

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

Gila Almagor-Agmon

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In tribute to her outstanding and exceptional contribution to Israeli culture through her rare and unique acting talent; for her boundless creativity; for the great honor she has brought the State of Israel through the many international accolades she was awarded; for her meaningful and distinctive activities for society in general and children in particular; and for her longstanding and constant involvement in the Israeli public arena.

Conferred on 23 Iyyar 5779/May 28, 2019
Haifa, Israel



Nadav Shahar

Acting Chairman of the Executive Committee



Prof. Ron Robin

President



Prof. Gustavo Mesch

Rector



GILA ALMAGOR-AGMON

Gila Almagor-Agmon was born in Petah Tikva in 1939, four months following her father's death by an Arab sniper while working as a police officer. During her childhood, she moved from one school to another and at 14 she came to the Hadassim Youth Village where she first met children who were Holocaust survivors. Her time at this Youth Village was a remedy for her childhood until that point. In 1955, at the young age of 15, Gila Almagor left Hadassim and moved to Tel Aviv in hope of pursuing her almost-secret dream of becoming a stage actress. Despite her young age, she was given the opportunity to audition for the Habima acting school and when she passed her auditions with flying colors, she debuted in Habima's production of *The Skin of Our Teeth* in 1956. In 1960, she participated in her first feature film, *Burning Sands*. In 1963, she moved abroad to enroll for two years at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York while also studying acting with Uta Hagen and Modern Dancing with Anna Sokolov. When she returned to Israel, she returned to the stage and portrayed a myriad of roles from original plays and translated works, modern and classic. She participated in over 60 Israeli and foreign film productions including *Sallah Shabati*; *The Thin Line*; *The House on Chelouche Street* – nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film; *Operation Thunderbolt* – nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film; *Under the Domim Tree* – based on a novel she authored; *The Summer of Aviya* – based on her childhood experiences and received with much international acclaim; *The Queen of the Road*; *Life According to Agfa* and many more. She also penned five books: *The Summer of Aviya*, *Under the Domim Tree*, *Alex Lerner*, *Daphna and Me*, *Yearnie*, *a Girl Born in a Dream*, and *Stars Are Only in the Sky*.

Alongside her prominent acting career, Gila Almagor was also extremely active in the public arena with her involvement with the Israeli Union of Performing Artists, the Israeli branch of ASSITEJ as its local Chairwoman, Chairwoman of the Tel Aviv branch of the Israel Cancer Association and more. In addition, Gila Almagor was a Tel Aviv Council member for five years and served as the Chairwoman of the Tel Aviv Cinematheque. However, most of her time, love and attention was directed to her activities at the Gila Almagor Wish Fund, an organization she established to realize the dreams and wishes of sick children.

In her long career, spanning over sixty years, Gila Almagor received many accolades including: the Israel Prize for Cinema; the Kinor David Award, which she received ten times over her career; her film *Siege* received first prize at the Chicago and Atlanta Film Festivals; the Margalit Award for Best Actress in Theatre, Lifetime Achievement Award at the New York Israeli Film Festival; Lifetime Achievement Award from the Israel Academy of Film and Television and three honorary doctorates from Tel Aviv University, Weizmann Institute of Science and Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

Gila Almagor continues to perform at the Habima National Theatre in *Road Signs* and *Cause of Death Unknown*. Although Mrs. Almagor performed in theatre companies all over Israel (Sambtyon Theatre, the Ohel Theatre, Haifa Theatre, the Cameri Theatre; Bimot Theatre and Beersheba Theatre), Habima Theatre is her longtime home. Gila Almagor is married to Yaakov Agmon; they have one daughter and two grandchildren.