

## Adi's Story

My name is Adi, an aspiring arts administrator and a newcomer in Canada.

I was born in Israel to two wonderful and loving parents, my mum a jurist and my father a diplomat. Due to the nature of my father's work I had the privilege of growing up in different European countries in multicultural environments. I grew up as a third culture kid, and I speak and write both in Hebrew and in English.

A few weeks after I was born my family moved to Moscow, Russia where I spent my first years growing up. A few years later we moved to Israel, followed by another relocation to Geneva, Switzerland, a beautiful and picturesque country. I loved the country and the friends we made there, however after a couple of years we moved back to Israel before moving again, this time to Riga, Latvia, which I fell in love with. In Latvia I attended middle school and acquired many new friends, experiences, and memories. It was when I was living there that I first discovered my interest in the arts and theatre specifically.

After a couple of years my family moved back again to Israel, this time for 15 years – I graduated high school, served in the Israel Defense forces where I had a very meaningful service in Foreign Affairs, working with international organizations and many European countries on a daily basis. After leaving the service I attended the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where I received my bachelor's degree in Theatre Studies and Supplementary Studies. Following graduation I worked at a local community theatre, where I got to experience many interesting artistic positions. I worked as the artistic department manager, producer, assistant artistic director, and overseas marketing coordinator for international art organizations and festivals.

Missing the European culture, customs, meeting new and interesting people from different backgrounds, I decided to advance my education and skills in Canada. I moved to the GTA last summer in the midst of a global pandemic with my amazing partner of 8 years.

Aspiring to work in arts administration, I am due to graduate this summer with a certificate in Arts Administration and Cultural Management from Humber College. Due to the pandemic my studies were held online, and I never met my classmates and new friends. Navigating through a new country in a new world order, and studying in a pandemic has raised new challenges, but I would have not changed anything about this new and wonderful experience.

Through my studies I was fortunate enough to work with Shadowland, my first experience working with a Canadian theatre company. Although the pandemic has prevented us from meeting in person, I feel fulfilled by the work and collaboration. I absolutely loved working with Artistic Directors Anne Barber and Brad Harley, and General Manager Sequoia Erickson, who always made me feel welcome and part of the team. I look forward to meeting them in person and to visit their studio on Toronto Island, should I have the opportunity. I am grateful to have worked in a new country with Shadowland.

Written by Adi Koren  
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