

Haia R'nana Bchiri

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Theatre & Drama — *UC San Diego*

September 2020 - Spring 2025/2026

Joint program with UC Irvine.

- Research: Performance of national identity in the ancient Mediterranean as it pertains to female power in times of crisis and transition.

B.A., Theater Arts — *Brandeis University*

August 2016 - May 2020

Summa Cum Laude. Minor in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation.

- Thesis: “Drama Queen Mothers: The Pathology of Motherhood in Western Media (from Athens to America)”; Companion play: *The Emassey* (a matricentric, episodic odyssey). Highest Honors.
- Companion publication: *Comfort. Food: A Collection of Memories and Moments*

Bible Studies — *Bar Ilan University*

2015 - 2016

TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Department of Theatre & Dance — *UC San Diego*

- TDHT 10, “Introduction to Play Analysis” (primary instructor) – Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Spring 2023
- TDGE 1, “Introduction to Theatre” — Prof. Jon Reimer, Summer 2021
- TDHT 23, “Twentieth Century Theatre” — Prof. Julie Burelle, Spring 2021
- TDHT 22, “Theatre 1500-1900” — Prof. Elliott Turley, Winter 2021
- TDHT 21, “Ancient and Medieval Theatre” — Prof. Elliott Turley, Fall 2020

Director of Development — *Public Domain Players*

Teaching Artist — *Chicago Youth Shakespeare*

- *Macbeth* – Fall/Winter 2022
- “Play in a Day: *Midsummer*” – Summer 2022
- “Play in a Week: Shakespeare Intensive” — Summer 2021

Teaching Artist — *Edge of Orion*

- “ASL Musical Theatre” — Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant, Department of Theater Arts — *Brandeis University*

- THA 21B, “Acting: Language in Action” — Prof. Adrienne Krstansky, Spring 2018
- THA 109A, “Improvisation for Theatre: Acting Unscripted” -- Prof. Adrienne Krstansky, Fall 2018
- THA 66A, “The American Drama Since 1945” — Dr. Arthur Holmberg, Fall 2018
- THA 102B, “Shakespeare on Stage and Screen” — Dr. Arthur Holmberg, Spring 2019
- THA 70A, “Directing” — Prof. Dmitry Troyanovsky, Fall 2019

Undergraduate Departmental Representative, Department of Theater Arts — *Brandeis University*

2019-2020

President, 24 Hour Musical — *Brandeis University*

2018 - 2019

- Coordinator of the annual Undergraduate Theatre Collective’s 24 Hour Musical (*Legally Blonde*).

Faculty Associate, Theatre — *Northwestern High School Institute*

June 2019 - August 2019

- Teaching assistant/assistant director/teaching artist/RA for 5-week summer theatre intensive.

Vice President, Hold Thy Peace — *Brandeis University*

2017 - 2019

- Season/event planning and facilitating for the Greek/Roman classics and Shakespeare group on campus.

Teaching Artist, Theatre — *Black Box Studios*

June 2013 - August 2016

Operations Manager — *Black Box Performing Arts Center*

November 2015- August 2016

Writing Coach/Ghostwriter — *Freelance*

2017 - present

- Guiding aspiring (now-published) authors on their novels, nonfiction books, and articles.

Tutor — *Freelance*

2014 - present

- Theatre, Literature, History, Hebrew, Academic Writing, Hebrew Bible/Talmud, American Sign Language

INVITED WORKSHOPS/LECTURES

“Queenliness is Close to Godliness: Inciting Affective Responses During Crises in Ancient Egypt” — *ASTR Conference*

2022

- Investigating the performance traditions deployed by Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, and Cleopatra VII to restore calm and order during and after crisis struck their kingdom.

“Mother Cleo: The Traditions of Motherhood Behind Antony and Cleopatra” — *Sixteenth Century Society and Conference*

2021

“Shakespeare and the Tudors: Toeing the Party Line” — *Medieval and Renaissance Forum*

2021

- Uncovering Shakespeare’s Tudor propaganda in his non-history plays.

“Aphra Behn and Restoration Comedy” — *UC San Diego*

2021

“The Bacchae and the Boys’ Club” — *UC San Diego*

2020

- A feminist lens on the history behind *The Bacchae* by Euripides.

“Suzuki: His Life and Work” — *Brandeis Department of Theater Arts*

2019

“Reshape the Narrative” — *Northwestern High School Institute*

2019

- Playwriting and adaptation for the stage.

“Impulse and Instinct” — *Northwestern High School Institute*

2019

“Shakespeare and Propaganda” — *Brandeis Department of Theater Arts*

2018

HONORS AND AWARDS

Herbert and Sandra Fisher Award for Exceptional Achievement in the Creative Arts — *Brandeis University*

May 2020

Phi Beta Kappa — *Brandeis University*

May 2019

- Junior year inductee

John Edward Hill Memorial Prize — *Brandeis University*

Spring 2018

Dean’s List — *Brandeis University*

2016 - 2020

Tibie Rosenfield Brown Endowed Scholarship — *Brandeis University*

2016 - 2020

GRANTS RECEIVED

Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Arts Grant — *Brandeis University*

May 2020

- For: *John Proctor is the Villain* (Dramaturg/Shelby)

SELECTED ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Director/Organizer/Puck, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* — *Public Domain Players*

2021

- Interactive production that served as a fundraiser for the nonprofit educational theatre company, Chicago Youth Shakespeare

Director/Organizer, *Hamlet* — *Public Domain Players*

2021

- Interactive production that served as a fundraiser for the nonprofit educational theatre company, Chicago Youth Shakespeare

Dramaturg, *The Winter's Tale* — *UC San Diego*

2023

Dramaturg, *Whole Megillah New Play Festival* — *San Diego Repertory Theatre*

2021-2023

Director/Dramaturg, *Cymbeline* — *Public Domain Players*

September - November 2020

Director/Dramaturg, *Eurydice* — *Hold Thy Peace*

2019

- Part of independent study "The Reclamation of the Female Voice in Theatre." Advisor: Dr. Isaiah Wooden

ASL Coordinator/Dramaturgy (Assistant), Chorus Leader, *The Bacchae* — *Brandeis Department of Theater Arts*

2019

ASL Coordinator/Solveig/Aase, *Peer Gynt* — *Brandeis Department of Theater Arts*

2018

- Accessible production, experiment on alternative sensory stimulation.

Dramaturg/Assistant Director/Fight Choreographer, *The Pillowman* — *Black Box Performing Arts Center*

2016

Dramaturg/Assistant Director, *Sweeney Todd* — *Black Box Performing Arts Center*

2016

- Educational theatre intensive.

PR, *Spring Awakening* — *Deaf West Broadway*

2015 - 2016

Dramaturg/Actor, *Beltsville/Rockville: The Rise of the Goatman* — *Black Box Studios*

2015

- New play workshop.

Dramaturg/Raja, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* — *Young Actors' Ensemble*

2014

Voice Interpreter, *The Wizard of Oz* — *CenterLight Family Theater*

2014

- International Center on Deafness and the Arts

Editor/Ghostwriter, Various — *Freelance*

2014 - present

LANGUAGES

English, Hebrew, Aramaic, American Sign Language, some Arabic, some Greek, some Latin