

TEL AVIV TODAY

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BATSHEVA

DANCE COMPANY



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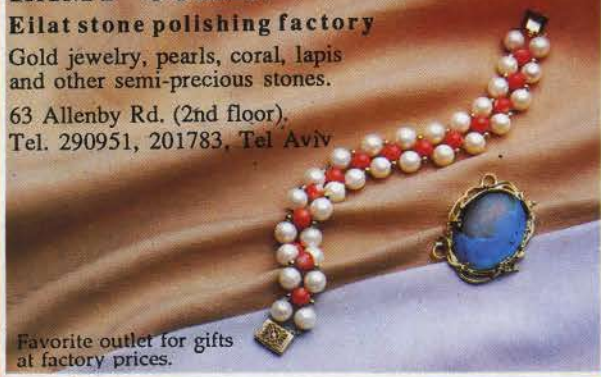
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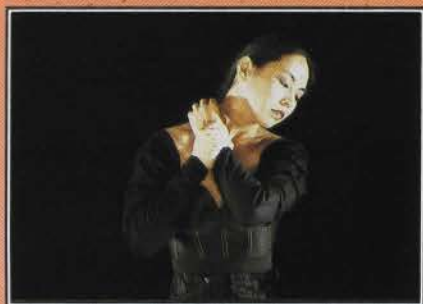
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חשנית

Excitement on the Modern Dance Scene The Batsheva Dance Company



The Batsheva Dance Company, founded in 1964, is one of Israel's more arresting modern dance ensembles. Constantly evolving under the influence of the different artists working with the group, the Company is an unusually vibrant one whose energy, vitality and blend of personalities have made it an impressive ensemble with the ability to perform a wide range of works. The Company's talents have drawn renown choreographers from the United States and Europe to work with its dancers, among them Kurt Jooss, Anna Sokolow, Paul Taylor, Jerome Robbins and John Cranko. Batsheva's penchant for creating new forms of dance has also attracted young and innovative choreographers such as David Parsons, Mark Morris, Daniel Ezralow and Elisa Monte to add their works to the Company's repertoire. Today Batsheva's innovativeness, coupled with its respect for tradition, technique and aesthetics have transformed it into the foremost company on the Israeli modern dance scene. In addition, Batsheva is one of the most widely toured companies. The group enjoyed a very successful tour of Poland, Germany and Spain in July, 1991, and will embark

on another American tour next month. The appointment of Ohad Naharin to the post of artistic director infused the Company with a different, yet powerful style.

Born in Israel, Naharin began his dance training at the age of 22 with Batsheva.

His choreographic debut in 1980 was warmly acclaimed, and he went on to establish his own ensemble, based in New York, which toured the United States and Europe, as well as China.

Naharin began creating to the music of Arvo Pärt in 1986. "God has touched Arvo Pärt," he claims. "His work is free of time or style, economical and yet rich in tone, establishing a firm foundation for the dance. I try to connect to the subconscious realms of his work by using the conscious: body, flesh and muscle." Estonian-born Pärt's early music was composed primarily in the serial method; then, in 1968, he underwent an artistic reorientation marked by an intense concentration on medieval music.

Naharin's highly acclaimed work *Tabula Rasa* (1986) was most successful, and Naharin has closely followed Pärt's mu-

sic since then, often using it in his choreography. The program, "Three Dances Set to Music by Arvo Pärt," was commissioned by the Israel Festival Jerusalem 1991 to honor the composer's work, and has received extraordinary kudos.

"Everything is charged, saturated in tension, often erotic..." (*Davar*) "Exquisite harmony between dance and music..." Naharin hurls his dancers "...from sweeping energy to still silence..." (*Ma'ariv*) "...three phases of one idea... cerebral as well as emotional, often strangely ritualistic..." (*Jerusalem Post*)

Batsheva Dances to the Music of Arvo Pärt will be performed in Tel Aviv at the Cameri Theatre, and is well worth seeing. (See *What's On*, September 12, 13, and 14.)

Batsheva will offer a return performance in October of Naharin's smash work *Kyr*, an electrifying combination of contemporary dance and rock music by *The Tractor's Revenge*. Tickets at Batsheva, Tel. 651-471; Hadran Tickets, Tel. 544-9797; and Castel Tickets, Tel. 447-678 or 444-725.



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