

# Curriculum Vitae

## I. Personal Details

Name: Mahagna Nasera  
(Professional writing name, Aida Nasrallah)

Address: Mahagna Neighborhood, Umm El-Fahem 30010

Telephone: 0506-995517 or 04-6111501

Birth Date: 18/7/56

Two children: 32 and 26

## II. Education

B.A. University of Haifa, 1998  
Dual Major: Arabic Literature and Art History

M.A. Tel Aviv University  
Department of Art History  
Thesis topic: "Female Artists from the Wadi Ara Region; Their Artistic Endeavor as a Reflection of their Social and Individual Perception"  
Advisor: Professor Nurit Kenaan-Kedar, Department of Art History, 2003  
Grade: 94

Ph.D. [Proposal accepted]: "The Representation of the Female Body in Palestinian Israeli Women's Performances and Art, 1997-2007"

## III. Honors and Awards

2008 Invited by the Arab Culture Center to the Liverpool International Festival, to participate in an International art exhibition.

2008 Invited by the publisher of my book *Liebe Jenseits des Ozeans [Dear Beyond the Oceans] in German*. Munich: Verlag Roman Kovar publishers, 2008 to give a series of readings from the book on a book tour to Munich, Hennef, and Cologne.

Invited to present a show of my photographs as part of my book tour in Germany in the following places: The Cultural Center of Hennef, Hennef; the church of Cologne, Cologne; the Arabic Cultural Center, Munich, and the Cultural and Art Center, Munich.

- Recipient of the Dean's Scholarship, Tel Aviv University.
- 2007 Invited to participate in the International Conference "Peace Building through Theatre," at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.
- Recipient of the Dean's Scholarship, Tel Aviv University.
- Invited by the General Moroccan Writers' Union to participate on a panel about Women Short Story Writers, Casablanca, Morocco.
- 2006 Invited by the General Moroccan Writers' Union to participate on a panel about Women Short Story Writers, Sala, Morocco.
- Invited to read one of my short stories at the Cameri Theatre Festival of Performances, the reading presented both in Arabic and Hebrew, followed by a Discussion of Arab writing in Israel.
- 2001-2002 Recipient of the American Embassy Short Term Fellowship Program to Study in the United States. Was Writer in Residence at the International Iowa Writers Program, University of Iowa, Iowa City, from October 2002 through January 2003.. It is the most prestigious Writers' Program in America.
- 1999 Recipient of the Dr. Rebecca Chutick Scholarship for Women's Studies Program, Tel Aviv University.
- 1997 Invited to participate in a series of conferences in Nazareth about women short story writers, in Arabic.
- Invited to participate in the television program, "Lilac" on Channel 2, Israeli television. The program discussed social problems in the society, and concluded with a poetry reading by leading writers in the country, of which I was selected to be part.
- 1996 Was featured in a documentary film by Palestinian director Hanna Elias. The film featured three Arabic women writers: Newal al Saadawi from Egypt, and Sashar Khalifah from Nablus, Palestine, and me.
- 1995 Invited to the Official Residence of President of Israel for a special program honoring writers in Israel.

#### **IV. Work Experience**

- 2006-2008 Lecturer, Beit Beryl College  
 Academic Institute for Training Arab Teachers [AITAT],  
 The School for Multidisciplinary Studies  
 Courses Taught: "Art as an instrumental construction"  
 "Didactic Play: the teacher as a stage player"

“Writing Workshop”  
“Creative Thinking through Art”

2006	Coordinator for a workshop of writing for children aged 12-14, at the Academic Center-, Umm El-Fahem
2004-2006	Secondary schools for Girls who suffer from social problems, Umm El-Fahem
2002-2004	Elementary School of an Abraham
2001	Woman’s Club, Umm El-Fahem, Drama class
1998-2003	Naamat College of Art at Wadi Ara
1997	Naamat College for the Arts, Merkaz Tarbuti B’arar  Middle School, half time Bet Sefer Vadi Alnsoor, Umm El-Fahem

## **V. Publications**

### **A. Books**

*Liebe Jenseits des Ozeans [Dear Beyond the Oceans] in German].* Munich: Verlag Roman Kovar publishers, 2008.

