

Hofesh Shechter



"Shechter is a true original"

Judith Mackrell, *The Guardian*, December 3, 2005

Hofesh Shechter was born in Jerusalem. He graduated from the Jerusalem Academy for Dance and Music before moving to Tel Aviv to join the world renowned Batsheva Dance Company, where he worked with Artistic Director Ohad Naharin and other choreographers including Wim Vandekeybus, Paul Selwyn-Norton, Tero Saarinen, and Inbal Pinto.

Hofesh began drum and percussion studies whilst in Tel-Aviv and continued later in Paris at the Agostiny College of Rhythm. Subsequently, he began experimenting and developing his own music while participating in various dance projects in Europe involving dance, theatre and body-percussion. In 2002 Hofesh arrived in the UK and joined the Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company.

His choreographic debut, *Fragments*, for which he also created the score, toured both nationally and internationally to Finland, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Korea, New York and Poland, where the piece won first place in the 3rd Serge Diaghilev choreography competition. In 2004 Hofesh was commissioned by The Place Prize to create the sextet, *Cult*. The work was one of five selected finalists and was announced winner of the Audience Choice Award. From 2004 to 2006 Hofesh was Associate Artist with The Place and was commissioned by their Robin Howard Foundation to create *Uprising*, his ever-popular work for 7 men. In 2007 London's three major dance venues, The Place, Southbank Centre and Sadler's Wells, collaborated on a unique producing venture, commissioning Hofesh to create his new work *In your rooms*, which was presented at all three venues and culminated in sell-out shows at Sadler's Wells Theatre.

Hofesh has been commissioned in the UK by Bare Bones Dance Company, Edge and Verve the post graduate companies of London Contemporary Dance School and Northern School of Contemporary Dance respectively and StopGAP Dance Company in the coming year he will make work for Scottish Dance Theatre and Candoco. In 2008 Hofesh will work with Dance United to create a new work for 6 men which will premier at Sadler's Wells in 2009. Internationally Hofesh has made work in Portugal on Ballet CeDeCe and in Athens for the Hellenic Dance Company and in 2008 will create a new work for Bern Ballet.

In April/May 2006 Hofesh worked as choreographer at The Royal Court Theatre for *Motortown* by Simon Stephens, which premiered in May 2006 and on *"The Arsonists"* which premiered in November 2007, collaborating with Director Ramin Gray on both productions. Hofesh was choreographer for the National Theatre's production of *Saint Joan* directed by Marianne Elliot and starring Anne Marie Duff in Summer 2007.

In Summer 2007 Hofesh also choreographed a dance sequence for the opening of the new series of Channel 4s popular drama *Skins* – the episode will be screened in the beginning of 2008.

Hofesh and his company will be touring throughout the UK and Europe from Autumn 2007.

Hofesh Shechter is a Creative Associate at The Point, Eastleigh