

Ms. Rania Kuzbari Ashur
Founder and CEO
Art for All FZC
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Studied in Beirut and Paris.

BA and Masters in Political Sciences from the American University of Beirut and DEA in International Relations from the Paris Institute Political Sciences.

Worked in Paris as Director of Finance at United Aviation Services, a company specialised in aircraft leasing. I was responsible for arranging syndicated loans and setting up tax leases.

Moved to the UAE in 1997.

Established "Art For All" in 2004, the Middle East region's leading provider of live theatre and educational stage shows for children of all ages. Brought The Shakespeare Globe and the English National Ballet for the first time to the UAE. Introduced the concept of work shops to educate children about art and the theatre.

Art For All's philosophy is simple. More than ever, young people need good, live entertainment so they can experience first-hand, traditional forms of performance art and culture. Studies show that live theatre is a great way to help stimulate communication and literary skills as well as creative abilities.

At Art For All we are passionate about education. That's why we work closely with the region's schools and why our shows are always a huge hit with parents, teachers and children alike.

So how did we begin? Well, it was in 2002 that I first envisioned Art for All as a way to fill the 'artistic and cultural' void for children living in Dubai.

As a mother, I'd found live theatre a particularly effective medium in engaging my own children and their friends – so decided it was high time the UAE was able to offer it's younger generation the joys and excitement that only a trip to a live stage show can bring. And so, Art For All was born.

Art For All has had over 40 productions touring the UAE, presenting shows and giving specialised workshops, and over 100,000 children have come to see these productions. Alongside our shows, we provide workshops and activities for students that help broaden their social awareness beyond the boundaries of school and mainstream entertainment.

Work with schools for special needs to raise the children's awareness of the performing art.

Ten years on, we see those initial efforts are reaching children and students throughout the Middle East. It is only through the experience and insight we've developed that we are able to understand children's educational needs and bring them the very best in theatrical edutainment.

Married with three children.