

From England with Love



PRESS QUOTES

About Hofesh Shechter

'The mighty contemporary choreographer – a combination of dance-maker and rock-star, but with film-director sensibilities.' - *The Times*

'One of the British dance scene's hottest properties, the creator of works that are full of raw, visceral energy, set to blasting percussive scores that he composes himself.' - *New York Times*

'There is no sitting in thoughtful contemplation at a Shechter gig. For pure, heartpounding excitement, there is simply no one to touch him.' - *Daily Express*

'Getting goose bumps is the very least you can expect from a Hofesh Shechter show' - *Le Monde*

About From England with Love

Quotes coming soon.

About Contemporary Dance 2.0 (previous Shechter II touring work)

'A high off of energy, fire and enjoyment, zero stopping until the stage was cleared making you want to watch forever. Not to be missed!' – *Get the Chance*

'It's rhythmic, energetic, at times fierce, but always captivating...From the second of the sudden beginning, the dancers ignite the theatre with their energy.' – *David Mead, Seeing Dance*

'Contemporary Dance 2.0 is a breathtaking reminder of the energy and innovation that choreographer Hofesh Shechter brings to dance' – *Spy in the Stalls*

'They are truly remarkable dancers, totally immersed in Shechter's idiosyncratic style, their coordination absolute, their stamina awe-inspiring.' – *Culture Whisper*

'... an exhilarating work that is both thought provoking and playful.' – *The Stage*

'The eight performers... are sensational, adapting perfectly to the Shechter style, which is one minute smooth and sinuous as silk and the next pulsing to a frantic beat of rapid, exhausting movement, as relentless as a heartbeat.' – *The Observer*



SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

HOFESH SHECHTER COMPANY PRESENTS
From England with Love

CHOREOGRAPHY & MUSIC BY HOFESH SHECHTER
PERFORMED BY SHECHTER II

Choreography and Music:	Hofesh Shechter
Performed by:	Shechter II
Lighting design:	Tom Visser
Costume design:	Hofesh Shechter

Hofesh Shechter Company presents **From England with Love**, the compelling new work from the renowned choreographer performed by his prestigious company, Shechter II.

Over 1,200 dancers aged between 18 and 25, auditioned for Shechter II from 34 countries and the final eight were drawn from the most inspiring young talent across the world. They are **Holly Brennan** (UK), **Yun-chi Mai** (Taiwan), **Eloy Cojal Mestre** (Spain), **Matthea Lára Pedersen** (Iceland), **Piers Sanders** (UK), **Rowan Van Sen** (Netherlands) **Gaetano Signorelli** (Italy) and **Toon Theunissen** (Belgium).

The production will premiere at Teatro Municipale Valli, Reggio Emilia, Italy on the 16 March 2024 before travelling to The Southbank Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), artsdepot, HOME (Manchester), Exeter Northcott Theatre, Derby Theatre, Blackpool Grand Theatre, DanceEast (Ipswich) and The Riley (Leeds), as well as an extensive international tour, including performances at Teatro Municipale Valli (Reggio Emilia, Italy), Theater Rotterdam (Netherlands) and Théâtre de la Ville, Théâtre des Abbesses (Paris), with further performances throughout France, as well as in Spain and Germany.

From England with Love is a paean to the multi-layered complexity that is England. Through Shechter's choreography, the dancers will evoke the paradox at the heart of this open, generous and soul-searching land, conflicted by its dark history and powerful attachment to deep-rooted traditions. They draw us into their search for identity and self-knowledge as they grapple with this complex system of values.

Playful and poignant, full of pride and paradox, **From England with Love** is performed like a 'Dear John' letter, a farewell note to old England and a glimpse into the heart and soul of this beautiful, yet complicated place.

Performed to an original score composed by Shechter, this new piece will bring together the beauty, wit and invention of the best of English classical composers, presented in a clash with raging rock alongside echoes of choral song and electronics in an avant-garde cacophony.

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PLEASE ADD CREDITS FROM PAGE 6 to all press releases.

ABOUT SHECHTER II



Shechter II is Hofesh Shechter Company's paid development programme for the next generation of emerging artists aged 18-25 – a company of young dancers selected every two years and representing the most exceptional world-class dancers from across globe.

Shechter II is not just about performance – it's a full programme of professionally aligned research and development which aims to develop young dance artists who deeply understand their practice, who are engaged, curious and who embrace self-reflection.

The programme offers an extraordinary proximity to the workings and practices of a major international dance company, working closely with renowned choreographer Hofesh Shechter and touring the UK and Europe with a recreation of his most renowned works, while at the same time providing the support and underpinning that ensures heightened professional readiness.

