



THEATER AND THEOLOGY, SUCCOT 2023:

**IMMERSIVE THEATER IN OCTOBER
&
A NEW COMEDY IN NOVEMBER**

Tickets



THE CHAIR by Haim Watzman

On October 3rd and 5th, 2023, Theater and Theology presents Haim Watzman's *The Chair*, a reimagining of the biblical book of Hosea in contemporary Israel's jumble of culture, religion, and politics.

This program is being offered as part of the **Kings in Jerusalem Multidisciplinary Culture and Arts Festival by the Mikro Theatre.** See the whole festival program [here](#). The festival and its website is in Hebrew. However, Theater and Theology's production of *The Chair* is in English.

The story: Michal, a young woman has just separated from her husband, Shaya, a labor activist for whom she's more a symbol than a human being. She rents a dilapidated apartment in which Lily, an austere and elderly Moroccan woman recently died, sitting on a chair facing her bedroom window. Ofek, the woman's younger son, tells Michal that the condition of renting the apartment is that she must not move a single thing in the apartment, which must, by tradition, be kept for a year just as it was when his mother died—including the chair placed before the bedroom. Orel, a Shas missionary, tries to bring Michal closer to religion and find her a new husband, and Gomer, a mentally challenged neighbor from the housing project, wanders through the apartment clutching three dolls as if they were her children. In parallel, Shaya and Gomer play out the story of Hosea and the harlot he takes as a wife at God's command. On her first night in the apartment, Michal sits in the chair, looks out over the courtyard, and begins to understand both Lily and herself.

Like the book of Hosea, *The Chair* pits extremes of realism against metaphor, piety against sin, passion against indifference, and austerity against indulgence. It is an exploration of how prophetic vision might play out and touch on contemporary issues that are thousands of years old.

Watzman's play won the Theater Institute Award of The Szymon Szurmiej Contemporary Jewish Drama International Competition, 2021.

Illustration by Avi Katz





