



ARTIST
SERIES

Batsheva Dance Company
Venezuela
by
Ohad Naharin

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

VENEZUELA

by

Ohad Naharin

Lighting Design

Avi Yona Bueno (Bambi)

Soundtrack Design and Edit

Maxim Waratt

Musical Advisor

Nadav Barnea

Costume Design

Eri Nakamura

Assistant to Ohad Naharin and Eri Nakamura

Ariel Cohen

Dancers Instructor

Natalia Petrova

Assistant

Omri Mishael

With Batsheva Dance Company dancers season 2018/19

Etay Axelrod, Billy Barry, Yael Ben Ezer, Matan Cohen, Ben Green, Chiaki Horita, Chunwoong Kim, Rani Lebzelter, Hugo Marmelada, Eri Nakamura, Nitzan Ressler, Kyle Scheurich, Maayan Sheinfeld, Yoni (Yonatan) Simon, Hani Sirkis, Amalia Smith, Imre van Opstal, Erez Zohar

Produced by Batsheva Dance Company

Co-producers: Chaillot National Theater, Paris;
Hellerau – European Center for the Arts, Dresden

Special support provided by:

Batsheva's New Works Fund and the American Friends of Batsheva's New Works Fund

Thanks to:

The Israeli Ballroom Dancing Fund

North American Production Management

Pomegranate Arts

Linda Brumbach, Founder and Director

Music

Coma by Converter

Ae Ajnabi (From *Dil Se*) by Mahalakshmi & Udit Narayan

Bullet in the head by Rage Against the Machine

Mirage by Biz

The Wait by Olafur Arnalds

One Large Rose by Niblock Phill

Dead Wrong by The Notorious B.I.G.

Kyrie fons bonitatis, *Litany* from Gregorian Chant, Songs of the Spirit

Beata Viscera from Gregorian Chant, Songs of the Spirit

Offertorium: Lubulate Deo Universa Terra from Gregorian Chants

O Eucharisti by Hildegard Von Bingen

A Ariel de Profundis from Gregorian Chants

Alma Redemptoris from Gregorian Chants

Alma Redemptoris Meter from Gregorian Chant From Westminster Cathedral Choir

Easter Vigil: Litany from Gregorian Chant From Westminster Cathedral Choir

Personnel

Ohad Naharin, House Choreographer

Gili Navot, Artistic Director

Dina Aldor, Executive Director

Kelvin Vu, Assistant to the Artistic Director

Yaniv Nagar, Company and Stage Manager

Luc Jacobs, Senior Rehearsal Director

Noa Ron, Deputy Director, Content and

Communications

Amit Hevrony, Head of International Touring

Dana Gutti, International Touring Producer

Roni Cohen, Chief Technical Director

Eliav Refaely, Lighting

Dudi Bell, Sound

Gilad Bonneau, Stagehand

Maya Lavi, Wardrobe Manager

Nir Dayan, Physiotherapist

Batsheva Dance Company's touring staff in Boulder:

Yuval Glickman, Technical Director

Tim Grassel, Tour Manager,

Pomegranate Arts

North American Representation for Batsheva Dance Company:

Pomegranate Arts

pomegranatearts.com | info@pomarts.com

Linda Brumbach, Founder and Director

Alisa E. Regas, Managing Director, Creative

Adam Thorburn, Business Manager

Rachel Katwan, General Manager

Jeremy Lydic, Production Manager

Brit Katke, Office Manager

Willa Folmar, Production Assistant

This performance is generously sponsored by:



Office of Cultural Affairs, Consulate General of Israel in New York

Biographies

Batsheva Dance Company has been critically acclaimed and popularly embraced as one of the foremost contemporary dance companies in the world. Together with Batsheva - The Young Ensemble, the Company boasts a roster of 34 dancers drawn from Israel and abroad. Batsheva Dance Company is Israel's biggest company, maintaining an extensive performance schedule locally and internationally with over 250 performances and circa 100,000 spectators every year.

Hailed as one of the world's preeminent contemporary choreographers, Ohad Naharin was appointed artistic director in 1990 and propelled the Company into a new era with his adventurous curatorial vision and distinctive choreographic voice. After almost 30 years of leading Batsheva, Naharin stepped down as artistic director in 2018 and continues to serve as the Company's house choreographer. In September 2018 Gili Navot assumed the role of Batsheva's artistic director.

