



Batsheva Dance Company in *MOMO* by Ohad Naharin. Photo by Ascaf.



Saturday, February 22, 2025, 8pm

Sunday, February 23, 2025, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Batsheva Dance Company

MOMO

Choreography
Ohad Naharin

Lighting Design
Avi Yona Bueno (Bambi)

Sound Design and Editing
Maxim Waratt

Costume Design
Eri Nakamura

Set and Props Design
Gadi Tzachor

Co-Creators

Batsheva Dance Company Dancers Season 2022–23 and Ariel Cohen

Performed by 11 Batsheva Dance Company Dancers

Company Dancers Season 2024–25

Yarden Bareket, Adi Blumenreich, Emil Brukman, Nathan Chipps,
Holden Cole, Guy Davidson, Iyar Elezra, Sean Howe, Londiwe Khoza,
Adrienne Lipson, Bo Matthews, Eri Nakamura, Sofia Pikalova,
Danai Porat, Igor Ptashenchuk, Yoni (Yonatan) Simon,
Annika Verplancke, Gili Yaniv Amodai, Yarden Zana

Produced by
Batsheva Dance Company

Co-producers
Orsolina28 Art Foundation, Moncalvo

Presenting Co-producers
Torinodanza Festival / Teatro Stabile di Torino – Teatro Nazionale /
Festival Aperto – Fondazione | Teatri, Reggio Emilia / Fondazione del Teatro Grande di Brescia

Major Sponsor
Chleck Family Foundation

*Special support provided by the Mifal HaPais Council for the Culture and Arts,
Batsheva's New Works Fund, and the American Friends of Batsheva,
L'Association Pluriel pour l'Art Contemporain,
The Zita and Mark Bernstein Family Foundation, and Factory 54*

*Special thanks to Yula Gold, Simony Monteiro, Linda Brumbach,
Michael Helfman, and Yonatan Oppenheim.*

Music

“Helicopters Hang Over Downtown,” “Built You a Mountain,”
“Riding Bicycles Through the Muddy Streets,” “The Electricity Goes out and We Move to a Hotel,”
“Then It Receded,” “Wind Whistles Through the Dark City,” “Darkness Falls,”
“CNN Predicts a Monster Storm,” “Dawn of the World,” “Another Long Evening,”
“All The Extinct Animals,” and “The Dark Side” performed by Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet,
courtesy of Nonesuch Records. By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film & TV Licensing.

Metamorphosis Two by Philip Glass

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Philip Glass is managed and published by Dunvagen Music Publishers, Inc.

Adrienne White, *director*

Richard Guerin, *head of repertoire and promotion*

“Madre Acapella” by Arca

Maxim Waratt

*Leadership support for the Berkeley performances of MOMO is provided by Nadine Tang.
These performances are made possible in part by The Sir Jack Lyons Charitable Trust.*

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ABOUT THE COMPANY

Batsheva Dance Company is critically acclaimed and popularly embraced as one of the world’s foremost contemporary dance companies. A home for dance artists collectively committed to ongoing research, passionate practice, and adventurous exploration of new forms and the ideas of our times, the company is a proponent of Gaga, the radical movement language developed by choreographer Ohad Naharin for dancers and for the wider public.

Hailed as a preeminent contemporary choreographer, Naharin was Batsheva’s artistic director between 1990 and 2018, and currently serves as House Choreographer.

Batsheva was founded in 1964 by the Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild, who enlisted the seminal choreographer Martha Graham as the company’s first Artistic Advisor. As Israel’s largest dance company, with 40 extraordinary dancers from Israel and around the world in its senior company and the junior Batsheva Ensemble, Batsheva stages some 250 performances annually for more than 100,000 audience members. The company offers extensive

educational activities for young people in its dance school and through a variety of courses and workshops.

Dr. Lior Avizoor is Batsheva’s current Artistic Director and Dina Aldor has been Executive Director since 2009.

