

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

Naharin's Virus

By Ohad Naharin

An adaptation of Peter Handke's play "Offending the Audience"

Text: Peter Handke (excluding the dancers stories)

Original Music: Karni Postel, Habib Alla Jamal, Shama Khader

Music: Samuel Berber, Carlos D'Alessio, P. Stokes, P. Parsons

Costume design: Rakefet Levy

Lighting design: Bambi

Music advisor: Karni Postel

Sound design: Frankie Lievaart

Dancers:

Eldad Ben Sasson, Jeremy Bernheim, Caroline Boussard, Stefan Ferry, Kristin Francke, Jesper Thirup Hansen, Yoshifumi Inao, Yaniv Nagar, Gili Navot, Inbar Nemirovski, Chisato Ohno, Itamar Sahar, Mami Shimazaki, Maya Weiser, Inbal Yacobi, Arkadi Zaides, Noa Zouk.

Batsheva's dancers collaborated in the creative process.

Rehearsal Director: Yoshifumi Inao

Recordings: Frankie Lievaart, Haim Laroz

Duration: app. 70 minutes, no intermission

Premiere: March 14, 2001, Tel Aviv

For further information please contact:

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"Handke's play is about the negation of the theater. The direct, continuous appeal to the public turns the spectator's mere presence, his self-awareness and his act of listening – into the main issue of the play. He glorifies the public – but means no praise, he scorns them – but means no offence. He contradicts himself. The play empties the stage of all expectations, of all theatrical conventions. A space, a void is created: it is there where my creation takes place!"

(Ohad Naharin)

About the collaboration with musician Habib Alla Jamal

In December 2000, during Batsheva's performance tour "Batsheva – A Decade of Love", the company was scheduled to perform in Nazareth for a mixed audience of Arabs and Jews. At the exact same period, unprecedented riots started in the Israeli Arab sector. The rage and intensity of these riots shook the volatile Israeli society and created a deep tear between Arabs and Jews.

In view of the new situation, the company's management decided after deep consideration, to send the dancers to Nazareth, in its pink bus, wrapped with the company's photos, to perform for an all-Arab audience in their local hall. The hope was that this step would be received as a gesture of peace and fraternity.

As an homage to Batsheva, the hosts wanted to reciprocate, by performing for Ohad and the dancers their own dances, while the local Arab musicians played folkloristic music, telling of love, marriage and so on.

Naharin listened carefully; he knew he had found what he had been looking for: the perfect music for his new creation "Naharin's Virus", an adaptation of Peter Handke's play 'Offending the Audience', and not what he previously imagined to be suitable, with "Kleizmerim" – traditional Jewish musicians.

Ohad was invited to the Ramadan Festivities where he asked Habib Alla Jamal and his group to participate in his "Virus" by recording their music for Batsheva.

The musicians are; composer Habib Alla Jamal; Shama Khader – composer and oud player; Shama Mazen – singer; Darawshi Farouk – organ; Khateeb Adnan – violin, Khateeb Anan – tambourine; Banna Khaled – durbuca.

Habib Alla Jamal, who defines himself as Palestinian Arab with an Israeli citizenship says: "Despite our conflict, despite the pain and suffering me and my people went through, I am very proud of the cooperation with Batsheva. I pray our encounter in art may lead to all sorts of good encounters".