

דוח שנתי

להקת מחול בת-שבע (ע"ר)

ANNUAL REPORT

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

2019

בת-שבע
Batsheva
بات شيفع



2019 by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf

Dear Friends

We write under the circumstances of a reality that has changed drastically in the past four months due to the pandemic. Looking back, 2019 seems something from the distant past, a bygone era. Yet when we review today where we've been and what we've done in the past year, it is these achievements of 2019 that hold the promise of a good future. To give a panoramic view- welcoming the first class of Batsheva's newly established School of Dance, performing for 3,000 excited Arab-Israeli students in their very own school gymnasiums, Ohad Naharin's heart-rending new creation **2019**, Sharon Eyal's dazzling new piece **The Look** for Batsheva's Young Ensemble, sweeping global tours with close to 45,000 spectators, and several international prizes.

Splendid qualitative achievements as well as quantitative – we ended the fiscal year with a small surplus.

This Report is thanks to everyone at Batsheva across all departments who contribute their talent, skills, experience and passion to the prosperity of the company. Our unique company spirit is what has helped each and every one of us as individuals, and all of us as a team, to make it through this challenging crisis. It is what ensures us that there are promising days ahead.

Special thanks are extended to the members of Batsheva's Board of Directors for their devotion, solid support and active leadership through thick and thin.

Heart-felt sincere thanks to all of our friends and colleagues, in Israel and abroad (the United States, Canada, Australia, Italy, France), for your partnership, loyal and loving friendship and for your support in spirit and in resources.

We'd also like to thank the Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo Mr. Ron Huldai and the Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo for their firm and steadfast support of culture.


The Mayor's immediate call for assistance to the city's artists and cultural institutions is especially appreciated in these times of crisis. For us, 2019 was a year of significant progress in the process of establishing Batsheva's Arts Campus in Neve Sha'anani. We thank the city's management and everyone in the various municipal divisions for the fruitful and collaborative partnership.

Another special thanks to the new Minister of Culture, Mr. Chili Tropper who, immediately as he took office, focused on alleviating the crisis for the cultural world. We thank Mr. Tropper for the wonderful achievement of procuring essential relief for the entire spectrum of Israeli culture, and wish Mr. Tropper a successful and productive term.

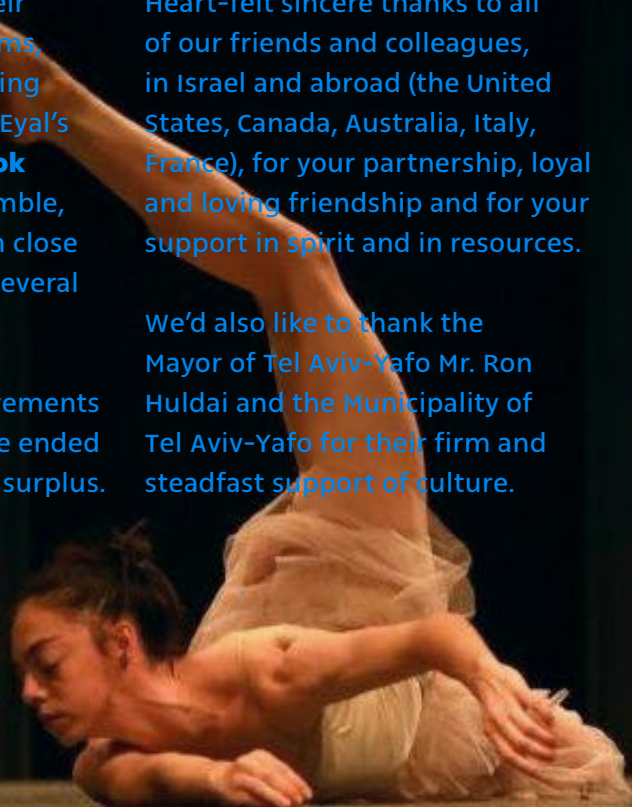
With warm wishes,


Dina Aldor
Executive Director
Batsheva Dance
Company


Zvi Ziv
Chairman
Board of Directors


Gili Navot
Artistic Director
Batsheva Dance
Company

Nitzan Ressler in **2019**
by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf



2019

New work by Ohad Naharin

Premiere: December 9, 2019

Studio Varda, Suzanne Dellal Center



Trailer

"2019 is a breathtaking spectacle- both in its dancers' virtuosity and in the barbed criticism that it hurls at the viewer's gut."

