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

David Grossman

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In recognition of his unique and significant contribution to modern Hebrew literature, in novels in which he
sketched with an artist's touch the soulful subtleties of the lives of his protagonists and gave clear expression
to the Israeli experience in all its dimensions; for the richness and freshness of his language and for his ability
to constantly change the genre of his writing; for the great honor he bestowed on the State of Israel with the
translation of his books to dozens of languages for which he gained international recognition; for his political
writings and wide-ranging public activities which are characterized by the quest for peace and social justice;
and for being a clear and conscientious voice, respected even among those who do not share his views.

Conferred on 22 Sivan 5778/June 5, 2018
Haifa, Israel

photo: Michael lionstar

Mooly Eden
Chairman of the Executive Committee

Prof. Ron Robin
President

Prof. Gustavo Mesch
Rector
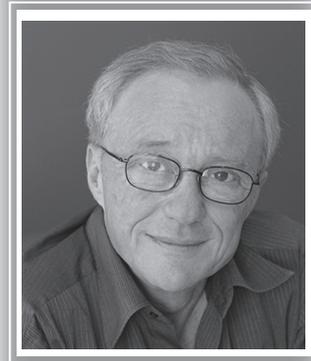
DAVID GROSSMAN

David Grossman was born in Jerusalem in 1954. His mother was also born in Jerusalem, and his father emigrated to Israel from Poland in 1936.

He studied at the 'Bet Hakerem' Elementary School and then at the Hebrew University High School (Leyada) in Jerusalem, in the first Middle Eastern Studies track established at the school.

In his youth, David Grossman worked as a reporter and actor for Israel Radio's youth programs. After completing his military service in Unit 8200 of the Intelligence Corps, he returned to the radio station and prepared programs for adults and youth, presented personal and documentary programs, and for four years served as anchor of the 'Morning Diary' program.

Grossman studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is a graduate of the Departments of Philosophy and Theater.

In 1979, Grossman's first short story Donkeys was published in the literary journal 'Siman Kriya' (Exclamation Mark) and in 1983, he published his first novel, The Smile of the Lamb. Three years later, Grossman published his second novel See Under: Love (1986) which was almost immediately translated into most Western European languages. This book was Grossman's breakthrough and led to garnered international recognition for his literary works.

Following the Second Lebanon War, and the death of his son Uri who was killed in action David Grossman published three important works all of which deal with different aspects of loss and mourning – To the End of the Land (2008), Falling Out of Time (2012), and A Horse Walks into a Bar (2014). Two of Grossman's more noteworthy books – The Yellow Wind (1987) and Present Absentees (1992) – predicted social trends and shone a spotlight on a range of issues that had not yet reached the attention of the Israeli public.

In addition to writing for adult audiences, Grossman has also written dozens of books for children and youth, many of which became classics including the Itamar Stories series (1987-1990), The Zigzag Kid (1994), and Someone to Run With (2000).

Grossman has also made his mark in the theater in plays such as Riki's Kindergarden (1988), and Falling out of Time (2012). Theatrical versions of his novels have been staged to great acclaim in Israel and around the world.

David Grossman devotes his energies to raising the profile of his quest for peace and social justice, which are expressed through his journalistic and public activities including a long list of articles, lectures, speeches and active partnership in conferences and dialogs.

In 2017, Grossman became the first Israeli writer to win the Man Booker International Prize, one of the most important awards in global literature, for his book A Horse Walked into a Bar. This year, he is the Israel Prize Laureate in the field of Hebrew Literature and Poetry.

Grossman has won numerous prizes and accolades in Israel and abroad including the EMET Award (2007), the AKUM Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2009), the Peace Prize of the German Book Association (2010), the Berner Prize (2012), France's Prix Médicis for translated literature (2012), Foreign Honorary Membership of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2017), and an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree that was conferred on him by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2017).

David Grossman is married to Michal, and is father to Yonatan, Uri (of blessed memory) and Ruti, and grandfather to Lilach and Mayan.