

HOFESH IN THE YARD

STRUT DANCE

Presented in association with Hofesh Shechter Company

'It is shows like this that make you realise how unbearable life would be without art.' AUSTRALIAN STAGE

18 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH
STATE THEATRE CENTRE OF WA

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HOFESH IN THE YARD

Presented by **STRUT DANCE**

In association with Hofesh Shechter Company

Date: 18 February – 1 March

Time: 9pm (Sun 8pm)

Venue: State Theatre Centre of WA

Q&A: 21 February 7:45pm

Uprising

Pause: 10 min

tHE bAD

The bar will remain open before, during and after the performance

Warning:

The performance is recommended for people 14+ and there are warnings for loud noise, haze and explicit lyrics

CREDITS

Choreographer / Artistic Director Hofesh Shechter

Associate Artistic Director Bruno Guillore

Rehearsal Director Sam Coren

Composer / Sound Design Hofesh Shechter

Cast Alex Abbot, Celina Hage, Dean-Ryan Lincoln, Gabriella Mersi, Georgia van Gils, Mitchell Aldridge, Mitch Harvey, Nikki Tarling, Rhiana Katz, Robert Tinning, Russell Thorpe, Scott Galbraith

Executive Producer STRUT Dance

Production / Stage Manager Tracey Shaw

Technical Manager Brock Preston

Original Costumes Hofesh Shechter Company

Costume Coordinator Nicole Marrington

Technical Hire Elite Audio Visual Productions

Publicity Alison Welburn / Limelight Consulting

Social Media Ashley Wilson (secondment)

Special Thanks Robyn Collard, Chris Ungar, Iain Grandage and Perth Festival, Colette Hansford and the Hofesh Shechter Company, Jan and Alan Stewart, Alice Jorgensen and the crew from the State Theatre Centre of WA, Bo-Jia Huang, Sarah Wilson and Sophia van Gent

Hofesh in the Yard is proudly supported by



STRUT Dance

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General Manager Alica Byfield

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STRUT
DANCE

The National
Choreographic Centre
of Western Australia

A Note from STRUT Dance

Director Paul Selwyn Norton

At present, there are very few contemporary dance organisations in Australia that can support a full-time ensemble and enable choreographers to develop their craft. As a result, we are a nation of agile, independent artists hunting and gathering opportunities Australia and worldwide.

STRUT Dance is all about opportunity – the opportunity for artists to engage with national and international leaders so that they can develop, articulate and ultimately platform their own choreographic voices. This is a unique model of opportunity in Australia, and I am not shy to say that what STRUT Dance offers is indeed a unique model internationally.

We partner with choreographers such as Ohad Naharin, William Forsythe, Crystal Pite, Punchdrunk's Maxine Doyle, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Stephanie Lake and Antony Hamilton – some of the most pertinent and visionary practitioners in the field of contemporary dance the world over. Through their generous and ongoing investment, STRUT Dance aims to develop a more vibrant Western Australian arts sector, build community here in Perth and foster aspiration, innovation and engagement for all our artists and audiences.

With the majority of our cast of *Hofesh in the Yard* having trained at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, I am very proud to put my hand on my heart, when I say that STRUT Dance's capacity to continually attract and retain that talent in WA is really the best evidence of our success. I personally thank our investors, stakeholders, sponsors and donors and most importantly our artists in enabling us to continually shape and platform this success.

Another one of those international leaders who has been working with STRUT Dance since 2017 is Hofesh Shechter. Hofesh Shechter is really the rock and roll god of contemporary performance. Originally from Israel, he took the U.K. by storm with his seminal work for men *Uprising* and to this day he continues to conquer international stages with his unique mix of mosh-pit furore and fierce contemporary dance.

STRUT Dance is extraordinarily excited to be presenting the show that kick-started this phenomenon, *Uprising* followed by a new poetic iteration of *THE bAD*, all re-created on the very best of our home-grown talent, remembering that this is the very first time Shechter's work will have been presented outside of his own company in Australia.

I ask you to celebrate this milestone moment with us by raising a glass to WA and the beautiful artists that you will soon see before you.

