Ephrat Asherie Dance

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

"a magnificent celebration of movement and art."
- CITY PAPER
About the Company

EPHRAT ASHERIE DANCE (EAD)

Ephrat Asherie Dance (EAD) is a dance company rooted in African American and Latinx street and club dances.

Dedicated to exploring the inherent complexities of these dances, EAD investigates the expansive narrative qualities of various vernacular forms including breaking, hip hop, house and vogue, as a means to tell stories, develop innovative imagery, and find new modes of expression. EAD’s first evening-length work, A Single Ride, earned two Bessie nominations in 2013 for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer and Outstanding Sound Design by Marty Beller. The company has presented work at The Apollo Theater, Celebrity Series of Boston, Columbia College, Dixon Place, FiraTarrega, Guggenheim Works & Process, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, La MaMa, River to River Festival, MASS MoCA, New York Live Arts, Summerstage and The Yard, among others.
Ephrat Asherie

BIOGRAPHY

Ephrat “Bounce” Asherie is a NYC based b-girl, dancer, and choreographer and a 2016 Bessie Award Winner for Innovative Achievement in Dance. Asherie received Dance Magazine's Inaugural Harkness Promise Award in 2018 and in 2017 she received a National Dance Project award. Asherie is a 2019 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow and a 2018-2019 City Center Choreography Fellow. She is a 2020 MAP Fund Awardee and a 2021 Jerome Hill Artist Fellow. Her new work, UnderScored: Live and Direct, is currently in development and was awarded a 2019 Creation and Development Award from the National Performance Network. It is set set to premiere in 2021 at Works & Process at the Guggenheim. Her company, Ephrat Asherie Dance, has been presented at the Apollo Theatre, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, the Joyce Theater and FliraTarrega, among others. She is honored to have worked and collaborated with Michelle Dorrance, Rennie Harris, Bill Irwin, Gus Solomons Jr., and Buddha Stretch. Asherie received her MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she researched the vernacular jazz dance roots of contemporary street and club dances. She has taught and set work at many university dance programs including Smith College, University of Richmond and University of California, Santa Barbara. Immersed in NYC’s underground dance community for two decades, a space where the collective consciousness energizes and celebrates the unique interactivities and movements of each individual, she is forever grateful to the club for giving her the confidence to pursue a life as an artist.

"Asherie and her company are a sight anywhere they perform."

- THE BOSTON GLOBE
UNDERSCORED

Created and performed by members of the company with special guest artists from New York City’s underground scene, Asherie’s newest work is inspired by the intergenerational memories of club dancers. EAD invites audiences to join them on an exhilarating journey through the ever-changing physical landscape of New York City’s underground dance community.

CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER

UNDERSCORED has received lead commissioning and development support by Works & Process, for world premiere at the Guggenheim. UNDERSCORED was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable foundation and Mellon Foundation. This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Professionals for a residency at The Jay and Linda Grunin Center, made possible through support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. UNDERSCORED is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by Works & Process in partnership with ArtPower at UC San Diego, The Momentary and The Yard. The Creation & Development Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency).
TOURING REPERTORY

UNDERSCORED

DIRECTION
Ephrat Asherie

CHOREOGRAPHY
Ephrat Asherie in collaboration with EAD and legendary club elders

LIGHTING DESIGN
Kathy Kaufmann

COSTUME DESIGN
David Dalrymple

PROJECTION DESIGN
Cornelius "Neil" Henke III

TOURING PARTY
13 total
Dancers / Performers:
7 dancers, 3 featured guest performers
Tech/Administrative Staff:
1 PM, 1 LD, 1 Projectionist

RUNNING TIME
60 minutes, no intermission
I have so much to say about this piece [UNDERSCORED], the inspiration behind it, the process, but no time to sit and formulate my thoughts this week as we have been deep in it and too busy dancing-ha. It is an honor to be sharing the dance floor with Archie, Loose and Michele, three legendary club heads who have inspired countless dancers, artists and free thinkers. I’ve had the great fortune to have danced at the club with Archie and Loose for more than fifteen years and although I just recently met Michele, we are kindred spirits and I know we’ll have many more years of shared dance floors to come. In the '90s, I was lucky to have been exposed to a great deal of dance, music and culture of the African diaspora first through hip hop, jazz and then house. The house dance community in NYC represents the beauty and strength that emerges when the collective consciousness celebrates each individual as their own special creation. This community inspired me to live my life as an artist; for this I am forever grateful.

- EPHRAT ASHERIE
ODEON, an original dance work for six dancers, is the second collaboration between sister and brother team Ephrat and Ehud Asherie (choreographer and musical director, respectively). Set to the music of fin-de-siecle Brazilian composer Ernesto Nazareth, known for mixing early 20th century romantic music with samba and other popular Afro-Brazilian rhythms, this work takes a hybrid approach to movement. ODEON delves into what happens when you bring together parts of the extended family of street and club dances--including breaking, hip hop, house and vogue--remix them, pick them apart and challenge them to inhabit unfamiliar spatial and choreographic contexts. [CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER]

TOURING PARTY
12 total
Performers:
6 dancers, 4 musicians*
Tech/Administrative Staff:
1 PM, 1 LD
*No musicians option possible.

