

Limping On Cloud 9

Hammad Zaidi - June 30, 2022

Beginnings

Limping On Cloud 9 encapsulates the American Dream, as seen through Hasan's eyes, a disabled Pakistani-American kid growing up in Suburban Kansas during the Iran Hostage Crisis. Based on the childhood of writer and director Hammad Zaidi, the story embarks on a discovery of culture, country, and one's self-worth.



Hammad Zaidi, Circa 1968

American Fabric

- Hasan sees himself as a typical American kid, who strives to get faster, play shortstop for the Kansas City Royals, and attend the UCLA School of Film. However, some people see him as a "shit-skinned, car-bombing terrorist," who's neither typical nor American. Saddled with a disability and the wrong religion in during the Iran Hostage Crisis, Hasan spends his days with "Tuba Pat," a farmer-strong kid graced with height, or he loiters at Lion Records, a Mob-owned musical oasis.
- Hasan's nights involve sneaking onto the sofa with a plate and a salad fork and turning them into a steering wheel and a stick-shift, and then visualizing cruising down the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu in a convertible Porsche with UCLA Film School alumni tags resting above the land jet's double-barrel steaming tailpipes.
- Armed with a dad who gifts him dreamer DNA, a mom who instills strength, two sisters who keep him from floating away, and a Big Chief writing tablet that provides him an "escape route" during his darkest moments, Hasan is on a quest to become normal, no matter how outlandish that may seem.



Circa, 1980

- The majority of this tale happens during Hasan's 12th year of life, when he endures a gunpoint attack and is held back from engaging in the largest celebration of his young life. However, he also discovers himself in a soul-bearing mirror, successfully stretches his physical limits, and earns himself his first girlfriend in 1980. The year is pivotal for Hasan as it is for America, making this story's timeframe as vital as its characters.



Death & The Killer Concert

- June 30, 1990, is when everything changes. After being unable to continue his education, and unwilling to continue his job, Hasan embarks on a trip to England for a life-altering concert, The Knebworth Festival. It's there where he meets Gary, a dying man who teaches Hasan how to live.



Gary at Abbey Road Studios, 1990

Our Reach

- Limping On Cloud 9 started in January, 2017, as a podcast about Hammad Zaidi's life. By July, 2018, it reached heights of over 3 million listens within a one-month period.
- Today the podcast serves as evergreen content, until we reignite it with new episodes when this feature film gets produced.
- We also have 11,000+ likes on our Facebook page, and 50,000 reads for an answer Hammad Zaidi wrote on Quora.

