



## **Critical Acclaim for P.O.V.'s "NEW MUSLIM COOL"**

By Jennifer Maytorena Taylor

"*New Muslim Cool* possesses a kind of beauty that sneaks up on you: it is in Hamza's humility, in the dignity with which he confronts so much of his misfortune, in his commitment to rehabilitating drug dealers. . . . the film is an opportunity to access a closer view of human decency."

— **Ginia Bellafante, *The New York Times***

"A riveting new portrait of Muslim America."

**Margaret Ramirez, *Chicago Tribune***

"This spellbinding documentary gives us the full dimension of a Muslim American man who's a rapper, educator, father, husband and idealist."

— **Jonathan Curiel, *San Francisco Chronicle***

"Disarming. . . . A fine illustration of the melting pot's latest cultural flavors, as well as a helpful look past post-9/11 Islamic stereotypes. . . ."

— **Dennis Harvey, *Variety***

"The documentary explores the unique fusion of Islam and hip-hop and defies our perceptions of what it means to be a Muslim."

— **Elham Khatami, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette***

"Catch a documentary about cultures colliding in *New Muslim Cool*. . . . A moving documentary."

**Marian Liu, *Seattle Times***

"A sensitive and perceptive film, *New Muslim Cool* chronicles Hamza's halting evolution from thug to Muslim leader and family man. . . . The film's real strength is mixing the political with the domestic."

— **Kiera Butler, *Mother Jones***

"This fast-paced, beautifully scored film is an example of how to convey important ideas to an easily distracted public."

— **Aaron Barnhart, *Kansas City Star***

"Music is a huge part of "New Muslim Cool," from its subject's belief in hip-hop music's power to change lives, to a unique original score."

**Michael Machosky, *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review***

"A poignant, funny and provocative film."

***Pittsburgh City Paper***

"At its core, the *New Muslim Cool* is about the struggle to respond to adversity with your better self. It's about finding beauty in the least expected places. Set over the treble and funk, it tells a story we can all relate to, about the complexities of what it means to be imperfectly human."

**Suad Abdul Khabeer, *TheRoot.com***

"Moving, funny, inspiring. The plot could not be better if it were fiction. Don't miss it."

— **J. Samia Mair, *Baltimore Examiner***

“*New Muslim Cool* is guaranteed to intrigue and expand your awareness of American culture. You'll come away wanting to hug and help this guy who may, frankly, scare you in the opening minutes of the film. . . . *POV* also provides a very helpful interfaith discussion guide.”

— **David Crumm, [ReadTheSpirit.com](http://ReadTheSpirit.com)**

“Charismatic, vulnerable, and energetic, Hamza makes himself new every day. *New Muslim Cool*, quietly observational and entirely engaging, invites you to share his process.”

— **Cynthia Fuchs, [PopMatters.com](http://PopMatters.com)**

“It would have been easy for *New Muslim Cool* to offer yet another critique of the abuses of the Patriot Act . . . what came across for me was Perez’s sincerity about his calling, his gentleness with family and friends, and his desire for inter-faith dialogue and for improving the community where he lives.”

— **Chuck Tryon, [The Chutry Experiment Online](http://TheChutryExperimentOnline)**

“This film is by far the most accurate and sympathetic portrayal of the Muslim convert experience in the American inner city that I have ever seen in the media.”

— **Abu Noor Al-Irlandee, [MuslimMatters.org](http://MuslimMatters.org)**