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**BATSHEVA - THE YOUNG ENSEMBLE BRINGS INIMITABLE GAGA MOVEMENT  
TO JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL, JULY 4-8**

June 27, 2018 (Becket, MA) Batsheva - The Young Ensemble performs the Bessie Award-winning *Naharin's Virus* in the Ted Shawn Theatre at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, July 4-8. The work showcases the "superhumanly spry" (*The New York Times*) abilities of the Israel-based contemporary dance company, a second branch of Batsheva Dance Company. Batsheva and The Young Ensemble have gained international recognition for their use of the innovative movement research Gaga, developed by Artistic Director Ohad Naharin. With Gaga as their primary tool, The Young Ensemble lets go of the constraints of their technical training and unleashes the "free, exhilarating range of their movement" (*The Guardian*).

"It is an absolute honor to welcome Ohad Naharin and Batsheva's Young Ensemble to the Pillow for an immersive week, particularly in Ohad's final months as Artistic Director. We invite audiences to see a performance, observe dancers in The School at Jacob's Pillow, and attend a PillowTalk with Ohad, to engage with the movement research of Gaga from the source. It's really a once in a lifetime opportunity," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

The Young Ensemble's performances coincide with the two-week Professional Advancement program, *Gaga: The Movement Language of Ohad Naharin*, offered by The School at Jacob's Pillow. The program is led by former Batsheva Dance Company member Bret Easterling, with additional involvement from Naharin himself. Naharin also participates in a PillowTalk on July 7 and hosts a Gaga/people workshop on July 8 that creates an accessible environment for individuals, regardless of experience, to tap into heightened bodily awareness.

Alongside The School and community programming, *Naharin's Virus* exemplifies the raw potential and power of Gaga. The salient work features 16 dancers as they interact with, loom above, and slam into confining set pieces. Performers engage in simultaneously viscous and vigorous movement. Sharp lines of the body surrender to vulnerable fluidity in the blink of an eye. Naharin cultivates an intense disquiet in this setting, reinforced even by the costumes—cream-colored, gloved bodysuits that cut abruptly into black tights.

*Naharin's Virus* is an adaptation of the play *Offending the Audience* by Austrian playwright Peter Handke. Excerpts from the play and Arab folk music accompany the inventive movement, culminating in an engrossing piece "as powerful as the eye of the storm" (*The Jerusalem Post*). It premiered in March of 2001 at the Suzanne Dellal Centre in Tel Aviv, Batsheva's home theater, and won a Bessie Award in 2002.

Naharin's Gaga movement research has become increasingly influential in the last decade as a tool for individuals to connect with instinctive movement, linking the unconscious with the conscious. It is widely regarded as a rigorous and empowering language that shapes Naharin's inimitable choreographic voice, which has been described as "avant-garde...full of turbulent dynamics...a destabilizing form of art" (*The New York Times*). Naharin has been a seminal influence on some of the world's most prominent choreographers and companies.

## **ABOUT BATSHEVA - THE YOUNG ENSEMBLE**

Batsheva Dance Company was established by Baroness Batsheva (Bethsabée) de Rothschild in 1964, with modern dance pioneer Martha Graham serving as its first Artistic Director. Ohad Naharin founded Batsheva - The Young Ensemble as a second company in 1990, the same year he was appointed Artistic Director.

Naharin built the company to nurture the creative processes of young dancers from Israel and beyond. Its framework comprises independent choreographic support, intense studio training, domestic and international touring, and a school outreach program. Dancers may stay in The Young Ensemble for up to three years, pushing them to make the most of their experience. The Batsheva senior company is composed almost entirely of Young Ensemble graduates.

### **Jacob's Pillow Connections**

The Professional Advancement Program, *Gaga: The Movement Language of Ohad Naharin*, runs from June 28–July 5. The faculty includes Idan Porges, the Director of Batsheva - The Young Ensemble, and their Rehearsal Director, Michal Sayfan. Naharin, "one of the most important living choreographers" (*The Guardian*), participates in a PillowTalk on July 7 and leads a special *Gaga/people* workshop on July 8.

Batsheva Dance Company's founder, Bethsabée de Rothschild, visited the Pillow with Martha Graham in 1956 and was hosted by Ted Shawn.

Batsheva Dance Company made its first Pillow appearance in 1995 and returned in 2004. In 1995, the company performed Naharin's *Mabul*. In the the 2004 engagement, they performed *Deca Dance*, comprising nearly a dozen excerpts of Naharin's choreography. The program also featured the U.S. premiere of Israeli choreographer Sharon Eyal's *Love*. *Naharin's Virus* will be Batsheva - The Young Ensemble's Pillow debut.

This season, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago will perform excerpts from their reimagining of Naharin's *Deca Dance* and *Minus 16: Decadance/Chicago* at the Ted Shawn Theatre, August 1–5.

