



Time Hoppers

The Silk Road



GRAVEL ROAD
DISTRIBUTION GROUP

FATHOM
ENTERTAINMENT



The vision

Imagine growing up without seeing yourself represented in media or, worse, seeing your culture misrepresented. This is the reality many Muslim and Arab parents face living in the West.

As the director of Time Hoppers, my vision is to change this narrative, especially during childhood - one of the most formative stages of life.

The Children's Media Lab, an organization dedicated to research on children's media, revealed stark underrepresentation of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and Indigenous characters in animated content.

The representation we see in media matters. A study by Common Sense Media points out, exposure to stereotypical portrayals can negatively impact self-esteem, confidence, and academic performance among marginalized groups.

Time Hoppers aims to create positive representation in children's film, featuring a diverse cast that reflects the world today. But beyond representation, it celebrates the rich history of the Silk Road, allowing children from these cultures to see themselves as pivotal to the development of the modern world.

This project is deeply personal to me as a minority in the West having raised four children where Islamophobia is a daily occurrence.

Time Hoppers is more than just a project; it's a movement to uplift and empower BIPOC children by saying, "You matter." Through our storytelling, we celebrate their perspectives and foster a rich cultural identity that inspires confidence and pride.

- Flordeliza Dayrit, Director



About

Run time: 85 minutes

Target Audience: Kids & Family

Year: 2026

Language: English, Arabic, Turkish

Genre: Time Travel Adventure

Country of Origin: Canada

Written By: Flordeliza Dayrit & Sakina Fakhri

Directed By: Flordeliza Dayrit

Executive Producers:

Dr. Hussein Amery
Dr. Fatima Coovadia
Mohannad Malas
Dr. Abdullah Patel

Producer: Michael Milo

Produced By: Milo Productions Inc.



Logline

Time Hoppers follows the adventures of four gifted children from Vancouver's Aqli Academy in the year 2050. When Abdullah, Aysha, Khalid and Layla stumble upon the ability to time travel, they are thrust into an adventure along the historic Silk Road to save the great scientists of that era from an evil time travelling alchemist named Fasid. Will the Time Hoppers be able to save the foundations of modern science and safely return home?