*Transforming the Borders: Women’s Voice beyond Distance*, catalogue book, Holon:, 2008. [Hebrew]

*Ahmad Canaan: The Dreamer Knight*, catalogue book, Arabah, 2008.[Arabic]

*Karim Abu Shaqra*, catalogue book. [Arabic]

Introduction for the book “It Is Not Our Last Supper” by Kassim Matrood. [Arabic]

### **B. Books in Progress**

Two Poetry Collections presently in circulation:

1. *Hymns without rhythms Tarnimat bla iqa* [Arabic]

2. *I Will Let the Fire Flee* [Arabic]

[The poems included have appeared in various Arabic newspapers and literary magazines, including *Al-Itihad*, the leading Arabic newspaper in Israel and in *Al-Jadid*, the leading Arabic literature magazine. [The central organ of the Palestinian Union of Arab Writers in Israel.]

Two Short Story Collections presently being prepared:

1. *Aneen Almqahi (The Yearning for Coffee, 1985-2000)*. [Arabic].

2. *Creating Him as a Shadow [Tahta Althil]* [Arabic]

### C. Plays

2005 *The Moaning of Subhat Rosaries*, translated into Hebrew, *Gag*, no 11, published by General Union of Writers in Israel.

Reprinted in English "The Moaning of Subhat": a play translated into English, published in *The Iowa Review*" 32, no. 2 (Fall 2002).

2002 *Under the Shadow*, a play, published in *Meridian* 91, 1.2 (2002).

### D. Poems

2005 "A Journey of Yearning to Pure Crazyiness", in *Al-Itihad* (12 June 2005).  
Reprinted in *Faarades* (1 June 2005).  
Reprinted in *Divan Al-Arab* (1 February 2005).  
Reprinted in *Al-Hiwar Almutamadin*, (2 November 2005).

"The Long Hymn (1999)," in *Alhiwar almutmadin* 3 (November 2005).  
Reprinted in *Divan Al-Arab*.

"I Will Let the Fire Flee" in <http://www.aslimnet.net/div/2005/aida6.htm>

Four poems: "The Ceremony of Women," "The Artists` Exhibition," "In Abdullah 1", and "In Abdullah 2", in *Al-Itihad* 17 (June 2005).  
Translated into English and published in *Jehat*.

"Ceremony of Women" Republished in Catalogue *And Turn Into a Single Scream*, Anita Gallery, *Kol Ha-Isha*, Jerusalem, 2005.

2004 Five poems : "At Night 1" "At Night 2," "The Long Hymn," "Don't Open the Door," "In the Bottle Neck" (1 October 2004).

1996 "Love Colors," in *Elitihad* newspaper(23 February 1996).

1994 "Because I am Different" and "Speed," in *Al-Itihad* (8 September 1994).

1988 "It is Not a Nap," *Journal of Arabic Writers Union* 8 (Winter 1988).

### E. Short Stories

2007 "The Watered Cactus," in *Anaween, Online culture Magazine*,

"Very short stories," in *Alfwanees: Cultural Journal*, 3/2/2007.

"A Finest Death in the World," in, *Alfwanees: Cultural Journal*, 5/2/2007.

"Writing: A Collection of Short Stories: *Interweaving Stories*, together with the Moroccan writer Abd-allah almotaki, samples published in *Alhafa Journal*.

## F. Translations into Arabic

- 2008 Translation from English of *InternalBeauty* , one act play by Catherine Flix.
- 2006 Translation from Hebrew of “Women’s Voice from a Distance”, Meshkan Homanout, Art Residency, Holon: Bersom Modaout Publisher.
- Translation from Hebrew of “Six Women” *Catalogue* , by Anita Gallery , Jerusalem.
- 2004 Translation from Hebrew of “Home for Dolls”, by Shimon Levy , published in *Ilitihad* Newspaper, and also in *Online Magazine*.
- 2001 Translation from Hebrew of ”Nice homes of playing” (about the Arabic image on the Jewish stage) by Shimon Levy , published in *Al-Itihad* Arabic Newspaper (May 2001).
- 1999 Translation from English of “Don’t Read this Poem” by Ishmael Reed, published in *Ilitihad* Newspaper .
- 1995 Translation from Hebrew of *A Sign of Cool* by Yitzchak Platic and Mohammad Mahamed. Tel Aviv: Givat Haviva.