LEADERSHIP

Ohad Naharin, House Choreographer of Batsheva Dance Company and creator of the Gaga movement language, was born in 1952 in Mizra, Israel. He joined the Batsheva Dance Company in 1974. During his first year, guest choreographer Martha Graham invited him to join her own company in New York, where Naharin later made his choreographic debut in 1980. Over the next decade, he presented works in New York and abroad, including pieces for Batsheva Dance Company, the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, and Nederlands Dans Theater. At the same time, he worked with his first wife, Mari Kajiwara, and a group of dancers in New York. Naharin and

Kajiwara continued to work together until she died from cancer in 2001. In 1990, Naharin was appointed Artistic Director of the Batsheva Dance Company, and in the same year, he established the company's junior division, the Young Ensemble. He has since created more than 40 works for both companies and set pieces on many others. After almost 30 years of leading Batsheva, Naharin stepped down as Artistic Director in 2018; he continues to serve as the company's House Choreographer.

In addition to his stagework, Naharin also developed Gaga, an innovative movement language based on research into heightening sensation and imagination, becoming aware of form, finding new movement habits, and going beyond familiar limits. Gaga is the daily training language of Batsheva's dancers and has spread globally among both dancers and nondancers.

Under the pseudonym Maxim Waratt, Naharin has also composed music for many pieces he has created for the company.

Naharin's work has also been featured in several films, including Tomer Heymann's *In Out of Focus* (2007) and the Heymann Brothers' *Mr. Gaga* (2015).

A citizen of both Israel and the United States, Naharin currently lives in Israel with his wife, dancer and costume designer Eri Nakamura, and their two children, Noga and Asa.

Dr. Lior Avizoor (*artistic director*) is a dancer, teacher, curator, and researcher in the field of dance. Upon graduating from the Thelma Yellin High School of Arts, she moved to Amsterdam, where she completed a bachelor's degree in dance at the Amsterdam University of the Arts, danced with independent choreographers, and taught for several years. During this period, Avizoor received various scholarships as a dancer, including from the America–Israel Cultural Foundation and the Hanny Veldkamp Fund in the Netherlands.

With her return to Israel, she turned to research and theory and enrolled in the Tel Aviv University Faculty of the Arts, where she completed a master's degree (with honors) as well as a doctoral degree, dedicating her dissertation to dance ontology.

Over the last decade, Avizoor's work has focused on expanding the discourse and thought surrounding the art of dance, drawing connecting threads between dance and other cultural fields. Among others, she was the artistic director of the Room Dances Festival alongside Amos Hetz (2012–2015); co-editor of the *Maakaf* online journal for performing arts in collaboration with Ran Brown (2010–2017); and curator of the Kontrapunkt Dance Series at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2014–2017).

Avizoor teaches theory and practice on various platforms and accompanies dance and performance works as a dramaturge and artistic consultant. She has also been a member of various committees, among them Sal Tarbut Artzi (a government culture-education enrichment program, 2021–2014) and the Ministry of Culture Dance Division (2014–2019).

In 2019, she was invited by Ohad Naharin to take part in the foundation of the Batsheva Dance Company School and to serve as its director. In 2022, Avizoor took on the role of the Batsheva Dance Company artistic director.

Dina Aldor (*executive director*) was born in 1957 in Jerusalem and has been a cultural activist in Israel and abroad for more than three decades. Among her activities, she worked with Lia van Leer in the establishment of the Jerusalem Cinematheque. For 20 years, Aldor codirected Multi Media, which was then Israel's leading production company. Known for its spirit of artistic audacity, Multi Media's has worked extensively with the world's leading companies and artists representing the wide spectrum of the performing arts. Aldor is active in

various international cultural forums and has been Executive Director of Batsheva Dance Company since 2009.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Yaniv Nagar (*company and stage manager*) was born in Tel Aviv in 1971. He began his dance studies at the Beit Danny Community Centre, under the direction of Batya and Ofra Hanoon. Nagar graduated from the Thelma Yalin High School and studied at the Bat Dor School of Dance between 1987 and 1992, under the direction of Janet Ordman and Roz Sobol. He won recognition as an Outstanding Dancer within the frame work of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and was the recipient of a scholarship from the America–Israel Cultural Foundation. Between 1992 and 1996, Nagar was a dancer with the Ballet de Monte Carlo, under the direction of Jean-Christophe Maillot. He joined the Batsheva Dance Company as a dancer from 1996 to 2002. Since then, Nagar has been Company and Stage Manager of the ensemble. In 2007, he received the Yair Shapira Award for his contributions to dance in Israel.