Synopsis

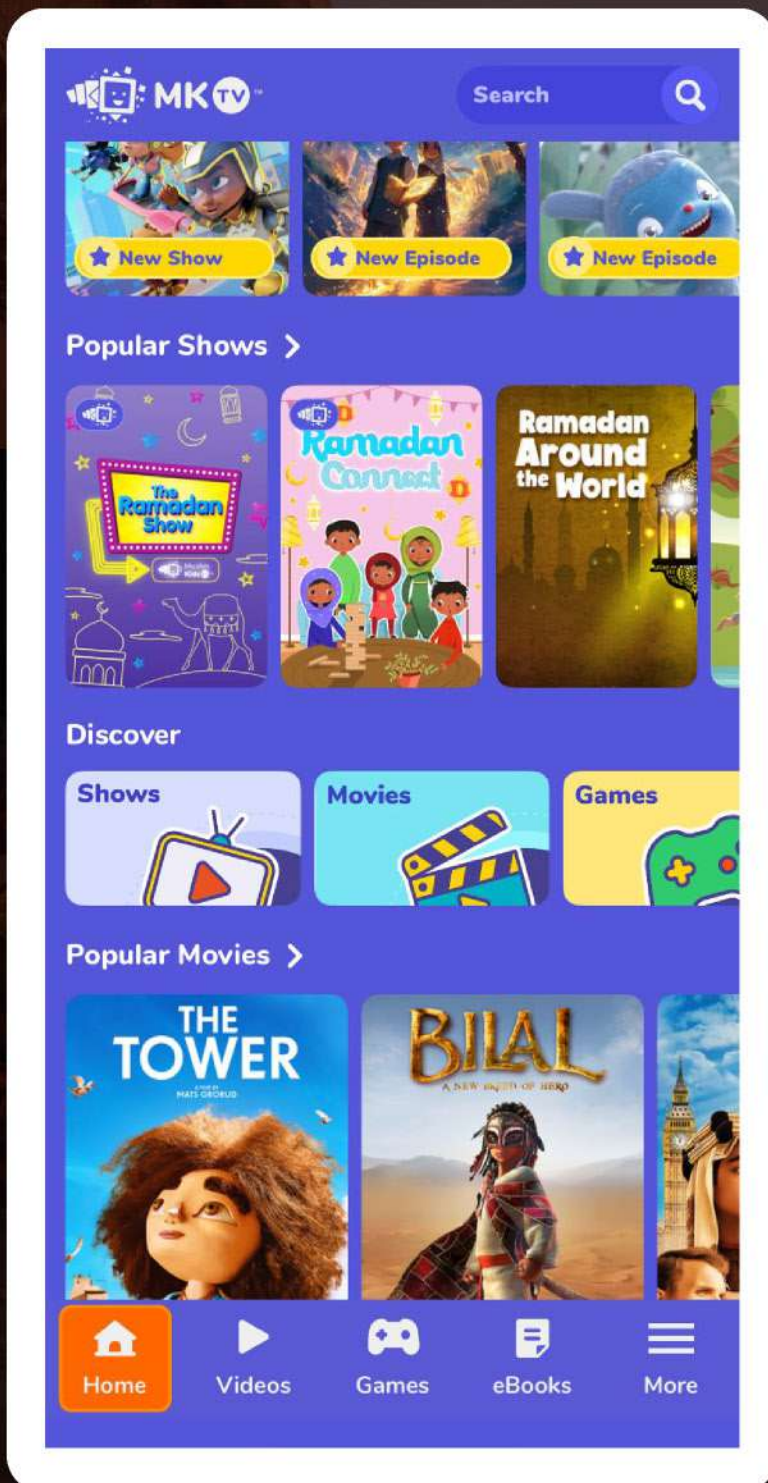
In 2050, a prestigious school for the gifted known as Aqli Academy accepts its newest student 12-year-old Layla.

Following a raid by the shadowy Zoola, Inc. at Layla's home, she and her father Habib are forced to relocate to Aqli, where they take on secret identities.

At Aqli, Layla reunites with Khalid, her cousin. She also makes two new friends: Aysha and Abdullah. The four are recruited by Dean Hafsa (also Habib's sister) to participate in a secret time travel project. In an accident, the children are thrust back in time landing in 825 Baghdad at the House of Wisdom.

In a terrible twist, the children inadvertently provoke an aggrieved alchemist named Fasid who has just been expelled from the House of Wisdom. Fasid acquires time travel abilities from the children, vowing to destroy the history of science.

The four children become "Time Hoppers" attempting to foil Fasid's evil design, jumping through time and the amazing places along the historic Silk Road to save the heroes that gave the world modern science.



Time Hoppers is produced by Milo Productions Inc. a children's media company with 20 years experience telling BIPOC stories. The company is a pioneer in children's video streaming with the MKTV service which was launched in 2016 and now serves families in over 60 countries with values-based wholesome content. The MKTV SVOD service was developed to provide diaspora Arab and Muslim children living in the West with a way to maintain ties to their culture and identity.

Moving into theatrical motion pictures and globalization of authentic stories from Arab and Muslim lands was an important next step for the company. Feature films allow the producer to move beyond the MKTV niche audience and bring these stories to people of all nationalities and backgrounds.

The Time Hoppers story focuses on Golden Age Arab and Muslim scientists and their contribution to modern science. To ensure authenticity the writing team worked with two historians Munir Shaikh and Hassam Munir.

Themes

The Importance of History

The film empowers young viewers to become active participants in history. The blend of real historical discoveries and time travel storytelling prompts viewers to see the past as something that is still alive, relevant, and connected to the present and the future.

The Sanctity of All

Time Hoppers is ultimately a story about honoring and safeguarding the past and preserving the rich, diverse legacy of all human discovery. Fasid is the embodiment of envy and its attempt to undermine the achievements of others. The Time Hoppers become guardians of time as they look to preserve the past and protect the present and the future.

