



**CONTEMPORARY, EXHUBERANT, UNIQUE, EXCITING
DANCE ALWAYS DELIVERS MAGNIFICENT SKILL AND ARTISTRY AT CHUTZPAH!**

Vancouver BC – “I feel very privileged to be bringing such a wide range of dancers to Chutzpah! this year”, said Artistic & Managing Director Mary-Louise Albert. “**The Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company** of 18 dancers from Israel is such a dynamic, creative company exploring movement and interacting with props in new and interesting ways. Chutzpah! is co-presenting a World Premiere with The Dance Centre of renowned Vancouver choreographer **Serge Bennathan’s** latest work **Conversations** – a fantastic fusion of dance and theatre. Audiences are going to be in for a treat with **A Dance Double Bill**. Not only will they get to enjoy **Full Bloom** performed by world class leading male dancers based in Canada and Germany (**Kevin O’Day, Robert Glumbek** and **Luches Huddleston Jr.**) but will be the first to see a brand new work created by Israeli choreographer/dancers **Yossi Berg** and **Oded Graf** teaming up and performing with acclaimed Vancouver dancers **Noam Gagnon, Justine Chambers** and **Ziyian Kwan** (Chutzpah!’s Vancouver and Israeli artists in residence).

KIBBUTZ CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY (Israel)
Performing *Ekodoom*
Choreographed by Rami Be’er (Artistic Director)

The Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company is internationally renowned and one of Israel's most prominent dance companies. Having performed all over the world to great acclaim with its exclusive and unique character, a trademark both in Israel and abroad, KCDC has been widely identified with the works of its Artistic Director Rami Be’er whose creations have been met with unswerving world-wide praise.

Featuring a company of 18 dancers, *Ekodoom* is an incisive and eclectic observation of and about ourselves, performed and choreographed with magnificent skill and artistry. In a penetrating and enthralling sequence of scenes, Be’er creates a world with all its component parts and possibilities; the harsh, cruel, gray world in conflict, and the world of fantasy, dreams and romance.

Artistic Director **Rami Be’er** joined the company as a dancer and choreographer in 1980, and took over the company’s Artistic Direction in 1996 from the revered and pioneering company founder Yehudit Arnon. Rami Be’er has choreographed over 40 works for the company and has credited both the company and himself with an impressive list of works, as well as some delightful and highly popular children’s works. Many of his creations have become internationally acclaimed and Be’er has been awarded prizes both in Israel and abroad. Although in his work Be’er offers an imaginary-real world view, the individual is left to give it their own interpretation and meaning...an invigorating and satisfying audience experience.

...." Be'er favors a general modern-dance idiom that makes use of the entire body rather than isolated steps, and the company is more than well trained in this all-purpose idiom..... Be'er achieves his dramatic purpose through choreographed free association.... The committed performance of the cast and the purity of the choreography will win you over." *Anna Kisselgoff - The New York Times*

“Their highly developed artistry as skilled dancers surprised the audience. Their inventiveness and sophistication intrigued it. But their sheer energy and exuberance as performers overwhelmed it.” *Sam Lipski - The Australian News*

When: Tuesday & Wednesday February 22 & 23 @ 8pm
Thursday February 24 @ 7pm
Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre

www.kcdc.co.il

A DANCE DOUBLE BILL! (Israel/Germany/Toronto/Vancouver)

Performing *FULL BLOOM*

Choreographed and Performed by Kevin O'Day, Luches Huddleston Jr. and Robert Glumbek and choreographed by Roberto Campanella

Three dynamic and exciting male dancers and choreographers come together – **Kevin O'Day, Robert Glumbek** and **Luches Huddleston Jr.** in the full evening work *Full Bloom* – the personal and intimate journey of three men are explored through the joys of fatherhood, the demands of manhood, and the challenges imposed by physical age.

Kevin O'Day is currently artistic director of *Kevin O'Day Ballett Mannheim* in Mannheim, Germany. A distinguished performer with the Tyla Tharp Company for many years, O'Day was a soloist with American Ballet Theatre (1992-1995), danced with Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, and was a frequent guest dancer with the New York City Ballet. After making his choreographic debut in 1994 with White Oak, O'Day has since choreographed more than 30 original works for companies including the New York City Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Stuttgart Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet.

Robert Glumbek, a graduate of Bytom State Ballet School in Poland, joined The Great Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Warsaw as a soloist and choreographer. In 1987, Glumbek came to Canada and danced with the Theatre Ballet of Canada in Ottawa, the Judith Marcuse Dance Company in Vancouver; Myth Productions with Learie Nichols and the Desrosiers Dance Theatre, where he danced for ten years and was instrumental in the creation of many roles. Glumbek joined National Theatre Mannheim in 2002 as dancer and ballet master and returned to Canada in 2004 to work as an independent artist and choreographer, as well as becoming Artistic Associate of ProArteDanza.