Hsin-Yi Hsiang (*rehearsal director*) was born in Taiwan during the Year of the Pig. She received her BFA in dance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and then relocated to New York City, joining LeeSaar The Company from 2007 to 2014. After moving to Israel, she joined the Batsheva Dance Company from 2014 to 2018. Since 2019, she has been working with choreographer Marlene Monteiro Freitas, performing in *Bacchae*, *Prelude to a Purge*, and *Mal—Embriaguez Divina* (otherwise known as *Evil—Divine Intoxication*). She is also the assistant choreographer for Freitas' productions of *idiot*, *OSS* and Alban Berg's *Lulu*. She is a certified Gaga teacher and a passionate performing artist. In 2023, she

was appointed Rehearsal Director of the company.

Ori Kroll (*assistant to the artistic director and assistant to the company rehearsal director*) grew up in Rosh Pinna. She is a graduate of the dance program at the Thelma Yelin School of Arts. In 2011, she was a participant in Batsheva Dance Company's Excellence program. Kroll joined the Batsheva Ensemble as an apprentice in 2012 and between 2013 and 2015 was a dancer in the Batsheva Ensemble. In 2019–20, she participated as a dancer in a creative process by Noa Zuk and Ohad Fishoff. Since 2019, Kroll has been coproducing the Hasadna dance workshop in collaboration with Yaara Moses. In 2023, she became Batsheva's Assistant to the Artistic Director and Assistant to the Company Rehearsal Manager.

DANCERS

Yarden Bareket (Israel) was born in Tel Aviv in 1999. She graduated from the dance department of the Thelma Yellin High School of Arts and attended the Masloul professional dance program directed by Naomi Perlov and Ofir Dagan. Bareket attended the 2016 Bolshoi summer intensive in New York City and the 2018 Art of Ballet Summer Course in Zurich, with a full scholarship. She also participated in Batsheva's Excellence program and the Hasadna dance workshop managed by Yaara Moses and Yarden Raz. Bareket has worked as an understudy with Talia Beck on *Colonia* for *Curtains Up* (2018) and in 2019 participated in *Project 48 Dance*, directed by Dana Ruttenberg. She joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2019 and the company in 2022.

Adi Blumenreich (Israel) was born in the United States in 2001 and immigrated to Israel in 2002. She began her dance studies



ASCAF

(Left to right: Sean Howe, Igor Ptashenchuk, Yoni (Yonatan) Simon, Guy Davidson in *MOMO* by Ohad Naharin.

at the Ra'anana Dance Center under the direction of Zvia Brumer, and in 2015, expanded her studies at Lee Arbel's school of classical ballet. Simultaneously, she participated in Batsheva's Excellence program between 2018 and 2020. During her national service, Blumenreich won First Place at the international CND competition in the modern category, together with a scholarship to the AED International Summer School in Livorno, Italy. In 2020, she began her studies at the Ga'aton Dance Workshop, directed by Einav Levy and Yossi Berg. Blumenreich joined the Batsheva Ensemble as an apprentice in 2021 and as a dancer in 2022, and joined the company in 2023.

Emil Brukman (Israel) was born in Israel in 2001 and graduated from the dance department at the Ironi Alef High School of Arts in Tel Aviv. He participated in Batsheva's Program for Outstanding Dance Students in 2018 and received awards at the 2019 international AmsterDance competition.

From 2019 to 2020, Brukman danced in the second company of the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company. He joined the Batsheva Ensemble as an apprentice in 2020 and as a dancer in 2021, and joined the company in 2024.

Nathan Chipps (England) was born in 1998 in the south of England. In 2008, he continued his training in the Royal Ballet Associate Program, later earning a BA with honors from London's Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. In 2019, Chipps joined Rambert 2, where he completed his master's degree and was involved in the creation and performance of work by Andrea Miller, Jermaine Spivey, and Benoit Swan Pouffer. He joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2020, performing works by Ohad Naharin, Sharon Eyal, Bobbi Jean Smith, and Or Schraiber. In 2022, Chipps joined Sweden's Gothenburg Opera Dance Company, creating and performing works by Imre and Marne van Opstal and Al-

exander Ekman. He joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2021 and returned to the company in 2023.

