

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

VENEZUELA BY OHAD NAHARIN





TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 7:30 PM
BEASLEY-CURTIS AUDITORIUM,
MEMORIAL HALL

PERFORMANCE BENEFACTORS
Patricia and Thruston Morton

CAMPUS PARTNER
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PHOTO: ASCAF

BATSHEVA'S OHAD NAHARIN is known worldwide for his adventurous vision and distinctive choreographic voice. A dance pioneer of his generation, Naharin has led Batsheva for 28 years, where it has become one of the world's preeminent dance companies under his direction. Based in Tel Aviv, the eighteen dancers of Batsheva's senior company are cast globally and trained by Naharin in the original movement language he has coined "Gaga." Based on research into heightening sensation and imagination, becoming aware of form, finding new movement habits, and going beyond familiar limits, Gaga has emerged as a growing international force in the larger field of movement practices for both dancers and non-dancers.

In this new work, the signature visceral physicality of Batsheva's dancers is on full display. Described as a "fascinating and multifaceted piece that contains a surprise that remains with the viewer long after leaving the theater," *Venezuela* explores the dialogue and conflict between movement and the content it represents.

Naharin created *Venezuela* in two 40-minute sections placed in juxtaposition—taking the audience on a journey that moves from the familiar to the unfamiliar in a seamless transition of movement. In this multi-faceted and compelling work, the endless possibilities of the choreographer's craft are at play. In turn, *Venezuela* compels the audience to challenge their own freedom of choice.

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY has been critically acclaimed and popularly embraced as one of the foremost contemporary dance companies in the world. Israel's biggest dance company, it maintains an extensive performance schedule locally and internationally with more than 250 performances annually. The 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.

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. 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. 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.



CREDITS

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

DANCERS INSTRUCTOR'S 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

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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

"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 Euchari" 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



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

HOUSE CHOREOGRAPHER Ohad Naharin
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Gili Navot
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dina Aldor
ASSISTANT TO THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Kelvin Vu
COMPANY & STAGE MANAGER Yaniv Nagar
SENIOR REHEARSAL DIRECTOR Luc Jacobs
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CONTENT AND COMMUNICATIONS Noa Ron
HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL TOURING Amit Hevrony
INTERNATIONAL TOURING PRODUCER Dana Gut
CHIEF TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Roni Cohen
LIGHTING Eliav Refaely
SOUND Dudi Bell
STAGE HAND Giliad Bonneau
WARDROBE MANAGER Maya Lavi
PHYSIOTHERAPIST Gal Kalmi

TOURING STAFF, CHAPEL HILL
COMPANY & STAGE MANAGER Gavriel Spitzer
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Yuval Glickman
TOUR MANAGER Pomegranate Arts, Tim Grassel

Ohad Naharin is the House Choreographer of Batsheva Dance Company and creator of the Gaga movement language. Born in 1952 in Mizra, Israel, 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, where he studied at the School of American Ballet, The Juilliard School, and with Maggie Black and David Howard. Naharin made his choreographic debut at the Kazuko Hirabayshi studio in 1980, and went on to present works for Batsheva Dance Company, the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, and Nederlands Dans Theater. 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 thirty works for both companies. Naharin has also collaborated with Israeli rock group The Tractor's Revenge and many other musicians, and composed under the pseudonym Maxim Waratt. His work has been featured in several films, including *Mr. Gaga*, a 2015 documentary about Naharin by the Heymann Brothers.

Gili Navot is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and the Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company. In 1999, Navot joined Batsheva - the Young Ensemble under the direction of Ohad Naharin, and 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).

Etay Axelrod joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017. Previously, he performed with Batsheva - the Young Ensemble, and also attended the American Academy of Ballet Summer Course (2012), Peridance School in Manhattan (2013), and SIBA. A recipient of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship, Axelrod has also served in the International Dance Federation as a Privileged Outstanding Dancer.

Billy Barry 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 joined Batsheva - the Young Ensemble in 2013 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2016. Yael 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, the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, and in the "Dance is Culture" (Israel/Italy) project directed by Adi Salant and Mauro Astolfi.

