

# The "Maslool"- Bikurey Ha'itim Arts Center

## Professional Dance Program

Director of Bikurey Ha'itim Arts Center: Sigal Peretz  
Artistic Directors of the "Maslool": Naomi Perlov, Offir Dagan

The Maslool is a professional dance program of the Bikurey Ha'itim performing arts center in Tel Aviv. Bikurey Ha'itim has been an important part of the Israeli dance scene for the last fifty years, and has influenced several generations of artists: choreographers, dancers, dance instructors, and actors.

Established in 2006, the Maslool has been endorsed and supported by the Israeli Ministry of Culture since 2010. The program is recognized by dance academies both in Israel and abroad.

Students enrolled in the Maslool complete a two-year, full-time program, in which they train five days a week, three trimesters per year. The school provides foundational training for students between the ages of 18 to 24 who plan to pursue a professional career in dance. The admission process includes both multiple auditions and personal interviews with the Maslool's artistic directors.

The Maslool aims to closely simulate for students the working environment they will encounter as professional dancers in a repertoire dance company. Therefore, the program exposes students to a wide variety of working methods found in both the Israeli and international dance scenes. To that end, the program takes the following five approaches:

- 1. Strong Technical Base.** Students study ballet, contemporary dance, and Pilates. In addition, they receive theoretical training from artists working in diverse art disciplines, including music, theater, fine arts, cinema, and video.
- 2. Diverse Repertoire Classes.** Each year, the Maslool invites well-known Israeli and international choreographers to conduct repertoire classes based on their work. The repertoire pieces are selected to educate the students in music, partnering work, props, and various choreographic styles.
- 3. The Creation Process.** The Maslool collaborates with Israeli choreographers to compose a unique piece for the students, simulating for them the working methods of a dance company.
- 4. Working with Rehearsal Directors.** The Maslool's rehearsal directors oversee every rehearsal. Their guidance helps students clarify, emphasize, and focus their individual performances. The directors offer students detailed feedback that enriches their artistic work.



5. **Open House.** Once a month, the school hosts public performances, offering students a forum in which to perform repertoire pieces. Over the course of the year, students are urged to meet progressively challenging demands: different casting, longer performances, and more open houses, to which the school invites family and friends, as well as choreographers, dancers, and the directors of various academies and festivals. This opportunity helps the students to grow as performers and prepares them to enter the professional dance world.

6. **Solo Workshop.** An important part of the annual program is the solo workshop. In a two-week intensive training period, each student is personally challenged by three master classes held by major professionals in the field: choreographers, actors, and rehearsal directors of established companies. The master classes support the process by which each student develops his or her own stage presence, each from a different angle. The workshop culminates in a special Open House for Solos.

- In 2009 the Maslool dancers performed with the Philharmonic Orchestra at the Frederic R. Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.
- Over the last four years, the Maslool has an impressive record in placing its graduates in both professional dance companies in Israel and well-known dance academies in Europe. Former students have joined Israeli dance companies such as the Batsheva Ensemble, Young Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Co., “The Project” - The Israeli Opera, and Inbal Pinto Co. In addition, several Maslool students matriculated as third-year students in leading dance academies including Codarts Dance Academy (Rotterdam, Holland), Sead Dance Academy (Salzburg, Austria), and ArtEZ Dance Academy (Arnhem, Holland).
- The Maslool supports its students’ tuition with federal grants. In 2009-10, ten students received grants from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.



## Major achievements of Maslool students over the last few years:

### 2011

Tamir Eting, Rani Levtzerner- Apprenticed at Batsheva Ensemble

Tamar Bar-Lev, Almog Kidron - apprenticed at Young Kibbutz Co.

Eldar Elgarbali - Kamea Dance Co.

Tom Ekshtein, Offir Siman Tov - full scholarship for the second year at Jeune Ballet De Geneve

Maayan Travish - scholarship for Perridance New-York

Six videos of the Maslool were presented and shown at La Mama theater in New-York, Jerusalem Film Festival and Cinematheque Tel-Aviv

### 2010

Amy Azuz - 'The Project' - Israeli Opera.