Holden Cole (Canada) was born and raised in Port Alberni, BC, Canada and began his dance training there from age eight to 15. He is a graduate of both Canada's National Ballet School and the Juilliard School. Cole has had the privilege of working with Ohad Naharin, Bobbi Jene Smith, Joshua Beamish, Ami Shulman, Justin Peck, Riley Watts, Azure Barton, and Johannes Wieland. He joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2022 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2024.

Guy Davidson (Israel) was born in 2001 in Tel Aviv, where he graduated from the School of Arts and Ironi Alef High School of Arts. He danced in the Bikurey Ha'itim dance school from 2015 to 2018 and participated in Batsheva's summer courses between 2015 and 2019. Winner of the AmsterDance competition in Amsterdam in the contemporary solos category for pre-professionals, he also won First Place in the solos category and Second Place in the choreography category of the 2019 annual dance competition of the Department of Education. After serving as an Outstanding Dancer in the IDF, Davidson joined the Batsheva Ensemble as an apprentice in 2019 and as a dancer in 2020, and joined the company in 2022.

Iyar Elezra (Israel) was born in Israel in 1987. She studied at the Academy of Music and Dance in Jerusalem, and joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2005 and the Batsheva Dance Company in 2008. In 2016, Elezra left Batsheva Dance Company and Israel for Berlin, where she lived for two years, during which she created, taught, and danced. Elezra has worked with various creators and choreographers, including Yasmin Goder, Sharon Eyal, Roi Assaf, Sasha Waltz, Michal Helfman, and Jason Danino Holt, and

taught works by Ohad Naharin in various locations around the world. In collaboration with the musician and dancer Assaf Salhov, Elezra created the *March of the Broken Fairies*, which was performed as part of the Curtain Up Project, and together with the artist Adam El-Ezra, she created *Counting to 3* at the Alfred Tel Aviv Gallery and *The Wonder Girls* as part of the Hatem Theater's incubator program. Elezra returned to Batsheva Dance Company in 2023.

Sean Howe (USA) was born in 1995 in Toledo, Ohio. In 2013, he was named a US Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Howe graduated from the Juilliard School in 2017, receiving the Hector Zaraspe Prize and the Juilliard Career Advancement Fellowship. For 2017–18, he danced for Gallim Dance and MADBOOTS Dance in New York. Howe joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2018 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2020.

Londiwe Khoza (South Africa) was born in South Africa in 1993. She studied at Cape Academy of Performing Arts from 2012 to 2014, graduating with distinction and top honors. Simultaneously, Khoza was a soloist at the Cape Dance Company. In 2015, she was invited to study at the Central School of Ballet in the UK and to dance with the Joburg Ballet, South Africa's most prestigious ballet company. Khoza joined Batsheva's Young Ensemble in 2016 as an apprentice. She then joined the Batsheva Ensemble as part of the Rolex Mentor and Protege Arts Initiative, as a protege of Ohad Naharin. Khoza joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2017 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2020.

Adrienne Lipson (Canada) was born in London, Canada and began dancing under the tutelage of Jennifer Swan. She received her BFA in dance from Ryerson University in Toronto, where she performed with Typecast Dance Company and Rock Bot-

tom Movement. Lipson supplemented her training with summer courses at Jacob's Pillow, Springboard Danse Montréal, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, among others. In 2013, she joined Hubbard Street 2 and in 2016 she joined Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Lipson worked with choreographer Robyn Mineko Williams on the creation and continued production of her *Undercover Episodes* series and has presented her own choreography with FLOCK as well as Hubbard Street's Inside/Out Choreographic Workshop. She joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2020 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2021.