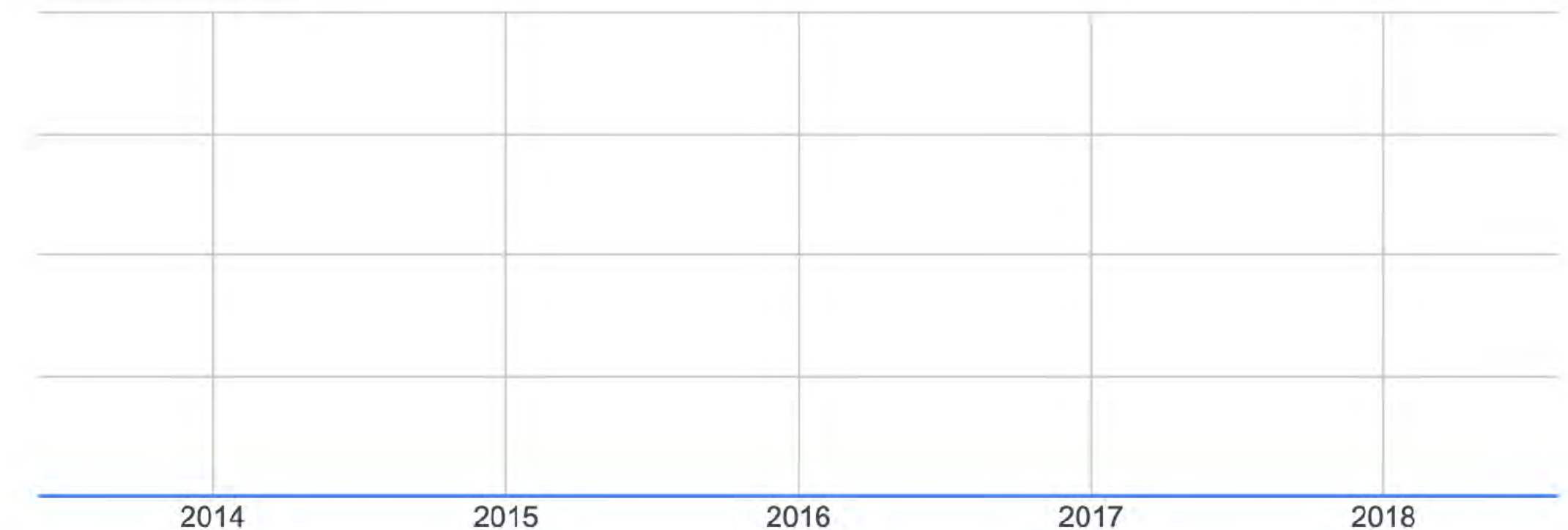
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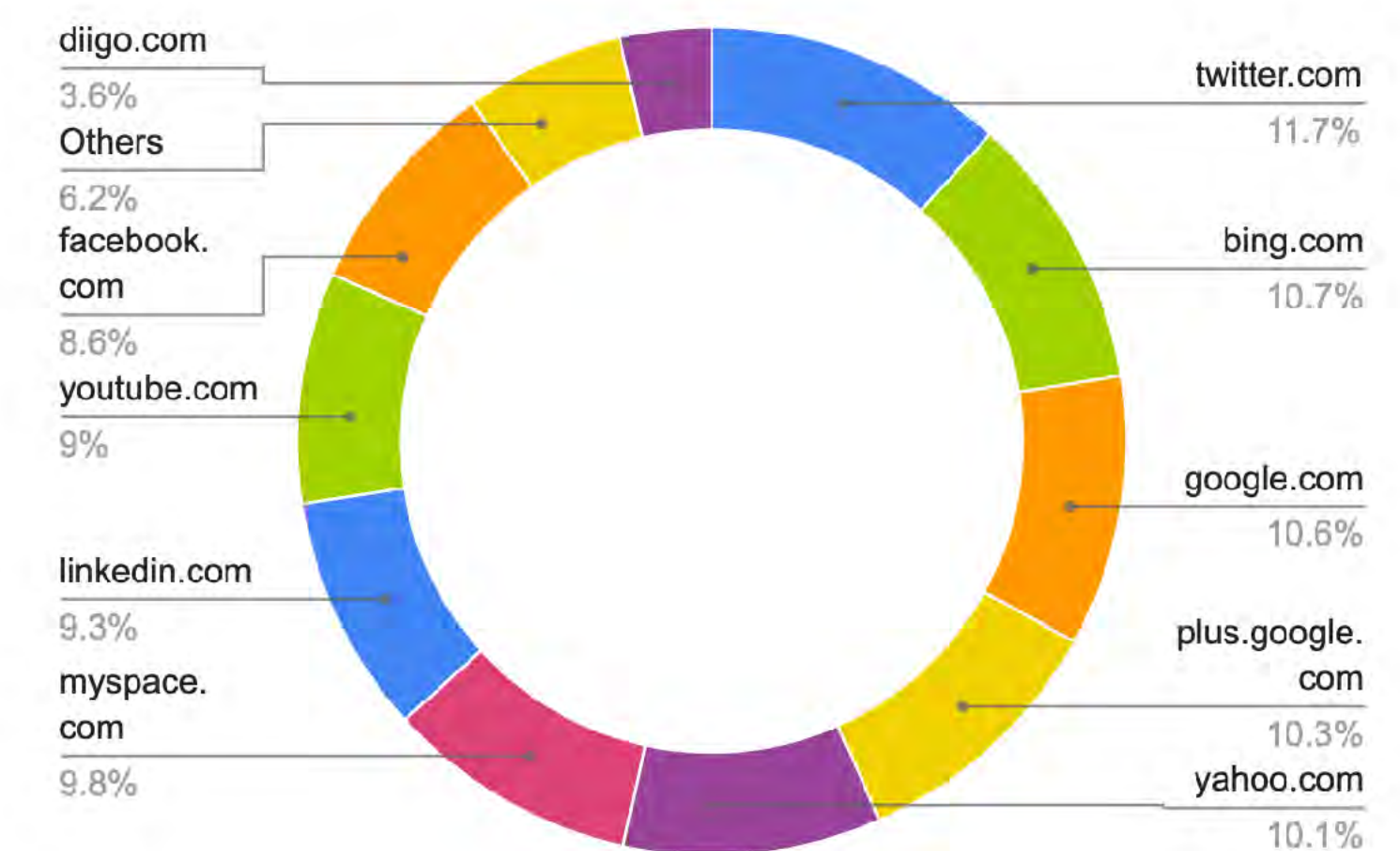
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About Hammad Zaidi

- Hammad Zaidi is a disabled filmmaker who is the founder of The Lonely Seal Company Group, which includes Lonely Seal Releasing, and The Lonely Seal International Film, Screenplay, and Music Festival. He is also a partner in multiple technology entities.
- Hammad has served as a World Cinema Screener, Judge, Panelist, Filmmaker Advisor, Program Curator, and Advisory Board Member for film festivals. These include Sundance, Slamdance, and SXSW, as well as many others domestically and internationally.
- Zaidi created "Script Accessible," a screenwriting contest showcasing disabilities. Initially housed at Slamdance, Our 2010 winner, "All The Wrong Reasons," was produced and won at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival. Hammad also created "Going Bionic," his weekly column where 256 of his articles were published on Film Threat from 2010-2015.
- He also wrote, directed, and produced "Champions Of Hope," a September 11th related National PSA that played theatrically on 5,001 screens on the first anniversary of 9/11, and "Baptized at Lucky Lube," a short that played 28 film festivals in six countries.
- Hammad Zaidi is a member of The Producers Guild of America and the Writers Guild of America. He earned his MFA from the UCLA Producers Program in 1994.



Hammad Zaidi with his wife and kids in Redondo Beach, CA.

“There’s a fine line between stupidity and genius, and the only genius I’ve ever been graced with is that I’m too stupid to give up on my childhood dreams.”

Hammad Zaidi