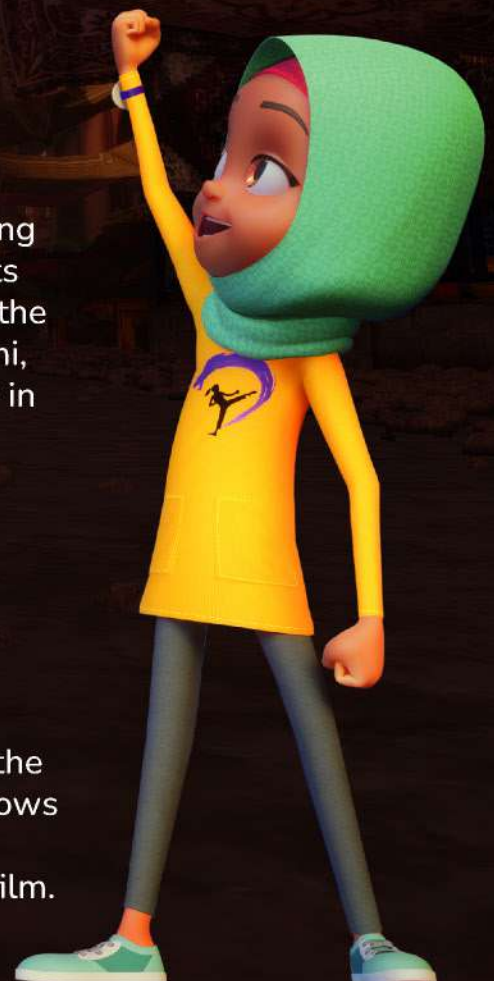
This journey encourages audience members to consider the ripple effects of individual actions.

The Power of Innovation

The film celebrates centuries of innovation and discovery, allowing audience members to engage with major historical advancements and the fascinating minds behind them. The Hoppers encounter the leading visionaries Maryam Astrolabi, Mansa Musa, Al-Khwarizmi, and Ibn Al-Haytham to demonstrate they too have a role to play in continuing the chain of discovery.

Embracing Differences and Collaborative Growth

Time Hoppers is also a story about teamwork, empathy, and acknowledgement/acceptance of individual differences. Each of the Time Hoppers offers a unique skillset and perspective, which allows the group to apply a host of different approaches and strategies when tackling the issues and dangers they face throughout the film.



Starring



**JAYCE MCKENZIE
AS LAYLA**

Jayce McKenzie is an award-winning theater and voice actress known for her compelling performances in film, television, and animation. In *Time Hoppers*, she portrays Layla, a bright young girl facing the challenges of a prestigious academy with determination and resourcefulness. Jayce's dynamic performance captures Layla's resilience, making her an inspiring role model for viewers of all ages.



**ANGEL HAVEN REY
AS AYSHA**

Angel Haven Rey is a versatile voice actress recognized for her warm performances in animated series and educational content. In *Time Hoppers*, she brings an incredible physical presence to her role as Aysha the athlete and Layla's supportive friend. Angel's portrayal highlights Aysha's bold nature and loyalty, enriching the group's dynamic as they embark on their time-traveling adventures.



**TAREEK TALATI
AS KHALID**

Tareek Talati is a talented voice actor known for infusing youthful energy into his characters across animation and video games. In *Time Hoppers*, he portrays Khalid, Layla's close friend and cousin. Tareek's performance brings Khalid's encyclopedic knowledge to life as the group's brainiac, quick thinking nerd.



EMILY GIN
AS ABDULLAH

Emily Gin is an accomplished voice actress with experience in indie games and animation. In Time Hoppers, she voices Abdullah, a reckless, fun-loving adventurer, eager to explore the mysteries of time travel.

