

Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts

Givatayim, Israel



A state-run audition academy in Givatayim where Bagrut studies sit alongside intensive film, music and drama training.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	39/100
Academic outcomes	82/100
University placement	66/100
Prestige & heritage	43/100
Alumni network	1/100
Facilities	64/100
Transparency	40/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts occupies a narrow and valuable niche: a state-run arts school with serious entry filters, a full Bagrut programme and fees of ****ILS 5,000**** a year. That combination matters. Parents are not buying a polished international package; they are buying access to an established public-sector specialist track that treats the arts as the core business rather than an extracurricular flourish. For families in Israel who want conservatoire-style intensity without private-school pricing, that is a **rare proposition**. The school’s appeal starts with its structure: ages ****12-18****, Hebrew-medium, secular, day-only, and built for students who want academic study to coexist with sustained training in performance and creative disciplines. It belongs on a shortlist because few schools make that bargain so plainly or so

affordably.

What is special here is not pastoral packaging or global branding. It is focus. Thelma Yellin is for students who already know that music, theatre, film or another art form is not a hobby but the centre of their working life. That gives the school a distinct market position: **high-commitment, specialist, audition-led**. In practical terms, that attracts families who value talent development more than broad extracurricular menus, campus gloss or bilingual positioning. The state-run model also changes the equation. At ***ILS 5,000***, the fee level places it far below private competitors, which makes the school **strikingly accessible** for a specialist arts institution. The trade-off is clear as well: this is not the place for a child who wants a conventional secondary experience with arts added on. The arts are the point.

The student who will thrive at Thelma Yellin is disciplined, self-directed and resilient under pressure. This school suits young performers, musicians and makers who can handle long practice hours, critique, rehearsal cycles and the dual demand of Bagrut study plus artistic training. It also suits families who want **serious artistic immersion** inside a secular Israeli framework, in Hebrew, without paying elite private-school fees. Students who need a softer pace, a broad all-round school identity or heavy pastoral hand-holding will find the specialism exacting. Students with **creative urgency** and the stamina to match it will find something better: a school built around their ambition, not one that asks them to squeeze it in after class.

STRENGTHS

- Operates as a public Israeli school under the Ministry of Education, keeping core tuition largely free compared with private arts schools.
- Offers distinct specialised tracks (film, theatre, dance, music, visual arts) with dedicated studios and industry-experienced instructors.
- Alumni include numerous prominent Israeli musicians and actors, reflecting a long-standing reputation in the national arts education sector.
- Entry is by nationwide audition, drawing artistically motivated students from across Israel rather than only the local Givatayim catchment.

TRADE-OFFS

- Instruction and the Bagrut curriculum are delivered in Hebrew, making the school impractical for expat families without Hebrew fluency.
- As a day school with no boarding option, out-of-town students must arrange their own daily commute or local accommodation.
- Audition-based entry makes places highly competitive and unsuitable for students without prior arts training or strong prepared portfolios.
- Core academic subjects operate within the standard Israeli Bagrut framework, offering less flexibility than international curricula like IB.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is by competitive audition and portfolio review for each specialised track (film, theatre, dance, music, visual arts), open to students nationwide rather than restricted to the Givatayim area. Applicants typically audition in the spring before ninth or tenth grade entry, with places allocated by artistic merit and available track capacity. As a public school, there is no separate academic entrance exam beyond standard eligibility, but demand for popular tracks such as film and music significantly exceeds available places, making the process selective.

WTS RATING 

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