Bo Matthews (USA) was born in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2001. They graduated from New Mexico School for the Arts and in 2018 moved to New York to study at the Juilliard School. Since then, they have had the opportunity to work with Jamar Roberts, Bobbi Jene Smith, Shannon Gillen, Justin Peck, and Fluer Darkin. Matthews most recently had the pleasure of performing with Complexions Contemporary Ballet at the Joyce Theater for their 2021–22 season. They joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2022 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2024.

Eri Nakamura (Japan) was born in Japan in 1984. In 2002, she graduated from the Australian Ballet School in Melbourne. She danced in Madrid with the Victor Ullate Ballet Company from 2003–07 and under the artistic direction of Gradimir Pankov with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montréal in Canada between 2007 and 2008. Nakamura joined the Batsheva Dance Company in 2011. Since 2015, she has designed costumes for several works by Ohad Naharin, including *Last Work*, *Venezuela*, *Hora*, *Yag*, 2019, and *MOMO*.

Sofia Pikalova (Ukraine) was born in 2003 in Ukraine. When she was 10 years old, her family moved to Kiev, where she began

studying contemporary dance. In 2016, Pikalova began her third year at the Moscow State Ballet School, where she trained in folk and character dance, as well as ballet. At age 16, she was accepted to the Masloul school of contemporary dance, Tel Aviv, where she took a part in the Curtain Up project with a solo from Roy Assaf's *Girls*. Pikalova received a scholarship from the MART Foundation during her second year at Masloul. She joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2022 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2024.

Danai Porat (Greece) was born in 2001 in Paros, Greece and moved to Israel in 2008. She graduated from the dance department of the Thelma Yellin High School of Arts. Porat participated in the Batsheva Dance Company summer course in 2016–17 and the Batsheva program for outstanding dance students in 2017–18. She joined the Batsheva Ensemble as an apprentice in 2019 and as a dancer in 2020, and joined the company in 2022.

Igor Ptashenchuk (Ukraine) was born in 1997 and moved to Israel in 2000. He graduated from the dance department at Reut High School and received the America–Israel Foundation scholarship between 2012 and 2015. Ptashenchuk also received scholarships for summer courses at the Juilliard School and the American Ballet Academy. He participated in the Excellence program of the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company during the years 2011–12. In 2015, he won the Jeannette Ordman scholarship as well as Mia Arbatova's classical ballet competition. In 2015–16, Ptashenchuk danced in projects with artists including Itzik Galili, Alon Shtoyer, Eli Lazar, and Eldar Groissman. He joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2016 and the Batsheva Dance Company in 2019.

Yoni (Yonatan) Simon (Israel) was born in 1995 and is a graduate of the dance depart-

ment at the Ironi Alef High School of Arts in Tel Aviv. While studying there, he participated in a student exchange program with the Kunsthumaniora Antwerp school in Belgium. Simon participated in Batsheva's Excellence program in 2011–14 and the KCDC Excellence program in 2011–12, and he was the recipient of a full scholarship to the summer course at the American Academy of Ballet in 2013. Simon served as an Outstanding Dancer in the IDF. He joined the Batsheva Ensemble as an apprentice in 2014 and as a dancer in 2015, and joined the Batsheva Dance Company in 2016.

Annika Verplancke (Belgium) was born in 2000 in Brussels, Belgium and is half American with Filipino roots. She studied at the Pôle National Supérieur de Danse Rosella Hightower in France from 2016 until 2018. In 2018, Verplancke was a guest dancer with Nuremberg Opera House in Germany before attending the Juilliard School from August 2018 until May 2019. In August 2019, she joined Nederland's Dans Theater 2, where she was involved in numerous new creations, performances, and international tours for three years. She joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2022 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2024.

Gili Yaniv Amodai (Israel) was born in Tel Aviv in 2003 and graduated from the Ironi Alef High School of Arts in Tel Aviv. She danced in Tzahala School of Dance and the International Ballet School TLV directed by Lee Arbel. Amodai participated in Batsheva's Excellence program in 2019 and won First Place in the CND international competition in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2021. Amodai has also served as an Outstanding Dancer in the IDF. She joined the Batsheva Ensemble as an apprentice in 2021 and as a dancer in 2022, and joined the company in 2024.