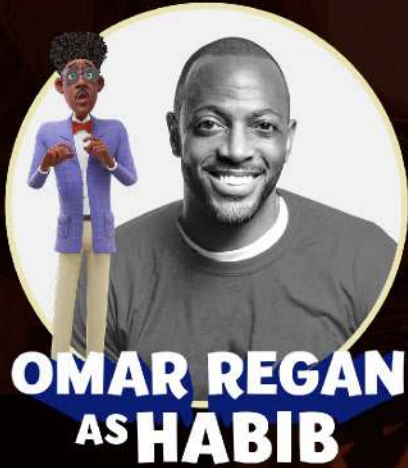


MORRIS SENG
AS FASID

Morris Seng is voice performer in numerous commercials, animated projects, video games and audio books. He brings an incredible range to the Time Hopper's villain bringing to life the comic nature of Fasid as a villain-buffoon.



Cast Highlights



Omar Regan is a talented actor, comedian, writer, and director, known for roles in *Rush Hour 2*, *Bad Boys II*, and his comedy specials. He founded Halalywood Entertainment to promote positive representation of Muslims in media. Beyond acting, Omar is a motivational speaker, using humor to address issues of culture, identity, and faith. As Habib in *Time Hoppers*, Omar brings warmth and depth to the role of a brilliant scientist and devoted father. His dynamic performance enriches the character, blending wisdom and compassion in a key figure of the series.



Aliyah Harris brings her 20 years of experience in education to *Time Hoppers*. With a Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of North Texas and a Bachelor's in Business from Drexel University, she has held various leadership roles in early childhood education, including her current position as elementary principal at Iman Academy Southeast in Houston. Her background as a mentor, teacher, and childcare director deeply informs her portrayal of Hafsa, a character dedicated to guiding and nurturing others.



Ali Ardekani (Baba Ali) as Ibn Al-Haytham

Ali Ardekani, widely known as Baba Ali, is a comedian, actor, and YouTuber with a large following for his insightful humor and engaging content on Muslim culture. He has gained recognition for his ability to blend comedy with thought-provoking messages, making complex topics accessible and entertaining to audiences worldwide. As Ibn Al-Haytham in Time Hoppers, Ali portrays the legendary scientist and father of optics with wit and intelligence.

His performance brings to life the brilliance of a historical figure whose groundbreaking work in science continues to influence the modern world.



Ilyas Mao as Al-Kindi

Ilyas Mao is a multi-talented artist known for his contributions as a singer, songwriter, and composer, with a passion for creating uplifting content for diverse audiences. His unique style blends traditional and modern influences, resonating with listeners around the globe. In Time Hoppers, Ilyas lends his voice to Al-Kindi, portraying the famed philosopher and polymath with depth and wisdom. His performance brings historical knowledge to life, making the character both inspiring and relatable to young audiences.



Kamal El Mekki as Al-Jahiz

Kamal El Mekki is a renowned Islamic scholar and public speaker known for his engaging and dynamic style. With years of experience delivering lectures and workshops around the world, he has become a prominent figure in the global Muslim community, admired for his deep knowledge and ability to connect with audiences on a personal level. His performance in Time Hoppers brings depth and authenticity to the role, drawing on his real-life experience as a mentor and teacher to embody the character's wisdom and leadership.



Abdulla Oduro as Mansa Musa and Abu Bakr Musa

Abdulla Oduro is a respected Islamic scholar and educator, known for his impactful teaching and ability to connect with audiences of all ages. With years of experience in dawah and community leadership, he brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to his work. In Time Hoppers, Sh. Abdulla voices both Mansa Musa, the legendary ruler of the Mali Empire, and his predecessor Abu Bakr Musa, portraying their wisdom and leadership.



Adam Fofana as King Wouli

Adam Fofana is a respected community leader and Islamic scholar, known for his compassionate leadership and commitment to education. With a rich background in teaching and public speaking, he has inspired many through his work in promoting unity and understanding within the Muslim community. In Time Hoppers, Imam Adam portrays King Wouli, a powerful and just ruler. His performance brings a regal presence and moral strength to the character, embodying the wisdom and courage of a leader who plays a pivotal role in the series' historical narrative.



