

Shaniaz Hama Ali

Actor / Writer

Shaniaz debuted her one-woman show *The Big Lie* at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2018, where it earned widespread critical praise, including 4-star reviews from Broadway Baby, The List, and Edinburgh49. The show was featured in The Scotsman, named one of the Daily Record's top four must-see productions, and nominated for the Amnesty Freedom of Speech Award. It is now being developed for television by Sony Pictures Entertainment with Shaniaz set to write, executive produce and star.



Her directorial debut, the short *The Most Merciful* - filmed in France and showcased to industry audiences at the Cannes Film Festival, earned significant praise and Shaniaz is currently working on the feature length script.

Agents

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Assistant

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Credits

In Development

Production	Company	Notes
IN LOCKDOWN	Unlimited Stories	Short film in development Written, Directed by & starring Shaniaz
THE REFUGEE	Sony	Script commission

Television

Production	Company	Notes
ORDINARY (working title) 2020	Yellow Bird	Script and Bible commissioned

Production	Company	Notes
VIOLA BEACH (working title) 2022	Palma Pictures	Script and Bible commissioned
THE BAND (working title) 2022	Media Pro Studios	Script and Bible commissioned

Theatre

Production	Company	Notes
ÇAVÊ WINDA 2020	RSC	Translation of the Kurdish monologue by Yıldız Çakar
THE BIG LIE 2019	The Frontline Club	Shaniaz was invited to perform her one woman show as part of the 'Frontline Fringe' event.
THE BIG LIE 2018	Edinburgh Fringe Festival	Dir. Oscar Toeman *Nominated for the Amnesty Freedom of Expression Award

Short Films

Production	Company	Notes
THE MOST MERCIFUL 2025	Kubra Production & Tales.Film	As Director, Writer, Producer and Lead Actress. Shaniaz's directorial debut.
PRACTICE 2018	Deva Films	This was a collaborative writing process with writer Mandy Lee drawing together the final draft Dir. Deva Palmier

Additional information

Press for **The Most Merciful**

"A FIERCE, DEFIANT POLITICAL KNOCKOUT - WHERE 'SINGLE WHITE FEMALE' MEETS 'GET OUT'" - Kaleem Aftab, Film Critic for Variety and The Independent, Author of Spike Lee's autobiography

"THIS STUNNING DIRECTORIAL DEBUT FROM SHANIAZ HAMA ALI IS EXACTLY WHY I WATCH FILMS." - Derek Stettler, contributor to American Cinematographer and ICG Magazine

Press for **THE BIG LIE**

"A story of blockbuster proportions! Every now and then you hear a story and wish the whole world could hear it too. The Big Lie is one of those. Shaniaz Hama Ali beams with honesty, vulnerability and likeability throughout the performance, impressing with her grasp of comedy and subtlety... The Big Lie is an urgent and captivating story, told by a voice the world needs to hear." ★★★★★ -

EDINBURGH49

“Shaniaz's storytelling capabilities are intelligent, apt and truly cutting; a welcome break from the more trivial pieces of this year's Fringe.” ★★★★★ - THE LIST

“Shaniaz Hama Ali's semi-autobiographical play contains all the elements needed for a great story...and like the rest of the fascinating hour that we spend in her company, we applaud her for it.” ★★★★★ - BROADWAY BABY