

Batsheva Dance Company

Rony Klajman
President, Public Council

Dr. Hadassah Shani
President, Board of Directors

Ohad Naharin
House Choreographer

Naomi Bloch Fortis
General Manager & Co-Artistic Director

Yoshifumi Inao
Artistic Director

Sharon Eyal
Associate Artistic Director

Sarah Oren
Chief Financial Officer

Jodi Joseph
Director of Development

American Friends of Batsheva
220 Fifth Ave., Ste. 1301
NY, NY 10001
Tel: 212 545 7182
Fax: 212 447 9211

Batsheva Dance Company
6 Yechieli St.
Tel Aviv 65149, Israel
Tel: +972 3 517 1471
Fax: +972 3 516 0231

Israeli Friends of Batsheva
6 Yechieli St.
Tel Aviv 65149, Israel
Tel: +972 3 517 1471
Fax: +972 3 516 0231

Soon We Will Be On The Web!
www.batsheva.org

Spotlight – Yoshifumi Inao

Associate Artistic Director... Dancer... and soon to be Dad



Yoshi wears many hats; dancer, associate artistic director, husband and father to be. Born in Japan in 1975, Yoshi trained in Kyoto in part by his aunt. With exposure to other dance forms, he moved onto the Mudra Bejart School in Lausanne. Later at the Nye Carte Blanche in Norway from 1995–7, he met his Norwegian-born wife, Kristin Francke. Yoshi first came to audition for Batsheva in 1997 and was later joined by Kristin. The two have been living in Israel for the last 7 years despite the many obvious challenges.

Yoshi's strong presence, discipline and sense of humor provide leadership to the company on and off stage. Rehearsal sessions and movement classes are managed with flexibility and grace, not an easy feat with 18 dancers from 6 different cultures! The same panache is used when decisions are needed regarding artistic direction, casting, performance repertoire and hundreds of issues that arise throughout the season.

While on tour in America, Yoshi led a workshop for 300 children from Los Angeles' troubled District 5. When asked there about Batsheva's international bend, Yoshi said, "Batsheva finds a lot of its artistic energy and power from its diversity. Each dancer brings a whole world into the mix...it is through each person's generosity, honesty and willingness to share that we achieve what we do."

Become a friend - Join the AFO Batsheva today!

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

I am interested in learning more about:

☐ Batsheva's Upcoming Performances ☐ Visiting Batsheva's Studios
☐ The Sela Fund @ Batsheva ☐ The Dancer's Welfare Fund
☐ Shai L'Israel & Outreach Projects ☐ Receiving the Batsheva Beat Newsletter
☐ The AFO and its activities ☐ Other _____

Please find enclosed a gift of: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000

My credit card details are: ☐ Amex ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard CC#: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____



September 2004

Shana Tova!

Happy New Year!
What a wonderful way to start the new year – with the sweet memories of Batsheva in the Hamptons, wonderful reviews from Jacob's Pillow and a full schedule for the coming season.

Read on to learn more about Batsheva's artistic programs and outreach activities for the coming year, and how to become more involved with the American Friends of Batsheva.

Together, our much needed support will enable the company to continue to enthrall audiences the world over.

Best Wishes,
Liora Sternberg
President

American Friends of Batsheva

Liora Sternberg
President
Alain Coblenz
Secretary

Lenny Lowengrub,
Michael Sela, Sara Sela, Michael Stern,
Gil Shiva, Robert Weil

Batsheva Beat

Volume 1, Number 1

Batsheva Moved the Hamptons!

After months of hard work and the support of many friends, August 7, 2004 proved to be a night to remember. 600 of Batsheva's closest friends – some old and many new – came together to celebrate with music, art and of course dance!

The magical night, created by **Michael Stern**, AFO board member and renown-party designer, was hosted in the Hamptons at the home of **Jerome and Ellen Stern**. The event started with a stroll on the grounds. Guests were invited for cocktails and to tour the **Art Barn**, a private gallery opened for the first time for such an event! The evening continued in a huge tent with a Lincoln Center quality stage and enjoyed a special performance of **Deca Dance** – a celebration of 10 years Ohad Naharin's work. The performance ended with the Batsheva dancers inviting the audience on stage to dance the night away!



Jerome and Michael Stern

The only complaint that evening - was that it was too short.



Guests visit the Art Barn



The Performance Tent



Batsheva on Stage



Menachem and Liora Sternberg, AFO President, Batsheva Board Member Mikki and Eti Kenny, Meir Shani

2nd Bessie for Naharin

September 17, 2004, **Ohad Naharin** was awarded the esteemed New York Dance and Performance "**Bessie**" Award, dance's equivalent to the Oscars or Tonys, at a ceremony held at the Joyce Theatre. His first Bessie was for Naharin's *Virus* at BAM in April 2002. This second award is for the performance of *Anaphaza* at the Lincoln Center Festival in July 2003.

In September 2003, Naharin was named the House Choreographer of the Batsheva Dance Company after fourteen years of leading the company's artistic vision. As Artistic Director, Naharin forged the way for Batsheva to break into the vanguard of contemporary dance altering the language of dance worldwide. His name has become synonymous with the greatest revolutionary names in dance.

