

PRESENTS



Inbal Pinto Dance Company
Shaker

A Dance Series Event

Tuesday, October 14, 2008 • 8 pm
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center, UC Davis

There will be no intermission.

Additional support provided by Hallmark Inn.

Pre-performance Lecture: Shelly Gilbride, PhD candidate in Performance Studies,
Department of Theatre and Dance, UC Davis
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center • 7 pm

Post-performance Q&A: Moderated by Ruth Rosenberg, Dance Consultant,
Mondavi Center, UC Davis

Shaker (2006)

Choreographers, Costumes, Set, Soundtrack	Inbal Pinto and Avshalom Pollak
Lighting Designer	Uri Morag
Assistant Costume	Ditza Avidan
Rehearsal Manager	Dina Ziv

World premiere March 2006, Spring Festival, Rishon Lezion, Israel

The artists and your fellow audience members appreciate silence during the performance. Please be sure that you have switched off cellular phones, watch alarms, and pager signals. Videotaping, photographing, and audio recording are strictly forbidden. Violators are subject to removal.

The newest dance-theater piece by Inbal Pinto and Avshalom Pollak looks and feels like one of those eerily beautiful but gray winter days, fitfully seen through swirling snow from the window of a fast-moving train. Rich in poetic imagination, interspersed with unique humor and intellectual thought, *Shaker* takes its inspiration from the glass globes that fill with snowflakes when shaken. On a stage inhabited by tiny figures and *maquettes*, there are three small gray huts from which the dancers—clad in black or colored bodysuits—appear and disappear mysteriously. Quiet and still at the beginning, the world inside the shaker is magical and enchanted, but not necessarily happy: it contains both good and evil, joy and sadness.

With *Shaker*, Pinto and Pollak have created a new dance-theater work reminiscent of their previous world-famous and well-loved productions—*Oyster*, *Boobies*, and *What Good Would the Moon Be*—yet completely unique. Part of a new generation of Israeli choreographers, the pair is known for an ability to weave fantasy, drama, and comedy into their work, achieved by the innovative use of both dancers and actors, and a uniquely visual approach to production values. They create their works from start to finish, including the soundtracks, set designs, costumes, and make-up.

The world created on stage, filled with miniature houses and figures, becomes a hypnotic, fantasy world that could be anywhere, or nowhere. The little houses—which could be perceived as kennels—move on stage as if by themselves, with dancers hidden inside them. A machine produces a noise resembling the wind's whistle; an elderly man in a pin-striped suit wanders into the scene. The work is also informed by the imagery of melting ice. The piece starts off in a frozen state, and slowly, the ice breaks. This melting feeling is often experienced by the audience, which is touched and gladdened by what they see unfolding on stage. The mood moves between dark and silly as the viewer journeys to a different time.

Pinto and Pollak's movement vocabulary is a seamless blend of modern dance, ballet, mime, and acrobatics. Highly theatrical and out-of-the-ordinary costumes and props become an integral part of the choreography. There's both a satirically nightmarish quality as well as a helping of Dadaist absurdity.

Inbal Pinto Dance Company's performance in Davis has been generously supported by the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Consulate General of Israel, San Francisco.

With the assistance of
Friends of Israel Arts



The Susan Dallal Centre, headed by Yair Vardi, is the home base of the company. The company creates and works at the centre, which hosts most of its performances in Israel.



WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY?

Inbal Pinto (Artistic Director/Choreographer/Director) was born in Israel in 1969, and began her formal dance training at age 13. She studied graphic arts at the Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem and worked as a graphic designer for her army service. As a dancer, she first joined the Bat Sheva Ensemble and was promoted to the senior Bat Sheva Company. In 1990, she began her career as a choreographer. She was invited to the American Dance Festival to take part in its International Choreographers Program in both 1997 and 1998. In 2000, she won a Bessie—the New York Dance and Performance Award—for her creation *Wrapped*. Pinto also created the choreography for theatrical works such as *The Chairs* and *Romeo and Juliet*. In 2000, she was given Israel's Ministry of Culture Award for Dance and the Tel Aviv Municipal Award for Artistic Achievements.