Ran Braun, Haaretz, February 2020

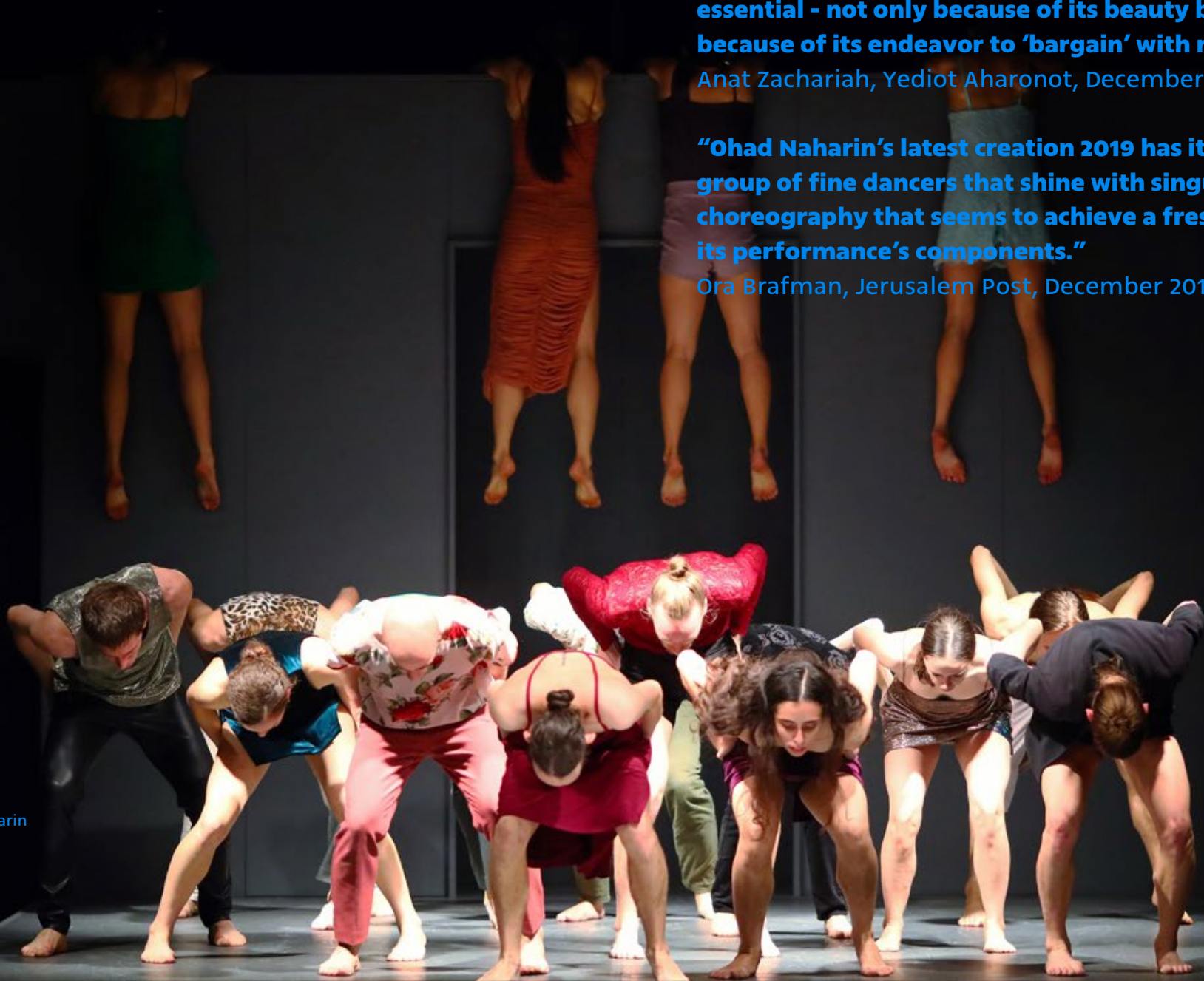
"2019, Ohad Naharin's new work, is stellar from beginning to end. It is elegant, yet tarnished, poetic and essential - not only because of its beauty but most of all, because of its endeavor to 'bargain' with reality."

Anat Zachariah, Yediot Aharonot, December 2019

"Ohad Naharin's latest creation 2019 has it all: a tight group of fine dancers that shine with singularity, and a choreography that seems to achieve a fresh outlook on its performance's components."

Ora Brafman, Jerusalem Post, December 2019

2019 by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf



The Look New Work by Sharon Eyal

Performed by Batsheva –
the Young Ensemble
Premiere: March 14, 2019
Suzanne Dellal Center

**“Androgynous, alien and wild, inspired by club culture
and bringing to the stage a mesmerizing, unfamiliar
movement language ... An industrial spectacle,
futuristic, startling, and fascinating.”**

Gili Izikovich, Haaretz, March 2019



Trailer

The Look by Sharon Eyal
Performed by Batsheva – the Young Ensemble
Center: Federico Longo
Photo by: Ascaf

Restaged

Revisiting canonical works from the repertoire

The Hole

by Ohad Naharin (2013)

"A terrifyingly crazy, haunted and beautiful world"

Achbar Online

"An exquisite show by a wonderful creator"

TimeOut

March-April 2019
53 performances

Kyle Scheurich in **The Hole** by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf



Restaged
Revisiting
canonical works
from the repertoire

**George & Zalman
(2006)**

Black Milk (1990)

A joined program with two of
Ohad Naharin's early works along
with Sharon Eyal's new work,
performed by Batsheva -
the Young Ensemble.

Mamootot (2003) PLAYBACK

by Ohad Naharin
Performed by the Company

Cabaret show by Ohad Naharin
Featuring: Ohad Naharin, Iyar
Elezra and Yaara Moses

Sadeh 21 (2011)

by Ohad Naharin
performed by Batsheva -
the Young Ensemble



Black Milk by Ohad Naharin
Performed by Batsheva - the Young Ensemble
Photo by: Ascaf

Batsheva Dancers Create

The **Dancers Create** project is an annual program committed to the cultivation and support of original and independent creation by Batsheva dancers. The Company provides dancers of both companies with production resources and framework to create and present their individual works.