Launched in 2018, Shechter II attracted critical acclaim and won the Prix de la Critique award for Best Performers at Théâtre de la Ville, Paris, where they staged 29 sold-out performances over two seasons of Hofesh Shechter's *SHOW*. In 2020 and 2021, 10 dancers marked the 10th anniversary of Shechter's acclaimed classic *Political Mother* by reaching live and digital audiences with *POLITICAL MOTHER UNPLUGGED* and *POLITICAL MOTHER: The Final Cut*, a captivating short film, created and directed by Hofesh Shechter and winner of Best Dance Film at Cannes World Film 2022 and winner of their annual award for Best Dance Film 2023.

Shechter II's third edition of 8 dancers unleashed the intensity of Hofesh's ensemble work in 2022 with ***Contemporary Dance 2.0*** – A rhythmic, fiercely energetic and exhilarating performance featuring an eclectic sound-score with euphoric feel and throbbing beats. This work achieved global recognition by reaching 35,000 audiences internationally, including 25 sell- out performances in Paris and at festival weekends of the National Theatre's River Stage, Latitude and Lowlands Festivals. And in 2024 the 8 dancers of Shechter II present ***From England with Love***, a work evoking the paradox at the heart of this open, generous and soul - searching country, conflicted by its dark history and powerful attachment to old traditions. Alongside the Shechter II 2024 programme, is a new professional development offer – Jerwood ♥ SII – funded by the Jerwood Developing Artists Fund.

KEY AUDIENCES, MESSAGES, FRONT OF HOUSE AND BOX OFFICE GUIDANCE FOR FROM ENGLAND WITH LOVE

Target audiences for this production include those interested in dance, theatre, music, film and visual arts, and the generally curious.

KEY AUDIENCES & MESSAGES

EXPERIENCED DANCE AUDIENCES

Hofesh Shechter is acknowledged as one of the most exciting artists making stage work today, and his distinctive dance style is recognised by dance lovers all over the world.

MUSIC AUDIENCES

Hofesh Shechter is both a choreographer and a composer, who creates the music for all his creations. Before coming to London, he studied music in Paris and was the drummer in a rock band called The Human Beings. His scores are atmospheric and driving, creating a symbiotic relationship of music and movement affecting and inspiring each other. Attending a Hofesh Shechter performance has been compared with attending a rock gig, with his works having been performed at the Brixton Academy and The Roundhouse.

THEATRE AND FILM AUDIENCES

Hofesh Shechter's works react to and comment on the world we live in through the use of powerful and emotionally affecting scenes and imagery, created by a compelling fusion of movement, music and lighting. Self-confessed Stanley Kubrick fan Shechter takes a lot of inspiration staging dance from films, clearly demonstrating 'film director sensibilities' (*The Times*). In 2018, he produced his first dance film, *Clowns*, which was commissioned by the BBC, in 2021 he filmed and directed *POLITICAL MOTHER: The Final Cut*, winner of Best Dance Film at Festival de Cannes, and in 2023 released his third short film *Return*.

For cinema, Hofesh Shechter and his company collaborated with French filmmaker Cédric Klapisch on the feature *En corps (Rise)*. The film was released in March 2022 alongside an accompanying soundtrack composed by Shechter and was nominated for 9 César Awards in 2023.

AUDIENCES NEW TO DANCE

No prior knowledge of dance, or any of Hofesh Shechter's previous works, is necessary to have an exhilarating experience at this production. His work is about instinctive, emotional reactions and enjoyment of dance and music. Every member of the audience is empowered to create their own, personal interpretation of what they experience.

AUDIENCE SEGMENTATION

We have worked previously with an audience segmentation tool called Audience Spectrum, developed by The Audience Agency (www.theaudienceagency.org). Based on the engagement with and attitudes towards culture, Audience Spectrum segments the UK population into 10 different audience profiles with high, medium and low engagement in the arts. Even though Audience Spectrum was specifically developed based on UK population data, the detailed description of each profile and suggestions how to best engage with them is generally useful to create ideas of how to promote the production to different groups.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Hofesh Shechter Company is a boundary-breaking dance company that produces exceptional work created by Artistic Director Hofesh Shechter OBE, with, at its core, an extraordinary company of internationally diverse dancers.

In all our work, we strive to move ourselves, and our audiences, beyond reason.

Founded in 2008, the company's repertoire includes **Uprising** (2006), **In your rooms** (2007), **The Art of Not Looking Back** (2009), **Political Mother** (2010), **Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut** (2011), **Sun** (2013), **barbarians** (2015), **Grand Finale** (2017) and **Double Murder** (2021) with **SHOW** (2018), **POLITICAL MOTHER UNPLUGGED** (2020) and **Contemporary Dance 2.0** (2022) performed by Shechter II, its young company. Hofesh Shechter Company has played in cities around the world including Paris, New York, Melbourne, Tokyo, Berlin, Tel Aviv, Rome, Seoul, Rio de Janeiro and many more.

