

Ronnie Heller - Independant Choreographer and Dancer

Born in Rochester New York, 1975, lives and works in Tel Aviv -Jaffa

BFA in Dance and MFA in Choreography from the Rubin Dance Academy in Jerusalem, where she teaches. Teaches at the Theatre department in Tel Aviv University. In the past a member of Klipa theater. In 2012 founded the Ronnie Heller Dance Theater as an interdisciplinary framework for her ideas, and as an independent production label for her work.

In 2012, as a continuance and development of short works she created between 2006-2011, she produced and performed "Object Relations" - her first full length performance, which was created with the musician and composer Dganit Elkayam and is an intimate and minimalist dance piece that corresponds with Japanese Butoh and other out-of-dance mediums, and examines the interaction between the body and its special and acoustic surroundings.

The work was shown in Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv and other theaters and was received with critical praise.

"Object Relations" embodies many fundamental principles of Heller's physical theater, which wishes to present work on stage with an anarchistic body, in a minimal surrounding, drawing on influences not necessarily from the worlds of dance and stage.

Following the success of "Object Relations" Heller continued to create and produce performances in cooperation with different artists, as independent productions or within festivals in Israel and Europe.

In 2019, Heller shifted the center of her work to academic teaching and research as part of her Masters in Choreography at the Rubin Dance Academy in Jerusalem, and as further development of her personal exploration of movement. In this framework she researches the relationship between perceptual imaging and production of movement.

Heller leads workshops for dancers, actors and musicians in Europe, and every year conducts research workshops for practical work with dancers in Lake Studios, Berlin.

Studies:

1994-5: Fine arts studies at Kalisher Art School, Tel Aviv

1994-1996: Studies Qigong, Pa Qua & Mei Kuei Chuang - Chinese soft martial arts and theory of Chinese medicine with Yossi Morgenstern, Tel Aviv

1996-2000: Bachelor of Dance, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Movement Department

2000-2002: Studied Aikido in the dojo of Shlomo Adelsberg, Tel Aviv

2001: Butoh training with Butoh Master Ushio Amagatsu (Sankai Juku), Paris

2003: Certified apparatus and mat Pilates instructor, certificate studies at Tamar Zachi Studio, Tel Aviv

2002-2004: Advanced studies on Movement Notation, and performance of works by Noa Eshkol, with Rachel Nul-Kahana, Kibbutzim College, Tel Aviv

2005: Improvisation workshops with Julian Hamilton, UK & Spain

2006: Improvisation workshop and work with artifacts with Eva Karczag (Trisha Brown), Scotland & Netherlands

2006-2008: Private classical dance lessons with master Sergei Lukin (ex Bolshoi Ballet soloist), Studio Nes Pilates, Tel Aviv

2007: Butoh workshop with master Butoh Taketeru Kudo, Japan, at Clipa Theater, Tel Aviv

2009: Butoh workshop with masters Teketeru Kudo and John Wakabayashi, Japan, at Clipa Theater, Tel Aviv

2009: Butoh workshop with master Katsura Kan, Japan, at Musach Haguf, Tel Aviv

2010: Physical Theater and Art of Performance workshop with Idith Herman and Dimitri Tulpanov, Clipa Theater, Tel Aviv

2011: Teaching workshop with master Butoh Tamar Borer, Tel Aviv

2012: Butoh workshop with master Taketeru Kudo, Japan, at Clipa Theater, Tel Aviv

2012: Butoh workshop with Jinen Butoh master Atsushi Takenouchi, Artness school, Ein Shemer

2012-2013: Traditional Kung Fu and Chi Gong with Nicholas Ksekliar Marquiz, LESSPT Tel Aviv

2013: Traditional belly dancing with Yael Beker, Studio Na'im, Tel Aviv

2013: Advanced studies in Ohad Naharin's Gaga movement method, Bat Sheva, Tel Aviv

2014: Butoh workshop with master Taketeru Kudo, Japan, Clipa Theater, Tel Aviv

2014: Day workshop with Sankai Juku, Suzanne Dellal, Tel Aviv

2015: Started practicing Bikram Yoga, Bikram, Tel Aviv

2015: Movement Archery workshop with Tom Vexler, Tel Aviv

2016: Axis Syllabus workshop with Baris Mihci, Tel Aviv

2016: Artist workshop with Kai Takei, The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance

2017: Advanced studies Axis Syllabus, Tel Aviv

2017: Zen Acrobatics workshop with Tom Vexler, Tel Aviv

2017: Bows and Arrows research workshop, 30 international dance and movement artists meet to share information and create together. Initiated by Tom Vexler, Nataf

2017: Primal Movement workshop with Aaron Cantor, Berlin

2016-2018: MA in Choreography, with an excellence scholarship, at The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Research topic: The Question of Free Will - The inherent automaton of the human motor system and the choreographic act.

