

## DAMIAN GASCOIGNE

### Women in Black

2008 | *BBC2 Documentary*

Women in Black is an animated title sequence for a BBC 2 documentary series which explores the role of the 'Abaya' or veil in contemporary Muslim societies. I was commissioned to produce a 30 second animation illustrating the journey of UK born, Yemeni presenter Amani Zain as she travelled the world investigating customs and traditions relating to Islamic dress codes for women.

This hand drawn digital animation piece emerged from my commercial animation practice at Picasso Pictures in London, and focused on the use of animated transformations to create a constantly moving tableau. The use of metamorphosis has a long history in drawn animation, exploiting the 'frame by frame' nature of the drawn sequences, a process that allows for considerable latitude in visual continuity. The design research process for this piece was driven by the content of the documentaries, with their portrayal of ordinary women's lives in Muslim countries. This material was rich in detail and subtle difference and allowed me to develop a number of linked visual themes through the sequence.

This project contributes to research around animation as an appropriate medium for discussing complex social issues. The title sequence animation was the first point of entry to the documentary series, as such it had to both encapsulate ideas and engage the audience, representing the key themes of identity and diversity for women in Islamic societies.. Recent animations such as 'Dance with Bashir' and 'Persepolis' have applied a new perspective to Middle Eastern documentary subjects, drawing new audiences into debates around history and culture.

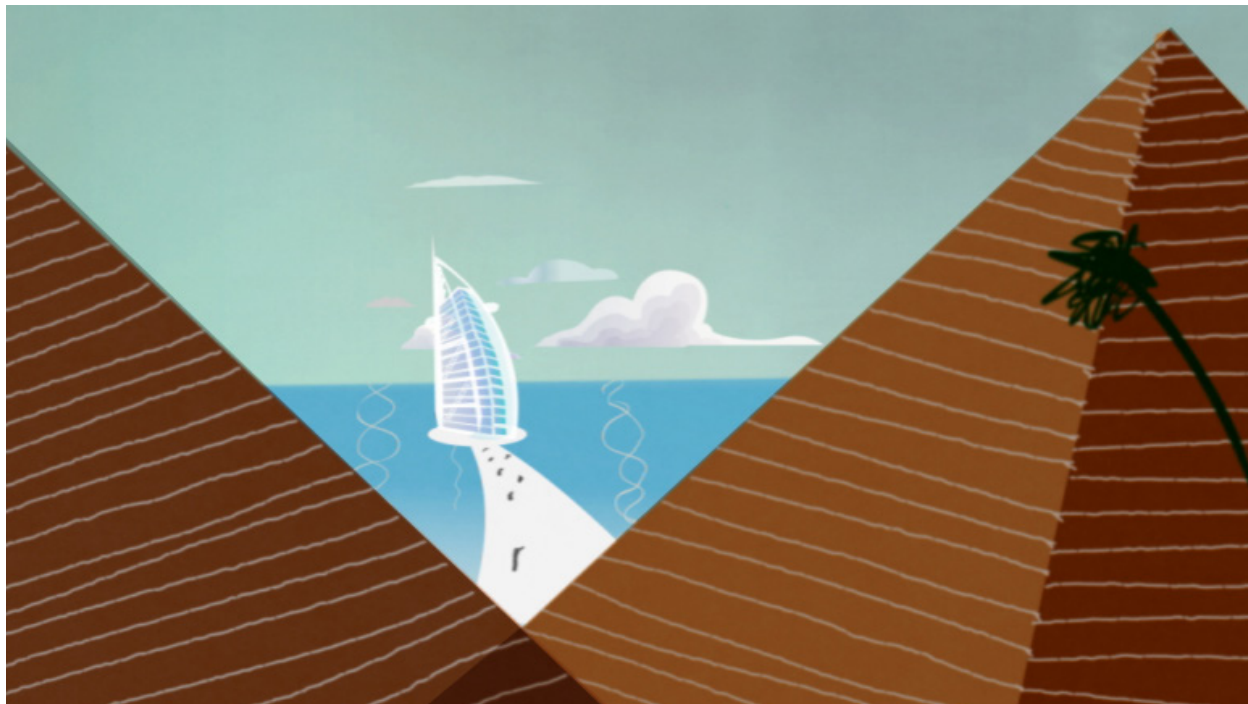
*Still excerpt from video, detail*





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Still excerpts from video sequence



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Still excerpts from video sequence

# TWO Women In Black

Home Episodes  
Guide By date

## Episode guide

### Holland

5/5 Series on women in Muslim society includes a rapper on issues of peace in the Middle East.

FIRST BROADCAST: 03 Jun 2008



Not currently available on BBC iPlayer

### UK

4/5 Amani's exploration of British Asian women becomes a voyage of discovery.

FIRST BROADCAST: 29 May 2008



Not currently available on BBC iPlayer

### Egypt

3/5 Amani Zain guides us around the number one holiday destination for Muslim people .

FIRST BROADCAST: 22 May 2008



Not currently available on BBC iPlayer

### Dubai

2/5 Amani joins hundreds of Muslim women flocking to the shopping capital of the Gulf - Dubai.

FIRST BROADCAST: 15 May 2008



Not currently available on BBC iPlayer

### Yemen

1/5 Amani travels to Yemen, performing a Muslim makeover on the plane.

FIRST BROADCAST: 08 May 2008



Not currently available on BBC iPlayer

Supporting evidence

Weblink:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00bcvjb/episodes/guide>