

ZFINMALTA
NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

UNDER THE ARTISTIC DIRECTION OF
PAOLO MANGIOLA

PRESENTS

utopia

CHOREOGRAPHY BY
EMANUEL GAT

26/27/28 MAY 2023
19:30 TEATRU MANOEL



To close our 2022/23 season ŻfinMalta presents the world premiere of *Utopia*, by the renowned choreographer Emanuel Gat. Created for and with the ŻfinMalta company dancers, *Utopia* marks the end of another hugely successful season, exposing Malta's dance audiences to the incredible diversity of contemporary dance from Europe and raising the profile of Malta's National Dance Company internationally. ŻfinMalta is looking forward to a new season of touring abroad and collaborating with another stellar line up of local and international artists. Stay tuned for our 2023/24 season launch in September.



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I am both honoured and proud to bring you *Utopia*, a new, full-length creation by Emanuel Gat. In Buddhism we say that the right time will come if you have carefully planted the seed; this seed was planted six years ago when I became Artistic Director of ŻfinMalta. I knew I wanted to establish both a company of courageous dancers and a loyal audience who would come together on a journey into the amazing universe of contemporary dance; dancers fully equipped with the tools to work with every choreographer creating work for the company, and audiences eager to take risks with us. Emanuel's work comes at the right time in the right theatre, ready to delve into what it means to create a utopian world, rich with curiosity and emotion. His choreographic signature is one of a kind, and his unique ability to move a large group of dancers on stage holds our attention, drawing us into the work and inspiring an intellectual and emotional response.

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to our core audience, for your loyalty and commitment, and to the newcomers brave enough to experience something new. I hope this evening will enrich you and leave you wanting more. Enjoy this moment, as theatre is a magical experience, which is nowadays rare to find.

PAOLO MANGIOLA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



UTOPIA

Choreography, being a practice of organising groups of people in action, can and must be a manner of pointing towards ideal forms and systems for individuals and societies. Regardless of the achievability of these utopian models, the fact a certain choreographic system shows clear evidence of being beneficial for the group involved, is of great value. It is a daily practice of striving to achieve - within the artistic realm - that which is un-achievable (and probably has no place) in the real world.

Utopia is the result of a collaboration between Emanuel Gat and the ŻfinMalta company dancers, a celebration of their uniqueness, virtuosity, engagement, fearlessness, sense of responsibility and humanity. In a stream of choreographic consciousness, *Utopia* charts the personal journeys of ten individuals looking for connection and examining the role of the performer as an onstage, live creator.

Emanuel Gat was born in Israel and first danced with the Liat Dror Nir Ben Gal Company before setting out as an independent choreographer in 1994. His company Emanuel Gat Dance is based in Marseilles, France. His unique and personal approach to choreography and dance making has him ranked as one of Europe's leading and most prolific choreographers working today. Over the past 25 years, Gat's work has been presented in most of the leading venues and festivals for dance worldwide.

SUPPORTED BY THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN MALTA



PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography: Emanuel Gat
Music & Lights: Emanuel Gat
Additional Music: Chick-p
Costumes: Holly Knowles
Photography: Camille Fenech

DANCERS

Pearl Calleja, Lidia Caricasole, Tara Dalli, Felix Deepen, Nik Folini, Lotte La Haye,
J r mie Lafon, Keith Micallef, Simon Riccardi-Zani, Amber Van Veen.

THE COMPANY

Artistic Director: Paolo Mangiola

Agency Head: Christabel Borg Preca

Producer: Nicole Bearman

Education & Outreach Artist: Martina Zammit

Marketing & Communications Manager: Suzanna Nikolic

Artistic Coordinator: Anna Nowak

Communications, Marketing and Administration Officer: Emma Walker

Administrative Assistant: Sylvia Attard

Technical Manager: Mohamed Ali 'Dali' Aguerbi

Technical Assistant: Nathan Tanti

Design: Marie Claire Cremona

Photography: Alexandra Pace, Camille Fenech

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alison White (Chair)

Kate De Cesare

Andrea Cassar

Joanne Butterworth

Felix Busuttill

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Valeria and Jordi Goetstouwers

Dr Joanna Delia

Samantha Rowe-Beddoe and Gregory Nasmyth

BECOME A SUPPORTER

Your support for ŻfinMalta National Dance Company will contribute directly to
the future of world-class dance in Malta. For further information contact:

Nicole Bearman, Producer, +356 99999520 or email nicole.bearman@zfinmalta.mt

OUR SUPPORTERS



ŻFINMALTA ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF



MINISTRY FOR THE NATIONAL HERITAGE,
THE ARTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT