

# The Guide ARTS & CULTURE

# REFUGEE FILM OPENS MINDS

THREE QUESTIONS FOR JULIA MELTZER, DIRECTOR OF DALYA'S OTHER COUN-TRY, A COMING-OF-AGE DOCUMENTARY THAT FOLLOWS 14-YEAR-OLD DALYA ZENO AND HER MOTHER, WHO LEFT WAR-TORN SYRIA FOR A NEW LIFE IN LOS ANGELES.



# What inspired this story?

I got to know the people of Syria while working on a documentary in Damascus. Dalya and her mother aren't typical in that they have American citizenship, but like all immigrants, they struggled to adjust to a new culture and the loss of their former life. And with Trump's Muslim ban, the family's challenges intensified.

# Has Dalya's story changed minds?

I know it has. The most significant feed-

back I've gotten has been from high school students or younger. One ninth-grader said the film changed his thinking about what it's like to be Muslim. Because Dalya is an open book—her emotions are always right on her face—there's a pathway, especially for young people, to relate to her. And fortunately, a lot of young people will see it, through distribution to 10,000 public libraries and community groups, and a screening tour. The Girl Scouts are also showing it to their troops.

You filmed the family watching the 2016 election but chose not to show their reactions. Why?

Dalya turned 18 the day before the election and voted for the first time. Watching the returns was devastating, but I didn't want to end on that note. Instead, we see Dalya going to the airport to protest the Muslim ban, chanting "Let them in!" It was her first protest.

Dalya's Other Country premiered on the POV series on PBS in 2017 and is available to rent via streaming on YOUTUBE and GOOGLE PLAY.

# Top 5 Apps for the Resistance

**HEADED TO A PROTEST?** The ACLU's Mobile Justice app lets you record and report interactions with police and includes state-specific "know your rights" information. Here are five more apps to download before you march:

1 **NEWSLINN**, available on Android, helps activists and protesters share real-time photos with journalists.

2 SIGNAL encrypts your texts, preventing them from being intercepted. Not just for protests! Find Signal on Google Play or the App Store.

**3** COUNTABLE for iOS and Android tells you how your local lawmakers voted on proposed legislation and lets you message them directly.

4 Available for iOS and Android, ZELLO WALKIE TALKIE sends voice messages to large groups and helps you stay in touch if you are separated.

5 Android users, check out I'M **GETTING ARRESTED**, which enables anyone, with one click, to broadcast a custom message to SMS numbers in the event they are arrested.

# **EXHIBITION**

# Hands-On Tour of Muslim Art and Life

Introducing children to multiple perspectives at an early age can have a lasting impact on their abilities to empathize with others and resist prejudicial thinking. The exhibition America to Zanzibar: Muslim Cultures Near and Far, created by the Children's Museum of Manhattan, seeks to do just

that by highlighting the richness of Muslim culture through a meticulous display of art, architecture, music, travel, and trade.

Designed as a tour of Muslim art and life throughout history, America to Zanzibar is hands-on. It includes a global market, where tiny

visitors can pretend to trade spices, ceramics, and textiles; a trade route complete with a two-story boat (dhow); and a Pakistani shipping truck that children can decorate with interchangeable tiles that replicate the ornate styles seen on real-life vehicles. Especially illuminating is a 3-D exploration of dozens of mosques around the world, spotlighting how Islam's "home" adapts in different landscapes.

This year, America to Zanzibar will travel to the Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

In early 2019, the exhibition will open at the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia.