Avshalom Pollak (Artistic Director/Choreographer/Director) was born in Israel in 1970. The son of well-known Israeli actor Yossi Pollak, Avshalom spent time observing his father from backstage, developing an early understanding of the commitment and drive needed to create a high-quality theatrical experience for an audience. He was trained as a classical actor and graduated from the Nissan Nativ Drama School in Tel Aviv. He has acted in numerous films and television programs as well as plays at the Habimah National Theater, Cameri Theater, Gesher Theater, and the Haifa Municipal Theater. His roles have included Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*; Cassio in *Othello*; Valere in *The Miser*; Tuzenbach in *Three Sisters*; and Phillip in *Orphans*.

Together, Inbal Pinto and Avshalom Pollak have created, choreographed, and designed the following works for their company: *Oyster* (1999), a co-production with the Maison de la Danse, Lyon, France, and winner of the Israeli Academy Theater Award for 2000 as "the best event in the performing arts"; *Boobies* (2002), a co-production with the International Center for the Performing Arts De Singel in Antwerp, Belgium, and the Israeli Opera; *What Good Would the Moon Be* (2004), which premiered at Curtain Up Festival, the Suzanne Dellal Centre; *Shaker* (2006), which premiered at the International Spring Festival, Rishon Lezion, Israel; *Rushes* (2007), a collaboration with Robby Barnett, artistic director of Pilobolus Dance Theatre; *Hydra* (2007), a co-production with Saitama Arts Foundation in Japan, the Israel Festival 2008, and Steps Dance International Festival in Switzerland; and *Trout* (2008), a co-production with Norwegian musicians for the European Capitol of Culture, Stavanger 2008. They also directed, choreographed, and designed the set and costumes for the opera *Armide* by Christoph Willibald Gluck at the Opera House of Wiesbaden in Germany and the Israeli Opera.

Zvi Fishzon (Performer) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1948. He is a graduate of the Nissan Nativ Drama School in Tel Aviv and the Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris. He also received a degree from the University of Paris, specializing in mime and clowning. Zvi has created and performed dramatic works with Antonio Ferre (Paris), Martin Simek (Amsterdam), Koby Assaf (Amsterdam, New York, Paris), and Yossi Pollak (Tel Aviv). For the last 15 years, Zvi has performed in repertory theater as well as in fringe productions in Israel. Zvi has been leading workshops and classes in theater schools and acting studios since 1979. Zvi joined the Inbal Pinto Dance Company in 2001.

Talia Beck (Dancer) was born in Israel in 1980. She graduated from the Thelma Yellin Performing Arts School in 1998. Talia danced with Vertigo Dance Company from 1998-1999. She worked with choreographer Bruno Listopad during 2000-2001, performing in Portugal and Holland. Talia joined the company in 2002.

Naomi Nissim (Dancer) was born in Israel in 1981. From 1995-1999, she studied at the Thelma Yellin Performing Arts School. Naomi was a member of the Bat Dor Dance Company from 2000-2003. In 1996 and 1999, she won the Israel-American Cultural Foundation Scholarship for Dance. Naomi has worked with choreographers Ygaal Perry, Tamir Gintz, Ido Tadmor, and Lia Charaki. Naomi joined the company in 2004.

Shi Pratt (Dancer) was born in Israel in 1980. From 1998-2000, she danced with Vertigo Dance Company, directed by Adi Shaal and Noa Verthaim. In 2001, Shi performed with choreographer Rina Sheinfeld. From 2000-2003, she was with the Bat Sheva Ensemble Dance Company, directed by Ohad Naharin. Shi joined the company in 2004.

Dana Shoval (Dancer) was born in Israel in 1979. She studied at the Thelma Yellin Performing Arts School from 1993-1997 and trained at the Bat Dor School of Dance in Tel Aviv from 1987-1997. In 1995, she won the Israel-American Cultural Foundation Scholarship for Dance. In 2001, she performed with the Fresko Dance Company, directed by Yoram Carmi. Dana joined the company in 2003.

