

AIDA NASRALLAH BIOGRAPHY

Aida Nasrallah is the pen name of Mahagna Nassra, a Palestinian-Israeli writer, poet, performance artist, art historian and critic, and lecturer at Beit Berl University. Her work focuses on women's roles as peacebuilders. She organizes and runs a weekly salon for women poets and writers, serving as mentor for Arab women in Israel who wish to experiment with poetry and fiction. She was the driving force behind "Common Threads," an art exhibit that displayed the work of Jewish and Arab women artists side by side at the prestigious gallery of the Tel Aviv University.

She has published over 40 short stories and 60 poems in various Arabic publications in Israel. Her novel *My Dear Beyond the Ocean* was recently published in German. Ms. Nasrallah received a B.A. in Arabic and Art, University of Haifa, and her M.A. Degree through the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. Her thesis was entitled "Female Artists from the Wadi Ara Region: Their Artistic Endeavor as a Reflection of their Social and Individual Perception." Her play, *The Moaning of Rosary* was produced as a reading by Portland Stage Company and the theatre department at Iowa University in 2001 and was later staged at New York Theatre Workshop the same year. She has given lectures on topics such as women's roles in art and society, peace making, Arabic culture, and using the arts in teaching.

In 2012 Nasrallah received her doctorate from Tel Aviv University for her dissertation "The Representation of the Female Body in the Performances and Art of Palestinian Women in Israel from 1998 to 2010."

Nasrallah taught a special course called "Acting Together" at the High School for the Arts in Naamat. The main content for this course was the Acting Together anthology.

Nasrallah is also finishing two new plays in Arabic, both of which explore the topic of conflict, and the idea that all nations suffer in a state of war. One of the plays is "ALDAFIRA: Plead under Pressure" and the second is "I Will Flee the Fire with My Hands." Her work will be included in the "Anthology for Contemporary Palestinian Poets."

Events:

Conference on politics and education, with lecturers from Beit Berl College in Germany
[University of La Verne](#) (est. Lordsburg College), California

[Art Workshop](#)
[Beit Berl College](#), Isreal

Interviews, News and Articles:

"The Rituals of Women," "Soul Playing," "The She-Barefooted," and "A Hymn without a Rhythm." Published in "[The Story of a People: An Anthology of Palestinian Poets Within the Green-Lines](#)." Translated and edited by Jamal Assadi, Lang Publishing:

"Under the Shadow." A dialogue play manuscripts