

University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

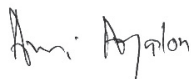
Chaim Topol

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In recognition of his unique contribution to Israeli culture, particularly to the theater and the cinema, and for being one of the pillars of cultural activity in Israel for over 50 years; for the great honor he brought to the State of Israel through his activities abroad, and for paving the way for Israeli actors to appear on stages around the globe; for the special place he holds in establishing Haifa's cultural and artistic life; for his unique cross-cultural activities, especially for children; and for his ongoing involvement in Israeli public life.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel
27 Iyar 5774/May 27, 2014



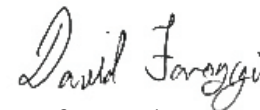
Ami Ayalon

Chairman of the Executive Committee



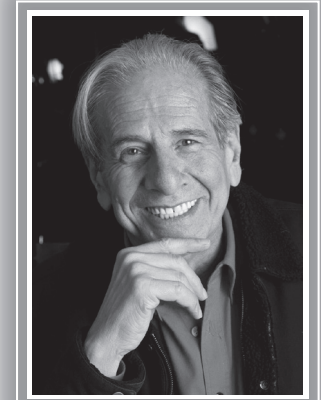
Amos Shapira

President



Prof. David Faraggi

Rector



CHAIM TOPOL

Chaim Topol was born in 1935 in Tel Aviv. His military service in the Nahal Troupe lasted for over three years, most of it as leader of the Nahal entertainment unit. While singing and performing skits with the Troupe, Topol began to act the part of Sallah Shabbati, whom he played in a future film of the same name.

On his release from the IDF, Topol returned to his Kibbutz, Mishmar David. There, in 1957, he founded the comedy group, Spring Onion, with the participation of Galia Topol, Uri Zohar, Eli Barkai (Berko), Nehama Hendel and Yossele Oreg. About a year later, the Spring Onion left the Kibbutz and were joined by Avraham Mor, Zaharira Harifai, Yonah Atari, Arik Einstein, Oded Cotler and others. In 1960, Topol joined Josef Milo and founded the Haifa Municipal Theatre where he played a number of roles, among them Jean in Enesco's Rhinoceros, and Azdak in The Caucasian Chalk Circle by Brecht, for which he received great accolades in Israel. He also appeared at The Biennale (Venice 1963) and played the part at the Chichester Theatre Festival (1969 United Kingdom).

Topol first appeared on the screen in I Like Mike in 1961 and then played the lead in Eldorado in 1962. In 1963, he returned to the role of Sallah Shabbati in the prize-winning movie of the same name, directed by Efraim Kishon. Topol's acting in Sallah Shabbati won him the Golden Bridge Award for Best Actor in the San Francisco Festival as well as the Golden Globe award. The movie itself was awarded the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

In 1966, Topol began to play another mythological figure, Teyve the milkman, in the stage musical Fiddler on the Roof in Israel. In the same year he appeared in his first English-language film, Cast a Giant Shadow. In February 1967 the musical "Fiddler", starring Topol, was performed at Her Majesty's Theatre in London marking the start of his international career.

In 1971 Topol appeared in the English-speaking film version of Fiddler on the Roof, where he played the lead role. For that part he received the Golden Globe award for Best Actor in a Musical or Comic Film and was nominated for an Oscar for Best Actor in 1971.

The many prizes awarded to Topol include: the Italian 'Oscar', the David di Donatello Prize, which he received together with Elizabeth Taylor for best actors in 1972. At the San Sebastian Festival, Topol took the best actor award for his role in the movie The Public Eye with Mia Farrow. He also received David's Harp awards for cinema and theater in Israel. In May 2008, Topol was named Outstanding Member of the Israel Festival for his contribution to Israeli culture.

Topol participated as an actor and producer in dozens of films, as well as on television. He starred in numerous series in Israel and abroad. Over the years, he took part in many plays, musicals, movies and series in English and Hebrew. There is no doubt that Topol reached the pinnacle of theater, film and television in Israel.

Topol also illustrated some 25 books (published in Hebrew and English) and 250 minutes of the program "Kav ledmut" (Character Line) on Israeli television. A series of stamps issued in 2013 by the Israel Philatelic Services features his portrayals of Israeli presidents.

In addition to his enormous contribution to Israeli culture, Topol devotes time to the betterment of society in Israel. In 1967 he founded Variety Israel and serves as an international ambassador for Variety worldwide. He is among the founders and acts as chairman of Jordan River Village, a holiday village for Jewish and Arab children suffering from life-threatening diseases. The village operates throughout the year, hosting youngsters between the ages of 9 and 18.

Topol and Galia live in Tel Aviv. They have three children and nine grandchildren.