In its announcement, The Bessie Selection Committee noted in its award announcement, "For an aggressive, evocative, and politically charged exploration and a rejection of conformity crafted with surprising twists of humor, beauty, rock-star egomania and gracious debuts by members of the Lincoln Center Festival audience (which were) invited to dance along on stage in *Anaphaza*."

The BESSIE Awards honor exceptional artistic achievements and reflect upon the issues and challenges that face artistic communities on local and national fronts in America. Over the past 20 years, more than 400 BESSIE awards have been given to independent artists including choreographers/creators Trisha Brown, Ping Chong, Chuck Davis, Bill Irwin, Bill T. Jones, Mark Morris and William Forsythe.

Naharin's Anaphaza has been seen by over 350,000 people worldwide!

Coming
Soon
Batsheva
Online –

Soon Batsheva will be going live with its new website. Visit the site to read dancer profiles, learn about the company's history, to find out where we are performing, join the Batsheva Forum and more.

www.
batsheva.
org

What the
press has
been saying...

This is not dancing
you will see
anywhere else –
Anna Kisselgoff
New York Times

Naharin carves out
a world where
madness waltzes
with grace –
Sarah Kaufman
The Washington Post

Let us know
what you
think, write
Batsheva:

batsheva@batsheva.co.il

Been There and There and There...

2004 Winter Tour – 11 US & 4 Euro Cities, 3 Continents... and Many Trains, Plains and Buses

Batsheva traveled 1,000's of miles coast to coast in America. Kicking-off its US winter tour at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC with Ambassador Daniel Ayalon leading the festivities. The company went on to perform Deca Dance to packed houses and standing ovations at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Princeton's McCarther Theatre, the Wexner Center for Performing Arts in Ohio, University of Minnesota's Northrop Auditorium, the Yuerba Buena Performing Arts Center in San Francisco, Seattle's Paramount Theatre, the WhiteBird Festival in Portland, UCLA's Royce Hall, University of Arizona and finishing up at Arizona State's Artist Live series.

After a short run in Israel, Batsheva performed Naharin's Virus to rave reviews at the Barbican Centre in London as part of their BITE (Barbican International Theatre Events) series. Later in the season the company also performed in France at the Théâtre de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines Scène National and Montpellier Danse 04, in Dusseldorf, Germany at Tanzhaus NRW die werkstatt ev and the Red 2004 Festival in Reggio Emilia, Italy

Over the last year, the Batsheva Ensemble, the junior company, performed over 150 times at schools across in Israel. As a prelude to future touring dates, the Ensemble traveled to Prague to performed for 1000's of people per night at the new SAZKA Aréna at the Tanec Praha Festival. They performed Decathlon.

Batsheva Breaks Boundaries

Batsheva, known for setting the pace in the contemporary dance world, is also known for fostering a home for creativity, freedom and holistic support of the artistic process. This past season alone, three leaders from very different disciplines have joined with Batsheva to create...create new works, create new genres and create new experiences for our audiences.

Ruth Kanner, a leading director in the avant-garde theatre and actress developed and staged **Bathers** combining the guiding principles of dance and theatre. Dancers from the **Batsheva Ensemble** were an integral element of the multi-layered production – its evolution and execution. The theatrical development process was explorative and challenging for the dancers. The Bathers was so well received that a second run was staged and played to sold-out audiences.

The annual **Tel Aviv Piano Festival** was held in the Suzanne Dellal Center. In Batsheva's Theatre@Varda Studio a special collaborative performance of pianist/composer/singer **Shlomi Shaban** and the **Batsheva dancers** was performed. **PianoJunkYard** was an improvisation-based performance centered on the interaction between Shlomi's music and the spontaneous movements of the Batsheva dancers, which they heard for the first time. Shaban sang and played various keyboards. The audience was caught up in the magic of the moment.

At this summer's **Batsheva Moves the Hamptons** event, international photographer **Eugene Lemay** presented a series of works inspired by Batsheva's performance at the **American Dance Festival**. Eugene's photographs blur the boundaries between the performers' physical outlines and the texture of the dance itself.

To learn more about Eugene Lemay or to view the Batsheva Series visit www.eugenelemay.com.

Profit from the sales of the Batsheva series will be contributed to the American Friends of Batsheva.



Photo Credit: Eugene Lemay

**Capturing the Human Figure
in Motion**

Eugene Lemay comments on creating photographs inspired by Batsheva.

On the surface, the Batsheva images appear to be still-life portraits of dancers in motion. Yet by highlighting the full range of their movements, I have sought to add depth to their forms. Each figure seems to vibrate with ripples of energy that flow outward from their bodies and costumes into the surrounding area.

Like the contradictions expressed by the Batsheva Dancers-- chaos and order, light-heartedness and gravity, aggression and tenderness, clarity and ambiguity -- the figures stand, bend, twist, and leap within their stillness.

