

Between Allah an Me (and Everyone Else)

Four Toronto women's journeys with hijab

Winner of **5** International Awards and **2** Nominations

Recommended by ***Educational Media Reviews*** And ***Video Librarian***

Genre:	Documentary
Release Year:	2015, North American DVD Release in 2016
Length & Format:	60 min., Available in HD Video, DVD and Digital Streaming
DVD includes:	Educators' guide / Editable poster / Extra clip
Target Market:	Universities and colleges Public libraries Community organizations including churches K-12 (high schools)
Related Subjects & Disciplines:	Multiculturalism Sociology Human rights Interfaith Dialogues Cultural Studies Religion Women's Studies Anthropology Canadian Studies General References
Trailer:	https://vimeo.com/99756406

Synopsis:

"Candid," "Insightful," and "Emotional" with a sense of humour, BETWEEN ALLAH & ME (AND EVERYONE ELSE) explores four Muslim women's challenges as they decide to start or stop wearing hijab. Each woman reveals a completely different narrative as she interacts with different members of society who have their own opinions and ideas about the hijab. The film unveils how the hijab carries many diverse meanings and messages that may surprise non-Muslims, and also reveals the intricate and complex effects of hijab on Muslim women, their families and communities, and the larger multicultural society in the West. It's a rare film that challenges all viewers.

Awards & Nominations:

Golden Sheaf Award (Yorkton Film Festival)
Award of Merit (Accolade Global Film Competition)
Award of Excellence (International Film Festival for Spirituality, Religion and Visionary)
Just Film Award (Just Film Festival)

Platinum Award (International Film Festival for Women, Tolerance and Zero Discrimination)
Reel Rose Award (Nomination, John Paul II Interfaith Film Festival)
Rhythm of Life Award (Nomination, John Paul II Interfaith Film Festival)

Film Festival Official Selection (in addition to festivals above):

Global Peace Film Festival (Orlando, U.S.A.)
Freedom Film Festival KOMAS (Selangor, Malaysia)
Kazan International Festival of Muslim Cinema (Russia)
Youth Peace Film Festival (Malang, Indonesia)
Ammar Popular Film Festival (Tehran, Iran)

Director's Filmography

2014- Live Fukushima (Japan/Canada Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor)
In-production

2015 Between Allah & Me (and Everyone Else)

2007 Animania: the Documentary (Canada, Field Director, Associate Producer), Finalist for NHK Prize, Fantasia Film Festival

2006 Dancing with Lives (USA/Japan, Director/Producer/Camera/Editor), Nominated for Best Feature Documentary, Female Eye Film Festival

2004 Sun, Moon and a Star (Turkey / Japan, Producer), 1001 Nights Istanbul Documentary Festival

Director's Bio

Kyoko Yokoma is a documentary filmmaker, cinematographer, writer and editor who has studied and worked in New York, Istanbul, Toronto as well as her native country Japan.

Reflecting her experience in four countries, Kyoko has maintained her focus in her work on the challenges and merits of cross-cultural communications and knowledge.

She started making films after working as a journalist in New York City. Her directorial debut Dancing with Lives was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at Female Eye Film Festival, and was screened at New York Asian American Film Festival and Boulder Asian Film Festival. As a producer, Kyoko produced Sun, Moon and a Star, CNN Turk and was screened at Istanbul International Documentary Festival.

Kyoko has won many grants from art councils in Canada and also from Japan Foundation to make films. She holds MFA in Documentary Media and B.A. in sociology and political science. She lives in Richmond Hill, Ontario, north of Toronto.

Distribution:

- North America

Collective Eyes Film (DVD/Digital/Screening)
Kanopy Streaming (Streaming for Universities)
Hoopla Digital (Streaming for Public Library)

- Japan

Video Kobo Akame (DVD for educational market)
Broadband Bank (DVD for educational market)

- Worldwide

ConnectedEarth www.hijabdocumentary.com
Tugg (Community Screening)
Vimeo On Demand:
<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/betweenallahandme>

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www.facebook.com/Project.Her.Choice

Main Credit:

Producer/Director: Kyoko Yokoma
Editor: Kyoko Yokoma
Cinematography: Robin Lupita Bain
Sound Recording: Mary Wong
Second Camera: Kyoko Yokoma
Sound Design: Dwayne Newman

Endorsements:

"I was a little scared of them (women in hijab) before, but now I would like to invite all of them for dinner." – *A senior viewer, Yorkton, Saskatchewan*

"In Kyoko Yokoma's documentary *Between Allah & Me (and Everyone Else)* the director focuses her efforts on upending two cursory, but commonly held Western perceptions about Muslim women: that the hijab is a tool of oppression and all Muslim women share the exact same belief system. This documentary slashed away at these perceptions by focusing on four Muslim women from distinct backgrounds who have all made different choices for vastly different reasons in deciding the role the hijab will play in their lives. The fact that these women all live in Toronto, Canada shapes the documentary and provides insight on the experience of modern Muslim women living in a predominantly Western culture. ... This documentary is a powerful message in finding feminism in places you weren't expecting. ... **highly recommended** for general collections as well as collections focusing on **women and gender studies and religious studies.**" –*Kim Stanton, University of North Texas Libraries, Educational Media Reviews Online* [Read the entire review ...](#)

" ... in this non-judgemental documentary ... by allowing her subjects to speak for themselves, Yokoma offers viewers who are interested in religion and gender studies much food for thought ... that is sure to provoke discussion. Recommended." – *Kathleen C. Fennessy, Video Librarian* [Read the entire review ...](#)

"I was extremely impressed with the access you had to the four women in the film, ... I really appreciate the depth this lent to the film, and the evident trust between you as the filmmaker and the women in the film. It was quite moving, really, and illuminates all the complexity of choices, constraints, pressures, and convictions surrounding the hijab in North America." –*Claire Nicholas, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Human Ecology, University of Alberta*

"You truly crafted a documentary ... We saw fascinating character arcs and felt quite close to your characters ... film that should travel to festivals and beyond." –*Marc*

Glassman, Film critic, publisher and professor, Ryerson University, MFA in Documentary Media program

“... Filmmaker Kyoko Yokoma effortlessly provides a cinematic platform for these outspoken individuals to share their viewpoints with honesty, candour, and humour. The film offers audiences of all faiths and backgrounds a rare opportunity to learn more about a religious observance that has been politicized, romanticized, condemned and embraced around the world. A welcome addition to the slowly emerging narratives of Canadian Muslim women! –*Amira Elghawaby, Communication Director, National Council of Canadian Muslim Women (NCCM)*

"Between Allah and Me not only deals with a timely topic, but one that has great personal relevance to me. I applaud those courageous women that agreed to be in the film and share their stories. Their honesty was touching, their words were insightful, and their struggle resonated with me and others, I'm sure. It certainly offers a great springboard for conversation about hijab and Muslim women." –*Saira Rahman, Filmmaker, "Arctic Mosque"*

"I just loved your film! How you wove the stories together of these wonderful and very accessible women was wonderful . I enjoyed every minute of it, and can't wait to see you next film!" –*Hoda Elatawi, Producer/Director, "Muneeza in the Middle", GAPC Entertainment Inc.*

"... this is an amazing film that can help younger people like me understand how wrong any type of discrimination is." – *Ryugen Hata Pereklita, 10th Grade Student, Toronto*

"Very liberating for women in this kind of society." –*Viewer, University of Newcastle, Australia*