Nir Veledinger (Dancer) was born in Israel in 1984, started folk dancing at the age of 11 in Hora Jerusalem Company, and began his professional training at 14 at the Academy High School of Music and Dance in Jerusalem. He won the Israel-American Cultural Foundation Scholarship for Dance in 2002-2003 and the Israeli Library for Dance Scholarship in 2002. From 2006-2008, he worked in Sweden with choreographers Ramon Oller, Stephen Shropshire, Keith Morino, Helena Franzén, and Thomas Noone. In 2008, he worked in New York with choreographer Andrea Miller, performed at the Joyce Theatre, and worked with Kolben Dance. Nir joined the company in 2002.

Igal Furman (Dancer) was born in Israel in 1985. He started ballroom dancing at the age of 6 in his hometown, Carmiel. He danced at the Ga'aton-Workshop between 2004-2006. Igal joined the company in 2006.

Ido Batash (Dancer) was born in Israel in 1984. He graduated from Ostrovsky Art High School. From 2002-2006, he danced with the Kibuz Dance Company. In 2007, Ido danced with NND-Galily Dance in Holland. He has also worked and performed with choreographer Idan Cohen. Ido joined the company in 2008.

Andreas Merk (Dancer) studied dance at Hochschule fuer Musik und Darstellende Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany, and at Performing Arts Research and Training Studios in Brussels. He graduated from Scuola Teatro Dimitri, Switzerland. Andreas performed with Orquestica by Tania Carvalho in Portugal and at the Arezzo Jazz Festival in Italy. In Israel, he performed in *Chelem* by Idit Hermann and worked with Noa Dar Dance Company. Andreas joined the company in 2006.

Shay Haramaty (Dancer) was born in Israel in 1981. She studied dance at Shaar-Hanegev Dance School and Bat Dor Dance School. From 2001-2004, she worked with choreographer Ido Tadmor. In 2006, she worked with Sally-Ann Friedland and joined the Israeli Opera House dance project. In 2007, she danced with the De De Dance Company at the Israel Festival and worked with choreographers Pieter De Roiter and Eva Vilanova in Holland. In 2004, Shay won the Mia Arbatova Dance Competition and also received the Vienna Summer Course scholarship. Shay joined the company in 2008.

Shir Medvezky (Dancer) was born in Israel in 1987. She studied at the Thelma Yellin Performing Arts School and Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance, Austria, in 2005-2006. Shir presented her own work in the Machol Acher Festival for upcoming choreographers. Shir joined the company in 2008.

Einat Betsalel (Dancer) was born in Israel in 1983. She studied dance in the Harminic School of Dance in Paris and the Ga'aton Workshop. In 2004-2005, she won a scholarship from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation. From 2005-2007, she worked with the Kibbutz Dance Company. In 2006 and 2007, she worked as rehearsal director and dancer with the choreographer Shlomi Biton in Israel and Germany. She worked with choreographer Odelya Coperberg in the Curtain Up 2007 Festival in Israel. She danced in the Lola Dance Company in Tel Aviv and at the Israeli Opera in *La fortze del destino*. In 2008, she danced with the choreographer Noa Dar. Einat joined the company in 2008.

Dina Ziv (Rehearsal Director) was born in Israel in 1979. From 1991-1999, she studied at the Miriam Kaufman Dance School in Petach Tikva. From 2001-2004, she performed with the De De Dance Company and worked with the choreographer Ronit Ziv. Dina joined the company in 2004 as a dancer and has been rehearsing the company since 2007.

COMPANY CREDITS

Rehearsal Director: Dina Ziv

Assistant Costume Designer: Diza Avidan

Master Carpenter: Gili Bar

Stage Manager: Alon Cohen

Lighting Manager: Dania Zemer

Sound Technician: Asaf Ashkenazy

Dresser: Ela Givol

Tour Manager: Keren Yuval

Administrative Manager: Adva Mainz

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