

CURRENT DANCE EVENTS IN ISRAEL

After the summer recess and the Jewish holidays, in October 1994, the dance season in Israel commenced

▼ In December the Ministry of Arts decided to distribute about two million shekels, left over in its coffers from the annual budget, among the active Israeli dance companies. All the companies looked forward to 1995 in the hope of augmented budgets, but it turned out that no additional funds were forthcoming, due to cuts in government spending during the 1995 fiscal year. It is feared that Batsheva, in spite of its popularity and success, is again going to end the season in the red.

Batsheva was promised about five million shekels, but after the state budget was approved all it is going to receive will amount to about three and a half million.

◆ The brand new opera house in Tel Aviv, whose general manager Uri Ofer resigned his post after continued criticism, served as the venue for William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet performances in Israel in November-December. In February the Stuttgart Ballet is due to give eight performances in the new hall.

Batsheva participated in the inauguration ceremonies of the opera house and is due to perform there in March and April.

◆ After preparing a new work for the Nederlands Dans Theatre, which was premiered in January, Ohad Naharin is busy rehearsing a new work with Batsheva, which will be premiered during the Israel Festival in Jerusalem in May-June 95. In the meanwhile the company performed works by guest choreographer Terro Saarinen (from Finland), which was well received by the critics, and by the Portuguese choreographer Vera Mantero.

◆ Batsheva's younger company, The Ensemble, which aspires to become more independent, premiered Angelin Preljokaj's work "White Tears" in November. In a homage to the visiting French

BY Y A E L E F R A T I choreographer a fascinating film about his work was shown and he answered questions from the audience about his choreographies. The Ensemble also performed Jiri Kylian's "Six German Dances" and Naharin's "The Sinking of the Titanic", which until now were danced by the parent-company.

The Ensemble's dancers also showed several choreographies they had created for the show-case performances "Haramat Masach" held at the Suzanne Dellal Center.

◆ The Kibbutz Dance Company premiered a work by the Dutch guest choreographer John Wiesman, which was performed only a few times. The company's dancers and students concentrated on their creative works for "Haramat Masach", as well as on their participation in the second "International Choreographic Competition", which took place in December (See relevant articles about these events pp. 14,22).

The Kibbutz Dance Company performed works by Rami Be'er, Daniel Ezralow and Amir Kolben. Its new junior company, based in Tel Aviv and managed by Moshe Goldberg, performed two well known works for young audiences choreographed by Rami Be'er, "Carnaval des Animaux" and "Peter and the Wolf".

The company's general manager, Dan Rudolf, travelled to Japan to finalize the company's tour programme there. In February the company is scheduled to tour in Spain.

◆ Moshe Efrati's Koldemama company will be celebrating its 20th birthday this year and is busy rehearsing its new programme, "Female Presence", due to be premiered in spring. It will consist of works by three women choreographers, Anat Danieli,

Daniela Michaeli and Sa'ar Magal. Efrati himself travelled to Leipzig to discuss the possibility of choreographing a new work for the Opera Ballet Company there.

In the meantime Koldemama has resumed performing his works, "Mythos", "Camina-a-torna" and "La Follia" as well as his piece for young audiences, "Ferdinand the Bull".

◆ The Israel Ballet is also engaged in performing pieces from its repertoire. This was made possible -- according to the management -- by the opening of the new opera house, with its large stage and elaborate stage apparatus, which will make full scale ballet performances possible. During the fall the Israel Ballet performed the second act from "Swan Lake" with guest artists from the Russian Kirov Ballet as well as "Cinderella" and Balanchine's "Serenade". The Israel Ballet also continued to give its lecture-demonstrations for children.

◆ The Inbal Dance Theatre still has no general manager, after Yuval Aloni resigned in November due to the deteriorating relations between him and the company's artistic director, Margalit Oved. Inbal continues to work intensively on its programme to be premiered in April. It is to be hoped that it will include some works by the company's founder Sara Levi-Tanai. An Artistic Committee has been appointed to assist Margalit Oved. To a great extent the artistic achievement of the coming premiere will determine the company's future.

◆ Bat Dor has recently performed works by Gigi Caciuleanu, who has returned from Paris to work for it again. In January new works by the Jewish-Argentinian choreographer Mauricio Wainrot, who had worked for Bat Dor in the past, were premiered.

The Nir Ben-Gal and Liat Dror company is busy touring abroad with its piece "Inta Omri" and preparing a new programme which, as the joint choreographers state, is going to deal with love ... It is not yet clear whether Ben-Gal and Dror will themselves dance in the new piece. The Ben-Gal Dror group was awarded a regular company budget by the Ministry of Arts for the first time this season.

One of the cardinal difficulties of all "fringe" presentations is that after the initial show-case performances the works disappear from the stage due to lack of funds and logistic problems.

This year the artistic director of "Haramat Masach" at Suzanne Dellal Centre, in which ten young choreographers presented their work, was Daniela Michaeli and it was announced that she will hold this position for another season.

For the sixth time Amos Hetz's Chamber Dances took place during the last quarter of 1994 in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Simone Forti and James Saunders, two American guest artists, took part.

Anat Danieli, Noa Dar, a group headed by Nimrod Fried and Tamar Borer each presented new works.

The "Vertigo" duo -- Noa Wertheim and Adi Sha'al -- showed a new version of their collaboration with the British group "Ricochet" in Jerusalem, this time with Israeli dancers.

Worth mentioning is the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Arts Section to invite nine American impresarios and three delegates from Bonn, Germany, to come and observe the work of Rina Schenfeld, Anat Danieli, "Vertigo", "Batsheva" and the Kibbutz Dance Company.

The final selection of dancers to participate in "Gevanim Bemachol" due in spring was made in January, from out of about 50 proposals rendered to the jury.



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