

A D E L A I D E F E S T I V A L 2026



AF26 DIGITAL DAYBILL

Theatre of Dreams

Hofesh Shechter Company

Dates: Fri 13 – Sun 15 Mar

Venue: Festival Theatre

Duration: 1hr 30mins, no interval



Credits

Choreography and music Hofesh Shechter

Lighting design Tom Visser

Costume design Osnat Kelner

Associate Artistic Director Bruno Guillore

Music Collaborator Yaron Engler

Set Collaborator Niall Black

Images Tom Visser

Cast

Dancers Alex Haskins, Robinson Cassarino, Tristan Carter, Frederic Despierre-Corporon, Cristel De Frankrijker, Rachel Fallon, Mickael Frappat, Justine Gouache, Zakarius Harry, Keanah Simin, Juliette Valerio, Chanel Vivent

Musicians Norman Jankowski, Bartłomiej Janiak, JamesKeane

Additional Music:

I Remember

Written by M. Drake (Reservoir Media Management/Mushroom Music)

Acknowledgements

Produced by Hofesh Shechter Company

Commissioned by Théâtre de la Ville, Paris.

Co-commissioned by Sadler's Wells: Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival; Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg; Seongnam Arts Center/Seongnam Cultural Foundation; Danse Danse Montréal; MC2 : Maison de la Culture de Grenoble - Scène nationale; Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen; Central - La Louvière; Théâtre Sénart - Scène Nationale; Shanghai International Dance Center Theater (SIDCT); Torinodanza Festival / Teatro Stabile di Torino - Teatro Nazionale; Festspielhaus St. Pölten (AT); La Comédie de Clermont-Ferrand scène nationale; Maison de la danse, Lyon - Pôle européen de creation; Les Gémeaux - Scène Nationale de Sceaux; Château Rouge, scène conventionnée – Annemasse; Châteauvallon-Liberté, scène nationale; Scène Nationale ALBI- Tarn; Le Carré Sainte-Maxime **with support from** Theater Rotterdam; Les Salins - Scène Nationale de Martigues; Marche Teatro / Inteatro Festival; La Briqueterie CDCN du Val-de Marne and The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund.

Individual Commissioner: Georgia Rosengarten

Hofesh Shechter Company is supported using public funding through Arts Council England and benefits from the support of BNP Paribas Foundation for the development of its projects.

About the Show

One of the most in demand choreographers in the world, Hofesh Shechter returns to Adelaide following the seismic impact of *Grand Finale* in 2019.

Twelve dancers move through portals of darkness and imagination, they tumble into a rabbit hole of evolving emotions and dreams. A hedonistic paradise where there is always more curtains, always more music, always more life.

Set to Hofesh Shechter's own trademark cinematic composition, *Theatre of Dreams* takes a plunge into the subconscious exposing the fears and desires that elate us.

Astonishingly beautiful. Constantly inventive. Utterly engaging.

"The dance dazzles, defined by razor-sharp gestures, a contagious energy and the irresistible beauty which characterises Shechter's work." *Le Figaro*

About Hofesh Shechter Company

Hofesh Shechter Company is a boundary-breaking dance company that produces exceptional work created by Artistic Director Hofesh Shechter OBE, with, at its core, an extraordinary company of internationally diverse dancers.

In all our work, we strive to move ourselves, and our audiences, beyond reason. Founded in 2008, the company's repertoire includes *Uprising* (2006), *In your rooms* (2007), *The Art of Not Looking Back* (2009), *Political Mother* (2010), *Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut* (2011), *Sun* (2013), *barbarians* (2015), *Grand Finale* (2017), *Double Murder* (2021), *Theatre of Dreams* (2024) with *SHOW* (2018), *POLITICAL OTHER UNPLUGGED* (2020), *Contemporary Dance 2.0* (2022), *From England with Love* (2024) performed by Shechter II, its young company. Hofesh Shechter Company has played in cities around the world including Paris, New York, Melbourne, Tokyo, Berlin, Montreal Rome, Seoul, Rio de Janeiro and many more.

The company collaborates on exceptional, world-leading, large-scale stage and film projects including a revival of Hofesh's production of Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice* at La Scala, Milan (2018), co-directed with John Fulljames; *East Wall* (2018) at Tower of London, in partnership with East London Dance, Historic Royal Palaces and LIFT; *LIGHT: Bach dances* (2021) winner of the FEDORA – VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Prize for Ballet 2020, produced in collaboration with Royal Danish Opera; *Oedipus* a production with the Old Vic, London; short films – Hofesh Shechter's *Clowns* (2018), broadcast on the BBC, *POLITICAL MOTHER: The Final Cut* (2021) and *Return* (2023); feature film – *En Corps* (2022).



