

For Immediate Release: January 6, 2025

[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Images of Batsheva Dance Company are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#).  
A preview video of Batsheva Dance Company performing *MOMO* by Ohad Naharin can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS  
BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY  
PERFORMING THE BAY AREA PREMIERE OF OHAD NAHARIN'S  
*MOMO*  
FEBRUARY 22–23 AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**Berkeley, January 6, 2025**—The Batsheva Dance Company makes its Cal Performances debut on Saturday, February 22, at 8pm and Sunday, February 23 at 3pm at Zellerbach Hall in the Bay Area premiere of *MOMO*, a new work by its house choreographer Ohad Naharin. In the company's words, "*MOMO* has two souls. One sends long roots to the depths of the earth—a soul that embodies archetypes and myths of hardened, raw masculinity, and the other is in a constant search for an individual and distinct DNA; one moves within its own autonomous and independent force field and the other is a constellation of elements that spin around the same nucleus—alternately drifting away and towards it, making room for necessary tenderness and catharsis." Of the work, French newspaper *Le Figaro* stated that, "Ohad Naharin's latest piece is unlike any of his other

works...Mesmerizing. And as always, captivating.” Recordings of Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet’s *Landfall*, Philip Glass’ *Metamorphosis*, and a song/prayer by the Venezuelan musician Arca provide the musical backdrop for *MOMO* with additional music by Naharin himself under the moniker Maxim Waratt.

The Batsheva Dance Company was founded in 1964 by Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild. Notably, the company was the first outside of Martha Graham’s own troupe to perform her choreography. In its first decades the company was led by various artistic directors from Israel and abroad. The company has long nurtured a space for creative process and artistic interpretations. Many of its dancers have emerged as creators and choreographers including Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber who performed in Cal Performances’ presentation of American Modern Opera Company’s performance of Olivier Messiaen’s *Harawi* earlier this season, Shamel Pitts, Inbal Pinto, Hofesh Shechter, Sharon Eyal, Hillel Kogan, Danielle Agami, and Billy Barry.

In 1990 Ohad Naharin was assigned to the role of artistic director and led the company into a new era. During his years as artistic director Naharin developed Gaga, a radical movement language which serves as the company’s daily training, and is also offered world-wide to dancers and the broader public. In 2018 Naharin stepped down as artistic director and continues to serve as the company’s house choreographer. Thanks to his bold choreography and to the uncompromising quality of the company’s dancers, Batsheva Dance Company has been critically acclaimed and embraced as one of the foremost contemporary dance companies in the world.

The company’s awards and accolades include recognitions like the New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) and its dancers and creators have also been honored with the Yair Shapira Prize for their contributions to the world of dance. Over the course of his years with Batsheva, Naharin has won many awards and honors, among them Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French government, the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, a Doctor of Philosophy honoris causa by the Hebrew University, and an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the Juilliard School in New York.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**Saturday, February 22, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**

Sunday, February 23, 3pm

Bancroft Way at Dana Street,  
UC Berkeley campus

*Dance*

**Batsheva Dance Company**

**Ohad Naharin/*MOMO*** (Bay Area Premiere)

**Program:** Batsheva comes to Berkeley for the first time to perform the Bay Area premiere of a new work by its house choreographer Ohad Naharin. In the company’s words, “*MOMO* has two souls. One sends long roots to the depths of the earth—a soul that embodies archetypes and myths of hardened, raw masculinity, and the other is in a constant search for an individual and distinct DNA; one moves within its own autonomous and independent force field and the other is a constellation of elements that spin around the same nucleus—alternately drifting away and towards it, making room for necessary tenderness and catharsis.” Recordings of Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet’s *Landfall*, Philip Glass’ *Metamorphosis*, and a song/prayer by the Venezuelan musician Arca provide the musical backdrop with additional music by Naharin himself under the moniker Maxim Waratt.

**Tickets:** \$42–\$108 (prices subject to change). Tickets for all performances are available at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. There is a \$15 per order service charge on ticket purchases made by phone or online that are not part of a subscription package. There is no fee for tickets purchased in person at the Zellerbach Hall Ticket Office.

UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets in all sections of the theater. Information about UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at [calperformances.org/ucb-students](http://calperformances.org/ucb-students); information about other discounts can be found at [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

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