Keren Lorie Pardes - Batsheva Ensemble.

Anat Os, Lee Valis, Yuval Kesler - Kamea Dance Co.

### 2009

Liron Rubinstein - Young Kibbutz Dance Co.

Almog Loven - Inbal Pinto Dance Co.

Alon Bracha - Noa Dar Dance Co.

Adi Peled - Young Vertigo Dance Co.

Amit Prisman, Moran Miller - Sigma Dance Group by Michael Miller

Tamir Eting - Young Kibbutz Dance Co.

### 2008

Hila Zohar - Kolben Dance Co.

### International Dance Academies

Nadia Chen, Anabal Akerling – Third-year at Codarts Dance Academy, Rotterdam Netherlands.

Lital Ben-Horin – Third-year at Sead Dance Academy, Salzburg, Austria.

Gili Shaanan – Second-year at Modem School by Roberto Zapale, Bektania, Sicily.

Arad Inbar - ArtEZ Dance Academy, Arnhem, Holland.



## Artistic Directors of the "Maslool": Naomi Perlov, Offir Dagan

### Naomi Perlov

Born in Israel, 1959.  
Choreologist, Rehearsal Director and Modern dance Teacher.

Naomi works with the French/Albanian choreographer Angelin Preljocaj since more than 20 years, assisting his creations and re-staging his ballets all over the world. Among other places she works with The Paris Opera, The New York City Ballet, La Scala, The Royal Danish Ballet The Royal Swedish Ballet, Berlin Oper, The Netherlands Dans Theater and Marinsky Theater.

From 94-98 Naomi Co-Artistic directed the Batsheva Ensemble (Junior Dance Company) with Ohad Naharin. Between 1999 to 2006 she had been the Artistic Director of "Shades in Dance Festival" – National Competition for young Israeli choreographers at the Suzanne Dellal Centre, Israel.

Naomi was the Rehearsal Director for many Israeli choreographers and companies, among them: Itzik Galili (IL/NL), Emmanuelle Gat (IL/FR), Barak Marshal, (IL/USA), Shlomi Biton (IL/ES), Michael Getman (IL), The Mayumana group (IL) and The Aluminum Show (IL).

Naomi was invited to teach in many academies, schools and summer courses all over the world. She had been teaching in Codarts- Rotterdam Dance Academy Holland, La Scala Ballet School, Milano Italy, Conservatoire de Paris, The Alvin Ailey Dance School, NY USA, The Jacob's Pillow summer course, MA USA, Rubin Dance Academy Jerusalem and Suzanne Dellal Centre, Israel.

From 2009 founded and artistically directs "The Maslool" - A 2 years School for Professional Dance Training at the Bikurey Ha'itim Art Center, Tel-Aviv.





## Offir Dagan

Born In Israel, 1979.

Performer, Physical theater teacher and Movement Director.

Had studied at the Jacques Lecoq's school for physical theater in Paris and at the Broadway Dance center in New York. Graduated 'Hasadna' - Professional Dance training at Kibuts Gaaton dance school.

As a performer, Offir had worked with "Bread and Puppet" Theater Company under the directing of Peter Schumann ("Masse contre la Gurre") and took part at 'The switched Heads' by Noa Dar Co. Israel.

As an independent artist he created works to 'Machol Acher' Dance festival in Suzanne Dellal Dance Center Tel-Aviv and to 'Intima Dance Festival', at Tmuna Theater Tel-Aviv. Offir was the movement director of many theater plays, among them: "Doli city" (co production of Cameri Theater - Hazira Theater) and 'The Princess and the Hedgehog', at 'Hazira' theater, Jerusalem Israel.

Offir is teaching regularly Physical theater, among other places he teaches at: Persona Theater, Alef high school of Arts Tel-Aviv and at the Excellency in the Arts project for youngsters.

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