This year, the Company dancers put on **Wreckcreation**, an evening presenting ten works by Etay Axelroad, Billy Barry, Yael Ben Ezer, Matan Cohen, Ben Green, Rani Lebzelter, Hugo Marmelada, Amalia Smith and Luc Jacobs. The Ensemble dancers presented **Melanin**, an evening featuring works by Chen Agron, Cesar Brodermann, Sean Howe, Ohad Mazor, Robin Lesley Nimanong, Igor Ptashenchuk, Tamar Rosenzweig, Lihi Shocatovich, Avigail Shafrir, Shaked Werner. These evenings also included gallery works by the dancers.

July 2019, Studio Varda,
Suzanne Dellal Center

The Dancers Create Project is supported by the Michael Sela Fund for the Cultivation of Young talent at Batsheva, established in 2003.



Ben Green and Chiaki Horita
from **Wreckcreation**
Photo by: Ascaf

International Tours

51 performances
44,000 spectators


Batsheva Dance Company and the Young Ensemble tour extensively throughout the world. Batsheva maintains long-term artistic

relationships with dance houses, theaters and festivals worldwide, with loyal and growing audiences. The Company is also active in the international dance community, promoting and teaching Gaga, the movement language created by Ohad Naharin.

One of the Company's noteworthy tours of 2019 was the **North American tour**, which takes

place every two to three years. The tour included performances of **Venezuela** in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, Seattle, Boston, Jackson Hole, Boulder, Palo Alto, Richmond, Iowa City, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The tour also included a festive gala evening hosted by the American Friends of Batsheva at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). Also worthy of note was the

Ensemble's tour in Paris, which included special outdoor performances of **Decadance** by Ohad Naharin, as part of the city's renowned summer festival. 2019 also saw Batsheva tour in **Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands**.



Venezuela by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf

Awards

In May 2019, Ohad Naharin received an **Honorary Doctorate from the Ben-Gurion University:**

"With admiration for a renowned virtuoso, one of the preeminent choreographers of our time, who imbues every dance with extraordinary qualities...and with profound gratitude to a distinctive cultural voice, for revolutionizing

the world of modern dance and for creating magnificent works that uplift the human spirit everywhere"

In June 2019, **Venezuela** won the **Grand Prize for Best Dance Performance of the Year**. This is awarded annually by the Union of French Critics, along with prizes for best theater and music performances. **Venezuela** was performed in October 2018, at the Théâtre National de Chaillot in Paris.

In July 2019, Ohad Naharin received **The Flying Mercury Award at the Florence Festival for his contribution to the dance world.**

In November 2019, Ohad Naharin received the **Israeli Culture & Arts Award (ICA Awards) in the category of dance on behalf of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.**

In November 2019, Batsheva Dance Company received the **Minister of Culture's prestigious 2019 Artistic Dance Award** for their performance of Ohad Naharin's work **The Hole**.

In December 2019, as part of the annual dance conference of the same name, Company dancer Billy Barry was awarded the **Yair Shapira Prize for outstanding dancer.**



The Hole by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf

Young Audience Engagement

Kamuyot
by Ohad Naharin

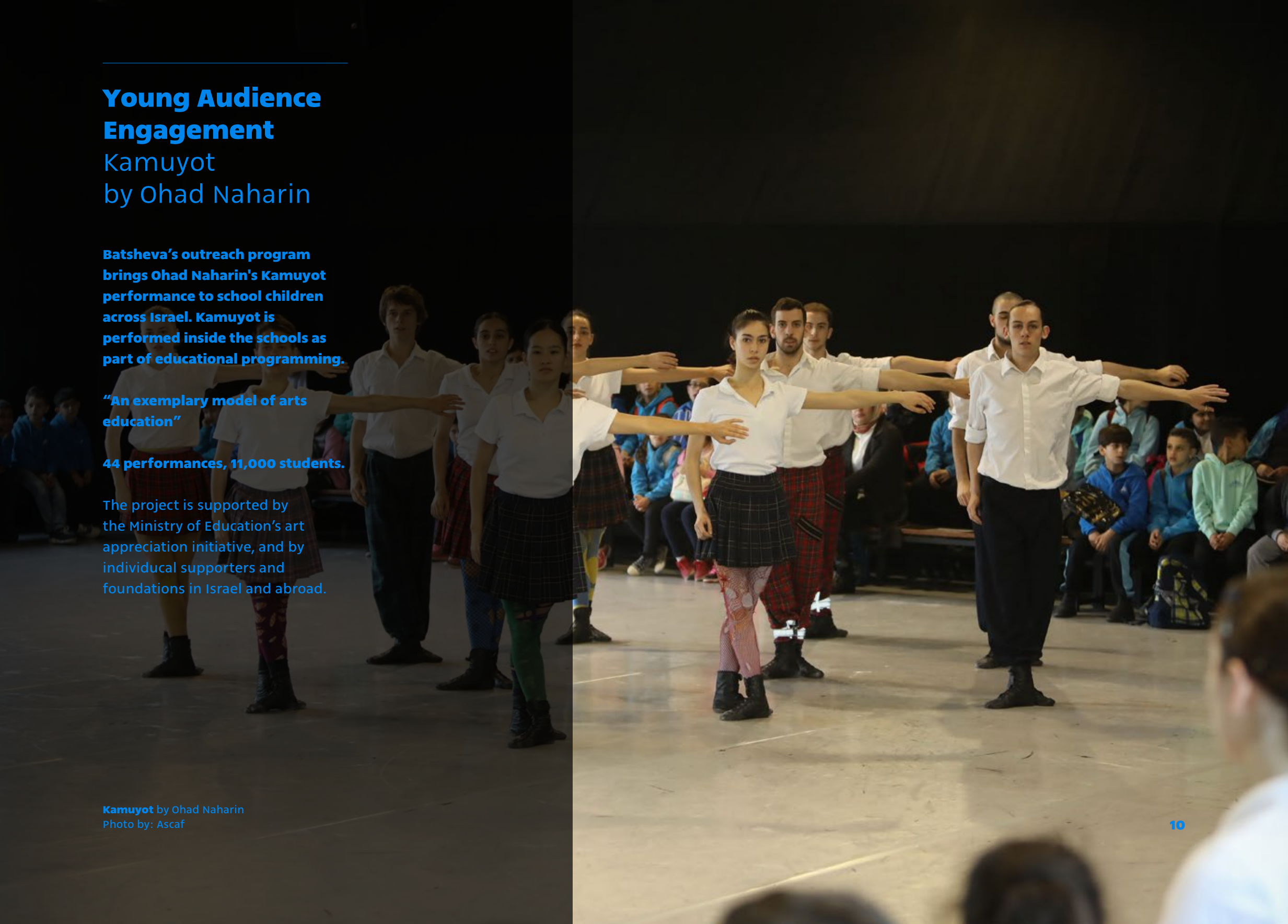
Batsheva's outreach program brings Ohad Naharin's Kamuyot performance to school children across Israel. Kamuyot is performed inside the schools as part of educational programming.