Naharin is also the originator of the innovative movement language, Gaga, which has enriched his extraordinary movement invention, revolutionized the company's training and emerged as a growing international force in the larger field of movement practices for both dancers and non-dancers.

The Batsheva dancers take part in the creative processes in the studio and even create their own works in the annual project "Batsheva Dancers Create," supported by The Michael Sela Fund for Cultivation of Young Artists at Batsheva.

Batsheva Dance Company was founded as a repertory company in 1964 by the Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild, who enlisted Martha Graham as its first artistic advisor. Since 1989, Batsheva Dance Company has been in residence at the Suzanne Dellal Centre in Tel Aviv.

Ohad Naharin is the house choreographer of Batsheva Dance Company and creator of the Gaga movement language.

Naharin was born in 1952 in Mizra, Israel. His mother is a choreographer, dance teacher and Feldenkrais instructor, and his father was an actor and psychologist. He joined Batsheva Dance Company in 1974 despite having little formal training. During his first year, guest choreographer Martha Graham invited him to join her own company in New York. Between 1975 and 1976, Naharin studied at the School of American Ballet at The Juilliard School, and with Maggie Black and David Howard. He then joined Maurice Béjart's Ballet du XXe Siecle in Brussels for one season.

Naharin returned to New York in 1979 and made his choreographic debut at the Kazuko Hirabayshi studio the following year. From 1980 until 1990, Naharin presented works in New York and abroad, including pieces for Batsheva Dance Company, the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company and Nederlands Dans Theater. At the same time, he worked with his first wife, Mari Kajiwaru, and a group of dancers in New York. Naharin and Kajiwaru continued to work together until she died from cancer in 2001.

In 1990, Naharin was appointed artistic director of Batsheva Dance Company; in the same year, he established the company's junior division, Batsheva - The Young Ensemble. He has since created over 30 works for both companies. After almost 30 years of leading Batsheva, Naharin stepped down as artistic director in 2018 and continues to serve as the Company's house choreographer.

In addition to his stage work, Naharin also developed Gaga, an innovative movement language based on research into heightening sensation and imagination, becoming aware of form, finding new movement habits, and going beyond familiar limits. Gaga is the daily training of Batsheva's dancers and has spread globally among both dancers and non-dancers.

Naharin trained in music throughout his childhood and continues to infuse his work with a unique musicality. He has collaborated with the Israeli rock group The Tractor's Revenge (*Kyr*, 1990), Avi Balleli and Dan Makov (*Anaphaza*, 1993), Ivri Lider (*Z/na*, 1995) and Grischa Lichtenberger (*Last Work*, 2015).

Under the pseudonym Maxim Waratt, he composed music for *MAX* (2007) and edited and mixed the soundtracks for *Mamootot* (2003), *Hora* (2009), *Sadeh21* (2011), *The Hole* (2013), *Last Work* (2015) and *Venezuela* (2017).

Naharin's work has also been featured in several films. In his 2007 documentary *Out of Focus*, Director Tomer Heymann filmed the process of restaging *Decadance* with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. And in 2015, the Heymann Brothers released their comprehensive documentary about Naharin, *Mr. Gaga*, to critical and audience acclaim.

A citizen of both Israel and the United States, Naharin currently lives in Israel with his wife, dancer and costume designer Eri Nakamura, and their daughter, Noga.

Gili Navot is a dancer, choreographer, teacher and the artistic director of Batsheva Dance Company. Navot grew up in Haifa, Israel, where she began her dance training at Reut School of the Arts. In 1999, Navot joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble under the direction of Ohad Naharin; she advanced to Batsheva Dance Company two years later, where she performed works by Naharin, Sharon Eyal and Mats Ek. In 2006, she won the Yair Shapira Award for Excellence in Dance. After leaving Batsheva in 2008, Navot continued to work with Naharin, teaching *Gaga* and restaging his works. She also assisted in the restaging of William Forsythe's *Double/Single* for the Opera Project in Tel Aviv. As an independent choreographer, Navot created *Raft* (2009), *Check In* (2010), *Subject to Change* (2011) and *May Contain Nuts* (2012). In 2016, Navot graduated with honors from the Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology, and the Arts with a BA and teaching certificate in dance education. A practitioner of yoga, BMC and Tai Chi and a certified ballet teacher, Navot currently lives with her husband, Raz, and their three children in Tel Aviv.