## G. Articles

- 2008 with Lee Pearlman. “Weaving Relationships, Embroidering Dialogues: Strengthening Coexistence in Israel through Performance,” in *Performance and Peacebuilding in Global Perspective*. Waltham: Brandeis University Press [forthcoming].
- Articles on Arts and Culture for the catalogue of Ahmad Canaan, Mifaal Habais, TAMRA.
- 2007 “Disgust, Purity, and the Self-Abjection in the Writing of Malika Moustadrif,” printed by the Moroccan Writers’ Union.
- “Review of Hannan Abu Hussein’s art work” *This Week in Palestine*.
- 2006 “The Dream, Vision and the Diaspora: the film of Anat Even, Makdimot” *Gal*: (Spring 2005): 44-49
- “Reading and Analyzing *It Is not our Last Supper* a play by Kassim Matrood, “published in *Theatrical Magazine Masraheon* [online Magazine].
- 2005 “This: Abjection of Body and Land: The film of Abu-wail Tawfeeq” published in *Midoza* Literature Magazine, and in “Fradees`s Cinema.

- 2002 "Moccatino and Double Solitude", translated into German, published in *De Ziet* (21 May 2002).
- 2000 "Looking from Within: One Hand –Different Fingers,"in: *Life: Abu Shakra*, Catalogue, Kfar Saba: Tzivion printing.
1999. "Weaving a Connection," Essay in Catalogue," Uri & Rami Nehustan Museum, 1998. [2000] "Life", Catalogue. (Translation from Arabic to Hebrew and from Hebrew to Arabic about the Abu-Shaqra family of artists in the same Catalogue.
1999. "Yoko Ono," Catalogue (Translation to Arabic and Hebrew from English), Catalogue, Umm El-Fahem Gallery.
- 1998 "Weaving a connection" in *Arabic work-Jew work*," a catalogue book, Uri & Rami Nehustan Museum, Ashdod.
- 1994 "Good Morning Home Land", about the new film of the director Nazim Shraidi, in *Al-Itihad* (5 April 1994).
- "The Attitude Concerning Woman's Liberty in Umm-El-Fahem. Men and Women Explain their Ideas Frankly: A Report," in *Al-Itihad* (8 March, 1994).
- 1993 "Only One Woman Has Been Elected to the Local Municipality: Can that be Reasonable?", in *Elithad* (12 November, 1993).
- 1992 "About Young People's Behavior: Interview with Social Workers Khalid Mahameed and Rashida Qaadani", in *Al-Itihad* (12 February 1992).
- "Notes about the play *Alaikool* interview with the director Mohammad abd Alraouf", in *Al-Itihad*, (15 June 1992).
- "Don't Teach your Daughters to be Silent: Interviews with Women Textile Workers", in *Al-Itihad* (11 May 1992).
- "I Have a New Scenario: Interview with Filmmaker Nazim Shraide", in *Al-Itihad* (6 April, 1992).
- 1991 "Family Cell: New Project for Helping Mothers: Interview with the Social Worker Hekmia Marie", in *Al-Itihad* (5 April, 1991).
- "On the Doors of Burning August", in *Al-Itihad*.
- "Report on 'Spring Club': The First in Umm El-Fahem", in *Al-Itihad*.

“Women at Risk in Umm El-Fahem: Interview with the Social Worker Maisn Massalha,” in *Al-Itihad* (4 October, 1991).

## **VI. Productions and Readings of my Plays**

- 2008            *The Moaning of Rosaries*, Bethlehem University, in the conference about Palestinian Female Writers the paper presented by Dr Farouq Moasi.
- The Moaning of Rosaries* :Reading in the international conference on “Women’s Theatre “ October, Cairo.
- Writing the Self Pain*, a conference at the Arabic Department, Alqasimi College, presented by Farouq Moasi.
2005.            *Under the Shadow*, Victory Theatre, Chicago.
- 2002            *Moaning of Rosaries*, Arab-Jewish Theatre, Jaffa.
- 2001            *Moaning of Rosaries* at Tzavta Theatre – Tel-Aviv, sponsored by Tel-Aviv University.
- 2001            *The Moaning of Rosaries*, New York Theatre Workshop, New York City
- 2001            *From Far Away: An Evening of International Playwriting: Reading and Discussion.*
- The Moaning of Rosary* by Aida Nasrallah, produced by R J. McComish, Portland Stage Company.
- " Global Express", Reading of the play *The Moaning of Rosary*, Produced by Maggie Conry at The Theatre Department, University of Iowa.

