Batsheva Dance Company

Venezuela
by Ohad Naharin

Friday, April 12, 2019
7:30 pm
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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

Batsheva Dance Company members, 2018/19
ETAY AXELROAD  BILLY BARRY  YAEI 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
With special support provided by the Dalia and Eli Hurvitz Foundation, as well as the New Works Funds of Batsheva and the American Friends of Batsheva

Thanks to The Israeli Ballroom Dancing Fund
North American Production Management
POMEGRANATE ARTS
LINDA BRUMBACH, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

MUSIC

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OHAD NAHARIN

Artistic Director
GILI NAVOT

Executive Director
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Assistant to the Artistic Director
KELVIN VU

Company & Stage Manager
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Physiotherapist
NIR DAYAN

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Technical Director
YUVAL GLICKMAN

Tour Manager, Pomegranate Arts
TIM GRASSEL
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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 220 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 (House Choreographer) is a choreographer and the 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, The Juilliard School, and with Maggie Black and David Howard. He then joined Maurice Béjart’s Ballet du XXe Siècle 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 Kajiwara, and a group of dancers in New York. Naharin and Kajiwara continued to work together until she died from cancer in 2001.

In 1990, Naharin was appointed Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company, and, 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’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 (Artistic Director) 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 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). 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 AXELROAD was born in 1995, Etay 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. He was a recipient of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship in 2013-14 and served in the IDF as a privileged outstanding dancer. He 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 + Company. He joined Batsheva – The Young Ensemble in 2011 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2012.

YAELE BEN EZER was born in 1995 in Tel Aviv. Yael studied at the Tel Aviv School of the Arts and graduated from Alon High School’s dance
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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. Yael joined Batsheva – The Young Ensemble in 2013 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2016.

**MATAN COHEN** was born in Haifa in 1993. 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. He served in the IDF as a Privileged Outstanding Dancer. He 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 Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company Emerging Choreographer’s show, he has worked with choreographers Jiří Kylián, 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 in 1989. Chiaki 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 Theater 2 from 2008-11 and then the GöteborgsOperans Danskompani from 2011-14. 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 2013–15. During these years, he danced with Hee Eun Dance Company and K’Arts Dance Company. At age 18, he placed third in the ninth Seoul International Dance Competition. At age 20, he placed second in the 51th Shinin Dance Competition. He joined Batsheva – The Young Ensemble in 2015 and joined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017.


**HUGO MARMELADA** was born in Portugal in 1987. He started hip-hop dancing at the age of 11. Three years later, he joined the Academia de Dança Contemporânea de Setúbal, where he graduated in 2006. Since then, he has been working since 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, Rafael Bonachela, among others. With the Carte Blanche company, he performed works by Hooman Sharifi, Sharon Eyal, Crystal Pite, and others. 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 2003-2007, she danced with the Victor Ullate Ballet company in Madrid and later, between 2007 and 2008, with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montréal in Canada under the artistic direction of Gradimir Pankov. She danced with Batsheva Dance Company between 2011-15 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. She is the recipient of the 2008-2010 America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship. She joined Batsheva – The Young Ensemble in 2010 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2012.

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

MAAYAN SHEINFELD was born in 1992. She graduated from the Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts. She 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 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. Yoni participated in the Batsheva Excellence Program in 2011-14 as well as in the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company Excellence Program in 2011-12. He was the recipient of a full scholarship to the American Academy of Ballet Summer Course in 2013. Yoni served in the IDF as a privileged outstanding dancer. Yoni 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 2013-14, 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. In 2012, Amalia was introduced to Gaga at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. She joined Batsheva – The Young Ensemble in 2014 and 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
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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 America-Israel 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 Batsheva Dance Company in 2005 until 2012. Between 2012 and 2014, he was Co-director of the Bye Bye Ballet School of Contemporary Dance in St. Petersburg. From 2012, he 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. He has been teaching Gaga since 2003 and a certified therapist of the Ilan Lev Method. He rejoined Batsheva Dance Company in 2017.

POMEGRANATE ARTS For the past 20 years, 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. 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.

North American Representation for Batsheva Dance Company:
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pomegranatearts.com
info@pomarts.com

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Works by Ohad Naharin, performed at Hancher Auditorium

2002/2003

*Minus 16*
NEDERLANDS DANS THEATER 2
May 1, 2003, at 8:00 pm
Hancher Auditorium

2004/2005

*Tabula Rasa*
HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO
October 9, 2004, at 8:00 pm
Hancher Auditorium

2006/2007

*Deca Dance*
BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY
October 19, 2006, at 7:30 pm
Hancher Auditorium

2007/2008

*Passomezzo*
HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO
October 12, 2007, at 7:30 pm
Hancher Auditorium

2018/2019

*Venezuela*
BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY
April 12, 2019, at 7:30 pm
Hancher Auditorium

Pictured: Batsheva Dance Company performing Deca Dance
Photo: Maxim Warat
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