Etay Axelrod was born in 1995 and graduated from Blich High School in Ramat Gan. He attended in the American Academy of Ballet Summer Course (2012), Peridance School in Manhattan (2013) and SIBA in Salzburg under full scholarships. Axelrod was a recipient of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship in 2013-14. He served in the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) as a privileged outstanding dancer. Axelrod joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2014, after completing a year as an apprentice. He joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017.

Billy Barry was born in 1989 in New York. He graduated from Juilliard in 2011 and performed with Gallim Dance and Keigwin + CO. He joined Batsheva Ensemble in 2011 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2012.

Yael Ben Ezer was born in 1995 in Tel Aviv. She studied at the Tel Aviv School of the Arts and graduated from Alon High School's dance department. She participated in the Excellence Programs of both Batsheva Dance Company and the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company. During the summer of 2010 she participated in the "Dance is Culture" (Israel/Italy) project directed by Adi Salant and Mauro Astolfi. She joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2013 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2016.

Matan Cohen was born in Haifa in 1993. Cohen studied at the dance department of the Wizo High School for the Arts. He graduated from the training program of Bikurey Ha'Itim under the direction of Naomi Perlov and Ofir Dagan. He served in the IDF as a privileged outstanding dancer and joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2013 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2016.

Ben Green was born in the U.S. in 1996. He studied at the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company in 2014 and graduated from the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. He has also participated in workshops and programs with Crystal Pite, Johannes Wieland, Tom Weinberger and Batsheva Dance Company's *Gaga*. Alongside his own choreographic works for the Las Vegas Academy of Arts and for KCDC Emerging Choreographer's show, he has worked with choreographers Jiri Kylian and Bryan Arias, and with the New Dialect Dance Company. He joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2016 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2017.

Chiaki Horita was born in Japan 1989. She studied at the Ikemoto Ballet School in Hiroshima, Japan, and then completed a traineeship at Jo Kanamori's company, Noism. She later joined Nederlands Dans Theatre II from 2008 to 2011 and then the GöteborgsOperans Danskompani from 2011 to 2014. She joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2015 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2018.

Chunwoong Kim was born in South Korea in 1994 and graduated from Jeonju Fine Arts High School. He studied at the Korea National University of the Arts from 2013 to 2015. During these years, he danced with Hee Eun Dance Company and K'art Dance Company. At age 18 he placed third in the ninth Seoul International Dance Competition and at age 20 placed second in the 51st Shinin Dance Competition. Kim joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2015 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2017.

Rani Lebzelter was born in Israel in 1989. She studied at the Bustan School for the Performing Arts in Netanya. During 2009 and 2010, Lebzelter trained at the dancer's workshop in Kibbutz Ga'aton. Between 2009 and 2011, she took part in the dance training course under the direction of Naomi Perlov and Ofir Dagan. In 2010, she participated in the Batsheva Dance Company Excellence Program directed by Hillel Kogan. She joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2012 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2014.

Hugo Marmelada was born in Portugal in 1987. He started hip-hop dancing at the age of 11, and three years later, joined the Academia de Dança Contemporânea de Setúbal, where he graduated in 2006. Marmelada has since been working with various dance companies and choreographers such as Compagnie Alias, Amanda Miller, André Mesquita, Ariadna Montfort, Bounce Streetdance Company, Oslo Dance Ensemble and the Norwegian National Ballet. With It Dansa Company, he performed works by Ohad Naharin, Jiří Kylián and Rafael Bonachela, among others; with Company Carte Blanche he performed works by Hooman Sharifi, Sharon Eyal, Crystal Pite and more. He joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017.

Eri Nakamura was born in Japan in 1984. In 2002, she graduated from The Australian Ballet School in Melbourne. From 2003 to 2007, she danced with the Victor Ullate Ballet Company in Madrid and later, between 2007 and 2008, with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montreal in Canada under the artistic direction of Gradimir Pankov. She danced with Batsheva Dance Company from 2011 to 2015 and rejoined in 2016. She designed the costumes for *Last Work* and *Venezuela* by Ohad Naharin and *And Still* by Danielle Agami.

Nitzan Ressler was born in Jerusalem in 1992. During her younger years she danced with Hora Jerusalem and studied at the Jerusalem Academy for Music and Dance High School. Ressler is the recipient of the 2008-2010 Israel-America Cultural Foundation education scholarship. She joined Batsheva Ensemble in 2010 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2012.