RUNNING TIME
55 min, no intermission

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Ephrat Asherie

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Ehud Asherie

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Kathy Kaufmann

COSTUME DESIGNER
Mark Eric
In the MOment: A Drawing Dance

LIVE ACTION ANIMATED DANCE FILM


CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER

CHOREOGRAPHY
Ephrat Asherie
in collaboration with EAD

ILLUSTRATIONS
Mo Willems

ORIGINAL MUSIC
Marty Beller

RUNNING TIME
24 mins
Master Classes

EAD offers master classes in breaking, hip-hop and/or house for dancers of all ages.

**HOUSE CLASS**
This class will cover some of the fundamentals of house, including aspects of footwork, floorwork and the importance of a freestyle approach to the form. The cultural context in which this dance was created and where it continues to thrive will be discussed and underscored in the movement.

**BREAKING CLASS**
This class will cover some of the foundational techniques of breaking (b-boying/b-girling) including top rock, drops to the floor, footwork and basic spins. The cultural and historical content from which breaking emerged will be highlighted and discussed. Through movement and discussion students will gain a more in depth understanding of the global importance of Hip Hop culture.

**FREESTYLE/IMPROVISATION CLASS**
This class will focus on methods/exercises/concepts to open students up to ideas surrounding freestyle/improvisation. Moving from ideas and values rooted in street and social dance, this class will push students to reach outside their comfort zone to find new modes of exploring movement, rhythm, melody and space and emphasize the importance of connecting with others through movement.
OPEN PRACTICE SESSION
This session allows dancers of all levels to interact, exchange and share ideas with company members. A low stress environment where learning can happen at various paces and levels, this practice session reflects the ethos of club culture, which embodies openness, individuality, tolerance and moving in and out of your comfort zone in a safe space. Music playlists curated by EAD are sure to inspire all to “get busy”!

LECTURE DEMONSTRATIONS
The company offers lecture demonstrations and seminars on the many street and social dances the company embodies, underscoring the cultural context from which these dance forms emerged and the spaces in which these styles continue to thrive and exist.

MULTIGENERATIONAL MOVEMENT WORKSHOP
Presented in a lecture format, this workshop is created to inform, connect and bring individuals from all generations together through street and social dance. Performing dance sequences from EAD repertory, members from the company demonstrate and lead this movement workshop, emphasizing how meaningful creating relationships through movement can be. The workshop draws from various styles including breaking, hip hop, house and vogue as a means to help participants move out of their comfort zone, find new modes of expression and connect with one another.

SCHOOL TIME MATINEES: ODEON OR UNDERSCORED
The matinee begins with a brief introduction from Ephrat Asherie followed by a 40-minute version of ODEON or UNDERSCORED, the full company participates in a Q&A session with students. Study Guide(s) available. Length: 50 minutes (includes Q&A session). Grade range: Grade 6-High School
**ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

**Virtual Experiences**

**BEHIND THE SCENES: CREATING UNDERSCORED**
A sneak peek into the creative process of *UNDERSCORED*. Excerpts of the work are performed in real-time and interspersed with conversation about process and the history of New York City’s underground dance community. Featuring Ephrat, EAD company members and guest artists/elders from the underground dance community. Option to include moderator alternatively a moderator may be provided by Presenter.

**BEHIND THE SCENES: CREATING ODEON**
A behind-the-scenes look into the choreographic process and musical influences that led to the creation of *ODEON*. Brief excerpts of the work are screened and discussed along with live musical and movement explanations/demonstrations to highlight stylistic nuances, sonic shifts and the works’ dynamic sources of inspiration. Featuring Ephrat, EAD company members and EAD musicians. Option to include moderator alternatively a moderator may be provided by Presenter.

**DOCUMENTARY SERIES: WATCH PARTY WITH EAD!**
Curation and screening of documentaries about Black and LatinX vernacular dance, with a specific focus on New York City’s history as the birthplace of Hip Hop and its role in defining Underground Dance culture. Includes screening plus post-screening discussion with Ephrat and a special guest (someone who is featured in the documentary or an expert in the field).

**EPHRAT ASHERIE MOVEMENT WORKSHOPS**
Ephrat Asherie Dance offers movement classes for Dance Departments or Community Organizations in: Breaking, House, Freestyle/Improvisation, Dance Theater: an approach to working with movement and text; Classes may be tailored and adapted as needed.
Press

Review: Another Asherie success with collaboration 'Odeon'
-CITY PAPER

Ephrat Asherie’s ‘Odeon’ presents dance that’s both poetic and playful
-TIMES UNION

Ephrat Asherie’s ‘Odeon’ at The Pillow is extraordinary
-THE BERKSHIRE EDGE

Asherie’s ‘Odeon’ a perfect opener for the Plimpton Shattuck
-THE BOSTON GLOBE

Catch the Vibe: Club Culture Comes to Life at Lincoln Center
-NEW YORK TIMES

"Ms. Asherie’s movement phrases — compact bursts of choreography with rapid-fire changes in rhythm and gestural articulation — bubble up and dissipate, quickly paving the way for something new."
-THE NEW YORK TIMES
FOR BOOKING INQUIRIES:

Sandy Garcia
Director of Booking
Pentacle
T: 212.278.8111 ext. 3425
E: sandyg@pentacle.org

Joanna Futral
Booking Associate (South)
Pentacle
T: 212.278.8111 ext. 3422
E: joannaf@pentacle.org

https://www.pentacle.org/the-roster/