"An exemplary model of arts education"

44 performances, 11,000 students.

The project is supported by the Ministry of Education's art appreciation initiative, and by individual supporters and foundations in Israel and abroad.

Kamuyot by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf

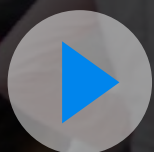


Kamuyot in Arab Society

Lod, Tarshiha,
Nazareth, Majdal
Shams, Rahat –
A successful pilot

November –
December 2019
10 performances,
3,000 students

Supported by the Ministry of Education, the National Lottery Council for Culture and the Arts, The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, and many donors from Israel and abroad. The project's success established a basis for future collaborations with local dance organizations and the incorporation of the project as part of the company's ongoing educational activity.



clip

**Batsheva - the Young
Ensemble in Rahat**

December 2019. Photo by: Ascaf



Batsheva Hosts

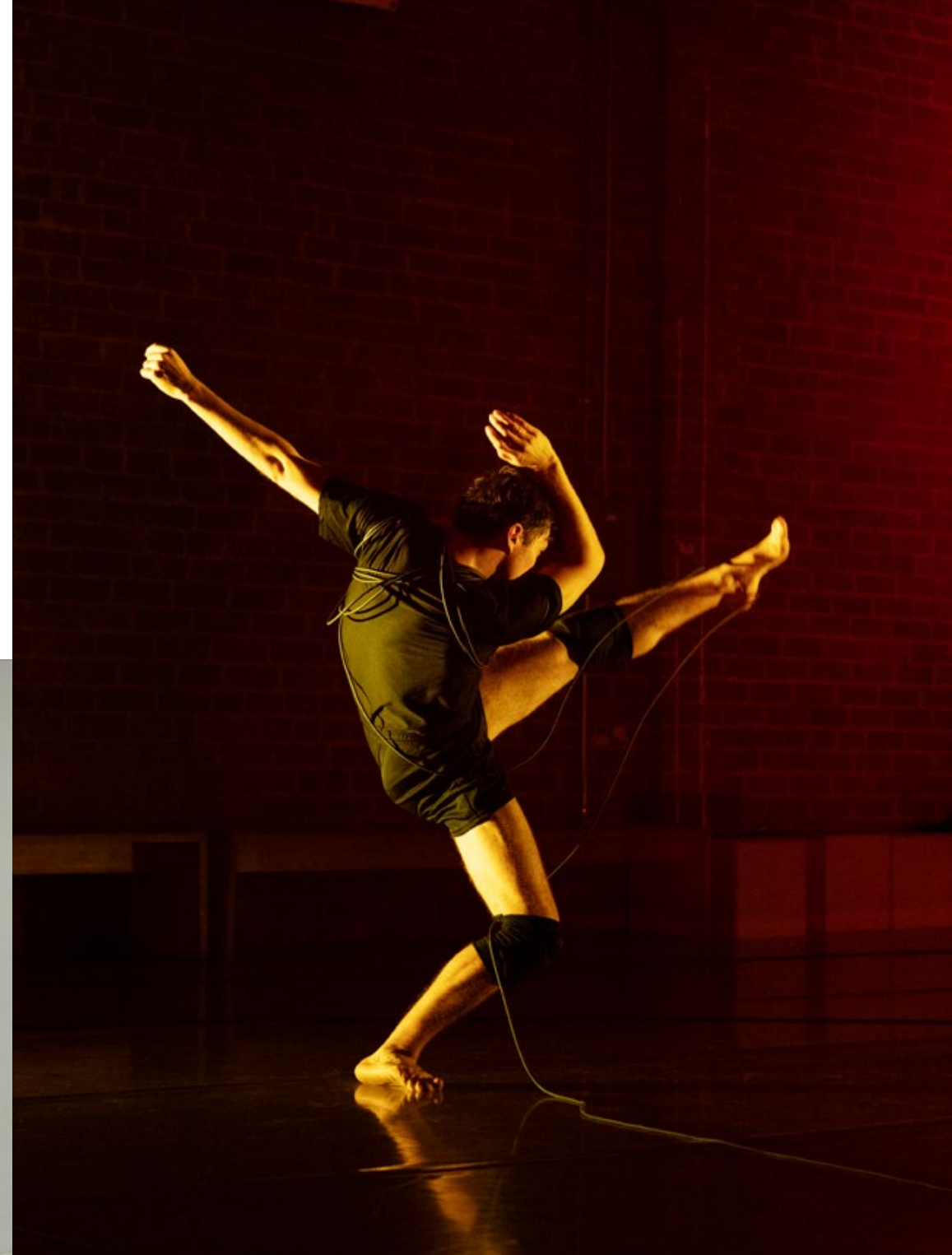
A unique series of performances in the intimate Varda Studio, hosting former Batsheva dancers who set out on their own creative paths, alongside independent artists from the dance and performing arts field.