### **Related video on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:**

*Batsheva Dance Company in Deca Dance in 2004:*

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/batsheva-dance-company/deca-dance/>

## **PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS**

**Batsheva - The Young Ensemble**  
**Ted Shawn Theatre, July 4–8**

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm**

**Saturday & Sunday at 2pm**

**\$78, \$65, \$45**

*A limited number of special Under 35 discounted tickets are available for each performance for patrons ages 18-35. Tickets are \$35 in the Ted Shawn Theatre. One ticket per person; each guest must show valid I.D. when picking up tickets at Will Call.*

*This performance contains strobe lights, lasers, and audience interaction.*

Tickets are on sale now; online at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org), via phone 413.243.0745, and at the Jacob's Pillow Box Office at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 01223.

## **ALSO THIS WEEK**

**Nicola Gunn**

**July 4-8, Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm**

**Doris Duke Theatre**

Melbourne-based performance artist Nicola Gunn combines text and choreography to create contemporary performance praised as “tantalizing, entertaining, ridiculous, and often bewildering in the best possible way” (*Herald Sun*). A confrontational reflection on peace and conflict, moral relativism, and the very function of art, *Piece for Person and Ghetto Blaster* is inspired by an incident between a man, a woman, and a duck that touches upon the complex realms of human behavior. In her solo Pillow debut, Gunn slips across tempos, ideas, and performance modes—from theatre to dance to performance art and back again—challenging how we see art, the world, violence, and each other. Tickets start at \$25.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Emma Portner, *An Evening of Twos***

**Wednesday, July 4 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

Boundary-breaking and genre-blurring, Canadian choreographer and dancer Emma Portner is known for her online viral contemporary dance films and collaborations with artists like Justin Bieber and Ellen Page and has been commissioned by L.A. Dance Project and New York City Ballet. Portner makes her Pillow debut with an evening of duets featuring regular collaborators Ajani Johnson-Goffe, Brian Davis, and Chantelle Good, among others. *An Evening of Twos* investigates several dichotomies including private and public, quiet and loud, and seen and watched.

**Class with Inside/Out Artists: Contemporary Repertory with Bruce Wood Dance**

**Thursday, July 5, 4pm**

The artists of Bruce Wood Dance share some of their contemporary repertory. Open to all experience levels, ages 12+; \$10 per person. Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian's signature on a liability waiver. Pre-registration is required at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org).

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Bruce Wood Dance**

**Thursday, July 5 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

Bruce Wood Dance (BWD) harnesses the power of contemporary dance to entertain, enrich, and heal through high-caliber, original choreography performed by dynamic artists. Founder Bruce Wood was a prolific choreographer who created more than 80 diverse works in his career. Current Artistic Director Kimi Nikaidoh now leads this Dallas-based company forward, presenting treasured pieces from Wood's repertoire as well as new commissions. The company repertoire includes ground-breaking dances by

choreographers like Yin Yue, Bessie-nominated Katarzyna Skarpetowska, and Princess Grace awardees Bryan Arias and Bridget L. Moore. BWD presents excerpts from four works including Bryan Arias' *My Heart Remembers*, *All Things New* by Kimi Nikaidoh, a trio taken from Bruce Wood's all-male, multigenerational, evening-length work, *My Brother's Keeper*, and Katarzyna Skarpetowska's entrancing *Yesod*.

**PillowTalk: Gotta Dance, Too!**

**Friday, July 6 at 5pm Blake's Barn**

**FREE**

The stunning collection of dance movie posters now on view in Blake's Barn are from the collection of former film executive Mike Kaplan, who discusses some of his favorites at this event.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Dancing Crane Georgian Dance Ensemble**

**Friday, July 6 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

With thrilling feats of acrobatics performed in traditional costumes, Dancing Crane Georgian Dance Ensemble presents traditional music and dance from the country of Georgia. Founded in 1996, this Brooklyn, NY-based company is committed to studying and accurately representing Georgian folk traditions. Led by Victor Sirelson, former performer with the Aman Folk Ensemble of Los Angeles, the ensemble features a unique mix of local talent and professional performers, showcasing the demanding and refined technique with elegance and grace. Performing choreography by Vladimer "Dato" Goderidze, the dancers excel in the virtuoso leaps, turns, and the traditional, *tseruli*, or men's dancing on the toes. The repertoire includes *Parikaoba* mountain dances with swords, the elegant *Osuri* court dances, the ancient *Samaya* women's dance, the city dances of the *Kinto* and *Karachokheli*, as well as the regional folk dances such as those from *Acharia* and *Svaneti*. Presented in collaboration with the Center for Traditional Music and Dance.

**PillowTalk: Mr. Gaga in Person**

**Saturday, July 7 at 4pm Blake's Barn**

**FREE**

Ohad Naharin is a monumental force in Israeli dance who has influenced the field world-wide; in this PillowTalk he talks about his history with Batsheva Dance Company and what lies ahead.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: The School at Jacob's Pillow Gaga Program**

**Saturday, July 7 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

Gaga: The Language of Ohad Naharin has attracted dancers from around the world to study with Naharin and former members of his Batsheva Dance Company. To conclude their two weeks of movement research in The School at Jacob's Pillow, they invite audiences to an open rehearsal where dancers apply Gaga principles to deeply explore and embody Naharin's movement vocabulary.