Luches Huddleston Jr. started dancing at the age of three in his hometown Washington DC. At 18, he received a scholarship at the world renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York. He worked and toured with many international companies such as Bill T. Jones, Elisa Monte, Joyce Trisler Dance Company, Nationaltheater Mannheim, Opernhaus Zürich, Staatstheater Kassel, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe and the Opera of Monte Carlo. His current projects are a commissioned work for the Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck in Austria and a full-length children's dance theatre piece for the Schnawwl in Mannheim.

Roberto Campanella is the Artistic Director and Associate of ProArteDanza, Toronto. Roberto was born and raised in Rome and was principal dancer with the Compagnia Italiana di Danza Contemporanea. He later joined the prestigious Aterballetto and in 1993 he joined The National Ballet of Canada as a soloist. Although Campanella choreographs predominantly for ProArteDanza, he also choreographs for galas abroad and companies such as: Collaborations, L'Astragale, Ballet Jorgen, Echine-do, Arts Umbrella and Corpus. Campanella is also a long-time collaborator of four-time world champion figure skater Kurt Browning. He is a sought-after guest teacher for companies such as The National Ballet of Canada and Stuttgart Ballet as well as companies in Italy, Korea and Japan.

"To a musical accompaniment that ranges from Mozart and Chopin to Steve Reich, Blue Swede and Neil Young, the three men begin their mid-life Odyssey in jackets and ties....Physically they hold nothing back and infuse their movement with subtle modulations of speed, rhythm and dynamics...Together these men affirm that the dance of life is something to be waged until the final curtain." *Toronto Star*

"An extraordinary dance piece that touches deeply. Three men who are, lustfully and with graceful harmony, just themselves" *Die Rheinpfalz*

"They leave no doubts that they, indeed, are in full bloom...impressive, highly versatile." *Mannheimer Morgen*

A ProArteDanza/Kevin O'Day-Ballett Mannheim/NationaltheaterMannheim Production

The production of *Full Bloom* was developed through a Performing Arts Residency at The Banff Centre

A DANCE DOUBLE BILL! (Israel/Germany/Toronto/Vancouver) ... con't

Performing a New Work

Choreographed and Performed by Yossi Berg and Oded Graf (Israel)
with **Dancers Noam Gagnon, Justine Chambers and Ziyian Kwan (Vancouver)**

Presented in a double bill with *Full Bloom* will be a new work by Chutzpah! artists in residence Israeli choreographer/dancers **Yossi Berg** and **Oded Graf** with three of Vancouver's most prolific dancers – **Noam Gagnon, Justine Chambers** and **Ziyian Kwan**.

Yossi Berg and Oded Graf started collaborating in 2005 and they have since built a reputation for work that is supremely physical, provocative and by turns poignant and witty. Their company performs throughout the world and they have won international choreography competitions in Germany (Hanover), Spain (Burgos-New York), Denmark (Dansolution), Poland (Serge Diaghilev) as well as Israel's Ministry of Culture Awards for Outstanding Choreographers and Best Solo Artist Performer. Yossi Berg has worked with DV8 Physical Theatre in London, Batsheva Dance Company for six years (working with choreographers such as Ohad Naharin, Yiri Kylián, Angelin Preljocaj, John Jasperse and Iztok Kovac), Yasmeen Godder's company, and others. Oded Graf has worked with the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, Noa Dar Dance Company, and with numerous independent Israeli and international productions. Their works have been commissioned by the Israel Festival in Jerusalem, the Lab Theatre, Curtain Up/International Exposure Festivals, Tmuna Theatre and many other venues throughout Israel. myspace.com/yossiberg

Noam Gagnon is the Artistic Director of Co. Vision Selective (www.visionselective.org) and the Director of Noam Gagnon's Wellness Center/Beyond Pilates Inc. (www.beyondpilates.ca). Since its inception, Co. Vision Selective has produced several works including *The Vision Impure*, which premiered at The Cultch and toured nationally with new commissions by Daniel Léveillé and Nigel Charnock. *10 Things You'll Hate About Me*, a collaboration with playwright and director James Fagan Tait, premiered at The Cultch in 2010. For 16 years Noam was the Co-Artistic Director and Choreographer of The Holy Body Tattoo. With this company, Noam created work that received critical and audience acclaim around the world. *our brief eternity*, *Poetry & Apocalypse*, *Circa* (winner of the inaugural Alcan Performing Arts Award) and *monumental* have been performed worldwide hundreds of times, and have won many accolades including The Dora Mavor Moore Award.

Justine A. Chambers (justineeachambers.blogspot.com) formerly with Desrosiers Dance Theatre and Diavolo Dance Theatre, has worked with a number of choreographers both nationally and abroad and recently performed in *this time*, a Dora Award-winning duet by Heidi Strauss. She has been featured in the work of Julia Sasso, Darryl Tracy, Jenn Goodwin, Princess Productions, Cie Orange, Rosy Co., and Atlas Moves Watching. Justine's work has been presented by Series 8:08 Season Finale, Dances for a Small Stage, Dance Saskatchewan, Dancing on the Edge Festival, New Dance Horizons and Arts Umbrella, where she is currently artist in residence for the dance program.

