

NEWS

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The Annenberg Center and NextMove Dance Present the Philadelphia Debut of Ephrat Asherie, February 7-8

(Philadelphia – January 22, 2020) —**Ephrat Asherie**, a “bona fide b-girl” (*The Boston Globe*), brings her street and social dance company to Philadelphia for the first time, presented by the **Annenberg Center** and **NextMove Dance**, to perform **Odeon**, a high-octane, full-length work set to the music of composer Ernesto Nazareth, played live. A recent Bessie and *Dance Magazine* award winner, Asherie layers breaking, hip hop, house, and vogue to a rich score melding classical Romantic music with Afro-Brazilian rhythms. Performances are **Friday, February 7 (8 PM)** and **Saturday, February 8 (2 PM and 8 PM)**. In addition to the three public performances of *Odeon*, Ephrat Asherie Dance will perform a **Student Discovery** show for schoolchildren on **Friday, February 7 at 10:30 AM**. Visit AnnenbergCenter.org for tickets.

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.

Company dancers appearing in these performances at the Annenberg Center are **Ephrat “Bounce” Asherie, Manon Bal, Teena Marie Custer, Valerie “Ms. Vee” Ho, Matthew “Megawatt” West, and Omari Wiles**. Musicians appearing are **Ehud Asherie, Eduardo Belo, Sergio Krakowski, and Ranjan Ramchandani**.

[Full bios and program notes can be accessed here.](#)

Ephrat “Bounce” Asherie (Artistic Director/Choreographer/Dancer)

Ephrat 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.

Ernesto Júlio de Nazareth (Composer)

Ernesto Júlio de 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 cafes, 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.

Ehud Asherie (Musical Director/Pianist)

Ehud 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 Star-Ledger*). 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

[Photographs for Ephrat Asherie are available here.](#)

About the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts serves as a major cultural destination and crossroads connecting Penn and the greater Philadelphia region through innovative human expression in theatre, music, dance, and film, serving an annual audience of over 80,000. The Annenberg Center also serves as a key resource for the arts at Penn, connecting master artists with Penn students in support of and as an enhancement to the arts curriculum. Student performing arts groups are also key users of the Annenberg Center's multiple performance and rehearsal spaces, while also staffing many operational roles throughout the academic year. In reflection of Penn's core values as a world-respected academic institution, the Annenberg Center emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence, diversity, and rigor in its presentations; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences, and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference, and meeting facilities; and stresses comprehensive event planning, production support, and customer service. The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a major provider of performing arts access for school children and actively engages a broad range of primary, secondary, and post-secondary student audiences and inclusive constituencies from the campus, community, and greater Philadelphia region. Visit AnnenbergCenter.org.

About NextMove Dance

NextMove Dance Artistic Director Randy Swartz created the first annual dance series in Philadelphia at the Walnut Street Theatre in 1970. In 1983, he launched the Dance Celebration series at the Annenberg Center for a 32-year run and initiated a new annual series at the Prince Theater in October 2015. Dance Affiliates, renamed NextMove Dance, is recognized as one of the nation's finest dance presenters. Known internationally for award-winning presentations for almost four decades, NextMove Dance provides a wealth of opportunities for the Delaware Valley community to interact with the artists through talk-backs, master classes, artistic collaborations, workshops, children's programs and much more. Visit nextmovedance.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

Ephrat Asherie Dance

Odeon

Friday, February 7, 8 PM

Saturday, February 8, 2 PM

Saturday, February 8, 8 PM

Ephrat Asherie brings her street and social dance company to Philadelphia for the first time to perform *Odeon*, a high-octane, full-length work set to the music of composer Ernesto Nazareth, played live. A recent Bessie and *Dance Magazine* award winner, Asherie layers breaking, hip hop, house, and vogue to a rich score melding classical Romantic music with Afro-Brazilian rhythms. This thrilling dance and music remix is truly “paving the way for something new.” (*The New York Times*)

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.

Visit AnnenbergCenter.org for ticket information.

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CONTACTS:

Katherine Blodgett, for the Annenberg Center

Email: katherineblodgett@gmail.com

Phone: 215.431.1230

Alexander Freeman, Director of Marketing and Ticketing

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Email: freemana@ac.upenn.edu

Phone: 215.898.9081