Biographies

Hofesh Shechter

Choreography and Music

Choreographer and composer Hofesh Shechter OBE is Artistic Director of UK-based Hofesh Shechter Company, Joint director of the Agora Montpellier, Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells and Artist-in-Residence of Gauthier Dance (2021-2024). Shechter is recognised as one of the most exciting artists making work for both stage and film and renowned for composing atmospheric musical scores to complement the unique physicality of his movement style.

Hofesh Shechter's repertoire for his company includes *Uprising* (2006), *In your rooms* (2007), *The Art of Not Looking Back* (2009), *Political Mother* (2010), *Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut* (2011), *Sun* (2013), *barbarians* (2015), *Grand Finale* (2017), *SHOW* (2018), *POLITICAL MOTHER UNPLUGGED* (2020) *Double Murder* (2021), *Contemporary Dance 2.0* (2022), *From England with Love* (2024) and *Theatre of Dreams* (2024).

Shechter has choreographed for theatre, television and opera, notably at the Metropolitan Opera (New York) for Nico Mulhy's *Two Boys*, on Broadway for Bartlett Sher's *Fiddler on the Roof*, at the Royal Court for *Motortown* and *The Arsonists*, at the National Theatre for *Saint Joan* and for the Channel 4 series *Skins*. He has co-directed with John Fulljames on Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice* (Royal Opera House and La Scala), *LIGHT: Bach dances* (Royal Danish Opera and Philharmonie de Paris) and *Oedipus*, an Old Vic Production in association with Hofesh Shechter Company. His works have been staged by leading UK and international dance companies

including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre (USA), Martha Graham Dance Company (USA), Candoco Dance Company (UK), Nederlands Dans Theater 1 (NL), Paris Opera Ballet (FR), Royal Ballet (UK) and Royal Ballet Flanders (BE).

Shechter has directed three award-winning short dance films: *Clowns*, broadcast by the BBC, *POLITICAL MOTHER: The Final Cut and Return*. In addition to these, he and his company collaborated with French filmmaker Cédric Klapisch on the feature *En corps*. The film was released in 2022 alongside a soundtrack composed by Shechter.

He has received many prizes including the British Theatre Institute's Award for Excellence in International Dance (2011), a Tony Nomination for his work on *Fiddler on the Roof* (2016), nominations for an Olivier Awards for Best New Dance Production for *Grand Finale* (2018) and *Theatre of Dreams* (2025) with Best Theatre Choreographer for *Oedipus* (2025) and Best Dance Film at Festival de Cannes (2023). In 2018, he was also awarded an honorary OBE for Services to Dance.

Tom Visser

Lighting Designer

Irish lighting designer Tom Visser joined Shechter's team for *Grand Finale* for their first creative collaboration. Recent work includes Crystal Pite's new creation, *Flight Pattern*, for the Royal Ballet season 16/17. His work with other choreographers includes for Alexander Ekman, Johan Inger and Joeri Dubbe. Tom was born to a theatrical family. He began his career in musical theatre and later turned to contemporary dance as a member of Nederlands Dans Theater. He began his career as a lighting designer in the mid-2000s and has since worked extensively as a designer for dance, working with companies including Nederlands Dans Theater, Royal Swedish Ballet, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Norwegian National Ballet, Ballet Vlaanderen, Sydney Dance Company, Göteborg Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo and Balé da Cidade de São Paulo.

Osnat Kelner

Costume Designer

Osnat Kelner is a rehearsal director at Gothenburg's Opera's Dance Company since 2018. She has worked with Batsheva Dance Company, both as a dancer and a rehearsal director, as an assistant choreographer for Sharon Eyal and Barak Marshall, and has staged their works with dance companies worldwide. Osnat has designed costumes for various dance productions in Israel and has collaborated with Hofesh Shechter as costume designer twice in GöteborgsOperans Danskompani. Osnat Kelner has a background as a choreographer, visual artist and costume designer. She has a bachelor's degree from the Betzalel Art Academy in Jerusalem and has also studied at the University of the Arts in Helsinki as well as costume design at the Israeli Shenkar College for Engineering & Design.