

**Brooklyn Academy of Music**

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# Venezuela

Batsheva Dance Company  
By Ohad Naharin

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House  
Mar 27—30 at 7:30pm

Running time: approx. one hour and 20 minutes, no intermission

Lighting design by **Avi Yona Bueno (Bambi)**  
Soundtrack design and edit by **Maxim Waratt**  
Costume design by **Eri Nakamura**

*2019 Winter/Spring is programmed by Joseph V. Melillo.*

*Season Sponsor:*

**Bloomberg  
Philanthropies**

*Leadership support for dance at BAM provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance*

*Major support for dance at BAM provided by The SHS Foundation*

*Support for the Signature Artists Series provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation*

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

**Etay Axelroad**  
**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**

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CREDITS

Musical advisor **Nadav Barnea**  
Assistant to Ohad Naharin and Eri Nakamura **Ariel Cohen**  
Dancers instructor **Natalia Petrova**  
Assistant **Omri Mishael**

MUSIC

“Coma” by Converter/Scott Sturgis, “Ae Ajnabi” (From “Dil Se”) by A. R. Rahman & Sampooran Singh Gulzar, “Bullet in the Head” by Rage Against the Machine, “Mirage” by Biz, “The Wait” (from “Another Happy Day”) by Olafur Arnalds, “One Large Rose” by Phill Niblock, “Dead Wrong” by Christopher Wallace (Notorious B.I.G.), “Kyrie fons bonitatis, Litany” (from “Songs of the Spirit”) - anonymous Gregorian chant, “Beata Viscera” (from “Songs of the Sprit”) - anonymous Gregorian chant, “Offer-torium: Jubulate Deo Universa Terra” - anonymous Gregorian chant, “O Euchari” by Hildegard von Bingen, “De Profundis” - anonymous Gregorian chant, “Alma Redemptoris” - anonymous Gregorian Chant, “Alma Redemptoris Mater” - anonymous Gregorian Chant, “Easter Vigil: Litany” - anonymous Gregorian chant

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Produced by Batsheva Dance Company  
Co-producers: Chaillot National Theater, Paris; Hellerau – European Center for the Arts, Dresden

**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**





ETAY AXELROAD



BILLY BARRY



Yael BEN EZER



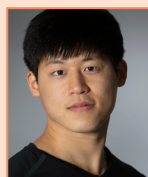
MATAN COHEN



BEN GREEN



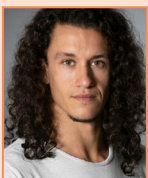
CHIAKI HORITA



CHUNWOONG KIM



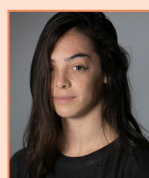
RANI LEBZELTER



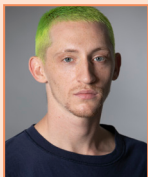
HUGO MARMELADA



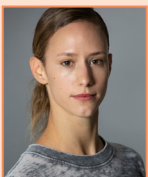
ERI NAKAMURA



NITZAN RESSLER



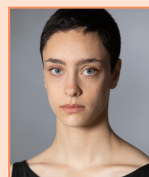
KYLE SCHEURICH



MAAYAN SHEINFELD



YONI (YONATAN) SIMON



HANI SIRKIS



AMALIA SMITH



IMRE VAN OPSTAL



EREZ ZOHAR

## Batsheva Dance Company

House Choreographer  
Artistic Director  
Executive Director  
Assistant to the Artistic Director

Company & Stage Manager  
Senior Rehearsal Director  
Deputy Director, Content  
and Communications

Head of International Touring  
International Touring Producer  
Director, International Development  
International Development Coordinator

Chief Technical Director  
Technical Director on Tour  
Lighting  
Sound  
Stagehand  
Wardrobe  
Physiotherapist

**Ohad Naharin**  
**Gili Navot**  
**Dina Aldor**  
**Kelvin Vu**

**Yaniv Nagar**  
**Luc Jacobs**

**Noa Ron**

**Amit Hevrony**  
**Dana Gutí**  
**Lisa Preiss Fried**  
**Sarah Rosen**

**Roni Cohen**  
**Yuval Glickman**  
**Eliav Refaely**  
**Dudi Bell**  
**Gilad Bonneau**  
**Maya Lavi**  
**Gal Kalmi**



**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 dance company, maintaining an extensive performance schedule locally and internationally with over 250 performances and circa 100,000 spectators every year. Batsheva has performed at BAM numerous times, most recently with *Last Work* (2017), *Sadeh21* (2014), and *Hora* (2012).

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 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 Hirabayashi 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 trained in music throughout his childhood and continues to infuse his work with a unique musicality. He 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 Grisca

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 US, 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.

## PERFORMERS

**ETAY AXELROAD** 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 New York (2013), and SIBA in Salzburg under full scholarships. Axelroad was a recipient of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship in 2013–14, and served in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) as an 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 + Co. He joined Batsheva – The Young 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 Ben Ezer 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, and 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. Cohen served in the IDF as a privileged outstanding dancer. Cohen joined Batsheva – The Young Ensemble in 2013 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2016.

**BEN GREEN** was born in the US 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 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 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 Theater II 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 those 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 51st Shinin Dance Competition. Chunwoong Kim joined Batsheva - The Young Ensemble in 2015 and joined 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—10 Lebzelter trained at the dancer's workshop in Kibbutz Ga'aton. Between 2009—11 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 to Batsheva Dance Company in 2014.

**HUGO MARMELEDA** 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 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 Naharin, 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—07 she danced with the Victor Ullate Ballet Company in Madrid and between 2007 and 2008 with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montréal in Canada under the artistic direction of Gradimir Pankov. Nakamura 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. Ressler is the recipient of the 2008—10 Israel-America Cultural Foundation education scholarship. She joined Batsheva – The Young Ensemble in 2010 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2012.

**KYLE SCHEURICH** was born in 1992 in New York. In 2010 he graduated from 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 François 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. She is the recipient of the 2007—10 Sharet Fund scholarship. Sheinfeld participated

in summer dance courses in Prague, Salzburg, and New York's Juilliard School, 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. Simon participated in the Batsheva Excellence Program in 2011–14 as well as in the KCDC Excellence Program in 2011–12. He was the recipient of a full scholarship to the American Academy of Ballet Summer Course in 2013. Simon served in the IDF as a privileged outstanding dancer. He 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 an award 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, BC. 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 Batsheva – The Young 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. Van Opstal formed a choreographic duo with her brother Marne van Opstal and they 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 of the Georgian Dance Company, Hora Jerusalem Dance Company, and 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 the Batsheva Dance Company where he danced until 2012. Between 2012–14 Zohar 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. He is also a certified therapist of the Ilan Lev method. Zohar 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* (2012 Next Wave), 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

hopes 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:

Pomegranate Arts  
pomegranatearts.com  
info@pomarts.com

Founder and Director  
Managing Director, Creative  
Business Manager  
General Manager  
Production Manager  
Office Manager  
Production Assistant

Linda Brumbach  
Alisa E. Regas  
Adam Thorburn  
Rachel Katwan  
Jeremy Lydic  
Brit Katke  
Willa Folmar

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**Batsheva would like to thank all our supporters in the USA and the members of the board of the American Friends of Batsheva who work tirelessly to sustain us.**

Nurit Amdur – President  
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For more information about the American Friends of Batsheva, please contact:

Lisa Preiss Fried, [batshevafriends@batsheva.co.il](mailto:batshevafriends@batsheva.co.il) or call 212.545.7182