



EPHRAT ASHERIE DANCE

ODEON

PHILADELPHIA DEBUT // PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

Artistic Director and Choreographer

Ephrat Asherie

Musical Director and Pianist Ehud Asherie

Music Ernesto Nazareth

Percussion Arrangements and

Percussionist Sergio Krakowski

Percussionist Ranjan Ramchandani

Bassist Eduardo Belo

Production Management and

Lighting Supervisor Alexa Zanikos

Tour Coordinator Nathalie Matychak

Dancers Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie,
Manon Bal, Teena Marie Custer,
Valerie "Ms. Vee" Ho, Matthew
"Megawatt" West, Omari Wiles

Musicians Ehud Asherie,
Eduardo Belo, Sergio Krakowski,
Ranjan Ramchandani

Lighting Design Kathy Kaufmann

Costume Design Mark Eric

There will not be an intermission.

Friday, February 7 @ 8 PM

Saturday, February 8 @ 2 PM

Saturday, February 8 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

**NextMove
DANCE**

The 19/20 dance series
is presented by the
Annenberg Center and
NextMove Dance.



This engagement of Ephrat Asherie Dance is made possible through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

PROGRAM NOTES

Musical selections in order of appearance:

Brejeiro

Odeon

Fon-fon

Tenebroso

Apanhei-te cavaquinho

Ouro sobre azul

Confidências

Ven cá, Branquinha

Batuque

This work was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and was created in part during a residency at the Pillow Lab and with the support of the Jacob's Pillow Fellowship at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post. Additional development was made possible through a technical residency at MASS MoCA, co-sponsored by Jacob's Pillow, with additional support from the National Dance Project's Production Residency for Dance Program, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. EAD would like to thank the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Extended Life Program, Lincoln Center Education, Guggenheim Works & Process, and TOWN Stages for additional developmental support. Special thanks to Eyal and Yael Aronoff, Deborah and Charles Adelman, Stuart Coleman, Matthew and Cynthia Hertz, Marjorie Miler, and Morrie Sandler for their generous support. Fiscal sponsorship for Ephrat Asherie Dance is provided by Foundation for Independent Artists Inc, a nonprofit organization administered by Pentacle (Dance Works Inc).

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ernesto Júlio de Nazareth (Composer)

Nazareth was a Brazilian composer and pianist. He published his first composition, *Você Bem Sabe* (1877), at age 14. At this time, he began his professional career playing at cafés, balls, society parties and in the waiting rooms of movie theaters in Rio de Janeiro. Known for creatively combining musical influences from Brazil, Africa and Europe, Nazareth straddled the genres of popular and classical music, often blurring the boundary between the two worlds. Although greatly influenced by Chopin, Nazareth was also noted for his singular maxixe and choro compositions, and he composed over 210 waltzes, sambas, polkas and quadrilles during his lifetime (1863-1934). His work is now included as part of teaching programs for both classical and popular styles all over the world.

Ephrat Asherie Dance

Ephrat Asherie Dance (EAD) is a dance company rooted in street and social dance. Dedicated to revealing the inherent complexities of these forms, EAD explores the expansive narrative qualities of various street and club styles including breaking, hip hop, house and vogue as means to tell stories, develop innovative imagery and find new modes of expression. EAD's first evening-length work, *A Single Ride*, earned two Bessie nominations in 2013 for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer and Outstanding Sound Design by Marty Beller. The company has presented work at The Apollo Theater, Columbia College, Dixon Place, FiraTarrega, Guggenheim Works & Process, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, La MaMa, River to River Festival, New York Live Arts, Summerstage and The Yard, among others. For more information, please visit ephratasheriedance.com or follow EAD on Instagram @ephratasheriedance.

Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie (Artistic Director/Choreographer/Dancer)

Asherie is a New York City-based b-girl, dancer and choreographer and a 2016 Bessie Award Winner for Innovative Achievement in Dance. Asherie has received numerous awards to support her work including *Dance Magazine's* Inaugural Harkness Promise Award, a Jacob's Pillow Fellowship at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts and a Jerome Foundation Travel and Study grant. In 2017, she received a National Dance Project award to support the development and touring of her most

recent work, *Odeon*. Asherie is a 2019 NYFA Fellow and a 2018-2019 City Center Choreography Fellow. Her new work *UnderScored* was awarded a 2019 Creation and Development Award from the National Performance Network and will premiere in the fall of 2020. She is honored to have worked and collaborated with Dorrance Dance, Doug Elkins, Rennie Harris, Bill Irwin, David Parsons, Gus Solomons Jr. and Buddha Stretch, among others. Asherie has created work for various university dance programs, including those at Lehman College, Smith College, SUNY Brockport and the University of California Santa Barbara. She earned her BA from Barnard College, Columbia University in Italian and her MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she researched the vernacular jazz dance roots of contemporary street and club dances. Asherie is a co-founding member of the all-female house dance collective MAWU and is forever grateful to New York City's underground dance community for inspiring her to pursue a life as an artist.

Ehud Asherie (Musical Director/Pianist)

Asherie, "a master of swing and stride," (*The New Yorker*) is a jazz pianist who integrates the venerable New York piano tradition into his inventive style. Largely self-taught, or rather, "old-schooled," Asherie learned the ropes at Smalls, spending the wee small hours of his early teens becoming a fixture of the late-night jam sessions. Mentored by the late Frank Hewitt, Asherie began to develop "his virtuosity and his ear for clean, crisp lines" (*The StarLedge*). From Smalls to the Rainbow Room, from Lincoln Center to The Village Vanguard, Asherie has since worked with a broad range of musicians including Eric Alexander, Roy Ayers, Peter Bernstein, Jesse Davis, Bobby Durham, Vince Giordano, Wycliffe Gordon, Scott Hamilton, Catherine Russell, Ken Peplowski and Clark Terry. Asherie has toured clubs and festivals around the world, including in South America, Europe and Asia. His playing can be heard on countless recordings, including the 2010 Grammy® Award-winning soundtrack of HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*. Acclaimed album releases under Ehud Asherie's leadership have included *Shuffle Along* which reinterpreted the music of Eubie Blake; *Organic*, which finds Asherie on organ; *Upper West Side and Lower East Side*, duet projects featuring the saxophonist Harry Allen; and his trio recording *Music Makes Me*. Asherie's most recent trio recording is *Wild Man Blues* on the Capri Label. ehudpiano.com

Manon Bal (Dancer)

Bal was born in Marseille, France, where she began training at La Maison de Réjane, followed by the Institut de Formation Professionnelle de Danse Jazz Rick Odums in Paris. Her mentors include Rick Odums, Geraldine Armstrong and Bruce Taylor. Bal performed as a soloist in Les Jeunes Ballet Jazz de Rick Odums before moving to New York City to train at the Ailey School. She has worked with many choreographers including Ronald K. Brown, TweetBoogie and Janine Micheletti.

Eduardo Belo (Bassist)

Belo is a Brazilian bass player and composer who has worked with many great musicians including Ari Hoenig, Chico Pinheiro, Duduka Da Fonseca, Helio Alves, Claudio Roditi, Kevin Hays, Gabriel Grossi, Koran Agan, Mario Adnet and many others. Belo earned his BA in music at the Universidade de Brasília, and his master's degree in jazz from the Queen's College, City University of New York.

Teena Marie Custer (Dancer)

Custer is an artist and educator based in Pittsburgh and Ontario. Her choreographic work has been presented at Sadler's Wells, and 30 universities across the U.S. She taught at Slippery Rock University for 14 years and has an MFA from Ohio State. She dances with Bill Shannon in addition to representing the crews Venus Fly and Get Down Gang.

Val "Ms. Vee" Ho (Dancer)

Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Ho moved to New York City in 2003. She's had the pleasure of working with Buddha Stretch, Rennie Harris, Luam, Maria Torres, Bradley Rapier and Ephrat Asherie. She has been featured on various award shows and films, and is on faculty at The Juilliard School, Pace University's Commercial Dance BFA Program, Broadway Dance Center and Peridance Capezio Center.