In 2019, the performance series hosted **Adam&id** by Sharon Zuckerman Weiser, **The Talking Stick is Learning Hebrew** by Ohad Fishof, **Project 48 / 7th edition** directed by Dana Rothenberg, and **BRECHT**, a solo work by former Company dancer Bret Easterling.

Artistic Director: Hillel Kogan



Adam&id by Sharon Zuckerman Weiser, with Moshe Shechter Avshalom. Photo by: Avi Golran



Brecht by Bret Easterling. Photo by: Sophie Kuller

The Dancers

Batsheva is an international company whose dancers come from Israel and around the world. During the 2019 - 2020 season, the company included dancers from Israel, USA, Canada, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Africa, and South Korea. Both the Company and the Young Ensemble rehearse every day in the company's studio spaces in the Suzanne Dellal Center.

Batsheva cultivates dancers as performing artists, trains them to become teachers, and encourages them to create their own independent work in varied frameworks. The dancers' welfare is fundamental to us - we ensure an optimal physical work environment and provide a comprehensive professional and personal support system.

"Ohad Naharin attracts the best dancers in the world ...I have never seen such a combination of beauty, energy, and technique."

Mikhail Baryshnikov in an interview for Haaretz, 2011

2019 by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf



Billy Barry
Company dancer and recipient of
the 2019 Yair Shapira Prize

"Billy is a marvelous artist who brings his own narrative to my work, and thus adds a new dimension to it. He is loved by all and is a pleasure to work with. He is supportive, creative and has demonstrated steady growth throughout the years I have known and worked with him."

Ohad Naharin, commenting on Barry's selection.

Billy Barry was born in 1989 in New York. He graduated from Juilliard in 2011, and after performing in Andrea Miller's company Gallim, joined Batsheva- the Young Ensemble in 2011 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2012.

"Working with Ohad Naharin and Batsheva Dance Company is an experience I will forever cherish. The freedom to express ourselves in this world is unbelievable, and it is a great pleasure for me to be able to see friends I have made over the years express themselves so vitally and passionately every day."

Billy Barry
Mamootot by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf



**Alma Karvat Shemesh,
Dancer in Batsheva- the Young
Ensemble**

Alma Karvat Shemesh was born in 1998 in Tel Aviv, Israel, and graduated from the dance program at the Thelma Yellin High-School of Arts. She served in the IDF as an Outstanding Dancer and graduated from the Masloul - Professional Dance Program Bikurey Ha'Itim directed by Naomi Perlov and Ofir Dagan. She joined Batsheva- the Young Ensemble as an apprentice and joined as a full member in 2019.

"This season, as part of the Ensemble's activities, we performed Kamuyot in Arab schools around the country. Having grown up here, it was a unique experience that touched me personally. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my passion and pass on something from within me to others. The children's rolling laughter and fascinated expressions will forever be etched in my memory."

Alma Karvat Shemesh
George & Zalman by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf

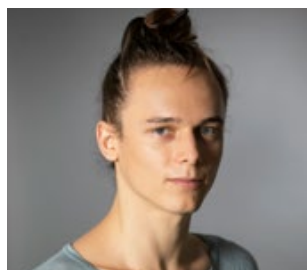


Batsheva Dance Company Dancers

2019 – 2020 Season

"Batsheva's dancers, especially the female dancers, present a spectacular display of both dance and theater. There is no excess gesture, no exaggeration in the seemingly exaggerated sections... one simply cannot take their eyes off of them."

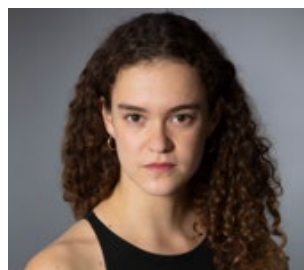
Tal Levin on 2019 by Ohad Naharin, Haaretz