**Upcoming
Events and
Performances:**

Quiet Village
Tel Aviv, Israel
October 1- 7 , 2004
World Premiere by Sharon Eyal. Eyal's work **Love** was well-received at its American premeire in July....come experience her latest triumph!

For tickets contact:
hagit@batsheva.co.il

Phaza Morgana
Eilat, Israel
October 21- 23, 2004
Sit under the stars in a 3,000 seat amphitheatre, and be part of the spectacle that is Phaza Morgana in Timna Park.

Special vacation package rates are available for Friends of Batsheva.
For more information contact:
kobi@batsheva.co.il

Anaphaza
Moscow, Russia
November 6-7, 2004

Join us and see Batsheva perform Naharin's Anaphaza.

For more information contact:
jodij@batsheva.co.il

Sela Fund@Batsheva
Announced

On June 26th Batsheva, the Sela Family and friends celebrated the 80th year of **Professor Michael Sela**, honorary president of Batsheva and 30-year chairman of the Batsheva board, with the establishment of the **Michael Sela Fund for Developing Young Dancers and Choreographers at Batsheva**. The Sela Fund@Batsheva will support the programs and activities of the Batsheva Ensemble, a greenhouse for young dancers and choreographers. Projects eligible for funding may include, financial aid for dance residencies, new commissions for the Ensemble, workshops for dance students, or Dancers Create – an annual production workshop featuring new works choreographed by the Ensemble members.

Batsheva along with the Sela Family, the Rich Foundation and Mercedes Benz welcomed over 500 guests to the beautiful courtyard of the Batsheva Studios at the Suzanne Dellal Center for a night of "Dancing for the Dancers". Guests were the first to preview Sharon Eyal's latest work in progress created for the Batsheva Ensemble. To date close to 1,000,000 New Israel Shekels have been raised for the Sela Fund@Batsheva. To learn more about the Sela Fund@Batsheva or the activities of the Batsheva Ensemble - please contact: Kobi Nathan at kobi@batsheva.co.il.

Roll Out the Red Carpet

One of the hallmarks of a great dance company is its rich repertoire, another is its ability to foster creativity and to develop new works. Batsheva is a leader in both realms. Having premiered 2 works this past season, the company is now developing two new works to premiere next season.

In January, Batsheva staged for the first time in Israel *A Sort Of* by Swedish choreographer **Mats Ek** at the Tel Aviv Center for the Performing Arts. Ek came to Israel during the rehearsal period. Ek commented on how fulfilling it was to come to Israel to stage *A Sort Of* with Batsheva. He also spoke of the challenges in working with a company so imbued with its own dance style and form. The Batsheva rendition of *A Sort Of* provided Ek with new insights into his own work and the Batsheva dancers with an extension to their dance vocabulary. The full program included Ohad Naharin's legendary Tabula Rasa and Sharon Eyal's Love.

The **Jacob's Pillow Festival** welcomed **Sharon Eyal's** work **Love**. The prestigious, internationally acclaimed festival was the perfect location for *Love's* worldwide debut. Mae G. Banner of Metroland wrote, "...A work for 13 dancers to an international collage of pop music (Japanese, French, Hebrew, British) is smooth, chic, tough and altogether beautiful." Sharon Eyal, Batsheva's associate artistic director, has danced with Batsheva for fourteen years and served as Naharin's muse for much of that time. **Quiet Village** will be staged at the Suzanne Dellal Center for the Arts October 1 – 9, 2004. After a two-year hiatus from choreography, Ohad Naharin will showcase a new work. The creative process will begin in November 2004 and the premier is tentively scheduled for February. It will be exciting to see where Naharin will take us with his latest explorations.

Visit the Studios of Batsheva
in the Suzanne Dellal Centre for Dance
in beautiful historic Neve Tzedik.
For a memorable experience, you are invited **backstage!**
We welcome groups of all ages, of 15 or more, for
Tours of the studio Open Rehearsals
Movement Workshops
Family, Student, UJA and Temple Missions welcome!

To learn more and to pre-arrange your visit, contact:
Jodi Joseph at jodij@batsheva.co.il
Tel: +972 3 517 1471 Fax: +972 3 516 0231

It is imperative that we discover the potential of young artists... not only those with training and experience – but those that may appear a bit "raw" due to their lack of formal education or professional experience. It is from a sense of obligation and enjoyment that I try to discover the "raw" ones and help them begin to fulfill their potential.

- Ohad Naharin

Shai L'Israel

UJC & Batsheva Join Forces
The vision of a generous friend, the **United Jewish Communities** and Batsheva to bring a season of dance and movement workshops to underserved communities across Israel has become a reality with the creation of Shai L'Israel.

Starting this December, Batsheva's two dance troupes; Batsheva and the Batsheva Ensemble, are scheduled to perform across Israel during a jam-packed season. Audiences of all ages will be included in the fun, with performances dedicated to soldiers, families and seniors. To ensure budget ticket prices, tickets will be subsidized by the **National Culture Fund** and **Omanut L'am**.

Batsheva is working hard to recruit corporate and private sponsors for the Shai L'Israel project. For more information, please contact Jodi Joseph at jodij@batsheva.co.il.