



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 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 FlraTarrega, 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.

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

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-THE BOSTON GLOBE



TOURING REPERTORY

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](#)

TOURING PARTY

12 total

Dancers / Performers:

7 dancers, 3 featured guest performers

Tech/Administrative Staff:

1 PM, 1 LD

RUNNING TIME

Evening length (approx time TBD)

DIRECTION

Ephrat Asherie

CHOREOGRAPHY

Ephrat Asherie in collaboration with EAD and legendary club elders

LIGHTING DESIGN

Kathy Kaufmann

COSTUME DESIGN

David Dalrymple

UnderScored is a recipient of a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation and Development Fund and is commissioned by: Works and Process, Inc., Guggenheim (New York, NY), ArtPower at UC San Diego (San Diego, CA); The Momentary (Benton, AR) and The Yard, (Chilmark, MA). *UnderScored* is commissioned by and will premiere at Works & Process at the Guggenheim in winter 2021.





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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

TOURING REPERTORY

ODEON

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](#)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ephrat Asherie

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Ehud Asherie

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Kathy Kaufmann

COSTUME DESIGNER

Mark Eric



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



STREAMING
OPPORTUNITIES

In the MOment: A Drawing Dance

LIVE ACTION ANIMATED DANCE FILM

Experience creativity in motion! Join Ephrat AsherieDance as they literally jump off the pages and onto the stage. Inspired by the artwork and abstractions of best-selling author, illustrator, and Kennedy CenterArtist-in-Residence, Mo Willems, Asherie and dancers collaborate in a live action animated film featuring illustrations by beloved children's book author Mo Willems in this family-friendly visual dance adventure full of doodlesand sketches. Study Guide available. Option to add Post-Screening Discussion with Ephrat Asherie. [CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)



CHOREOGRAPHY

Ephrat Asherie
in collaboration with EAD

ILLUSTRATIONS

Mo Willems

ORIGINAL MUSIC

Marty Beller

RUNNING TIME

24 mins



ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

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.



ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Workshops/Demonstrations

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 lec dem 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* (currently in development). 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 it's 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 AsherieDance 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:

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