



Contact: Camille Spaccavento  
530.754.5422

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For immediate release:

## **Inbal Pinto Dance Company Returns to Mondavi Center with *Shaker***

*September 17, 2008; Davis, California*— If you ever owned a snow globe—one of those small, water-filled glass balls containing miniature scenes that swirl with snow flurries when you shake them—then you know how enchanting the tiny worlds inside them can be. Next month, one of Israel’s leading choreographers, **Inbal Pinto**, will return with her Tel Aviv-based company to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis** for a performance of *Shaker*, a new piece based upon an impressionistic and eerily beautiful vision of the world inside a snow globe.

The event will begin at 8 pm on October 14 in the Mondavi Center’s Jackson Hall on the UC Davis campus. Tickets are available from the Mondavi Center Ticket Office at 530.754.ARTS (2787) or online at [MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org). The event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **Dance Series**. There will be a **Pre-performance Lecture** featuring **Elizabeth (Shelly) Gilbride**, teaching assistant, **UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance**, beginning at 7 pm in the Mondavi Center’s Studio Theatre.

*Shaker*, by Inbal Pinto and **Avshalom Pollak**, co-artistic directors and choreographers for **Inbal Pinto Dance Company**, is described by the company as being like an eerily beautiful, gray winter day seen through swirling snow from the window of a fast-moving train. The work has won raves from critics. Reviewing a fall 2007 performance in London, *The Times* called the production “thoroughly enchanting,” and praised the piece’s mixture of vaudeville-like sketches and sophisticated choreography.

“Dance sequences are punctuated with absurdist full stops,” wrote *The Times*. “Around these mildly vaudeville interludes, the dancers arc and corkscrew across the stage. Their movement has a dense and pleasing human weight about it, shoulders falling forward, long hair swinging heavily, yet buoyed by a rhythmic current that lifts and propels them in and out of each other’s arms.”

## Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis

Local dance aficionados will remember Inbal Pinto Dance Company for its May 2006 Mondavi Center performances of *Oyster*, a piece *The Davis Enterprise* reviewer called “powerful and edgy,” writing that “otherwise harmless interactions and objects are fraught with danger and darker meanings. At the same time, the piece has wonderful moments of physical humor, perhaps all the more gently funny when contrasted to its darkness.”

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.

Inbal Pinto was born in Israel in 1969, and studied graphic design at the **Bezalel Academy** in Jerusalem. In 1990 she began her career as a choreographer, and a year later joined the **Bat Sheva Ensemble** before being asked, in 1995, to join the senior **Bat Sheva Company**. In 1997-1998, she was invited to the American Dance Festival to take part in its International Choreographers program. In 2002, she worked with Pollak to create, choreograph, and design *Boobies*. Her other creations include *Dio-Can*, *Versus*, *Mr. Wow*, *Chance for 100*, *Wrapped*, and *Oyster*. Pinto has also provided choreography for theater for shows such as *The Chairs* and *Romeo and Juliet*. She has received honors including the Award of the Ministry of Culture for Dance and a New York Dance and Performance award (known as the “Bessie”) for *Wrapped*. In 2004, she directed, choreographed, and designed the set and costumes for a production of the opera *Armide* by **Christoph Willibald Gluck** at the **Opera House of Wiesbaden** in Germany.

Pollak was born in Israel in 1970, and graduated from the **Nisan Nativ Drama School**. In 1994 he collaborated with Pinto and director/actor **Yossi Pollak** in creating *Chance for 100*. As an actor, Pollak has appeared in film, television, and on the stage with the **National Theater Habima**, the **Cameri Theater**, **Gesher Theater**, and **Haifa Municipal Theater**. His roles have included Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Cassio in *Othello*, Valere in *The Miser*, Tuzenbach in *Three Sisters*, Philip in *Orphans*, and others.

The Inbal Pinto Dance Company’s most recent productions include *Shaker* (premiered in 2006), *Rushes* (2007), *Hydra* (2007), and *Trout* (2008). Performers featured in the current production of *Shaker* include **Zvi Fishzon**, **Talia Beck**, **Naomi Nissim**, **Shi Pratt**, **Dana Shoval**, **Nir Weledinger**, **Igal Furman**, **Ido Batash**, **Andreas Merk**, **Shay Haramaty**, **Shir Medvezky**, and **Einat Betsalel**.

The 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.

“Inbal Pinto Dance Company is known around the world as one of the most colorful and innovative companies in dance, and we look forward to *Shaker*, a work that demonstrates why choreographers Inbal Pinto and Avshalom Pollak are at the forefront of Israel’s exciting modern dance scene,” said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center’s executive director.

Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis

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**What:** **Inbal Pinto Dance Company**  
*Shaker*

**When:** Tuesday, October 14 ▪ 8 pm

**Where:** Jackson Hall  
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts  
University of California, Davis

**Admission:** \$45/\$35/\$25 Adults • \$22.50/\$17.50/\$12.50 Students, Children

**Tickets/Info:** 530.754.ARTS (2787)  
866.754.ARTS (toll-free)  
<http://www.MondaviArts.org>  
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