Etay Axelroad
Israel



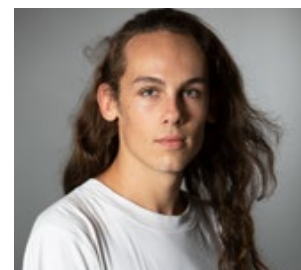
Billy Barry
USA



Yael Ben Ezer
Israel



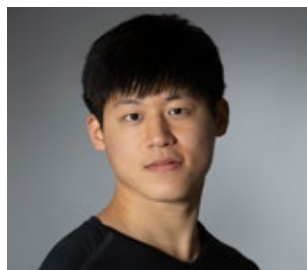
Matan Cohen
Israel



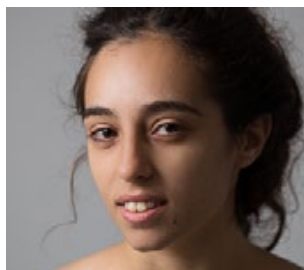
Ben Green
USA



Chiaki Horita
Japan



Chun Woong Kim
South Korea



Shir Levi
Israel



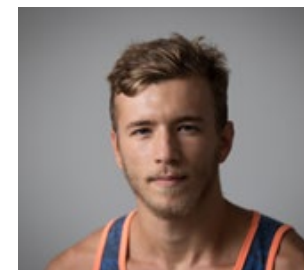
Ohad Mazor
Israel



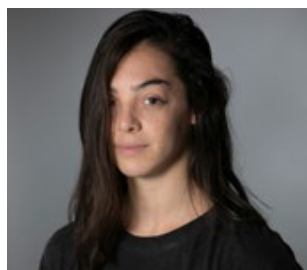
Eri Nakamura
Japan



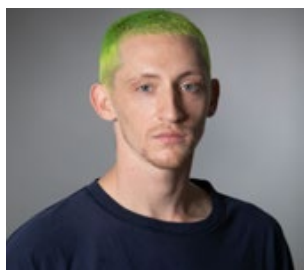
Imre van Opstal
The Netherlands



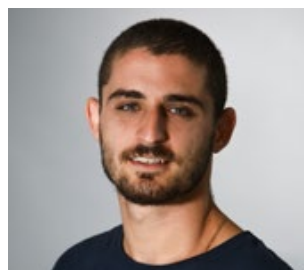
Igor Ptashenchuk
Israel



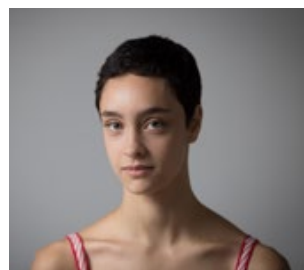
Nitzan Ressler
Israel



Kyle Scheurich
USA



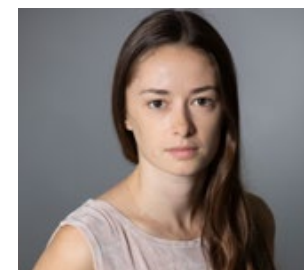
Yoni Simon
Israel



Hani Sirkis
Israel



Maayan Sheinfeld
Israel



Amalia Smith
Canada

Batsheva- the Young Ensemble Dancers

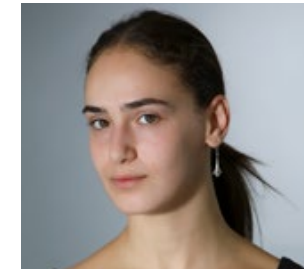
2019 – 2020 Season

"Watching the dancers makes the viewer reflect on the unique movement of arthropods and cranes, and on the marvelous movement of schools of fish that suddenly come together, with wonderful, sharp, inexplicable coordination..."

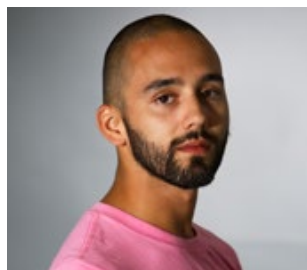
Gili Izikovich on The Look by Sharon Eyal, Haaretz



