

LEADERS IN THEIR FIELD

- Dramatic Art

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King David High School Linksfield 2001



What did you study?

I studied a Dramatic Arts degree Hons at Wits university. I also completed a Bachelor in Psychology Hons through Wits and Unisa. I have two associate teaching diplomas from trinity college London-in dramatic art and musical theatre. And I'd like to do my masters either in psychology or dramatic art someday. Or maybe in both if I've got enough courage and time!

What work do you do and why did you choose this path?

This path chose me. It was a way of life for me from the day I could express myself creatively and artistically. I was always found to be flourishing in the area of the arts, gravitating towards music and theatre. I've often contemplated my career choice because the challenges of this world of performance require a very thick skin which is a trait that I do not naturally own. But no matter what, I still find myself leaning towards this area of work. It's my passion. It makes me feel alive and it makes me believe in something.

How has this been impacted by Coronavirus?

This year I was set to have my busiest year career wise. I was booked back to back with theatre shows, but the devastation of the pandemic completely obliterated my work plans. No theatres; no entertainment, no live events. Nothing. The theatres were

closed. I learned that you can tell that a country is flourishing economically when the artists are earning a good living. In British history when Winston Churchill was told that funding for the arts needed to cease due to the expenses of war, Churchill exclaimed, "well then what are we fighting for?"

How have you innovated to overcome life challenges?

I have innovated to overcome life challenges with adaptability. Darwin said, "it's not the fittest that will survive. It's the one who are most adaptive to change". The real skill of overcoming obstacles in life is to shift and gain perspective. I've tried to remain open to solutions and possibilities outside my realm of comfort. I am obsessed with stories and storytelling - I'm a professional storyteller. I try to think of tough personal times as part of a larger narrative to which I belong, this gives me insight and perspective. I try see things from different points of view as if I were writing a script or reading a play.

What challenges have you faced as a woman?

I found the main challenges of being a woman have been the expectations and demands of others on women of today. You are expected to act a certain way around men, in work and at home. Being a white woman in South Africa comes with a set of preconceived assumptions. Also being a Jewish woman, you are expected to behave in a certain way amidst your community. The pressures of being an average member of society is already high and one is even expected to excel beyond that. When I started my journey as a mother, I realized that the one thing I needed in my life was to know that my children would be safe and well. Anything above this was a bonus. Being a mom has been one of my biggest challenges and my greatest joys.

What King David experiences or Jewish values motivate you?

My matric year was one of the happiest years of my life. I was unexpectedly voted to be head girl and it was in this year that I recognized what a sense of leadership means. I received consistent support and acceptance from my teachers and peers in this year and this was truly transformative. The King David culture harnessed my deep roots in Judaism and the importance being part of a community.

What drives you to make an impact?

My major motivation to create impact is to make meaning of the ordinary. In a song I like to make sure that what I perform is original, impressive and inspiring. I believe that in order to create impact, you need to work hard, endure much and tolerate waiting. You also need clarity in your goals and let go of the things you can't control. I can only work hard, stick to what I believe in and breed joy in my creations.

What do you do to relax?

I never relax! I'm a mom of 2 young kids and I'm an over achiever. When I can, I work out. I do yoga. I connect to my body. I breathe, and I sing. I love watching a good movie and escaping to another world.

Tell us about your family

We are all from Israel. I am the youngest of 3 girls and my parents are divorced. Despite this, my mom mostly as well as my dad only provided love and support for me over the years. Both my sisters are incredibly strong, powerful and intelligent women. I often joke that I'm the black sheep of the family because I'm the arty one! I married my husband Dan in 2009 and we have 2 daughters - Liv and Brooklyn. They are my everything.

Words to live by:

Make sure you feel alive as much as you can. Own your mistakes. Say sorry when you are wrong. And mean it. Love. With all your heart.