Sergio Krakowski (Percussionist)

Krakowski has dedicated his whole life to the pandeiro, also known as the Brazilian tambourine and considered a symbol of Brazilian music and culture. In his twenty-year career, he has worked with artists including Maria Bethânia, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Lionel Loueke and Cyro Baptista, among many

others. Krakowski holds a PhD in computer music where his research evolved into the electronic music project “Talking Drums,” commissioned by the NY State Council on the Arts and presented by The Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao, Le Poisson Rouge, Oi Futuro and at the Museum of Moving Image. Krakowski’s latest album, *Passaros - The Foundation of the Island*, was released in June 2016.

Ranjan Ramchandani (Percussionist)

Ramchandani’s first contact with Brazilian music was through study of Rio’s Carnaval samba. He then began serious study of traditional samba and choro and the gamut of Brazilian percussion. He has shared the stage with the leading lights of contemporary Brazilian music, including Moyses Marques, Rogério Souza and Nailor Proveta, and leads his own choro group in New York.

Matthew “Megawatt” West (Dancer)

West started dancing at the age of 16 in Queens. He is an active part of New York City’s underground dance community and teaches youth classes throughout the five boroughs. West is a regular guest artist with Dorrance Dance and can be seen in Baz Lurhmann’s Netflix series *The Get Down* and battling with his crew, the Mellow Animals.

Omari Wiles (Dancer)

Born in Senegal, West Africa, Wiles trained and performed with his family’s dance company, The Maimouna Keita School of African Dance, from a young age. Raised in Brooklyn, NY, Wiles is also a member of the ballroom scene and artistic director of Les Ballet Afrik. Wiles has worked with many artists including Janet Jackson, Jidenna, Raashad Newsome and Wummi, and is on faculty at Broadway Dance Center, Peridance Capezio Dance Center and the Maimouna Keita School of African Dance.

Kathy Kaufmann (Lighting Designer)

A New York City native, Kaufmann is a two-time Bessie recipient. She was nominated for a 2015 Bessie for Rebecca Davis’s *Bloowst Windku*. She has been a resident designer at the Danspace Project at St. Marks Church for over 15 years, and has toured extensively throughout the world. She was honored to be included in “Curtain Call: Celebrating 100 Years of Women Designing for Live Performance” at the New York Performing Arts Library, and currently teaches lighting design at Sarah Lawrence College. She works regularly with many companies including Michelle Dorrance (Dorrance Dance), Joanna Kotze, David Parker (The Bang Group), Eiko & Koma, Rebecca Stenn, Moriah Evans and Mina Nishamura. Recent projects include designs for Jonathan Gonzalez, Morgan Bassichis, Mariana Valencia, Jasmine Heard and Tatyana Tenenbaum.

Mark Eric (Costume Designer)

Eric is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and now resides in New York City, where he designs and constructs costumes. He trained as a fashion designer at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where he was recognized as the Critics’ Choice among his graduating class. After interning with Marchesa, he started designing eveningwear for several brands including Monique Lhuillier and Adrianna Papell before discovering his passion for costume design. Eric has designed costumes for a diverse roster of choreographers including Robert Battle, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Rennie Harris, Stefanie Batten Bland, Andrew McNicol and Marguerite Donlon, among others. He has costumed works for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, BalletX, TU Dance and Nimbus Dance Works, to name a few, and is currently working on new works with Gregory Dawson for BalletX and Ephrat Asherie Dance. Instagram: @MEMarkEric #CostumesbyMarkEric

Alexa Zanikos (Production Manager/Lighting Supervisor)

Zanikos is a freelance theatre technician and dance artist based in Brooklyn, NY. Dedicated to dance production, she has worked with Jacob’s Pillow, National Dance Institute, Baryshnikov Arts Center and Danspace Project. She has a BA in dance and lighting design from The George Washington University, and was a 2017 Allen Lee Hughes Lighting Design Fellow at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.