## **VII. Presentations and Talks**

- 2007            Literature symposium at the “Literature Salon” of Casablanca, Morocco
- “Women and Gender in Culture and Society," Conference on Peacebuilding through Theatre, Brandeis University.
- “Theatre in Israel,” Conference on Peacebuilding through Theatre, Brandeis University.
- 2006            Building peace through Art, discussion Panel in the

- Women's Art Salons, with Salman Natour in Umm el- Fahem.
- 2005 "And Turn into a Single Scream, The Aneta Gallery, Center of Kol Ha-Isha , Jerusalem.
- "Halil Jubran: Soul and Body in his Writing," The Academic Center, Umm El-Fahem.
- "Samuel Beckett's Influence on Arabic Theatre and Iraqi Playwright Kassim Matrood," "Samuel Beckett-Lost and Found" Conference, Tel-Aviv University.
- 2004 Discussion with Jamaica Kincaid", The Ambassador's Residence of the United States of America, the Honorable Daniel Kurtzer, Herzliya.
- 2003 "Show Your Wound" on the occasion of the Art seminar in Israel and Germany.
- " My writing as an Arab-Israeli," lecture in seminar for German Multi media Disciplinaryans, Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel-Aviv.
- 2003 "Reading Selections from my short story and Discussion," presented to German Journalists, at Har-Tzion Hotel, Jerusalem.
- Round Table discussion about childhood in Israel, together with Jewish and Palestinian writers, artist residency, Herzlia.
- "*Under the Shadow: Plays without Playwrights*," International Festival Portland, Oregon Stage Company.
- "Discussion with the International poet, Ishmael Read", at home of the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of the United States of America, the Honorable Michael A. Richards, Herzlia.
- 2002 "Reading a Letter from "Un-answered Letters", at the Ohel Sarvniot-Tel-Aviv, sponsored by the Women against War.
- "The Effect of Modernism on Arabic-Jews Art", Jewish/ Arab Center" Jaffa.
- A Panel discussion about *The Moaning of Rosary* at The Cultural Center, Kfar Saba.
- "Culture in Conflict: The Israeli Culture Scene in Dialogue with Society," BpB Seminar, Germany.



- 2001 "Art and Other Media", Lecture at the University of Iowa.
- " Reflection of Multi-Identity in Literature", Women's Studies Program, University of Iowa.
- "Perspective on Terrorism: A Forum " Visiting International Writers and Iowa scholars 2001, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa Sponsored by Humanities Iowa and the Institute on world Affairs (funded by GSB).
- "Poetry Evening", The Writers Center, Washington, DC.
- Interviewed by Frances Peebles, *Meridian*, Online Magazine at the University of Iowa 91, 4.no1 (9 November 2001).
- 2000 "Using Art in High Schools to Teach about Relationships between People," High School Teachers' Workshop, Kfar Saba High School.
- "Embroidery as an Art form," Women's Forum, Tel Aviv University.
- "Poetry Reading," International Conference: "Common Threads: Susan Glaspell's *Trifles* and the Interactions of Arts, Law, and Society in Addressing Violence Against Women," Tel Aviv University.
- "Weaving a Connection," Lecture at Opening of Exhibition, Genia Schreiber Gallery, Tel Aviv University, in conjunction the International Conference, "Common Threads: Susan Glaspell's *Trifles* and the Interactions of Arts, Law, and Society in Addressing Violence Against Women," Tel Aviv University
- "Poetry Reading" at the "Festival of Woman 2000", Holon Theatre.
- 1999 "Women, Art, And the Political and Social Implications in Making Peace between Peoples," Department Seminar, Department of Art History, Tel Aviv University.
- "Adama: The Use of Art in Arabic Culture," Umm El-Fahem Gallery.
- "Women's Embroidery and Women's Lives: Making Connections between Arabic and Jewish Israeli Women," Kfar Saba Gallery.

### **VIII. Art Exhibits**

- 2007 Exhibition," Mémoire de l'Avenir, » A la Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France 2007.

