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[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Photos of Paris Opera Ballet performing Hofesh Shechter's *Red Carpet* are available for download from Cal Performances' [Press Room](#).

A video excerpt of *Red Carpet* can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
PARIS OPERA BALLET
IN THE NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF
RED CARPET
BY HOFESH SHECHTER
WITH COSTUMES BY CHANEL
THURSDAY–SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2–4
AT ZELLERBACH HALL

Berkeley, CA, August 8, 2025—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley launches its 2025–26 series of dance performances with the North American premiere of *Red Carpet*, a new work by acclaimed London-based choreographer **Hofesh Shechter**, created on and performed by dancers from the esteemed **Paris Opera Ballet**. The company visits only two US cities on this tour, and the three Berkeley performances—Thursday, October 2 at 7:30pm; Friday, October 3 at 8pm; and Saturday, October 4 at 2pm at Zellerbach Hall—are the only West Coast dates. *Red Carpet*, which had its world

premiere in Paris in June, is Shechter's first full-length work created for the Paris Opera Ballet, and features costumes designed by **CHANEL** and an original music score co-composed by Shechter and **Yaron Engler**, performed live by a quartet of musicians.

Shechter has said that, with *Red Carpet*, his intention is to “celebrate the confusion between glamour and art.” A lush visual spectacle, the work employs an aesthetic that mixes glitz with grit, Baroque decadence with dance club energy. The set includes moving catwalks and monumental chandeliers, and the CHANEL-designed costumes are inspired by evening wear and cabaret. The work features a cast of 13 dancers, and, characteristic of Shechter's vocabulary, the movement is muscular and visceral but also refined, embracing tenderness and sensuality as much as attitude. The choreographer cites influences for this work ranging from his earlier years folk dancing in Jerusalem; the *Fame* television series; and rave dance parties.

Shechter has called *Red Carpet* “a music concert as well as a dance piece,” since the music and movement are fully integrated and were conceived and developed in tandem. His original score with his longtime collaborator Yaron Engler is both raw and refined, blending ecstatic free jazz, Mediterranean sounds, and driving techno, and performed live by a quartet of musicians playing cello, brass, double bass, and drums. Engler, who will perform with the group on drums, is a graduate of Berklee College of Music and has been the lead drummer, arranger, and music director for many of Shechter's works, as well as for Akram Khan.

A former dancer with Batsheva Dance Company, where he trained with Ohad Naharin, Shechter was born in Jerusalem and subsequently worked with choreographers Wim Vandekeybus, Paul Selwyn-Norton, Tero Saarinen, and Inbal Pinto before relocating to London in 2002. He earned considerable recognition for his early choreographic works including *Cult* (2004), *Uprising* (2006), and *In Your Rooms* (2007). He founded the Hofesh Shechter Company in 2008 and also continues to choreograph for international dance companies including the Royal Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, and Batsheva; he has also collaborated on projects for theater, television, and opera, including *Two Boys* with composer Nico Muhly (2013) and his Tony-award-winning version of *Fiddler on the Roof* (2015). This performance provides a rare opportunity to see Shechter's choreography performed in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Paris Opera Ballet is among the oldest and most revered ballet companies in the world, carrying

on a rich dance tradition that dates to the court of Louis XIV. It is simultaneously one of the youngest international companies, with the dancers' average age around 25 years old. Under the artistic direction of José Martínez since 2022, over its long history, the company has presented works by luminaries of classical and modern dance including George Balanchine, Rudolf Nureyev, William Forsyth, and Pina Bausch. Hofesh Shechter's *The Art of Not Looking Back* (2009) entered the repertoire of the Paris Opera Ballet in 2018. The upcoming dates at UC Berkeley mark the company's first performances in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2001.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, October 2, 7:30pm

Friday, October 3, 8pm

Saturday, October 4, 2pm

Zellerbach Hall

Bancroft Way at Dana Street, UC Berkeley campus

Dance

[Paris Opera Ballet](#)

Program:

Hofesh Shechter/*Red Carpet* (North American Premiere)

Steeped in a ballet tradition that dates to the court of Louis XIV, 13 dancers from the Paris Opera Ballet meet the visceral and emotive choreography of London-based choreographer Hofesh Shechter for the North American premiere of *Red Carpet*. In this new full-length work, Shechter creates his trademark urgent and cinematic tableaux especially for the Paris Opera Ballet. The Berkeley performances represent the only West Coast dates on the company's current tour, and one of only two US cities (Berkeley and New York) to see *Red Carpet*. With costumes by CHANEL, the piece is danced to live music by Shechter and Yaron Engler, performed by a quartet of musicians on cello, double bass, drums, and brass.

Tickets: \$55–\$145 (prices subject to change)

Tickets for all performances are available at calperformances.org, by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, noon–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. For Ticket Office summer closures, please visit [Cal Performances' website](https://calperformances.org).

UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets in all sections of the theater, and are also eligible to purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house for the Paris Opera Ballet opening night performance on Thursday, October 2 through the [Golden Bear Circle](#) seating program beginning at noon on Thursday, September 18, online only. Information about all UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students; information about other discounts can be found at calperformances.org/discounts.

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