



UNNATURAL CYCLES

a ghost story by Avital Raz

VENUE & MARKETING PACK

There's a growing dark cloud above the Rosenberg house.
Two women – one dead, one alive – need to reconcile their differences
to remove it and let in new life...

'Likely to be one of the most compelling things you hear all year'
Herald Scotland

'Raz is as Perceptive of the personal as she is the political'
Now Then Magazine

'Nothing short of Astonishing'
Exposed Magazine



About the show

Drawing on personal experiences, original new writing and film-making underpinned by a live looped soundscape, *Unnatural Cycles – A Ghost Story* is a nuanced exploration of infertility, faith and what it means to bear the weight of inherited generational trauma.

Unnatural Cycles emerged from a dream in which Avital met her Grandmother, followed by a year of listening to old cassettes in which she was interviewed about her experiences surviving the Jewish Holocaust.

Unnatural Cycles was developed during 2021 through commissions from Sheffield Theatres, Contact, Lancaster Arts and National Lottery funding. Alongside the show, engagement activities include a creative-writing workshop for women around fertility and infertility. This has proved to be a great way to build audiences for the show.

Credits

Written, performed and original music by Avital Raz

Directed by Gillian Lees

Dramaturgy by Peadar Kirk and Gillian Lees

Videography by Chris Davis

Images by Darren Andrews

Show trailer: <https://youtu.be/by6RFFVenDM>

For full version of work in progress and press enquiries contact avitalraz@gmail.com

Merchandise available for purchase: Music CD's containing songs from this show and other songs by Avital Raz.

#UnnaturalCycles

Please use the hashtag whenever possible.

Please include website on all promotional materials: www.avitalraz.com



ABOUT AVITAL RAZ

Jerusalem-born singer-songwriter Avital Raz has made a name for herself singing politically engaging, strikingly original and fearless songs, to emerge as a distinctive and truly individual voice that speaks with a very real and potent self-expression.

Avital studied at The School of Visual Theatre in Jerusalem, before embarking on a 20-year career as a singer-songwriter and musician. After completing degrees in Western Classical singing and composition in Jerusalem, she relocated to Varanasi (India) where she studied the sacred art of Dhrupad singing for six years under Professor Ritwik Sanyal. She has released seven albums of her own music and performed with acclaimed world music band Rafiki Jazz for three years. Her first solo theatre show *My Jerusalem* continues to tour.

In 2020, Journeys Festival International commissioned Avital and Chris Davis to create an accompanying feature-length documentary entitled *Your Jerusalem*.

The film includes interviews with Palestinians, Israelis and people in the UK about issues raised in the show – Holocaust, Occupation,

Gender Politics, Jerusalem and Politics of Division.

Reviews for *My Jerusalem*

'My Jerusalem is Nothing short of Astonishing'
Exposed Magazine

'Raz is as perceptive of the personal as she is the political'
Now Then magazine

'This is a show which revels in its power to challenge perceptions and prejudice. It nags at how the wider world may view Jewish women, and pulls back this woman's reality'
Loureviews

About her music

'Raz has both the scope and control (Which is evident in her singing and eclectic musicianship) of the best lyricists, capable of injecting both humour and irreverence in equal measures. She hits home again and again. Every home should have one'

★★★★ Nick Burbridge RnR Magazine

'There is no-one quite like Avital Raz in the world of music right now. Full of wise, exotic and gleefully mordant songs that manage to be simultaneously challenging and melodic'
Folk Radio UK



AUDIENCE & MARKETING

Target Audiences

- People interested in new writing, poetry and spoken word
- People who have experienced fertility issues
- Jewish audiences
- People interested in music and song-writing
- People interested in gender politics
- People interested in personal narratives
- People interested in magical realism
- People interested in questions of religion and faith
- People interested in issues of intergenerational trauma and recovery

R&D phase of the work indicated appeal to wide audience age range

PLEASE NOTE: Audiences should be advised that this work contains some strong language, mentions of rape, war and miscarriage. Suitability 14+

Unique Selling Points

- Exposes 'taboo' issues connected to miscarriage and Infertility
- Original music performed live
- Autobiographical storytelling that spans three generations of women



ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Unnatural Cycles can be a stand-alone show or can be accompanied by a creative writing workshop for women around fertility and infertility or a post-show conversation with Avital Raz on her own or with a local academic in Jewish/Gender Studies, artist or activist.

Creative writing workshop around Fertility and Infertility

Whether we wanted to be mothers or not.

Whether family and society pressured us to have children or not.

Losing a pregnancy at any stage – or not being able to get pregnant – can be extremely painful.

Some of us have undergone gruelling fertility treatments that impacted years of our lives.

Some of us are in a panic about our ticking biological clocks.

Some of us would rather forget.

Some of us might find it hard to be around friends who are pregnant or have little kids.

Some of us might feel isolated.

We don't talk about it much.

We don't want to make people uncomfortable.

We might feel ashamed.

In this one-day creative writing workshop led by theatre-maker and musician Avital Raz, we'll

create the safest space we can for people who have gone through issues with their fertility. We'll explore the possibility of using our difficulties in creating life as creative material. We'll get thoughts down on paper, and share them with others – if we want to.

If you've had a miscarriage or difficulty getting pregnant and would like to approach these issues creatively you are very welcome to join us. The workshop can also be supported by a mental health practitioner.

Post Show Conversation

Some of Unnatural Cycles is based on anecdotal, autobiographical storytelling. Some historical recollection. Avital encourages conversations after shows both about her artistic process and the issues raised in the show.

For more information on these events and on planning similar ones, contact Avital Raz at avitalraz@gmail.com

Avital can create a bespoke package for any venue that wants to take up this activity. This could include the above participation events, in person or online and/or workshops around singing/writing.



INFORMATION FOR PROGRAMMERS

Unnatural Cycles is a studio performance which can be easily adapted for both small, medium and large-scale venues. Please contact the company to discuss your technical requirements at avitalraz@gmail.com

Availability for touring: from Autumn 2022.

Basic requirements

Stage: A clean flat floor, preferably with black lino approximately 6m wide by 4m deep with black masking.

1 x table no smaller than 50cm x 80cm with black table cloth.

1 chair without arms or low stool.

AV-largest available 16:9 screen, rear projection if possible, a projector of minimum 5k lumen with HDMI input, company will provide MacBook running QLab.

PA: Stereo PA with 2 x stage monitors, the company will provide a loop station needing a stereo feed to FOH. Please provide 1 x boom mic stand.

Lighting: Plan, focus notes and ETC show file provided. If possible lighting to be pre-rigged.

Number of performers: 1 performer.

People on the road: 1 performer, total.

Set – brought by company: 1 guitar-stand, 1 guitar, loop station with 2 XLR cables.

Running time: 60 minutes.

Get in: Fit up on day of performance with pre-rig where possible.

Get out: 30 mins.

www.avitalraz.com



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