Yarden Zana (Israel) was born in Modi'in in 2000 and began his studies at the Academy of Music and Dance and the Jerusalem Ballet. At the age of 14, he was invited to study at the Vienna Opera Ballet Academy, where he graduated with honors. In 2019, he joined the Vienna State Opera Ballet Junior Company, where he took part in works by Manuel Legris, Martin Schlapfer, and others. In 2021, Zana joined the ITdansa Company in Barcelona, where he performed in works by choreographers including Ohad Naharin, Akram Khan, Alexander Ekman, and Caitano Soto. In 2017, Zana won First Place in the European Ballet Grand Prix with his work *When I Fall* and was invited to teach at the Staatliche Balletschule in Berlin. In 2018, Zana's *Human Flash* won First Place in the Talin International Ballet Competition and the piece was performed in galas around the world. He joined the Batsheva Ensemble in 2023 and Batsheva Dance Company in 2024.

Pomegranate Arts, since 1998, has worked in close collaboration with a small group of contemporary artists and arts institutions to bring bold and ambitious artistic ideas to fruition. Creative and executive producers Linda Brumbach and Alisa E. Regas, along with their committed team at Pomegranate Arts, have produced the Olivier Award-winning revival of *Einstein on the Beach*; Taylor Mac's epic *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, *Holiday Sauce*, and now—their third collaboration together, along with composer Matt Ray—a rock opera meditation on queerness called *Bark of Millions*; *Available Light* by John Adams, Lucinda Childs, and Frank Gehry; Robin Frohardt's *The Plastic Bag Store*; Phelim McDermott and Julian Crouch's *Shock-headed Peter*; and the Drama Desk Award-winning production of *Charlie Victor Romeo*. In recent years, Pomegranate has expanded into non-performative mediums

including the feature documentary film *Taylor Mac's 24-Decade History of Popular Music* (HBO), the film short *Taylor Mac: Whitman in the Woods* (ALL ARTS), and museum installations for Machine Dazzle. Pomegranate Arts is proud to support North American touring for Batsheva Dance Company and Sankai Juku.

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 David Bell, *head of sound*
 Yaron Shosh, *head of lighting*
 Alon Shazar, *stage manager*
 Saul Itzhak, *technical crew*
 David Golebowicz, *physiotherapist*
 Noam Texler, *physiotherapist*
 Sydney Paige Goldberg, *wardrobe*
 Florent Trioux (Pomegranate Arts),
tour manager

Maya Williams, *head of international touring*
 Lisa Preiss Fried, *international development director*
 Alisa Kamenev, *international development coordinator*

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American Friends of Batsheva Dance Company supports Batsheva Dance Company's continued artistic excellence and promotes Batsheva to US audiences.

Join AFB's mailing list to receive information on events and programs in United States; Batsheva international touring; and special updates on the company.

To learn how you can support AFB and receive updates, please contact Melissa Kerbel, Executive Director, at melissa.kerbel@americanfriendsbatsheva.org.

The American Friends of Batsheva is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)3 status.

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BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY



LEADERSHIP

Ohad Naharin



Lior Avizoor



Dina Aldor

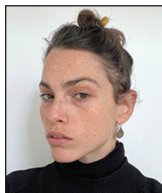


ARTISTIC STAFF

Yaniv Nagar



Hsin-Yi Hsiang



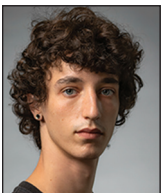
Ori Kroll



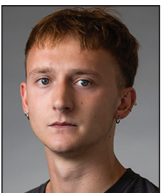
DANCERS SEASON 2024-25
Yarden Bareket



Adi Blumenreich



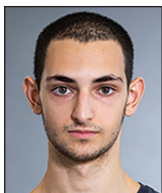
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Nathan Chipps



Holden Cole



Guy Davidson



Iyar Elezra



Sean Howe



Londiwe Khoza



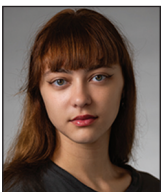
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Igor Ptashenchuk



Yoni (Yonatan) Simon



Annika Verplancke



Gili Yaniv Amodai



Yarden Zana