



DECADENCE:
Arts Centre Melbourne
State Theatre

Thursday 15 October at 7.30pm
1 hr 15 mins, no interval



LAST WORK:
Arts Centre Melbourne
State Theatre

Saturday 17 at 7.30pm & Sunday 18 October at 3pm
1 hr 10 mins, no interval

Premium \$109
A Reserve \$89 / \$79 B Reserve \$69 / \$59
C Reserve \$49 / \$39 Students \$25
Transaction fees may apply

www.festival.melbourne
Arts Centre Melbourne 1300 182 183
Ticketmaster 136 100

#melbfest

Israel // Dance

Melbourne Festival in association with The Besen Family Foundation, The Danielle and Daniel Besen Foundation and Australia Israel Cultural Exchange presents

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

Decadence / Last Work

2015 is Melbourne Festival's 30th Anniversary which is a good time to look back as well as to appraise the present and think to the future. With that in mind, the Festival will celebrate by bringing back to Melbourne one of the most important contemporary dance companies in the world, **Batsheva Dance Company**.

Led by one of the most exciting, visionary and original choreographers at the very top of his game, **Ohad Naharin**. Tel Aviv's **Batsheva** amazed audiences in 2000 when they made their Melbourne Festival debut with *Anaphase* and returned in 2008 with two programs *Three* and *Max*. Both seasons proved to be landmark moments in the Festival's history.

Pulsating with history and heart, politics and place in a collision of fiery individualism, Gaga, the company's unique movement language tells evocative stories. Director **Ohad Naharin** propelled the company into a new era with his adventurous curatorial vision and distinctive choreographic voice and they continue to push the boundaries of contemporary dance worldwide.

Melbourne Festival Artistic Director, Josephine Ridge said: "I continue to be amazed by the devastating impact of this company's work. Watching Batsheva dancers is exhausting, exhilarating and leaves an indelible impression. Seeing the full range of Ohad Naharin's choreographic genius set on his supreme dancers across two programs is both the perfect introduction for the uninitiated and a glorious reunion for those who are already fans."

Decadence

First created in 1990 and regularly revisited with new additions, this kaleidoscope survey of Naharin's repertoire offers audiences a multifaceted selection of memorable moments from the company's 50 year history.

Naharin reconstructs his oeuvre by taking sections of existing works and reorganising them into a fresh new theatrical experience. With a soundtrack that veers from Vivaldi to Dean Martin, this dynamic showcase of dance features heartbreakingly intimate moments and exhilarating full company pieces.

MEDIA CONTACT

TATIA SLOLEY M 0403 305 395
tatia@tspublicity.com.au

EMMA COSTELLO M 0421 201 344
emma@tspublicity.com.au

“Pure, unadulterated joy.” – *The West Australian*

“Engaging and beautiful.” – *Washington Post, USA*

Last Work

An Australian exclusive, fresh from its world premiere in Tel Aviv this June, Ohad Naharin’s latest creation *Last Work* brings Australia’s Batsheva fans up to date with the celebrated company’s most recent exploration of motion and emotion.

In *Last Work*, Naharin and the Batsheva dancers explore the body’s motion as the most humane, stirring expression of performing arts and synthesises the infinite spectrum of emotions and sentiment into performance. Melbourne audiences will be among the first in the world to immerse in the newest world of dance from one of the globe’s finest companies and choreographers.

“One of the most fascinating dance makers on the planet.” – *New York Times*

Batsheva Dance Company is critically acclaimed and popularly embraced internationally. Together with its junior Batsheva Ensemble, the Company boasts a roster of 34 dancers drawn from Israel and abroad maintaining an extensive performance schedule locally and internationally with over 250 performances and audiences of over 75,000 per year.

Hailed as one of the world’s preeminent contemporary choreographers, **Ohad Naharin** assumed the role of Artistic Director in 1990. Naharin is a modern guru whose pioneering dance language, Gaga, uses bodily self-awareness to produce constant, fluid motion and an unthinkable elasticity. This technique has not only revolutionised the company’s training but has emerged as a growing international force in the larger field of dance practice.

The presentation of these works was made possible by additional funding from Jacqui & Richard Scheinberg and other generous individuals.

Connected event:

GAGA WORKSHOP - Sat 17 Oct at 11am

CHUNKY MOVE studios // FREE

Batsheva dancer Rachael Osborne conducts a 75 minute workshop on choreographer Ohad Naharin’s unique movement language, Gaga.

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