Kyle Scheurich was born in 1992 in New York. In 2010, he graduated from Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School for Music & Art and the Performing Arts. During his time at LaGuardia High School, he also studied at Manhattan Youth Ballet under the direction of Francois Perron. He graduated from The Juilliard School and joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2014. He joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2016.

Maayan Sheinfeld was born in 1992. She graduated from the Thelma Yellin High School for the Arts. Maayan is the recipient of the 2007-2010 Sharet Fund scholarship. She participated in summer dance courses in Prague, Salzburg and New York's Juilliard and joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2010 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2012.

Yoni (Yonatan) Simon was born in 1995 and is a graduate of the dance department at the Ironi Alef High School in Tel Aviv. During his studies, he participated in a student exchange program with the De Kunsthumaniora School in Belgium. He participated in the Batsheva Excellence Program from 2011 through 2014 as well as in the KCDC Excellence Program in 2011 and 2012. He was the recipient of a full scholarship to the American Academy of Ballet Summer Course in 2013. Simon serves in the IDF as a privileged outstanding dancer. Simon joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble as an apprentice in 2014 and as a dancer in 2015. He joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2016.

Hani Sirkis was born in 1998 in Israel. She graduated with honors from the Thelma Yellin High-School of the Arts dance program. In 2013-2014 she received the America-Israel Foundation Scholarship, and in 2015 she received a reward in the Jeannette Ordman competition. In 2015 she participated in the Salzburg Ballet Summer Course with a full scholarship. In 2014 and 2016 she participated in the Batsheva Excellence course. She joined Batsheva – The Young Ensemble in 2016 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2018.

Amalia Smith was born on the west coast of Canada in 1994 and grew up on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. In 2010, she moved to Vancouver to join the Arts Umbrella Dance Company and its school. In 2012, Smith was introduced to Gaga at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. She joined the ensemble in 2014 and joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017.

Imre van Opstal was born in the Netherlands and started dancing at the Vooropleiding Dans in Venlo. After graduating from Rotterdam Dance Academy Codarts, she joined the Norwegian National Company of Contemporary Dance (Carte Blanche) in 2011-12. In 2012 she joined Nederlands Dans Theater 2 and in 2015, Nederlands Dans Theater 1. She forms a choreographic duo with her brother, Marne van Opstal, and together they have choreographed works in 2014, 2015 and 2017 for Nederlands Dans Theater 2. In 2014, she won an incentive award from Dansersfonds '79 and was nominated for the Piket Art Awards. She was recently nominated for a Swan Award. She joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017.

Erez Zohar began his dancing career as a member in companies such as the Georgian Dance Company, Hora Jerusalem Dance Company and the Jerusalem Tap Dance Company. He won scholarships from the American-Israeli Cultural Foundation and an Outstanding Dancer grant from the Ministry of Culture and Education. In 2002, after graduating from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance High School, he joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble, and in 2005 Batsheva Dance Company, where he danced until 2012. Between 2012 and 2014, Zohar was co-director of the Bye Bye Ballet School of Contemporary Dance in St. Petersburg. Starting in 2012, Zohar was assistant to Ohad Naharin, restaging his works abroad, and worked with various companies and institutes such as Introdans, Leipzig Ballet, National Ballet of Portugal, Polish Dance Theatre, National Theatre of Prague, Berlin State Ballet, IT Dansa Barcelona, Royal Ballet of Flanders and the English Royal Ballet. Zohar has been teaching Gaga since 2003. He is also a certified therapist of the Ilan Lev method. Zohar rejoined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017.

Pomegranate Arts has worked in close collaboration with a small group of contemporary artists and arts institutions to bring bold and ambitious artistic ideas to fruition for the past 20 years. Founder and Director Linda Brumbach, along with Managing Director Alisa E. Regas, produced the Olivier Award-winning revival of *Einstein on the Beach*, the multi-award winning production of Taylor Mac's *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music* and the Drama Desk Award-winning production of *Charlie Victor Romeo*. Since its inception, Pomegranate Arts has produced over 30 major new performing arts productions and tours for Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson, Lucinda Childs, Dan Zanes, London's Improbable, Sankai Juku, Batsheva and Bassem Youssef, and collaborated on new productions with the Kronos Quartet, Leonard Cohen, Robert Wilson and Frank Gehry. Pomegranate Arts hope to continue to build a community of institutions and individuals that are inspired by artists that help bring beauty and truth into the world, ask important questions and take bold risks.

Dorrance Dance

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