor on director Tim Burton's much-anticipated remake of the classic, “**Planet of the Apes**.” Mark's unique visual style and vast experience communicating with Hollywood's top directors provided an invaluable asset for the crew. Mark's ability to deal with the trials of major Hollywood productions served well in making the **TAHARA** shoot run smoothly.

### **Ektimal Shbib – production designer:**

Ektimal was born and raised in Jordan, but has lived and worked in the United States since 1990. She earned a B.A. degree in interior design from the prestigious Fine Arts College of Cairo, before permanently moving to Los Angeles. She has served as production designer for many short films as well as theatrical productions. She recently completed her certificate for film and television production through the UCLA extension program. Ektimal brings her Middle Eastern sensibility to **TAHARA**, as well as the authentic perspective of how an Arab woman would design her home after immigrating to the United States.

### **Caroleen Khalil – role of Amina:**

Caroleen is a rising star in Egyptian cinema. She has won numerous acting awards for her cinema work. Most recently, she received an honorary acting award for the “**Colors of Love**” which played at the Ismalia International Short Film Festival in 2004. She also won a best supporting actress award for her film role in “**Stay Alert**” which played at the Alexandria International Film Festival in 2003. She recently starred in a TV series entitled “**For Security Purposes**.”

In addition, she performs in live theater and won an acting award in the Amman Theater Festival in 2003 for her performance in “**Planet Mickey**”, a musical satire about globalization and international politics.

She won best supporting actress awards at the *2000 Cairo Feature Film Festival* and the *1999 International Mediterranean Film Festival* for her performance in “**The Devil's Paradise**.” She starred in “**The Family and the People**,” which won *Outstanding Television Series of 2000* in Cairo. She also played the lead in the Egyptian television

series, “**The Many Faces of Justice.**” Her success in cinema, television and live theater has made Caroleen a respected figure in Middle Eastern communities throughout the world. **TAHARA** is her acting debut in American cinema.

## **CAST**

**(in order of appearance)**

amina **CAROLEEN KHALIL**  
 zeinab **YOUSRIA MOURSY**  
 suha **AIA NAZMY**  
 daya’s helper **EKTIMAL SHBIB**  
 tommy **RYAN SEWELL**  
 aunt one **SHARI VASSEGHI**  
 aunt two **KAREN DYER**  
 young amina **LAILA DAHGER**  
 young zeinab **MONA SHERIF NELSON**  
 dr. amir **DORI MIZRAHI**  
 aunt with henna **ILISE FERTIG**  
 aunt three **EKTIMAL SHBIB**  
 aunt four **ZAHRA AL GABRY**  
 mother with baby **MAISA FAUCETTE**  
 crying baby **ZEYENNE FAUCETTE**  
 sister one **VERONICA PATRONI**  
 sister two **HOSANA PATRONI**  
 ethiopian mother **SENAIT TEKLEHAIMANOT**  
 girl one **ALEXANDRIA JACKSON**  
 girl two **JOCEYLN JACKSON**  
 woman one **MARCY GUEVARA**  
 woman two **LEJLA HADZIMURATOVIC**  
 circumcisor **SHELLEY MALIL**

## **MAIN CREW CREDITS**

**writer, producer, director**  
**SARA RASHAD**

**director of photography**  
**MARK GUTTERUD**

**production designer**  
**EKTIMAL SHBIB**

**editor**  
**SARA RASHAD**

composer  
TAMER KARAWAN

## CREW

casting director DANNY GOLDMAN  
 unit production manager MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
 first assistant director FRANKLYN GOTTBETTER  
 second assistant director AL FARIS  
 production coordinator STACEE RABER  
 camera operators AIKEN WEISS  
 WARREN YEAGER  
 first assistant camera DAVID ELMORE  
 second assistant camera MICHAEL SKOR  
 DOUGLAS OH  
 third assistant camera LISA EVANS  
 clapper/loader WILLIAM HARLOW  
 steadicam operator AIKEN WEISS  
 production still photographer FREDRICK JOHNSON  
 production sound mixer KILYOUNG BAEK  
 boom operator EDWARD MORROW  
 additional boom operator IAN HOLMES  
 key grip/dolly grip WILLIAM CALCATERRA  
 grips ALPHEUS FLETCHER  
 MICHAEL RHA  
 gaffer BRAD LIPSON  
 electricians HIROSHI HAYASHI  
 HIRO ISHUIMA  
 costume designer MANDEE LIPSMAN  
 art department manager CARLOS MUNOZ  
 set decorator MATTHEW NEWCOMER  
 set dressers TONY BERARDINO  
 LAURA PADDOCK  
 make-up & hairstylist CHRISTINE JACKSON  
 property master DEL FENDERSON  
 post-production manager HESHAM ISSAWI  
 sound designer SARA RASHAD  
 NEHAL ALLAM  
 first assistant editor SALMA RADWAN  
 second assistant editor VICTORIA ENGLISH  
 script supervisor FAITH MACNEIL  
 assistants to director JUSTIN LEEGE  
 KALISO MWANZA  
 production assistants MARCIELA MANDULA  
 EDWIN AUSTIN

**DELFINO GUEVARA**  
translation **HESHAM ISSAWI**  
story consultant **MONA NELSON**  
camera by **OTTO NEMENZ**  
camera dollies and jib arms by **JL FISHER INC.**  
negative cutting by **JR POST PRODUCTIONS**  
titles by **F-STOP**  
**WEST COAST TITLE**  
subtitles by **TITRA CA, INC.**  
sound services by **ROUNDABOUT ENTERTAINMENT**  
filmed on **EASTMAN KODAK COLOR NEGATIVE**

music engineering **TAREK HASSANIN**  
egyptian percussion **EMAD HAFEZ**  
oud **HOSSAM SAMIR**