Performances and independent productions:

2001: Performing dancer in choreography by Prof. Amos Hetz, Chamber Dance Festival, Tel Aviv & Jerusalem

2002-2004: Performing dancer in Noa Eshkol choreographies, performances in Kibbutzim Collage Tel Aviv, and Women Festival 2004 in Holon Theater

2005-2006: First creation: "Portrait", choreography and performance by Ronnie Heller, Performed at Chamber Dance Festival 2005 Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, in Other Dance Festival in Suzanne Dellal Tel Aviv, and in the art happening Be-Longing at Alhambra Theater, Jaffa-Tel Aviv

2006: "Keresh" - Short piece written with composer Dganit Elkayam. Performed at Chamber Dance Festival, Tel Aviv & Jerusalem, and in Clipa Aduma Festival in Tel Aviv

2006-2007: "Stones" - Collaboration with choreographer and dancer Anat Shamgar. Independent production at Suzanne Dellal's Yerushalmi hall, and at Zira Jerusalem

2009: "Furniture" - First Butoh style Piece - Performed in Chamber Dance Festival, Clipa Aduma Festival, In Haifa Museum and as part of "Object Relations" (2012)

2010: "Do Not Disturb" - Physical theater in cooperation with Idit Herman and Gabriel Neuhaus, performed at Clipa Theater, Tel Aviv

2011: "The Observatory" by Clipa Theater. Heller participated as a dancer, performed in Israel Festival in Jerusalem and in Dresden, Germany

2012: "Object Relations" - First independent production by Ronnie Heller Dance Theater, performed at Suzanne Dellal Yerushalmi Hall in Tel Aviv, and in Other Dance Festival in Suzanne Dellal, Tel Aviv

2013: "N&M" - Independent production by Ronnie Heller Dance Theater in cooperation with martial artist Nicholas Ksekliar Marquiz and the composer-performer David Gordon. Performed at Suzanne Dellal Yerushalmi Hall in Tel Aviv, and as part of Tel Aviv Dance Festival in Suzanne Dellal, Tel Aviv

2013: Gala performance - Rite of Spring by Stravinsky. Art direction Idit Herman, Shades of Dance Festival Suzanne Dellal, Tel Aviv

2013-2014: "Driftwood" - Independent production by Ronnie Heller Dance Theater. Performed in Butoh Salon at Tamar Borer Studio Tel Aviv, As an independent production at Suzanne Della Yerushalmi Hall, in Clipa Aduma Festival 2014 at Clipa Theater Tel Aviv, and as part of International Exposure 2014 at Suzanne Dellal, Tel Aviv

2013-2014: Performer in "Last Night" by Tamar Borer. Performed at Nahmani Theater, Tel Aviv

2015: Performer in "Experiment in Mass" by Maayan Gur, Shades of Dance Festival 2015, Suzanne Dellal Tel Aviv, and International Exposure 2015 in Suzanne Dellal, Tel Aviv

2015: Film: Supporting roll in "Saving Neta" by Nir Bergman

2016: "Helen & The Horses" - Written and performed solo by Ronnie Heller, independent production, Mahsan 2, Jaffa - Tel Aviv

2016: "Help" Homage to Dimitri Tulpanov, solo performance in Clipa Theater, Tel Aviv

2016: Guest performance in "Facility 27", Clipa Theater at Tel Aviv historic City Hall

2016: Guest performance in "Culture in the Periphery", Clipa Theater, Tel Aviv

2017: "Helen" solo performance, Hayadit Festival, Pardes Hanna

2017: "Surviving Dance Crash Moments" solo and duet, Lake Studios Berlin

2017: "Medea" and "Helen" in Zaz Festival, Tel Aviv

2018: "Surviving Dance Crash Moments: at FIM, Basel

2018: "Surviving", "Medea" and "Helen" at ACUD Theater, Berlin

2018: "Medusot" choreography for the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance ansambel, Suzanne Dellal, Tel Aviv

2018: "Dance Crashes" and "Helen", Der Jungen Theater, Leipzig

2018: "Human Matter" Residency and Performance, Step Grant for activist artists, Lake Studios Berlin

2019: Choreographic research residency, Lake Studios, Berlin

2019: "CORE-banot" (wordplay on Core girls/victims in Hebrew), written by Heller to the sacrifice scene in Stravinsky's Rite of Spring, performed by students of the Movement Department, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance

Teaching:

2003-Present: Certified Pilates teacher

2007-Present: Joined the faculty of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance as an adjunct professor teaching bachelor students: Body Theater Beginners (years 1-2) and Advanced (years 3-4), and teaches Composition since 2017. In 2020 added a course focusing on Hellers own work for year 2 students.

2015 - Present: Accepts students of Butoh for apprenticeship in her private studio

2016 - Present: Volunteer work with youth suffering from autism, Alonim school Hertzeliya

2017 - Present: Joined the Tel Aviv University Theater Department as an adjunct professor. Teaches Movement Foundation Beginners and Advanced in the acting excellence program.

2018: Gave a movement workshop to the Basel Chamber Orchestra led by first violinist Daniel Bard, Basel

For more information see www.ronnieheller.com

Contact Ronnie on website or ronehe@gmail.com