

# Koresh Dance Company

November 7, 2013, 8:00 p.m.

Fisher Auditorium, IUP Performing Arts Center

**Come Together (Home)**

Music :The Tour' Raichel Collective

Dancers: Full Company

**Fire**

Music: Mercan Dede

Dancers: Full Company

**Trust**

Music: Marylene Dosse

Dancers: Full Company

**Air on a String**

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

Dancers: Jessica Daley and Asya Zlatina

**Kiss**

Music: Hugues Le Bars

Dancers: Joe Cotler and Melissa

Rector

**Lake**

Music: Hugues Le Bars

Dancers: Fang-Ju Chou Gant and

Krista Montrone

**3D**

Music: Hugues Le Bars

Dancers: Shannon Bramham and

Jessica Daley

**Inner**

Music: Jonathan Bowles

Dancers: Joe Cotler, Micah Geyer,

Robert Tyler

**Wall**

Music: Jonathan Bowles

Dancers: Shannon Bramham, Jessica

Daley, Krista Montrone, Melissa

Rector, Asya Zlatina

**Wet Stones Full of Light**

Music: Le Trio Joubran

Dancers: Featuring the IUP Dance

Theater with the Koresh Dance

Company

• *Intermission* •**Moonlight**

Music: Mozart

Dancers: Joe Cotler, Fang-Ju Chou

Gant, Jessica Daley, Krista Montrone,

Robert Tyler, Asya Zlatina

**Beautiful**

Music: Two Fingers

Dancers: Micah Geyer and Melissa

Rector

**Here we Are**

Music: Karl Mullen

Dancers: Asya Zlatina, Shannon

Bramham and Joe Cotler

**La via Rose****Bolero**

Music: Maurice Ravel

Dancers: Full Company

**IUP Dance Theater**

Katrina Lambert

Lisa Schneider

Ellora Pollard

Malaya Garrett

Alexandra Jayne

Angela Ricci

Colin Burger

*Program information and notes have been provided by the artists, unedited.*

# Koresh Dance Company

Renowned for their powerful stage presence and high-energy style, Philadelphia's Koresh Dance Company has been hailed as a vital force to both national and international stages. The technically superb and emotionally compelling company of 10 dancers, led by Artistic Director Roni Koresh, is defined by their openhearted approach that permeates both on and off stage.

In 1991, Artistic Director Roni Koresh founded Koresh Dance Company in Philadelphia. Over twenty years later, the company welcomes over 20,000 students a year of all ages and levels to the Koresh School of Dance, presents emerging artists in the bi-monthly Koresh Artist Showcases, provides specialized training and performance opportunities for the exceptional teenage dancers of the Koresh Youth Ensemble, brings free weekly dance classes to underserved elementary schools children in Philadelphia with Koresh Kids Dance, presents bi-annual home seasons as the in residence dance company of the Suzanne Roberts Theatre and as one of the United States most prolific touring companies has brought the Koresh brand of engaging performances and educational residencies to audiences in 38 states and 7 counties.

With a gift for movement creation, Artistic Director, Roni Koresh refuses to settle on a technique, instead defining Koresh Dance Company by the signature Koresh Style, an accumulation of many dance styles layered over the unquestionably strong technical training of the Koresh dancers, known for their ability to seamlessly shift from one movement style to another. Kore-

sh's influences include a base in Martha Graham's technique as a former dancer of her Batsheva 2 Dance Company; the Luigi style of jazz, a focus while he danced for Shimon Braun's acclaimed Waves Jazz Dance Company; a belief in a strong ballet core; a life of club dancing and hip hop; army precisions and a masculine approach that is seen in few other companies, all set off by his original roots in Israeli folk dance, an art form imbedded at an early age by his mother.

Koresh's Israeli heritage continues to differentiate the Company, producing unique works that range from humorous and eloquent to passionate and explosive. The powerful stage presence and exceptional technique of the 10 member Koresh Dance Company also highlight the work of guest choreographers such as Donald Byrd (Spectrum Dance Theater), Ohad Naharin (Batsheva Dance Company), Robert Battle (Battleworks/Alvin Ailey), Itzik Galili (Galili Dance) and Paul Selwyn Norton.

In addition to performance and instruction, Koresh Dance Company is equally committed to community building and outreach. While on tour, the company provides diverse outreach offerings that connect with dancers and non-dancers alike. Activities include post-performance discussions, residencies, open rehearsals, lecture/demonstrations, master classes and video discussions. At home, Koresh Kids Dance brings arts education to underserved children by creating partnerships with Philadelphia public schools and providing free weekly dance classes for their students. This program uses dance to promote creativity as a conduit for life goals and

non-violence and gives children invaluable tools that can be used in all aspects of their lives.

### **Ronen Koresh (Artistic Director)**

Ronen (Roni) Koresh was born and raised in Israel and began his dance education at a young age as he trained with his mother, a folk dancer in the Yemenite tradition, and with a local Tel Aviv folk dance group. Two of his earliest teachers in Israel were Alida Gera and Micha Deri. At 17, he moved on to more comprehensive study with Nira Paz and Moshe Romano and then became a member of Martha Graham's Batsheva 2 Dance Company.