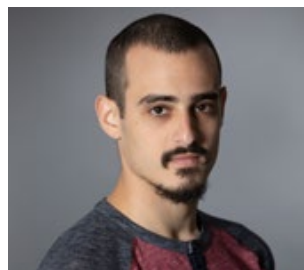
Gil Amishai
Israel



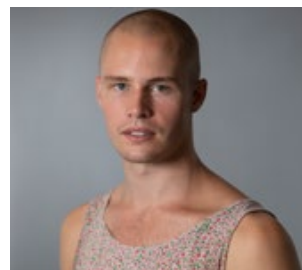
Yarden Bareket
Israel



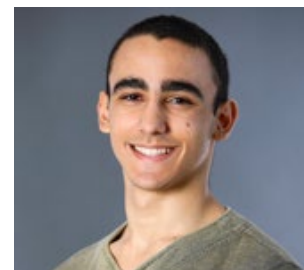
Cesar Brodermann
Mexico



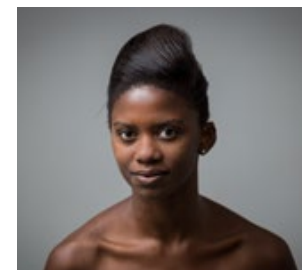
Ariel Gelbart
Israel



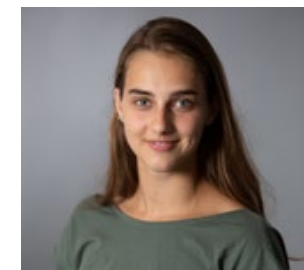
Sean Howe
USA



Reches Itzhaki
Israel



Londiwe Khoza
South Africa



Béatrice Larrivée
Canada



Federico Longo
Italy



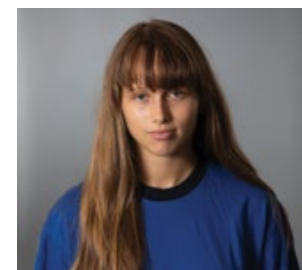
Tom Nissim
Israel



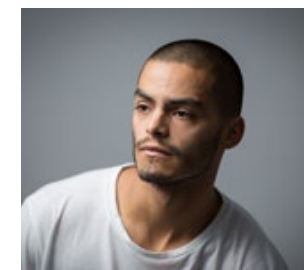
Gianni Notarnicola
Italy



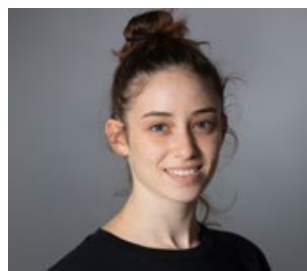
Avigail Shafrir
Israel



Alma Karvat Shemesh
Israel



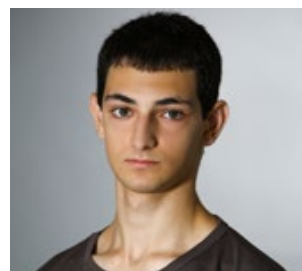
Nicolas Ventura
Canada



Shaked Werner
Israel



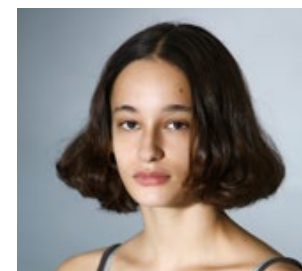
Ofir Yannai
Israel



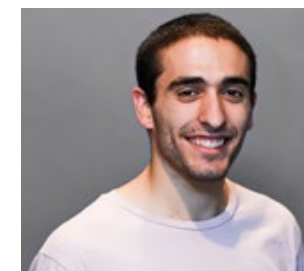
Guy Davidson •
Apprentice, Israel



Roni Milatin •
Apprentice, Israel



Danai Porat •
Apprentice, Greece



Ido Toledano •
Apprentice, Israel

Cultivating and Training Young Dancers

A new school

Director: Lior Avizoor

Batsheva's dance school, envisioned by Ohad Naharin, is a turning point in the Company's longtime effort to cultivate and train young dancers and creators. The school is a unique place for talented dancers, a research lab in the spirit of Batsheva that offers exposure to a diverse faculty and a wide range of artistic experimentation. It is a framework that promises to enrich the world of students as dancers, performing artists, and citizens of the world.

The school opened in September 2019 with a pilot class of 37 young dancers between the ages of 15-18 from across Israel. The program consists of regular classes such as classical ballet, Gaga, and repertoire, as well as enrichment sessions, meetings with artists,

and lectures. Great attention is given to understanding the professional life of dancers, and the integration of class content with practical experience.

As part of the program, students attend performances, visit exhibitions, and participate in cultural events.

Seven students from the class were awarded partial scholarships, thanks to the support of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.

Ballet class at the School

Photo: Lior Avizoor



cultivating and Training Young Dancers Courses

**November 2018 - May 2019,
22 sessions**

Now in its ninth year, Batsheva's Program for Outstanding Young Dancers helps participants develop a professional toolbox for the continuation of their artistic careers. 107 young dance students from across Israel came to the Company's studio for weekly sessions to learn parts of the Company's repertoire and practice Gaga movement.

Since the program's inauguration, most of the Israeli dancers in the Company and the young Ensemble have begun their artistic journey in this framework, including Chen Agron, Etay Axelroad, Yael Ben Ezer, Reches Itzhaki, Rani Lebzelter, Tom Nissim, Nitzan Ressler, Tamar Rosenzweig, Hani Sirkis, and Shaked Werner.

Batsheva's Summer Dance Course
July 2019

In July 2019, Batsheva held four intensive summer courses for young dance students from Israel and abroad. 160 students between the ages of 14 and 19 participated: 64 students from across Israel, and 96 students from 15 other countries including Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Russia, Turkey, Sweden, Switzerland and USA.

Since 2016, these summer courses have been directed by Doron Raz and Yaara Moses, both former Company and Ensemble dancers and senior Gaga teachers.

Summer course 2019
Photo by: Ascaf



The Israeli Dance Archive

Director: Iris Lana

In 2019, Israel's national compilation of dance materials came to a conclusion. This process, begun in 2016 as part of the "The National Digital Collection: Architecture, Dance, Design and Theatre" project on behalf of the Jerusalem Ministry and Heritage, was managed by the National Library with the goal to preserve our cultural heritage and provide access to digital collections for the general public.

Batsheva, under the direction of dance scholar Iris Lana, was responsible for the dance component, and Lana's experience establishing the Company's archive in 2014 was invaluable. Project collaborators include the Judaica Collection at the Harvard University Library and the Dance Archive in Beit Ariela Shaar Zion Library in Tel Aviv.

During 2019, eight collections were cataloged and scanned, and a comprehensive survey of seven

Arab society dance collections was conducted. The categorization of this survey will be completed in the near future.