Matan Cohen joined Batsheva - the young Ensemble in 2013 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2016. Matan 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. Matan served in the International Dance Federation as a Privileged Outstanding Dancer.

Ben Green joined Batsheva - the Young Ensemble in 2016 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2017. Previously, he studied at the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company and graduated from the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. Alongside his own choreographic works, he has worked with choreographers Jiri Kylian, Bryan Arias, and with the New Dialect Dance Company.

Chiaki Horita studied at the Ikemoto Ballet School in Hiroshima, Japan and completed a traineeship at Jo Kanamori's company, Noism. She was part of Nederlands Dans Theatre II from 2008-2011 and

GöteborgsOperans Danskompani from 2011-2014. She joined Batsheva - the Young Ensemble in 2015 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2018.

Chunwoong Kim joined Batsheva - the Young Ensemble in 2015 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2017. Born in South Korea, he studied at the Korea National University of the Arts. During these years, he danced with Hee Eun Dance Company and K'art Dance Company. At age 18 he placed third in the 9th Seoul International Dance Competition, and at age 20 placed second in the 51th Shinin Dance Competition.

Rani Lebzelter joined Batsheva - the Young Ensemble in 2012 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2014. Born in Israel, she studied at the Bustan School for the Performing Arts in Netanya and took part in the training course under the direction of Naomi Perlov and Ofir Dagan. In 2010, Rani participated in the Batsheva Dance Company Excellence Program directed by Hillel Kogan.

Hugo Marmelada joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017. Born in Portugal, he started dancing hip-hop at an early age, later joining the Academia de Dança Contemporânea de Setúbal. Since then, he has been working with companies such as Compagnie Alias, Bounce Streetdance Company, Oslo Dance Ensemble, and the Norwegian National Ballet, performing works by Ohad Naharin, Sharon Eyal, Crystal Pite, among others.

Eri Nakamura graduated from The Australian Ballet School. From 2003-2007, she danced with the Victor Ullate Ballet Company in Madrid and from 2007-2008 with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montreal under the direction of Gradimir Pankov. Eri danced with Batsheva Dance Company from 2011-2015 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. During her younger years she danced with Hora Jerusalem and studied at the Jerusalem Academy for Music and Dance High School. Nitzan 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 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. Kyle joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2016.

Maayan Sheinfeld 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. She joined Batsheva - the Young Ensemble in 2010 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2012.

Yoni (Yonatan) Simon joined Batsheva - the Young Ensemble as an apprentice in 2014 and as a dancer in 2015. He joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2016. Yoni participated in the Batsheva Excellence Program in 2011-2014 as well as in the KCDC Excellence Program in 2011-2012. He was the recipient of a full scholarship to the American Academy of Ballet Summer Course in 2013. Yoni serves in the IDF as a privileged outstanding dancer.

Hanis Sirkis joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2016 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2018. In 2013-2014 she received the America-Israel Foundation Scholarship, and 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 and is soon to join the IDF as a privileged outstanding dancer.

Amalia Smith joined Batsheva - the Young Ensemble in 2014 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2017. Amalia grew up on Salt Spring Island, BC. In 2010, she moved to Vancouver to join the Arts Umbrella Dance Company. In 2012, Amalia was introduced to Gaga at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance.

Imre Van Opstal joined the Norwegian National Company of Contemporary Dance (Carte Blanche) from 2011-2012. In 2012, she joined Nederlands Dans Theater 2 and in 2015, Nederlands Dans Theater 1. She has choreographed works for Nederlands Dans Theater 2 with her brother Marne. In 2014 she won an incentive award from Dansersfonds '79. She joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017.

Erez Zohar joined Batsheva - the Young Ensemble in 2002 and the Batsheva Dance Company in 2005, where he danced until 2012. Between 2012-2014 Erez was co-director of the Bye Bye Ballet School of Contemporary Dance in St. Petersburg. From 2012, Erez was assistant to Ohad Naharin, restaging his works abroad. Erez has been teaching Gaga since 2003, and he rejoined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017. ■