In 1983, following a three year enlistment in the Israeli army during which he was able to continue his dance training, Roni immigrated to the United States to pursue a career in dance beyond Israel. He trained at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and in 1984, began performing with Shimon Braun's acclaimed Waves Jazz Dance Company in Philadelphia. Roni was one of the original Evening Magazine Dancers and won a People's Choice Award as Philadelphia's Most Outstanding Jazz Dancer.

Roni is a multi-year recipient of fellowships from the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Companies that have commissioned his work include Ground-Works Dance Theatre, Las Vegas Contemporary, Odyssey Dance Theatre, Spectrum Dance Theater, the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts and Dance Celebration: a co-presentation of Dance Affiliates and Penn Presents.

Koresh's capacity for movement creation and ability to transform a dancer's physique have made him a sought after teacher. He has been on faculty at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia since 1986. He has taught master classes and created choreography on students throughout the country and has participated in various festivals including Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and the Northwest National Dance Project. In 1993, he opened the Koresh School of Dance where he teaches classes and intensive workshops.

He formed Koresh Dance Company in 1991 which quickly established an international reputation for highly technical and emotionally charged work. Since forming the company, Roni has created a vast repertoire of over 40 works and continues to create two to three new works each year. The company tours extensively, both nationally and internationally, performing Roni's work and the work of guest choreographers including Donald Byrd (Spectrum Dance Theater), Ohad Naharin (Batsheva Dance Company), Robert Battle (Battleworks/Alvin Ailey), Itzik Galili (Galili Dance) and Paul Selwyn Norton.

An avid collaborator, Roni is an integral member of the local arts community, often initiating interdisciplinary projects with other Philadelphia artists. As Roni creates and develops his work, he continues to be an artistic resource and leading force in the Philadelphia community.

## **Dancers**

### **Melissa Rector, Assistant Artistic Director and Dancer**

After studying at the North Carolina School of the Arts and Point Park College, Melissa graduated from The University of the Arts in 1993. Following graduation, she obtained a scholarship to study at the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet. Melissa has been dancing with Koresh Dance Company since its inception in 1991 and is the company's Assistant Artistic Director. She is also an instructor at the Koresh School of Dance where she teaches her unique style that blends modern jazz and Luigi. Her work has been performed locally at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, the Annenberg Center, Drexel University, the Grier School and Brandywine Ballet. She frequently travels around the country to perform, teach master classes and set choreography on students. In 2008, Melissa helped to establish the Koresh Youth Ensemble and serves as their artistic director, setting both original choreography and company repertory on them.

### **Shannon Bramham, Dancer**

Originally from Virginia, Shannon graduated with her BFA in Dance Performance from East Carolina University. While in school, she had the opportunity to perform in works chosen to be part of the American College Dance Festival Association in 2006 and 2007. In 2007, her own choreography was selected to be shown at the American College Dance Festival Association Gala. She also had the chance to set her work on the South Dayton Dance Theatre in Dayton, OH. Shannon has taught at the Ann Catherine Cross School of Dance in Mechanicsville, VA,

the Academy of Dance Arts in Winston-Salem, NC and currently teaches both adults and children at the Koresh School of Dance. Shannon joined Koresh Dance Company in 2008.

### **Fang-Ju Chou Gant, Dancer**

Fang-Ju, born and raised in Taiwan, came to the United States to further her study of dance. She earned an Associate Degree of Dance in Australia from Queensland University of Technology, Academy of the Arts/Dance, and received her BFA in Dance Education from The University of the Arts. Fang-Ju is trained in a wide range of dance styles and stagecraft. In addition to performing, she has taught ballet for many years throughout the Philadelphia area. Fang-Ju has been dancing with Koresh since 1998.

### **Joseph Cotler, Dancer**

Joe Cotler grew up in Batavia, NY and trained at his mother Robin Cotler's dance studio, Images in Dance. He graduated from The University of the Arts in May 2009. While at school, he had the opportunity to work with numerous choreographers including Scott Jovovich, Ronen Koresh and Paul Selwyn-Norton. He currently teaches and choreographs for numerous studios in the area. He joined Koresh as an apprentice in 2009 and has been a company dancer since 2010.

### **Jessica Daley, Dancer**

Hailing from Philadelphia, Jessica has been performing since she was a young child, whether singing for her family or tap dancing across the kitchen floor. Jessica began her formal training at Philadelphia's Jason Douglas Dance Academy and continued her studies at The Rock School of the Pennsylvania Ballet and the Ailey

School. She then attended The University of the Arts where she earned her BFA in Modern Dance in 2004. Her performance experience encompasses a wide variety of styles including the 76ers Dance Team, West Side Story and Eleone Dance Theater. Jessica has been dancing with Koresh since 2004.