The scope of this project, from 2017 to the present, has included full archiving of twenty-six collections, and partial representational archiving of eleven collections: The Moshe Efrati and the Kol Demama Dance Company, Inbal Dance Theater, Ruth Ziv-Ayal, Suzanne Dellal Center, Aryeh Kalev, Leah Bergstein, Rivka Sturman, Devorah Bertonov, Hilda Kesten, Tamar – Ramla Dance Theatre Company, Valentina Archipova, Naomi Aleskovsky, Ruth Eshel, Jonathan Carmon, Yonatan Karmon, Oshra Elkayam Ronen, Naomi Polani, Amos Hetz, Berta Yampolsky and Hillel Markman, Kibbutz Dalia- Dance Conference, The Orenstein Family, Shosh Kormush, Rina Shaham, Rina Schenfeld, Silvia Duran, and Batsheva Dance Company.

Total digitized Items: approximately 160,000.

Batsheva is honored and proud to have played a significant role in the Israeli dance documentation project.



Opening of the Suzanne Dellal Center (1989). Center: Yair Vardi, Founder, and Director of the Center 1989– 2019
Photo: Yoram Bouzaglo. Suzanne Dellal Center collection



Batsheva's first poster. Design: Dan Reisinger

Numbers

263
performances

158
in Tel Aviv

54
Nationwide

51
Overseas

95%
capacity at the
Suzanne Dellal
Center

96,000
Audience members

36,000
at the Suzanne
Dellal Center

16,000
Nationwide

44,000
Overseas



Venezuela by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf

Fiscal Statistics

Annual Budget –
23.5 million NIS
(6.7 million USD)

68%
**Self-generated
Income**

47%
Box office and tours

+
21%
Individual giving,
foundation grants

32%
**Government and
municipal support**

Hora by Ohad Naharin
Photo by: Ascaf



Batsheva Online

215,497

website visits
(+ 49%)

5.9 million

YouTube views
(+ 20%)

72,928

Facebook followers
(+ 8%)

24,250

active digital club
members

76,800

Instagram
followers (+ 20%)

70%

of ticket purchasing
is online

Batsheva's Arts Campus in Neve Sha'anani

Design: Sir David Adjaye OBE RA
Adjaye Associates

Opening: 2024

"The Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo has made great efforts in recent years to stimulate urban renewal in Neve Sha'anani, and sees culture as an important catalyst for such growth. The establishment of the Batsheva campus, the home of one of our most important artistic and cultural institutions, will generate diverse and international artistic activity of the highest level, alongside social and educational activities to benefit the residents of the neighborhood, the district, and the city at large."

Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo,
Ron Huldai

Batsheva's Arts Campus in Neve Sha'anani

Design: Sir David Adjaye OBE RA

Project progress in 2019

- Approval of architectural planning by the Local Planning Committee, May 2019.
- Inclusion of the new urban center for Sephardic and Mizrahi Jewish Culture.

In December 2019, the Company participated in the annual Nightlight Festival in Neve Sha'anani neighborhood with a performance inspired by Ohad Naharin's "2019"



Public Council

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Michael Kenny, Chairman

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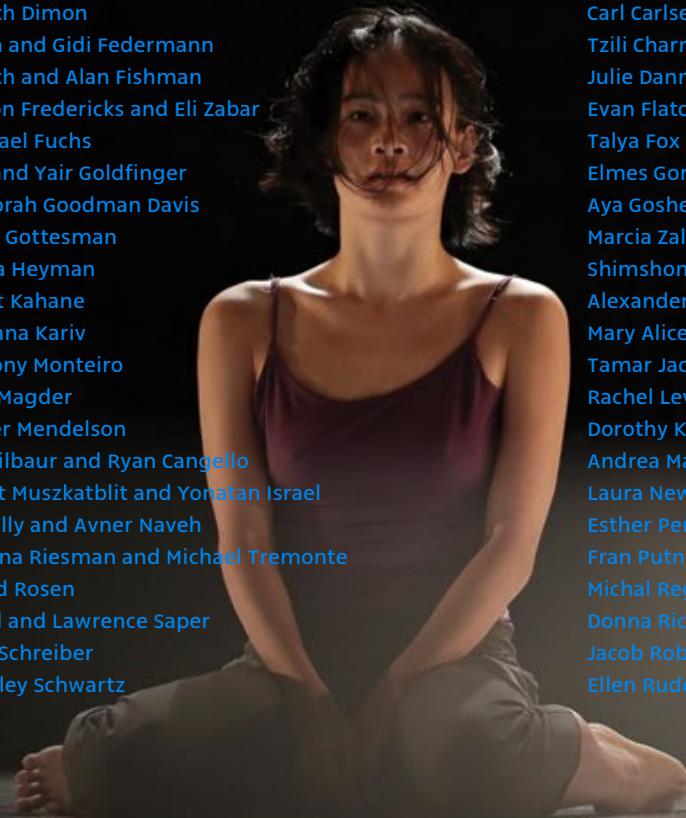
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Batsheva would like to thank the President of the AFB Nurit Amdur and the entire Board for hosting the AFB Gala 2019 in New York City, featuring a Company performance of Venezuela and introducing Gili Navot as Artistic Director. Thank you to all attendees for your generous contributions.

In addition, we would like to give special thanks to the following individuals for their wise guidance and friendship: Jody Arnhold, Judy Bernstein Bunzl, Karen Brooks Hopkins, Judith Fishman, Sharon Gersten Luckman, Nathan Hevrony, Marion Koltun-Dienstag, and James Snyder.

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George & Zalman by Ohad Naharin
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Thank You!

Batsheva Dance Company and the Young Ensemble, 2019-2020
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