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CRÉATEUR DU MOUVEMENT

PRESS KIT

HOFESH SHECHTER COMPANY



SUN

Hofesh Shechter

November 5.6.7, 2015
Place des arts, Théâtre Misonneuve

Hofesh Shechter is back to set the Montreal stage ablaze with the furious dance, explosive music and 14 dancers of *Sun*. In a boisterous masquerade, he removes the masks worn in an apparently perfect world. Fierce and incisive.

SUN

CREDITS

Choreography and Music : Hofesh Shechter

Dancers : Paula Alonso Gomez, Maëva Berthelot, Winifred Burnet-Smith, Chien Ming Chang, Sam Coren, Frédéric Despierre, Bruno Karim Guillore, Philip Hulford, Yeji Kim, Kim Kohlmann, Erion Kruja, Merel Lammers, Attila Ronai, Hannah Shepherd, Diogo Sousa

Set Design : Merle Hensel

Lighting Design : Lee Curran

Costume Design : Christina Cunningham

Additional Music

'Let's Face The Music And Dance' composed by Irving Berlin

Published by Universal Music Publishing Ltd.

Tannhauser WWV 70' by Wagner – Arrival of the Guests at Wartburg / Composer Richard Wagner.

'Sigur 1' Written by Sveinsson/ Birgisson/ Holm/ Dyrason. Published by Universal Music Publishing Ltd.

'Abide with me' (Traditional arrangement by David Cresswell) Published by Music Masters Ltd.

Performed by The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and used by courtesy of Music Masters Ltd.

Musicians on Soundtrack

Strings : Christopher Allan, Rebekah Allan, Nell Catchpole

Guitars : Joseph Ashwin, Joel Harries, Vinz

Scenic Artist : Kirsty Glover

Puppet artists

Businessman, Hoodsmen, Tribesman, Explorer James Ward at jimbobart

With additional work on Tribesman by Rebecca Cusack

Sheep on loan from John I Gordon

Wolf courtesy of Framestore

Production crew

Re-lighter : Alan Valentine

Sound Engineer : Jonathan Beatie

Stage Manager : Saw Wood

Assistant Stage Manager : Holly Gould

The Hofesh Shechter Company production crew would like to thank RNSS, Graeme McGinty, Steve Wald, Sam Rogerson, Matt Bigg and the production staff of the Theatre Royal Plymouth and TR2.

ABOUT SUN

A previous visit in 2009 featured the furious dance and explosive music of *Uprising*, part of a double bill that included *In your rooms*, a piece inspired by the riots in the outer suburbs of Paris and other French cities. This was followed in 2012 by *Political Mother*, a powerful and very moving piece about dictatorship and oppression that made a big impression. With the 14 dancers of *Sun*, created in 2013, Hofesh Shechter probes the connection between the individual and society.

He explores the idea of a social structure that, like the *Sun*, can be beneficial to man but also a threat. Between shadow and light he creates an ambiguous space where beauty and evil sometimes get along, where humour and sarcasm soothe tensions. He invents a singular tribe that he subjects to the caprices of a Machiavellian master of ceremonies, a hollow character from a society in search of meaning.

He orchestrates a feast where Wagner flirts with electro rock and bagpipes with mantras in a joyous mingling of classical, tribal, social, folk and contemporary dance. In a series of contrasting, often theatrical sequences, he shows how, under the apparent comfort of an almost perfect world, our values, judgements and indeed our lives are shaped by the notion of might is right.

HOFESH SHECHTER – CHOREOGRAPHER

Hofesh Shechter is recognized as one of the most exciting artists working today, renowned for composing atmospheric musical scores to compliment the unique physicality of his movements.

Born in 1974, Hofesh Shechter studied dance and percussion and was a member of the celebrated Batsheva Dance Company, an experience that had a big influence on his work. He began composing music during a sojourn in Paris, where he was involved in various artistic projects that combined dance, theatre and body percussion. In 2002 he moved to London to join the Jasmin Vardimon Dance company.

Following his choreographic debut, *Fragments*, in 2003, Shechter was commissioned by The Place Prize in 2004 to create *Cult*, winning the Audience Choice Award. This was followed in 2006 by *Uprising*, a work for seven men that has since been staged on companies around the world and is currently being performed in five different countries. In 2007, The Place, Southbank Centre and Sadler's Wells Theatre commissioned Shechter to create *In your rooms*, which earned him the Critics' Circle Award for Best Choreography (Modern).

In 2008, Shechter formed Hofesh Shechter Company, which has rapidly established an international reputation. Sadler's Wells subsequently commissioned him to create *Uprising/In your rooms: The Choreographer's Cut* (2009), which was performed at London's iconic Roundhouse. That same year Shechter was commissioned by Brighton Festival to create *The Art of Not Looking Back* for six female dancers. His first full-length work *Political Mother* – commissioned by venues in Paris, Lyon, Rome, London and Barcelona – also had its premiere at Brighton Festival in 2010, and a year later he re-visited the work to create *Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut*, which toured rock venues in Berlin, Montpellier, Paris and Hong Kong. Shechter collaborated with Antony Gormley in 2012 to create *Survivor* for the Barbican Centre. His 2013 work *Sun* continues to tour extensively after opening at Melbourne Festival.