### **Micah Geyer, Dancer**

Raised in North Carolina, Micah started dancing at a young age with Nina's School of Dance in Durham. He later joined the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble under the direction of Gene Medler. During his career, he had the privilege to perform at the Kennedy Center and the Joyce Theater for Tap City, as well as tour throughout Europe and South America. He received his BFA in Dance Performance and Psychology from East Carolina University and joined Koresh Dance Company in 2007.

### **Krista Montrone, Dancer**

Krista began her training at the age of three in Hudson, New Hampshire. After moving to Connecticut in 2000, she continued her training at D'valda and Sirico Dance and Music Centre where she had the privilege of learning from ballet masters Franco Devita and Raymond Lukens. Upon graduating, Krista moved to New York City where she was involved in many projects including the opening of Revolution at the Joyce Theatre and various industrial projects ranging from Aflac to Juicy Couture. In addition to working with the company, she currently teaches and sets choreography for multiple schools in the Philadelphia area. Krista joined Koresh Dance Company in 2011.

### **Kevan Sullivan, Dancer**

Kevan grew up in Milford, Connecticut and started his dance training at the age of two. He studied at the Lee Lund Studio of Dance for fifteen years while also traveling to New York City to take class at Steps on Broadway, Broadway Dance Center and Dance New Amsterdam. In 2009, Kevan received the Director's Talent Scholarship rewarding him with a full tuition scholarship to the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. There he studied with artists such as Ronen Koresh, Kim Bears Bailey, Christine Cox, and Zane Booker. While in school Kevan was also selected to be a student at The School of Jacobs Pillow Contemporary Traditions Program in the summer of 2010. There he studied with acclaimed artists such as Milton Meyers, Carla Maxwell, Ronald K. Brown and Hofesh Shechter. Kevan has been in the Philadelphia dance scene since 2010 dancing for Alchemy Dance Company for three seasons as well as dancing for Tommie Waheed Evan's "Waheed Works" in 2012 and 2013.

### **Robert Tyler, Dancer**

Robert Tyler grew up in Batavia, NY and began dancing at the age of 10. He studied under the instruction of Robin Cotler at her studio, Images in Dance. In 2008 he began studying at The University of the Arts and graduated in May 2012 with a BFA in Dance Performance majoring in ballet. While at school, he studied and performed works by choreographers such as Brian Sanders, Ronen Koresh, Scott Jovovich, and Paul Sewlyn Norton. He also learned excerpts of works by William Forsythe under the direction of Douglas Becker and was selected to perform at the Joyce Theater to repre-

sent The University of the Arts. In the summer of 2010 and 2011, he worked with Robin Cotler's dance company, Images Evolution, and performed at the International Dance Festival in Ladek Zdroj, Poland. Robert joined Koresh Dance Company in 2012.

### **Asya Zlatina, Dancer**

Asya was born in Moscow, Russia and immigrated to the United States in 1992. She trained throughout the DC/Baltimore area and graduated in May 2008 from Goucher College with a BA in Psychology and Dance. While at Goucher, she had the privilege of working with talented coaches and notable guest artists including Ann Hutchinson Guest, Tiffany Mills, Michael Vernon and Nilas Martins. Asya has performed at the Kennedy Center (ClancyWorks Dance Company) and the DiCapo in New York City (Nilas Martins Dance Company). She has received additional training under Roni Koresh, as well as ABT, Alonzo King and Maurya Kerr, Robert Moses, and NDT. In 2013 she graduated from Drexel University with an MS in Arts Administration. Asya joined Koresh Dance Company in 2008.

## **Koresh Dance Company**

Koresh Dance Company reasserted its commitment to Philadelphia by purchasing a property in the heart of Center City and continues to support the Philadelphia dance community by presenting local choreographers in the Koresh Artist Showcase. In 2013 the Koresh Artist Showcase grew into the Come Together Festival presenting 27 dance companies in 11 performances over 9 days. Whether on the road or at home, Koresh Dance Company

is making it known to the world that Philadelphia fosters creativity and artistic excellence.

Koresh Dance Company is grateful to the many donors, foundations and corporations who generously support the company. Major supporters include The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Dance/USA Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the William Penn Foundation, among others.

For more information about Koresh Dance Company and to learn about how you can support their new home, visit [www.koreshdance.org/newhome.php](http://www.koreshdance.org/newhome.php).

### **Koresh Dance Management**

Ronen Koresh, Artistic Director and Founder

Alon Koresh, Executive Director  
Melissa Rector, Assistant Artistic Director

Nir Koresh, School Director

Dara Schmoyer, Company Manager

Teresa VanDenend Sorge, Koresh Kids Dance Coordinator

Sandy Mitchel, Videographer

Sigita Stravinskaite, Graphic Designer

### **Koresh Dancers**

Melissa Rector  
Shannon Bramham  
Fang-Ju Chou Gant  
Joseph Cotler  
Jessica Daley  
Micah Geyer  
Krista Montrone  
Kevan Sullivan  
Robert Tyler  
Asya Zlatina

[www.koreshdance.org](http://www.koreshdance.org)