- International Group exhibition “Womb, Planet Art exchange, Liverpool, “ Tito’s Art Gallery, Liverpool.
- 2005 Group Exhibition, “Land, People & Identities,” with Palestinian & Israeli Artists, The Cave Gallery, the International Center of Bethlehem.
- 2003 Group Exhibition, “Show Your Wound”, Bet Asia, Tel-Aviv.
- 2002 “Featuring Writers from Israel,” SALA (the Organization for Literary Activities) Amsterdam, Holland.
- Group Exhibition “Women Create Art and Literature”, Bet Bialik Gallery, Tel-Aviv.
- Solo Exhibition: “Subhat”, Europe Center Gallery, Bethlehem.
- Personal Exhibition "Subhat", the Gallery of the University of Bethlehem.
- 2001 Group Exhibition Givat Haviva Gallery.
- Group Exhibition "0002" Amnon Conretit", Tel-Aviv.
- Group Exhibition "Self-Portrait" Catalogue edited by Tal Ben Zvi.
- 2000 Group Exhibition: “Weaving a Connection,” Genia Schreiber Gallery, Tel Aviv University.
- Group Exhibition: " Weaving a Connection", Umm El-Fahem Gallery-Fahem.
- 1999 Group Exhibition, “Adama”(Earth), Umm El-Fahem Gallery, Um El-Fahem.
- Group Exhibition, “Adama” (Earth) University Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Group Exhibition, “Calligraphy,” Al-Burg al Hasin Gallery, Qolonswa, Israel.
- 1997 Group Exhibition, “Calligraphy,” Givat Haviva Gallery.

### **VIII. Art Projects and Activities**

- 2008 Director and creator of the exhibition of Palestinian Artists, memory of the future. Mémoire de l'Avenir, Paris.
- Director of group exhibition "woman", residency of Art, Holon.
- Took a part of conference with Dr Judith Burton Hamedrasha Loamaniot, Kfar Saba.
- 2007 Director of Writing Workshop for teenagers (15-17).  
"Reading a Story," Academia Club, Umm el-Fahem.
- 2005 Director of Art Workshop for children (13-14 years old), at Algazali Centre for Art and Technology, Umm el-Fahem.
- 2001 Took part in the theatre activities of the El-Lajuon theatre in Umm El-Fahem.
- 1985-1990 Organized and ran a weekly salon for women poets and writers, Umm El-Fahem, the purpose of which was to explore women's ways of knowing and women's self-expression and art. Served as mentor for Arab women in the area who wished to experiment with poetry and fiction.
- 1974-1975 Acted in theatre troop, Umm El-Fahem Traveled around country performing works written by participants.

#### **IX. Selected Articles and Reviews written about Aida Nassrallah and her work**

2008. Mary Louise, introduction of the book *My Dear beyond the Oceans*. [in German]
- "Rasha Abd el-Monim," *The butterfly woman*, a study prepared for a conference in Cairo about women playwrights.
2007. Interviewed by the Writer Ziad Khadash, "I Wanted to Scream by my Language," in *Elitihad* Newspaper, 15/2  
<http://www.alhafh.com/web/ID-484.html>.
- 2006 Critical article on Aida Nasrallah's writings, "Flowing Writing: Yearning to Temptation" by Ali Hassan Fawas, in *Alhafa, Cultural-Literature Journal*, 29/9.
- 2005 Sabah Al-Anbari: "Masculinity's Lust and the Hegemony in Aida Nasrallah's play *The Moaning of Rosaries*," in *Masrahion* (28 June, 2005).  
<http://masraheon.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=138>
- 2004 Farouq Mowasi, "Amazing Text":the play *The Moaning of Rosaries*, *Al-SABAH* newspaper (20 July 2004); rpt. in *Al-Hqaeq* newspaper, (21 July 2004).

- 2003 Adnan Hussein Ahmad, "The Palestinian Writer Aida Nasrallah", *Al-Zamman*, (1February, 2003).
- Merav Serag, *Haaretz* Newspaper, "The Coming Pleasure: Interview with 5 writers" 3. 2003.  
The same interview was reprinted in the University of Iowa online magazine, Meridian 91
- 2000 Tal Ben Zvi, "Aida Nasrallah" in "Self-Portrait" *Catalogue*, Edited by Tal Ben Zvi. Tel Aviv: Andalos Press, 20000.
- Shimon Levy, "Introduction" for the play *The Moaning of Rosaries*, Translated from Hebrew by Aida Nasrallah, published in the website of the Moroccan scholar and writer Muhammed Aslim (Le site de Mohamed Aslim): <http://www.aslimnet.net/div/simone1.htm>.
- 1991 Faisal Karkati: "Writers from Galilee": 'Wedding Night' a short story by Aida Nasrallah," in *Shoon Falastinia*, no. 215-216, (February/March, 1991):33-35.