

# CITIES OF LIGHT

## THE RISE AND FALL OF ISLAMIC SPAIN



### CITIES OF LIGHT: THE RISE AND FALL OF ISLAMIC SPAIN

A Dramatic Portrayal of a Period in World History

**Network:** PBS

**Premiere Date:** Wednesday, August 22, 2007

**Time:** Check local listings

#### **Synopsis:**

Over a thousand years ago, the sun-washed lands of Southern Spain were home to Muslims, Christians and Jews living together and flourishing. Their culture and beliefs intertwined, and the knowledge of the ancients was gathered and reborn. Here were the very seeds of the Renaissance. But this world too quickly vanished. Greed, fear and intolerance swept it away. Puritanical judgments and absolutism snuffed out the light of learning. Within a few centuries the fragile union of these people dissipated like smoke and the time of tolerance was lost forever. Brought to life by powerful feature-film style re-creations *Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain* explores the causes that destroyed the one civilization of pluralism and interfaith cooperation that for a few centuries lit the Dark Ages in Medieval Europe.

#### **Scholars:**

- **Lourdes Maria Alvarez** - Director of the Center for Catalan Studies and a professor of Spanish at Catholic University in Washington, DC.
- **Brian Catlos** -Associate Professor of history at the University of California, Santa Cruz.
- **Ahmad Dallal** - Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies and Chair of the Arabic and Islamic Studies Department at Georgetown University.
- **D. Fairchild Ruggles** - Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

*Working for Peace through the Media*



# UPF

Unity Productions Foundation

A Non-Profit Tax-Exempt 501(c)3 Educational Foundation \* EIN 770519274

Michael Wolfe and Alexander Kronemer, Executive Producers

P.O. Box 650458 \* Potomac Falls \* Virginia \* 20165-0458

[www.upf.tv](http://www.upf.tv)

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- **Imam Faisal Abdul Rauf** - Founder and CEO of the American Society for Muslim Advancement ([ASMA Society](#)) and Imam of Masjid Al-Farah, a mosque in New York City, twelve blocks from Ground Zero.
- **Mustapha Kamal** - Currently a lecturer in Arabic, Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies, at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he focuses on instruction of Arabic language and literature.
- **Chris Lowney** - Former Jesuit and author of *A Vanished World: Muslims, Christians and Jews in Medieval Spain*.
- **David Nirenbergs** - Charlotte Bloomberg Professor of the Humanities in Medieval History at Johns Hopkins University.
- **Raymond P. Scheindlin** - Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at The Jewish Theological Seminary and Director of JTS's Shalom Spiegel Institute of Medieval Hebrew Poetry.

### Credits:

#### Executive Producers

ALEXANDER KRONEMER  
MICHAEL WOLFE

#### Producer / Director

ROBERT GARDNER

#### Producer /Production Manager

CHAR GARDNER

#### Associate Producer

CARRIE GARDNER

#### Director of Photography

NICK GARDNER

#### Writer

CARRIE GARDNER

#### Editor

JEREMY MORRISON

#### Narrator

SAM MERCURIO

#### Music Composed by

CHARLES DENLER  
LITTLE RIVER MUSIC

#### Co-Producer

LOUISE ROSEN

#### Animation

JEREMY MORRISON

#### Art and Architecture Consultants

JONATHAN BLOOM  
SHEILA BLAIR

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### About Unity Productions Foundation ([www.upf.tv](http://www.upf.tv))

Unity Productions Foundation (UPF) is a non-profit educational foundation working to promote peace and understanding through the media. UPF's first project was *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet*, which aired nationally on PBS on December 18, 2002 and was awarded a 2004 Cine Award for Best Professional Documentary in its category.

Unity Production's mission is to create documentaries and feature films that can contribute to ending the clash of civilizations.

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