**Sunday Master Class: Nicola Gunn**

**Sunday, July 8 at 10am Doris Duke Theatre**

Nicola Gunn will teach a 90-minute master class open to all intermediate and advanced dancers ages 16 and over. Quiet observation is welcome; \$15 per class or \$80 for a 6-class card. Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian's signature on a liability waiver. Pre-registration is required at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org).

**Special Workshop: Gaga/people with Ohad Naharin**

**Sunday, July 8 at 11am Perles Family Studio**

In this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, experience the inimitable movement language of Gaga with its creator Ohad Naharin. For all experience levels ages 16+; \$20/class; pre-registration is required at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org). Class is closed to observers.

**FESTIVAL 2018 EXHIBITS & ARCHIVES—ONGOING**

**Gotta Dance, Too!**

**Blake's Barn, June 20-August 26**

**Open Wed-Sat noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm) and Sun-Tues noon to 5pm; FREE**

This select group of original movie posters follows up on the hugely popular 2014 *Gotta Dance* exhibit with a different set of rarities from the collection of award-winning design director Mike Kaplan. More than 75 vintage posters feature classic films and stars like Fred Astaire, Josephine Baker, Gene Kelly, and other screen legends, excitingly illustrated in vibrant color.

**Dance of the Ages**

**Ted Shawn Theatre Lobby, June 20-August 26**

**Open 60 minutes prior to every performance**

**FREE**

Commemorating the 80th anniversary of *Dance of the Ages*, a culminating achievement by Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers, this exhibit also highlights a full reconstruction of the work to be performed by Adam H. Weinert at Jacob's Pillow, September 21-23. The exhibit features images, memorabilia, and costumes from the original 1938 production, many on view for the first time.

**Paramodernities/Revelations**

**Doris Duke Theatre Lobby, June 20-August 26**

**Open 60 minutes prior to every performance**

**FREE**

Netta Yerushalmy has created a new performance work entitled *Paramodernities* with its premiere on deconstructing classic dances by pioneering choreographers. Historic Pillow images from one of these, Alvin Ailey's iconic *Revelations*, are displayed here and juxtaposed with Christopher Duggan's new photos and text from Yerushalmy's 2018 re-examination, premiering August 8-12.

**Jacob's Pillow Archives/Norton Owen Reading Room**

**Blake's Barn, June 20-August 26**

**Open daily, Wed-Sat noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm) and Sun-Tue noon to 5pm**

**FREE**

This spacious, informal library and reading room allows impromptu visitors to view videos, browse through books, access the Pillow's computer catalog, or peruse permanent collections of Pillow programs and photographs from the Pillow's Archives. The Norton Owen Reading Room also features recent donations and more archival treasures from the Stephan Driscoll Collection. Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive, available on a popular touch-screen kiosk in the Reading Room, provides instant access to rare film clips ranging from the present day back to the 1930s.

**Collaborative Exhibit at Williams College Museum of Art**

**Dance We Must: Treasures from Jacob's Pillow, 1906-1940**

**June 29-November 11**

## FREE

The Williams College Museum of Art has created an eye-popping new exhibit with costumes, set pieces, and other historic artifacts from the collections at Jacob's Pillow. On view through November 20, this exhibit offers a rare chance to see items from the dawn of American modern dance, tracing the evolution of this contemporary art form. *More information at [wcma.williams.edu](http://wcma.williams.edu)*

**ABOUT JACOB'S PILLOW:** Jacob's Pillow is a National Historic Landmark, recipient of the National Medal of Arts, and home to America's longest-running international dance festival, celebrating its 86th Festival in 2018. The Pillow announced its transition to becoming a year-round center for dance in June 2017 through a five-year strategic plan titled Vision '22. Each Festival includes more than 50 national and international dance companies and over 350 free and ticketed performances, talks, tours, classes, exhibits, events, and community programs. The School at Jacob's Pillow, one of the most prestigious professional dance training centers in the U.S., encompasses the diverse disciplines of Ballet, Contemporary, Musical Theatre Dance, Choreography, and an annual rotating program (Gaga in 2018). The Pillow also provides professional advancement opportunities across disciplines of arts administration, design, video, and production through seasonal internships and a year-round Administrative Fellows program. With growing community engagement programs, the Pillow serves as a partner and active citizen in its local community. The Pillow's extensive Archives, open year-round to the public and online at [danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org), chronicle more than a century of dance in photographs, programs, books, costumes, audiotapes, and videos. Notable artists who have created or premiered dances at the Pillow include choreographers Antony Tudor, Agnes de Mille, Alvin Ailey, Donald McKayle, Kevin McKenzie, Twyla Tharp, Ralph Lemon, Susan Marshall, Trisha Brown, Ronald K. Brown, Wally Cardona, Andrea Miller, and Trey McIntyre; performed by artists such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Carmen de Lavallade, Mark Morris, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Edward Villella, Rasta Thomas, and hundreds of others. On March 2, 2011, President Barack Obama honored Jacob's Pillow with a National Medal of Arts, the highest arts award given by the United States Government, making the Pillow the first dance presenting organization to receive this prestigious award. For more information, visit [www.jacobspillow.org](http://www.jacobspillow.org).

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