He has also worked as a choreographer in theatre, television and opera notably at The Royal Court Theatre for *Motortown* by Simon Stephens (2006), *The Arsonists* (2007), and for the National Theatre's award winning production of *Saint Joan* (2007). In television Hofesh choreographed the hit dance sequence 'Maxxie's Dance' for the opening of the second series of Channel 4's popular drama *Skins*.

In 2013 Shechter created the choreography for Nico Mulhy's opera *Two Boys* at the Metropolitan Opera, New York. He was Guest Director of Brighton Festival in 2014 and is currently an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells. He has recently created a new work *Untouchable* for the Royal Ballet, at the Royal Opera House performed to a score co-composed by Hofesh and long-time collaborator, Nell Catchpole. Plans include *barbarians* for Hofesh Shechter Company, which will have its premiere in summer 2015 at the Festspielhaus, Berlin, a production of Gluck's *Orphee et Eurydice* at the Royal Opera House, co-directed with John Fulljames, and new work for Netherlands Dance Theatre 1, which will have its premiere in April 2016.

HOFESH SHECHTER COMPANY – COMPANY

Hofesh Shechter Company is one of the world's leading dance companies.

In 2008, in response to popular demand following the smash hit success of the double bill *Uprising/In your rooms*, Shechter, Helen Shute and Colette Hansford formed Hofesh Shechter Company and the Company embarked on its first world tour. Since then the Company can be found performing in Europe, Asia, North America and Australia and reaching audiences in many of the world's leading dance venues. Recent tours have included South America and the Middle East with the global appetite for Shechter's work continuing.

Since 2008, under the banner of Hofesh Shechter Company, Shechter has produced works including his first "Choreographer's Cut" – commissioned by Sadler's Wells and performed at The Roundhouse. He reworked his acclaimed double bill *Uprising/In your rooms* to feature a band of 20 musicians alongside a company of 17 dancers. In 2009 Shechter was commissioned by Brighton Festival to create *The Art of Not Looking Back*, which was inspired by and made for six female dancers. In May 2010 his first full-length work *Political Mother* premiered at the Brighton Festival, winning 5 star reviews from all the major national press and subsequently embarking on an extensive international tour, further cementing the Company's reputation.

2011 saw the second time Shechter created a 'Choreographer's Cut' of his work, this time for *Political Mother*, featuring over 40 performers and which next appeared in Hong Kong and Paris in Autumn 2014. Shechter collaborated with Antony Gormley on *Survivor* commissioned by the Barbican and reaching sell-out audiences for its run in January 2012. In October 2013, Shechter unveiled his next major creation *Sun* at Melbourne Festival, co-produced by partners around the world and again both disrupting and entrancing audiences.

Participation has been at the heart of Hofesh Shechter Company's ethos since its inception. The company schedules dedicated periods of participation opportunities within our busy touring life. Hofesh and the dancers enjoy working and dancing with groups of all types – from workshops in schools, to courses for professionals, to residences with older dancers.

Hofesh is an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells and Hofesh Shechter Company is Resident Company at Brighton Dome.

PRESS QUOTES

" Shechter is a magnificent, one-of-a-kind choreographer. The movement in *Sun* is complex and gorgeous, weaving extremely disparate physical languages into seamless, tightly-woven phrases. "

-The Guardian, *Melbourne*

"T he only dance-maker on Earth even attempting shows this eye-poppingly packed with wit, energy and ambition."

- Daily Telegraph

" Hofesh Shechter. It's a name to remember ... one of the most inventive new choreographic voices to turn up in quite a while. He shows physical invention as part of a fiercely contemporary universe. "

- The New York Times

« Les montagnes russes semblent le manège préféré du chorégraphe, qui emporte son monde dans une virée haletante à la fois perturbante et excitante dont on connaît les règles sans pouvoir les anticiper. »

-*Le Monde*, Paris

« *Sun*, nouvel opus tonitruant du chorégraphe Hofesh Shechter embarque encore une fois le spectateur dans un univers rythmique, puissant et haletant. »

- Francetvinfo, France

« À voir son travail, souvent prodigieux d'authenticité et de puissance, on est plongé dans l'actualité du monde tel qu'il est aujourd'hui, et ses chorégraphies apparaissent comme des "flashes" éclairant l'homme du nouveau siècle. C'est là sans doute ce que l'on nomme le talent. »

- L'OBS, France.

This press kit consists of material provided by the company and by research conducted by the Danse Danse team.
