



**SAYED KASHUA**

סײד קשׁוּא



Sayed Kashua, an Arab Citizen of Israel who currently lives in Illinois, has been called “the greatest living Hebrew writer” and holds a very special place in the Israeli literary landscape. Born in 1975 and raised in the Arab town of Tira, in the region of northern Israel called “the Triangle,” Kashua, a gifted student, was sent to an elite boarding school in Jerusalem. There he read novels for the first time, and soon afterwards began writing—naturally, in Hebrew. In his work, including bestselling novel *Dancing Arabs*, and award-winning television series *Avoda Aravit—Arab Labor*, Kashua explores the complex reality of the nearly two million Arab Citizens of Israel. In 2014, Kashua accepted a position at the University of Illinois and announced he was leaving Israel. He continues to write a weekly column for the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* and remains a cultural icon in the country.