Shk Yasir Fazaga

Yasir Fazaga is a renowned Islamic scholar and therapist, recognized for his deep knowledge and impactful teachings on faith, psychology, and personal development. With years of experience as a speaker and counselor, he has touched the lives of many through his thought-provoking lectures and practical guidance. In Time Hoppers, Sh. Yasir plays Al-Kindi, the famed philosopher and cryptographer. His portrayal brings depth and intellect to the character, reflecting Al-Kindi's pivotal contributions to science and philosophy, while also highlighting the wisdom and ingenuity that made him a legendary figure in history.



Anwar Arafat as Al-Ijiliy

Anwar Arafat is a well-respected Islamic scholar and speaker, known for his engaging lectures and deep understanding of Islamic history and sciences. With a passion for education and community outreach, he has become a prominent figure in delivering inspiring and informative talks on various aspects of faith and culture. In Time Hoppers, Sh. Anwar portrays Al-Ijiliy, the pioneering astronomer and inventor. His performance brings to life the brilliance and curiosity of this historical figure, highlighting Al-Ijiliy's contributions to astronomy and his lasting impact on scientific progress.



Creators

Director, Flordeliza Daryit

Flordeliza Dayrit is a co-founder and Director of Milo Productions Inc. in Edmonton, Alberta. Her vision and creative insight on the Time Hoppers project have been invaluable in bringing its characters and environments to life. Together with her partner Michael, Flordeliza launched Milo Productions Inc. in 2004. Since its inception, the company has developed a strong platform that represents and uplifts the Muslim children's community.

Flordeliza's dedication to her community is evident in her extensive volunteer work. She has served as a fundraising coordinator, a community school council co-chair, and a cultural bridging facilitator. In each of these roles, she has consistently prioritized the needs and well-being of her community. Her extensive experience as a writer, producer, and director of children's television and interactive media has transformed her interest into a true passion. This passion is vividly showcased in the Time Hoppers project, where her storytelling and production skills have created engaging, educational content that resonates with children and their families.

Producer, Michael Milo

Michael Milo is the co-founder and CEO of Milo Productions Inc., a leading company dedicated to creating inclusive, culturally-rich content for children. Based in Edmonton, Alberta, Michael has pioneered projects that celebrate diversity, with a special focus on positive representation of Muslim communities.

In 2016, he and his wife, Flordeliza Dayrit, launched MuslimKids.TV, a streaming platform offering engaging, educational content for Muslim children. Under Michael's leadership, it has grown into a globally recognized service.

Along with Flordeliza, the creative force behind Time Hoppers, the couple ensures the project is both entertaining and educational, driving Milo Productions' mission to inspire and uplift.



International Distribution



Italia Film

Middle East & North Africa's most renowned film distributor representing Disney, Pixar, Marvel and several other large studios.

Time Hoppers: The Silk Road is one of the few indie films represented by Italia.

- Theatrical release through the MENA region in English and Arabic



Gravel Road

One of the leading film distribution companies operating out of South Africa and serving the continent. Theatrical releasing and selling to all post theatrical channels.

- Theatrical and post theatrical release across Africa



Vision Films

Vision Films is an independent distributor of feature films, documentaries, and music programs worldwide. They are a global VOD aggregator for major TVOD, SVOD, and AVOD platforms, including iNDemand, DirecTV, Vubiquity, iTunes, Amazon, Vudu, Google Play, Vimeo, Hoopla, Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Tubi, Pluto, Roku, Peacock, FreeVee, and YouTube. In Canada, they work directly with Shaw, Rogers, Telus, and Bell.

- Post theatrical US, Europe, LatAm





Fathom is a specialty distributor and is the 9th largest content distributor to movie theatres in North America. It operates the largest cinema distribution network with more than 2,000 participating locations and nearly 4,000 screens in 184 DMAs (including the top 100 markets). It is joint venture between AMC, Regal Cinemas (Cineworld), and Cinemark, the three largest domestic movie theatre chains.

Fathom Entertainment will release Time Hoppers in the US in over 500 theatres.



Thank you!

Your support in sharing this project means the world to us.



For more information:

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