The company collaborates on exceptional, world-leading, large-scale stage and film projects including a revival of Hofesh's production of Gluck's **Orphée et Eurydice** at La Scala, Milan (2018), co-directed with John Fulljames; **East Wall** (2018) at Tower of London, in partnership with East London Dance, Historic Royal Palaces and LIFT; short films - **Hofesh Shechter's Clowns** (2018), broadcast on the BBC, **POLITICAL MOTHER: The Final Cut** (2021) and **Return** (2023); feature film - **En Corps** (2022) and **LIGHT: Bach dances** (2021) winner of the FEDORA – VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Prize for Ballet 2020, produced in collaboration with Royal Danish Opera.

Central to its belief that dance can bring about meaningful change, is Shechter Moves the company's learning, engagement and development programme. Primarily aimed at young people age 14+, this programme shapes opportunities for everyone to experience the life-enhancing potential of their creativity.

Hofesh Shechter Company is supported with public funding through Arts Council England. Hofesh Shechter Company benefits from the support of BNP Paribas Foundation for the development of its projects.

Hofesh Shechter is an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells, London and Artist-in-Residence of Gauthier Dance (2021-2024). Hofesh Shechter Company is Associate Company of the Brighton Dome.

www.hofesh.co.uk

BIOGRAPHIES

HOFESH SHECHTER – CHOREOGRAPHY AND MUSIC

Choreographer and composer Hofesh Shechter OBE is Artistic Director of UK-based Hofesh Shechter Company, Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells and Artist-in-Residence of Gauthier Dance (2021-2024). Shechter is recognised as one of the most exciting artists making work for both stage and film and renowned for composing atmospheric musical scores to complement the unique physicality of his movement style.

Hofesh Shechter's repertoire for his company includes *Uprising* (2006), *In your rooms* (2007), *The Art of Not Looking Back* (2009), *Political Mother* (2010), *Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut* (2011), *Sun* (2013), *barbarians* (2015), *Grand Finale* (2017), *SHOW* (2018), *POLITICAL MOTHER UNPLUGGED* (2020) *Double Murder* (2021), *Contemporary Dance 2.0* (2022) and *From England with Love* (2024).

Shechter has choreographed for theatre, television and opera, notably at the Metropolitan Opera (New York) for Nico Mulhy's *Two Boys*, on Broadway for Bartlett Sher's *Fiddler on the Roof*, at the Royal Court for *Motortown* and *The Arsonists*, at the National Theatre for *Saint Joan* and for the Channel 4 series *Skins*. He has co-directed with John Fulljames on Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice* (Royal Opera House and La Scala) and *LIGHT: Bach Dances* (Royal Danish Opera and Philharmonie de Paris). His works have also been staged by leading UK and international dance companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre (USA), Martha Graham Dance Company (USA), Candoco Dance Company (UK), Nederlands Dans Theater 1 (NL), Paris Opera Ballet (FR), Royal Ballet (UK) and Royal Ballet Flanders (BE).

Shechter has directed three award-winning short dance films: *Clowns*, broadcast by the BBC, *POLITICAL MOTHER: The Final Cut* and *Return*. In addition to these, he and his company collaborated with French filmmaker Cédric Klapisch on the feature *En corps*. The film was released in 2022 alongside a soundtrack composed by Shechter.

He has received many prizes including the British Theatre Institute's Award for Excellence in International Dance (2011), a Tony Nomination for his work on *Fiddler on the Roof* (2016), a nomination for an Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production for *Grand Finale* (2018), and Best Dance Film at Festival de Cannes (2023). In 2018, he was also awarded an honorary OBE for Services to Dance.

TOM VISSER - LIGHTING DESIGNER

Irish lighting designer Tom Visser joined Shechter's team for *Grand Finale* for their first creative collaboration. Recent work includes Crystal Pite's new creation, *Flight Pattern*, for the Royal Ballet season 16/17. His work with other choreographers includes for Alexander Ekman, Johan Inger and Joeri Dubbe.

Tom was born to a theatrical family. He began his career in musical theatre and later turned to contemporary dance as a member of Nederlands Dans Theater. He began his career as a lighting designer in the mid-2000s and has since worked extensively as a designer for dance, working with companies including Nederlands Dans Theater, Royal Swedish Ballet, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Norwegian National Ballet, Ballet Vlaanderen, Sydney Dance Company, Göteborg Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo and Balé da Cidade de São Paulo.