BIOGRAPHIES

Hofesh Shechter / Artistic Director



Choreographer Hofesh Shechter OBE is recognised as one of the most exciting artists making stage work today, renowned for composing atmospheric musical scores to compliment the unique physicality of his movement.

Hofesh Shechter's repertoire for the company includes *Uprising*, *In your rooms*, *The Art of Not Looking Back*, *Political Mother*, *Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut*, *Sun, barbarians*, *Grand Finale* and *SHOW* with his apprentice company, Shechter II.

Shechter has also staged and choreographed works on leading international dance companies including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Batsheva Ensemble, Candoco Dance Company, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater 1, Paris Opera Ballet, Royal Ballet and Royal Ballet Flanders, as well as for theatre, television and opera.

He is an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells. In 2018 Hofesh Shechter was awarded an honorary OBE for Services to Dance and the company's first dance film, *Hofesh Shechter's Clowns*, was broadcast by the BBC in September to great acclaim.

Bruno Guillore / Associate Artistic Director



As a founding member of the Hofesh Shechter Company, Bruno has been involved in all of Hofesh's creations, since the early works of *Uprising* and *In Your Rooms* to his most recent piece *Grand Finale*. He has performed in *Uprising*, *In your rooms*, *Political Mother*, *Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut*, *Survivor*, *Sun* and *barbarians*. Bruno restages Hofesh's work on companies all over the world.

Sam Coren / Rehearsal Director



Based in London, Sam is a multi-award winning performer, movement director and choreographer. Graduating with both BA and MA degrees from London Contemporary Dance School, Sam went on to perform with Jasmin Vardimon, Clod Ensemble and then spent five years as a senior member of Hofesh Shechter Company. His portfolio of screen work includes the Chemical Brothers, FKA Twigs and Jon Hopkins, where he won best actor award for the short film *Curing Albrecht* and appeared in the feature film *The Beasts in the Jungle* and Uber's first ever ad campaign - *Effortless Night*. Sam's recent choreographic commissions include Spain, Canada, London and New Zealand.

Dance Artists

Alex Abbot



Alexander Abbot originates from Canberra and comes from a hip hop and breakdance background. In 2012 Alexander made the transition to contemporary dance with QL2 and trained under the supervision of Ruth Osbourne as Artistic Director. In 2015, Alexander moved to Perth to study dance at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Since graduating Alexander has worked with Brooke Leeder on *Structural Dependency* (2018) and *RADAR* (2019). Alexander wishes hot cross buns were available all year round.

Celina Hage



Part Australian, part Norwegian, Celina was born and raised in the Barossa Valley, South Australia, graduating from WAAPA in 2017. During her subsequent time at Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance she worked with a portfolio of professional choreographers and performers renowned across the globe, performing works both at SEAD and internationally. Celina has also performed in WA artist Brooke Leeder's original development of *Structural Dependency*, and has seconded with Sydney Dance Company and Lucy Guerin Inc.

Dean-Ryan Lincoln



Dean is a WAAPA Graduate with a BA and (Honours) through LINK Dance Company. He was a soloist in the remount of Rafael Bonachela's *The Land of Yes* and *The Land of No* originally performed by Sydney Dance Company and performed in Ohad Naharin's *Decadance* presented by STRUT Dance as part of the MoveMe Festival. Dean received scholarships to The Mediterranean Dance Festival in Italy three years in a row and his solo choreography has been performed nationally and internationally.

Gabriella Mersi



Gabriella is from Wellington, New Zealand and completed her dance qualification at UNITEC in 2014. Since then she has split her time between Australia and New Zealand, including choreographing and performing the work *Lost Property* in Wellington Fringe Festival 2019, working with Borderline Arts Ensemble and Well Fare State. Seeing Hofesh Shechter's work *Grand Finale* in Auckland ignited a curiosity and drive to explore his movement style and to participate in both of STRUT's Shechter programs. Gabriella is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform *the BAD* in Perth Festival 2020.

