

Jehane Noujaim began work as a photographer and filmmaker in Cairo, where she grew up. She moved to Boston on 1990, where she attended Harvard University and graduated magna cum laude in Visual Arts and Philosophy in 1996. Earlier that year, Noujaim was awarded the Gardiner fellowship under which she directed *Mokattaam*, an Arabic film about an Egyptian garbage collecting village. She then joined the MTV News and Documentary division as a producer for the documentary series *Unfiltered*. She left her producing job at MTV to produce and direct *Startup.com* in association with Pennebaker Hegedus films. This feature length documentary has won numerous awards including the DGA and IDA Awards for best documentary.

In 2004 Noujaim released *Control Room*, a critically acclaimed documentary on the role of the media in war. She traveled to the headquarters of Arabic broadcasting network Al Jazeera and the United State's central command to capture the staging of the war in Iraq and the media's vital role in writing history. She has also worked in both the Middle East and the US as a director and cinematographer on various documentaries including *Born Rich* (Jamie Johnson), *Only the Strong Survive* (Miramax Films), and *Down from the Mountain* (Coen Brothers), and other projects in development.

In 2006, she was awarded the prestigious TED Prize. As a TED prize winner, she was asked to make a wish to change the world. Her wish was to bring the world together through the power of film. She founded Pangea Day, an unprecedented one day event that will connect thousands of screening sites around the world with a four hour program of short films, music, and speakers.