



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

CENTER FOR ARTS
& HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT
OF ENGLISH

Present

REVIVING AFIF: A FILMMAKER'S JOURNEY INTO AN UNSUNG PAST

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 | 5:00 PM

AUDITORIUM B, WEST HALL, AUB

ABSTRACT

Peterson outlines the early stages of making his documentary film-in-progress about the life and times of AUB alumnus Afif Alvarez Bulos (1914–1982), the Palestinian-Lebanese academic, musician and impresario. He will share new discoveries about Bulos's early years, the challenges of recovering and reconstructing history from the disruptions of the Palestinian Nakba and the Lebanese Civil War, and the creative tensions and opportunities involved in making a historical documentary about a personal friend.

BIO

Independent filmmaker **Josh Peterson** is based in San Francisco but grew up in Beirut in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He works in both documentary and scripted cinema. Among his nonfiction projects, he edited the acclaimed documentaries *Born This Way*, *The Welcome*, and *Skin of Glass* (which screened at the Beirut Art Film Festival in 2024). His scripted work includes the award-winning shorts *Forest Born* and *The Night of My Death*, and his first feature film, *Like Reply Share*, which won the Cinequest Best Drama Audience Award. His musical short, *Thirsty*, premiered at Tribeca, and his latest film, *The Unbroken Sky*, has won prizes and screened at film festivals around the world.