Georgia van Gils



Georgia Van Gils hails from the Northern Beaches in Sydney. Graduating from New Zealand School of Dance in 2017, she performed in works by Amber Haines, Hofesh Shechter, Michael Parmenter, Emma Murray and Iratxe Ansa. Georgia has worked with Legs on the Wall, Kristina Chan, Sarah Foster, Sam Coren, Catapult Dance Company and House of Sand. In 2018, she worked with Malia Johnson for *Rushes*, for the New Zealand International Arts Festival. In 2019 Georgia performed in Sita Ostheimer's *Íakarè* in Berlin and most recently Stephanie Lake's *Colossus* for Sydney Festival 2020.

Mitch Harvey



Mitch graduated from WAAPA in 2013. Upon graduating he worked with Leigh Warren and Dancers before becoming a founding member of Co3 Australia, collaborating with Sydney Dance Company and the West Australian Ballet. He most recently performed in *Token Armies* for Chunky Move. Mitch has undertaken residences at Lake Studios Berlin, Fremantle Arts Centre and Mandurah Performing Arts Centre to develop new works. His new work *Lies Within* premieres this April at the Fremantle International Street Arts Festival.

Mitchell Aldridge



Born in Darwin, Mitchell was a relative latecomer to the dance world with his first contact with contemporary dance in high school. He then proceeded to work with local companies including SLIDE Youth Dance Theatre and Tracks Dance Company before moving to Perth to further his training at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). Following graduation, Mitchell continues to live and work in Perth as an independent dancer, composer and photographer.

Nikki Tarling



Growing up in Perth, Nikki studied dance at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Upon graduation in 2016 with her Bachelor in Performing Arts, Nikki moved to Launceston to begin her first professional contract with Tasdance. Nikki was nominated as "Dancer to watch" in a Dance Australia publication in 2017 and 2018. A listing of these performance works includes *Alone* choreographed by Jack Riley, *Colossus* by Stephanie Lake Company and *Duplex* by Jack Riley which was presented at the Academia di Belle Art Florence as part of "First Commissions".

Rhiana Katz



Rhiana Katz graduated with Honours in Contemporary Dance from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2018. She has performed nationally and internationally across Europe and Australia. Rhiana is currently based in Perth and in the past year has performed in Perth's FRINGE WORLD Festival in *MicroMove* and *Winter Nights* at The Blue Room Theatre. She has also performed in STRUT Dance's *Short Cuts* season and in Scott Ewen's *Wasps at War* as part of STRUT Dance's inaugural season of *And Then Some* at the State Theatre Centre.

Robert Tinning



Robert Tinning is a physical theatre artist, emerging choreographer, movement director and a WAAPA alumnus, working with Shaun Parker & Company, Tasdance, STRUT Dance, Jukstapoz (Greece), Gabrielle Nankivell, Liesel Zink and Guy Shomroni & Rachael Osbourne. Career highlights include *Decadance*, Jukstapoz's *Fragile Matter*, Dacre Montgomery's short drama film *IN VITRO* and touring Shaun Parker's *King* nationally and internationally. As an emerging practitioner, Robert is a current recipient of Ausdance NSW's 2020 Innovating Dance Practice Grant.

Russell Thorpe



Russell is an independent artist, performer, teacher and choreographer based in Perth, Western Australia. Since graduating WAAPA in 2013 Russell has worked with Barking Gecko Theatre Company, Buzz Dance Theatre, STRUT Dance, The West Australian Ballet, Rhiannon Newton and Lewis Major. Russell is also a founding member of Co3 and has performed works by Larissa McGowan, Gavin Webber, Antony Hamilton, Garry Stewart and Raewyn Hill.

Scott Galbraith



Scott is a graduate from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. In 2019 Scott performed *Sunset*, a dance theatre work choreographed by Maxine Doyle and in 2017 with Co3's work *The Zone* created by Raewyn Hill. Scott has choreographed work for Riptide Youth Theatre Company - *The Red Tree* (2015), *Smothered Sea* (2017), in the student work season *Unleash* at WAAPA and *Project Next* 2018 for the Co3 youth ensemble. His interests lie in improvisation and he has co-mentored the 2019 *Hidden Movements* Mandurah ensemble.

Understudy Positions

Bo-Jia Huang, Sarah Wilson, Sophia van Gent

Secondment Positions

Cass Hortle (VCA), Cassie Tattersall (WAAPA) Gabriel Sinclair (VCA), Megan Scheffers (WAAPA), Thalia Livingstone (VCA),