



Left to right: Ruth Eshel, Giora Manor, Judith Brin Ingber, Israel 1993.

Thoughts from Editor-in-Chief

Ruth Eshel

When I received the program for the “Jews and Jewishness in the Dance World” international conference to take place in October 2018 at the University of Arizona, I realized that we here in Israel know very little about the Diaspora Jews’ prodigious activity in the field of dance, nor of the genres and concerns that occupy them. These were the sparks that gave rise to the decision to devote Issue no. 36 of *Mahol Akhshav* (Dance Today) with chosen articles from the conference. Also, I wanted to strengthen the connection between dance scholars in Israel with those from around the world who focus on the subject of Jews and Jewishness in dance.

After receiving permission from the Dance Department of the Ministry of Education, which supports the publication, to bring out an extraordinary issue wholly in English and dedicated not to dance in Israel but to Jewish dance abroad, I turned to Naomi Jackson (who co-directed the conference with Liz Lerman); she was enthusiastic about the idea.

I also invited Judith Brin Ingber to be the guest editor of this issue, and I’m delighted that she agreed. Without her knowledge, her faith in the project’s importance, and the vast amount of work she put into it, this issue would not have been published. She and Giora Manor had put out the first two issues of *Shnaton Mahol belsrael* (The Israel Dance Annual - 1975, 1976), and after Judith returned to the US, Giora edited the annual by himself with Judith still contributing valuable articles, and kept up to date with dance made in Israel.

Giora had two “daughters”, Judith in the US, and myself in Israel. Once he had decided that the time had come for the annual to become a quarterly, he established with me the *Revon Mahol belsrael* (the Israel Dance Quarterly – 1993-99), and after this closed I founded *Mahol Akhshav* in 2000. Accordingly, *Mahol Akhshav* is the “grandchild” of the *Israel Dance Annual* so that the invitation to Judith, and her acceptance to edit, have closed a historic circle.

We dedicate this issue to Giora, who wrote his own dance articles in Hebrew, English, Czech and German – he would relish all the different voices of the authors from so many different places considering a subject he often pondered: Jewishness in the dance world.

The Annual, the Quarterly and *Mahol Akhshav* may be found at <https://www.israeldance-diaries.co.il>. The titles and portions of the articles are translated into English (see website <https://www.israeldance-diaries.co.il/en/>).

Usually I don’t post the latest two issues of *Mahol Akhshav* on to the website so as not to pre-empt their sales of the printed magazines in Israel. In this case, however, Issue no.36 will be posted on the website as soon as it is published (see website <https://www.israeldance-diaries.co.il/en/>).