Rita Akroush

CULTURAL MANAGER · PLAYWRIGHT · DIRECTOR · DRAMATURG

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PROFILE

Arts and cultural leader with over 8 years of experience in theatre-making, arts education, cultural programming, and community engagement across Jordan and the MENA region. Executive Director of Al Balad Theatre, leading festival programming, strategic partnerships, fundraising, and artistic development. Award-winning playwright and director whose work has been presented internationally and commissioned by leading cultural institutions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Al Balad Theatre
2022 – Present

Executive Director

- Lead strategic and operational management of one of Jordan's leading independent cultural institutions.
- Oversee annual festival and programme portfolio.
- Manage partnerships with local and international cultural organisations.
- Lead fundraising and donor reporting.

Seenaryo
Dec 2019 – Present

Trainer · Amman, Jordan

- Delivered intensive three-day training sessions on the Seenaryo Playkit, a resource containing games, songs, and interactive stories for arts-based curriculum delivery.
- Conducted training in various locations, including Al Zaatari Camp, Madaba, and Amman.
- Produced performances using participatory theatre techniques for youth.

Mosaik Education
Jul 2019 – May 2022

Programme Officer · Amman / Remote

- Managed programme implementation and prepared technical outcome reports.
- Oversaw partnerships with local community-based organisations.
- Recruited, trained, and managed youth volunteers in Lebanon and Jordan.
- Co-led the execution of Mosaik's monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) strategy.
- Maintained financial logs and databases for multiple projects.

Mashrek International School
2017 – 2019

IBMYP Drama Teacher

- Designed and delivered drama curriculum and mentored student projects.

SELECTED ARTISTIC WORK

Playwriting

Washed (2026, work in progress) – Draft • The Box (2025) • Light (2024) – Trailer • Boat (2024) • Suad's Salon (2022) • Bus Stop (2019) • 65 Joules (2017) – Script

Directing & Dramaturgy

King Lear?! (2024) • When Light Attacked (2023) • A Door Between Us (2020) • Stories of the Box (2019) • The Last Kick (2019–2020)

Community Theatre

Al Qanater (Al Fuheis, 2026) – A show built from a two-month participatory workshop in which participants wrote monologues inspired by imagined stories of 1917, the year of exodus in Al Fuheis, asking how houses and buildings hold memory.

Acting

The Final Lunch (2026) – Monodrama • The Two Tailors (2026) – Nominated for Best Actress

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- **Nominated for Best Actress** – The Two Tailors (2026)
- **Al Mawred Production Grant** – Light (2023)
- **PeaceGeeks Award (3rd Place)** – 65 Joules (2019)

EDUCATION

MA Dramaturgy & Writing for Performance (Distinction) 2020 – 2021
Goldsmiths, University of London

BA Theatre, Minor in Psychology & Film/New Media 2013 – 2017
New York University Abu Dhabi · GPA 3.66/4.0

FILM WORK

- **Wain Rayha** (2020) – Screenwriter & Co-Director – Film
- **Blue Silk** (2016) – Screenwriter & Co-Director

RESIDENCIES & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- D-CAF Cairo Calling Residency 2024
- Contemporary Playwriting Workshop – Mraya Theatre 2024
- Remote Closeness Residency – Jordan National Gallery 2021
- Kon Lab Playwriting Workshop 2020–2021
- Theatre MITU South India Artist Intensive 2019
- Playback Theatre Foundation Course 2019
- Shanghai Theatre Academy – Chinese Opera Programme 2017
- Hemispheric Institute – Art, Migration & Human Rights 2015

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Languages: Arabic (Native), English (Professional Fluency)

Skills: Final Cut Pro X, QLab, Grant Writing, Facilitation & Training, Participatory Theatre, Photography & Videography