In the 22 years that **Ziyian Kwan** has danced professionally, working with other artists has been an indelible inspiration. Influential engagements have been with: Vancouver's Anatomica, battery opera, CO.Erasga, Kokoro Dance, Lola Dance, Mascall Dance, John Ottmann, Calgary's Nicole Mion, Montreal's David Pressault Danse, Daniel Danis, Danse- Cité, parB.L.eux and most recently Regina's Robin Poitras. Ziyian also enjoys initiating projects and has commissioned solos and ensemble works from some of Canada's most innovative choreographers such as Peter Bingham, Barbara Bourget, Susan Elliott, Benoit LaChambre and David Pressault. She is currently studying with Amelia Itcush to learn to teach the Itcush Method of The Mitzvah Technique, a somatic practice that moves the bones and changes the being.

"Great dance ... There's a lot to like about the new work of Yossi and Oded...brilliant aesthetic and humor...magic Moments...impressive..." *Time Out, Mart Frhumoski*

"Fascinating, exciting and surprising evening, which takes the art of dance one step forward...the original movement breaks out of charismatic performers...an amazing example for unlimited nuances and variety of expressions that create emotional tension as if it was a written play..." *Michal Ba'adani, The City Mouse*

When: Saturday February 26 @ 8pm & Sunday February 27 @ 2pm
Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, 950 W. 41st Ave.

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Chutzpah! and The Dance Centre present

World Premiere

CONVERSATIONS (Toronto/Vancouver)

Choreographed and Written by Serge Bennathan

Performed by Billy Marchenski and Danny Wild

***Conversations* is a world premiere by the multi-talented choreographer/writer Serge Bennathan.**

Returning to Chutzpah!, Bennathan brings his trademark creativity to his new work based on an imaginary encounter between the great Spanish poet and playwright Federico Garcia Lorca, who was murdered by pro-Franco militias in 1936, and his assassin, Juan Luis Trescastro.

This work is about the poetic, philosophical and grounded exchange that takes place between these two men and explores the juxtaposition of poetry with history and how in Franco's Spain, poetry was a tool, if not a weapon, to battle injustice. *Conversations* positions two parallel monologues, divided on the stage, never interacting but responding to each other, allowing us to travel in the subconscious and physical memory of the characters comparing the brutality of one against the poetry of the other. However... the truth is the roles are not as clear as they seem, and this revelation slowly unveils itself over the course of the play expertly brought to life by two of Canada's most versatile and magnetic actor/dancers **Billy Marchenski** and **Danny Wild**.

Serge Bennathan was the artistic director of Toronto's Dancemakers from 1990 to 2006. The French-born choreographer trained in Paris in classical and modern dance before working professionally with Roland Petit's Ballet de Marseille. Prior to his arrival in Canada in 1985, he directed his own company in Cannes for four years. He is also known for his extensive work with opera companies and directors. Bennathan lives now in Vancouver where he created Les Productions FIGLIO. The first creation of Les Productions FIGLIO, *The Invisible Life of Joseph Finch*, a play starring actor Jonathon Young was created in 2007 in Vancouver and premiered in the Norman Rothstein Theatre at the 2007 Chutzpah! Festival, with a remount in Chutzpah! 2009.

Billy Marchenski, an extremely versatile and hard-working actor and dancer, and one of the engine's of the alternate theatre scene in Vancouver, is highly sought after by a range of directors and choreographers. He is a founding member of the fearless collective, Screaming Flea, for whom he recently played Bernice in *Tying the Knot*, directed by Paulo Ribeiro. His physical acting work was central to the recent success of Leaky Heaven Circus' production of *Salome* by Oscar Wilde, under the direction of clown maestro Steven Hill. Billy starred in the premiere production of *Donald & Lenore* at Chutzpah! 2010 and in 2007 danced with Allison Denham in a new worked choreographed by Denham and commissioned by the 2007 Chutzpah! Festival.

Danny Wild began his formal training in dance and performance at Grant McEwan College in Edmonton, Alberta. He then went on to study and train at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre. Dan performed for eight years with Dancemakers, under the artistic direction of Serge Bennathan, a time during which many of the company's works garnered Dora Mava Moore nominations for outstanding performance and choreography. For ten years, Dan was a featured performer with Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, with the artistic direction of Tom Stroud as well as performing and touring extensively with the Caravan Stage Company, with the artistic direction of Paul Kirby and Adriana Keldor.

Written, Choreographed and Directed by Serge Bennathan

Starring: Danny Wild and Billy Marchenski

Composer: John Gzowski

Producing company Les Productions Figlio

When: Thursday, Friday, Saturday February 10, 11, 12 @ 8pm

Where: Scotiabank Dance Centre, 677 Davie Street

Visit the Festival's website at www.chutzpahfestival.com for complete information. Tickets can be purchased by phone at the Chutzpah! Festival Box Office (604-257-5145), online at www.ticketstonight.ca and the Chutzpah! Festival website www.chutzpahfestival.com or in person at the JCCGV (950 W. 41st Ave). Online Tickets for Balkan Beat Box can be purchased only through Ticketmaster (604.280.3311) www.ticketmaster.ca as well as by phone or in person through the Chutzpah! Festival Box Office (604-257-5145)

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